

# Christmas and Thankfulness

## Week 14 3rd Dec Christmas Events

Many events and services happen during the Christmas season. UCCF reported that last year CUs held more than 100 carol services, reaching at least 30,000 students with the gospel! Pray that international students are invited to these events, and that we would see much fruit. Why not find out about your local events and invite international students?

## Week 15 10th Dec Christmas Hosting

Every year, many Christians open up their homes to share a Christmas meal with international students. This generous and welcoming act can have a profound impact, enabling students to witness Christ's love. Please pray that Christians would continue to open their homes and that these students would experience God's love and welcome.

## Week 16 17th Dec Christmas Message

Pray for every Friends International staff member, volunteer, and church worker who is sharing Jesus this Christmas. Pray that as we share food, traditions and the Christmas story, the gospel would shine through. Pray that we would do a good job communicating who Jesus is, why He came and why that's important for every student who we meet.

## Week 17 24th Dec Christmas Follow-up

With so many international students attending carol services, Christmas meals and church festivities, it may be easy for them to go off the radar as soon as Boxing Day comes around. Please pray that the students who have attended events and made Christian friends over Christmas would get properly connected with a local church and CU.

## Week 18 31st Dec A Prayer of Gratitude

Join us in saying a simple prayer of thanks to God for the year we have had: "Our great and Gracious God, as we come to the close of another year, we thank you that you have been with us every step of the way. We ask that you would guide us in the year to come, and that you would use us for your glory in the work of international student ministry. In Jesus' name. Amen."



We would like to say a huge thank you to all our supporters who faithfully give to the ministry of Friends International around the UK.



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Friends International is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and Global Connections.  
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# Prayer Diary

September • December 2018

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Eighteen weeks of prayer points



"I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1

# New Beginnings

## Week 1 3rd Sept New Digital Connections

As you will read in *Opportunity* (p10), Friends International has a new app that has the potential to revolutionise the way we connect and interact with international students. We are launching it at the beginning of September. Please pray that this new app would be a way for even more students to come into contact with Christians and the gospel.

## Week 2 10th Sept New Reach Volunteers

"We welcome 13 new Reach Volunteers to this year's Reach Programme. There are five from China, and the rest come from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Germany, and the UK. Based in different cities around the UK, they will be working alongside experienced staff and in partnership with local churches. Pray that this would be a transformative year for them, and for their own development through study, mentoring and ministry experience." – Jenny Brown, Reach Coordinator

## Week 3 17th Sept New Staff

We praise God for the new members of staff who are joining us. It is a real answer to pray that Matthew Archer (Canterbury), Jamie Haxby (Lancaster) and Hannah Charters (Dundee) start this month, joining Antoine Thenin (Bournemouth) and Phil Duncalfe (Guildford) who started last month. We pray that each of them would settle well into their roles and be used powerfully by God.

## Week 4 24th Sept New Students

With each September come new international students to UK universities. Join us in praying for this year's new intake of students. Arriving in an unfamiliar country, using a second or third language and with academic pressures, it can be very challenging for them. Pray that we would help meet these students' needs this year.



# Praying for Students from...

## Week 5 1st Oct East Asia

"Pray for Li from China who I have developed a good friendship with. Pray for her eyes to be opened to God's grace and love." – Kim, Belfast. Most of the international students arriving at UK universities are from East Asia: over 95,000 from China alone! Pray that we will be able to communicate the gospel well with those that we meet from East Asia.

## Week 6 8th Oct South East Asia

"Pray for Alice from Malaysia, a new Christian who cannot attend church at home. Pray that she will discover great joy in hearing God speak to her through the Bible." – Fiona, St Andrews. The three South East Asian countries sending the most students are: Malaysia (16,370), Singapore (7,300) and Thailand (6,175). Please pray for these students who are often coming from Muslim or Buddhist backgrounds.

## Week 7 15th Oct European Union

"I have been regularly reading the Bible with a student from Italy. He is so often convinced that his questions will not be satisfactorily answered. Yet, he is brought to a gentle 'Oh' as something clicks in his mind and he begins to understand." – George, Newcastle. The top three EU sending countries are: Germany (13,735), France (13,560) and Italy (13,455). Pray that these students would come to grasp the truth.

## Week 8 22nd Oct North America

"Please pray for Emma from Canada. She is a young Christian studying in Cambridge, and we are going to meet together to read the Bible! Praise God for this opportunity!" – Helen, Cambridge. Please pray for the students coming to the UK from North America (USA – 17,850; Canada – 5,915). Pray that Christians would have the chance to meet them and to study the Bible with them.

## Week 9 29th Oct Africa and Middle East

"At the Saturday lunch for internationals, a number of the students were from Muslim backgrounds. They were from Yemen, Oman, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Algeria!" We thank God for the unique opportunity we have to reach students from Muslim-majority countries. Pray that we would share our faith genuinely, and with sensitivity and love.



**We give thanks for international student ministry done faithfully and sacrificially by local churches.**

# Gospel Partners

## Week 10 5th Nov Church Partnerships

"We give thanks for international student ministry done faithfully and sacrificially by local churches. Pray for growth, for more churches to have a vision for this work, and that it would grow in quality and quantity. Pray for staff as they seek to be an encouragement to church leaders and those involved on church teams." – Pete Edwards, Regional Development Director, Scotland

## Week 11 12th Nov Supporter Partnerships

"We would like to say a huge thank you to all our supporters who faithfully give to and pray for the ministry of Friends International around the UK. We thank God for each and every supporter of the ministry, and ask Him to raise up more individuals, who have a heart for international students." – Tracy Moreton, Supporter Relations Administrator

## Week 12 19th Nov Christian Unions (CUs) Partnerships

"Praise God for the amazing ways in which He uses CUs in partnership with Friends International to reach international students all over the UK. Please pray specifically for Christian freshers, that they would grow in their faith by stepping out to reach internationals during their time at university. Pray that they grow a heart for the nations in the coming years." – Jamie Haxby, Staff Worker, Lancaster

## Week 13 26th Nov Affiliate Partnerships

"There are currently about 50 Affiliates on the Friends International Affiliates Network. Some are church international student workers, some pastors, missionaries or keen volunteers leading international cafés. Please pray for the ministry of each of our Affiliates, that the network will keep developing new ways to support them and for a new church scheme we're starting." – Kah Foon, Affiliates Coordinator