

Prayer for Portadown

UNITY: That among fellowships who make much of Jesus there would be harmony and cooperation.

- As we seek to work with others our motivation must be that whatever can be done must be done – in obedience to the command of Jesus and as an effective witness to the world.

POWER: 2 Thessalonians 3:1, *“brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honoured...”* That we would understand that God is pleased to work through other fellowships and to use their ministries to see His Kingdom come.

- We pray that neighbouring fellowships would flourish in order that the influence of Christ upon our community would become ever more apparent through His people.

PERSPECTIVE: That the people among whom we live and work might come to realise that the idols they worship are false and their promises empty.

- *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...”* Matthew 6:9. That we would make much of God and daily display that there is nothing or no one more important in our lives.
- *“Give us this day our daily bread...”* That God’s supply would be enough for us and we would be content, thus unmasking the greed of our age.
- May God equip His people with a prophetic voice to speak out, whatever the cost against the empty and destructive ways of life being followed by the world.
- That we might share Paul’s passion for his people, Romans 10:1, *“brother, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.”*

GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS: As in days of revival the work of God’s Spirit became abundantly evident – pray that people might be stopped in their tracks and cry out to be saved.

- Prayer that people would see Jesus, John 14:6, *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”.*
- That God would turn hearts of stone to hearts of flesh, Ezekiel 11:19 *“And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh...”*

Prayer for Our Nation

2 Chronicles 7:14, *“if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land”.*

HUMILITY: To love our land is not to ignore the failings of our people. We thank our God for the rich benefits of living in a land with freedom and fullness.

- Lord, we confess that we have much to humble about. We join with Nehemiah who prayed for his people, Nehemiah 1:7, *“We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses”.* The people of the land have no regard for Your rule and desire only to please themselves.

GOVERNMENT: Isaiah speaks of a vacuum of leadership, Isaiah 3:4–5, *“And I will make boys their princes, and infants shall rule over them. And the people will oppress one another, every one his fellow and every one his neighbour; the youth will be insolent to the elder, and the despised to the honourable”.*

- Lord, we ask you to raise up those who would have both wisdom and maturity to tackle the problems that impact so many in our society.
- We long to know the blessing of which the Psalmist speaks, in Psalm 33:12, *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!”* May God be sovereign over all.

FAMILY: In our marriage ceremonies we state, *“society can be stable and happy, only where the marriage bond is honoured and upheld”.* In days when this creation ordinance is under assault we pray that the Creator’s gift of marriage would be protected.

- We pray that parents would relate rightly to children – with loving encouragement and when necessary, grace saturated discipline.
- That generations would value each other – that the unborn and those at the end of life would be given dignity.

IDOLS: The false gods or spiritual forces that blight the hearts and lives of people would be overcome – materialism, racism, sectarianism, selfishness, sex, image, success, etc would have no place among our people. Colossians 3:5, *“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry”.*

CHURCH: When we have often be known as the source of problems or having no answers to give to the nation’s ills – may we be salt and light. Above all may we make much of Jesus.