

Prayer Diary

March • May 2020

friends
INTERNATIONAL



Thirteen weeks of prayer points



Thank you for your continued prayers
and support for international students.

Training Events and Conferences



Week 1
2nd March

New Staff Training (10th-12th March)

We are excited to have two new directors (*Opportunity*, p5), as well as three new members of staff joining us. In the second week of March they will have their induction and training. Join us in thanking God for these new workers and please pray that each of them will flourish in their roles and that the training would help them in getting started.

Week 2
9th March

Crossing Cultures Training Day (14th March)

Our annual Crossing Cultures training day will be held on 14th March in Southampton bringing staff and volunteers together from across south England. This year's theme is "Reaching the Hard to Reach". Please pray that the day will encourage and equip us to reach out to international students across the region and share the good news of Jesus with them.

Week 3
16th March

Philip Project South (21st March)

Philip Project South training days happen one Saturday in each month with sessions covering Bible Overview, Biblical Genre and practise in giving short talks and Bible studies. Please pray for the training day on 21st March and for participants, past and present, to continue to seek to understand God's Word and to share it with others wherever they are.

Week 4
23rd March

Scottish Conference (28th March)

The Scottish conference this year is about loving the stranger and sharing the gospel with international students through hospitality and community. Our keynote speakers will be Dick Dowsett and Rosie Bock. Please pray that many will come, be envisioned and equipped to practise hospitality and create community for international students.

Week 5
30th March

Word Alive Conference (4th-9th April)

Every year Friends International partner with OMF Diaspora to run the international student track at Word Alive. Please pray for us as Peter Teagle leads morning Bible talks from the book of Ruth and the students attend afternoon seminars. Please pray for the students who will be there, that they would enjoy the week and learn much from the sessions.



Easter and Vision

Week 6
6th April

Easter Services

This week is Holy Week, meaning there will be many church services and activities, particularly on Easter Sunday. Please pray for churches to do well in welcoming and communicating with international students, and that the message of Easter would get through. Pray that our new Easter resource (*Opportunity*, p6) would be used by churches to do this.

Week 7
13th April

Easter Follow-up

During Easter many international students would have experienced a church service, possibly for the first time. Follow-up with them is incredibly important, especially if they have questions or want to explore more of what Easter means. Please pray for student workers and Friends International staff to be able to follow-up well with students who have attended the Easter services.

Week 8
20th April

Vision – 12 New Locations

As you can read in *Opportunity* (p4), Friends International has an exciting vision for expansion which includes pioneering work in 12 new locations in the UK and Ireland. Please pray that we would have God's guidance as we make plans and start to reach out to churches in the new locations. Pray for new partnerships to be forged which would take the work forward in these locations.

Week 9
27th April

Vision – 20 New Staff

Over the next 10 years we have a vision to recruit 20 more staff workers. This is ambitious, but with 1 million international students in the UK it is greatly needed. Please pray that the right people would join us in the ministry and that as we grow as an organisation we would keep depending on God and His grace.



Returning Home

Week 10
4th May

Exams and Deadlines

At this time of year, many students have deadlines and exams looming large. It can mean that we don't see them for weeks at a time, or they disappear altogether. Pray that churches would support these students in the ways that they can. Pray that when students disappear from our events and Bible studies we would remember to pray for them and contact them with messages of support.

Week 11
11th May

Preparing for Return

International students who have completed their academic year will start to disappear back home, some will return in September and others will be home for good. Internationals who have come to faith while in the UK need to prepare for their return, especially as they would have changed so much while here. Pray that they would be discipled well before they go and would return with a passion to continue walking with the Lord.

Week 12
18th May

Goodbyes and Contacts

When working with international students there seem to be a lot of goodbyes. They are here for only a short time and then they go home. For those who have been seeking truth, attending church and asking questions we desire for them to connect with Christians in their home country. Please pray that we would be able to connect seekers, and that the journey for them wouldn't stop on their return.

Week 13
25th May

Discipleship and Thriving at Home

As international students return to their home countries, we want to see their discipleship continued and for them to thrive in whatever is next for them. Many of our staff will keep in touch with returned students and disciple them from a distance. This is great, though please pray that each returnee would connect to a local church and find the discipleship they need in their home context.



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