

Ideas for encouraging prayer for your café ministry

These ideas are compiled from FI staff involved in International Cafés in various cities – perhaps one or two will fit your context.

Team Prayer before & after Café

- Gather the team to pray before and after the café, for 15-20mins.
 - Team members can take turns leading it.
 - A very short bible devotion could be shared before the café.
 - Highlights/praise/prayer points can be shared briefly after the café.

Team Prayer on other occasions

- Organise a café team meeting at the start of each term – it can be a social (for the team to just enjoy each other's company over food etc) and include time for prayer together.
 - Team training could be incorporated into this too.
 - Perhaps interview a couple of team members each time, especially if this is an inter-church ministry and people don't know each other very well.
 - Variations include a Saturday breakfast or lunch during term, with prayer high on the agenda.
- Alternatively, have the café team meeting at the end of term. Include evaluation of the past term and planning for the next term, and also prayer for each other and individual students.
- If your team mostly live and work within a reasonable distance of each other, you can hold a weekly optional prayer meeting at a lunch hour or early morning. End promptly so that people can leave for work. People should feel free just to come occasionally; it's not obligatory.
- If travelling to a central location to pray seems a barrier, organize a group Skype prayer.

Mobilising others to pray

- Organise quarterly prayer meetings for the ministry of the Café, not just for team to come to, but church leaders and other supporters as well. Providing snacks and especially a meal at these events is always greatly appreciated. (If you're in touch with different groups of people involved in international student ministry, this is a great time for them to network with each other.)
- Over the summer time, when there is a lighter programme, organise a few weeks of morning prayers, sending out 'prayer fuel' the day before via email/facebook. This could include other supporters, not just the team.
- Find opportunities to share Café Ministry prayer requests in your church, and encourage team members to do the same in their churches.
 - Send in some café prayer points to your church prayer bulletins.
 - Ask if you can share at prayer meetings.
 - Ask if you can share about the ministry during a Sunday Service (perhaps once a year).
 - Ask if you can share at Small Group meetings or if a Small Group would like to pray regularly for the ministry.
 - If there are international students in your church, perhaps you could interview them – to pray for them and to highlight the needs and opportunities presented by international students.

Electronic Media

- Send a weekly email to the team the day after café to report on the highlights of the evening and requesting prayer. Many café teams work on rotas, so not everyone is there every week, but it's encouraging to hear what went on.
- If everyone on your team is on Facebook, you can start a "secret group" so that people can post prayer requests for themselves or the ministry. A WhatsApp group would work too.