

Passionate Prayer 2009



**Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right,
Christ on my left, Christ in breadth, Christ in length,
Christ in height, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.**

Instructions for use

This prayer guide is to help you in your rhythm of prayer from now to summer. Please feel free to use it as a guide to aid your own prayer and take it with you to your place of work or home. The guide is divided into sections to help you structure your prayer time, but feel free to use it as you want to. There will also be scheduled opportunities provided for corporate prayer & intercession. (Check the church diary for further details)

- **The liturgy: Morning, Day & Night prayer**

The liturgy provided is to be used for the opening and closing of your morning, day and or night times of prayer.

- **The Lord's Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer is broken down into sections spread throughout the week to offer a framework and to give direction and purpose to your daily prayer.

- **The scriptures**

The scriptures provided for meditation are the same as those we will be preaching on in the second part of our term, Living Passion, so the whole church will be prayerfully studying the same texts.

- **Space for confession**

There is space provided for a time of confession and a model of confession based on the Freedom Prayer model of confession.

- **Space for reflection**

In the space provided, take time for personal reflection and enquiry of God.

- **Intercessions**

There are St Paul's specific intercessions as well as a further list to provide inspiration to pray.

Consecrate Yourself by Prayer & Fasting

Using this prayer guide as a tool, pray specifically for God's transformation in your life and the life of our church, ministry, work place, friends and family. Determine that this term will be one of renewed surrender to God. Do whatever it takes to prepare yourself and to consecrate your lives to His plans and purposes. Set apart this period of time in dedication to the Lord, giving yourself to a pattern of prayer & fasting in one form or another. Renew your personal pursuit for deeper periods of worship, praise and reading the scriptures. Organise your time around periods of worship and praise using music and scripture.

These are questions the members of John Wesley's Holy Club asked themselves every day in their private devotions over 200 years ago. Use them as a means of enquiry and preparation before a period of confession.

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Did the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give the Bible time to speak to me everyday?
9. Am I enjoying prayer?
10. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
15. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
17. How do I spend my spare time?
18. Am I proud?
19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticise, hold resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
21. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
22. Is Christ real to me?

The following model is based on Freedom Prayer. You may find it a helpful way to step out of ingrained patterns of sin and struggle.

Recognise sin for what it is

Admit your sin, as God helps you to see it. It could be an attitude of heart, like bitterness, self-pity or rebellion. It could be a habit, like alcohol abuse, pornography use or gossip. It could be a feeling that is out of line with God's purposes, like anger, fear or inferiority. Name sin as sin: no denial and no excuses.

Repent with all your heart

Turn away from the sin. Repentance begins with genuine sorrow for offending God and a heartfelt request for forgiveness. Verbally leave behind the sinful behaviour and turn in trustful obedience to God's way.

Receive God's forgiveness

Take time to receive God's forgiveness, through Christ, for every single time you have committed this sin. Accept God's forgiveness, claim it for yourself, delight in it and know that it takes away all condemnation.

Rebuke the enemy and his lies

On the basis of God's forgiveness, actively resist Satan in this part of your life. Renounce any lies that have come to affect your thinking. Rebuke any satanic exploitation of this sin. Stand up in the freedom Christ has won for you. Our lives belong to Christ – Satan shall have no authority here!

Replace the behaviour

Declare sinful attitudes, actions, and feelings as dead and "paid for." Rebuking the deception of evil declare yourself free from the sinful pattern in question and replace it with TRUTH that is consistent with the heart and character of Jesus Christ, and God's Word. And press on along the journey of obedience in the company of others asking the Holy Spirit to guide and empower you to do it!

Morning Prayer

Opening Liturgy:

May Christ, the only true light banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Blessed are you, creator of all, to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your dawn renews the face of the earth bringing light to all creation,
may we rejoice in this day you have made;
as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world might rejoice and give you praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God forever.

Closing Liturgy:

Lord our God
As with all creation
We offer you the life of this new day,
give us grace to love and serve you
to the praise of Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

Prayer in the Day

Opening Liturgy:

O God make speed to save us
O Lord make haste to help us

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Closing Liturgy:

O Lord our God,
Grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;
That so desiring, we may seek and find you;
And so finding, may love you;
And so loving, may hate those sins from which
You have delivered us;
Through Christ our Lord

Amen

Night Prayer

Opening Liturgy:

The Lord almighty, grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Confession:

Most merciful God,
I confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven,
that I have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what I have failed to do.

Forgive my sins,
heal me by your Spirit
and raise me anew to new life in Christ

Amen

Closing Liturgy:

Save us, O Lord while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

Visit this place, O Lord we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Lord bless us and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.

Monday

Opening Liturgy: Morning, Day, Night, on pages 4 & 5

Space for reflection

Praying the Lords Prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.....

Spend some time reflecting on God's Fatherhood over your life.
Take time to think about worshipping God in the everyday.

Space for confession

Praying with scripture:

Spend some time reading these verses below, soaking up any word or phrase which attract your attention. Repeat the word or phrase again and again, allowing it to speak to you. Ask God if there is anything he may be saying to you.

Mark 8:34-38

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Space for reflection

SPH Intercessions: Church Life

Services:

- Pray that God is glorified through every aspect of our services
- that we continue to be a church that grows in its biblical understanding through preaching
- that those who come to our services for the first time feel welcomed and included

Welcome & Hospitality:

- Pray that we would become a church that is marked by our hospitality and that makes room for the stranger and the pilgrim
- for the Newcomers' Course which runs at the beginning of each term

- for the Welcome Hosts and for great social times after Sunday services

Worship:

- Pray that God is glorified through our sung times of worship in church. That His presence is found in our midst as we gather
- for Spiritual protection over our worship team and especially our worship leaders as they lead us week in week out
- that God continues to grow the worship team in both heart and skill and love for one another
- for new members of the worship team who are both musically gifted and have a heart for worship
- for creativity and wisdom in discovering new worship songs and resources and in home-grown song writing
- for worship times that are soaked in the Spirit and full of truth. For great freedom as we gather

Life Groups:

- Pray for the health of the groups as they Gather, Grow and Go
- for new people to be welcomed warmly into groups
- for God to bless us with growth in numbers through welcome, evangelism and multiplication

Stretch 21

- Thank God for His amazing provision in relation to securing planning permission and raising the funds for the project
- pray for wisdom for the client team as they finalise the details of the design and the functionality of the building and for the architects Mal Fryer and Richard Griffiths
- that the groundwork, exhumations and archaeological works are carried out with due care and respect, and that there would be no unexpected findings that would delay the project
- for success as we seek additional funding from trusts, businesses and individuals outside of St Paul's
- that the building will be completed on time and on budget and that God would be glorified through this beacon of hope

Further Intercessions

- all who are sick in body, mind or spirit
- those in the midst of famine or disaster
- victims of abuse and violence, intolerance and prejudice
- those who are bereaved
- all who work in the medical and healing professions

Space for reflection

Closing Liturgy: Morning, Day or Night, on pages 4 & 5

Tuesday

Opening Liturgy: Morning, Day, Night, on pages 4 & 5

Space for reflection

Praying the Lords Prayer:

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.....

Spend some time praying about how you practice evangelism in your life.

How are you being obedient and submitting to God's will in your life?

Reflect and pray into social justice and what it would look like for God's will to be done.

Space for confession

Praying with scripture:

Spend some time reading these verses below, soaking up any word or phrase which attract your attention. Repeat the word or phrase again and again, allowing it to speak to you. Ask God if there is anything he may be saying to you.

Mark 9:42-50

"And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where "Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. Everyone will be salted with fire. "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

Space for reflection

SPH Intercessions: Hammersmith & Beyond

Evangelism and Alpha:

- Pray for many people to know the GOOD news of Jesus Christ!
- for a breakthrough in personal commitment to evangelism as a church
- for growth of the Alpha Course
- for the leaders and helpers
- for all the guests to have a personal encounter with God
- for wisdom for new avenues for evangelism in Hammersmith

Kiss the Street:

- Pray for wisdom and favour in planning the next Kiss the Street
- for fun and a deeper engagement with the local community
- to be a witness of God's love to those around us
- for those involved with fund raising for the event

Riverside:

- Pray for continued spiritual and numerical growth at Riverside
- answers to prayer for physical healings and freedom from oppression
- workers to help in ongoing ministries
- discernment as to the needs and concerns of the local community
- doors to be opened for our message
- more and deeper relationships with people of peace and the people of influence on local estates

Global Vision:

- Pray for our congregation members overseas – an updated list of which is on the website
- for our links with Rainbow Farm (Brazil), Northside Baptist (Sydney).
- for God to use us individually and as a church in making progress towards limiting climate change, increasing trade justice and combating poverty

Further Intercessions

- the Queen, members of parliament and the armed forces
- peace and justice in the world
- those who work for reconciliation
- all whose lives are devastated by war and civil strife
- prisoners, refugees and homeless people
- for Hammersmith and West London

Space for reflection

Closing Liturgy: Morning, Day or Night, on pages 4 & 5

Wednesday

Opening Liturgy: Morning, Day, Night, on pages 4 & 5

Space for reflection

Praying the Lords Prayer:

Give us today our daily bread...

Reflect and give thanks for all the good things that God has provided in your life. Think about those countries and people who are in need of God's provision.

Space for confession

Praying with scripture:

Spend some time reading these verses below, soaking up any word or phrase which attract your attention. Repeat the word or phrase again and again, allowing it to speak to you. Ask God if there is anything he may be saying to you.

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

Space for reflection

SPH Intercessions: Children and Young People

SPARK:

- Pray for every child at St Paul's to develop a strong identity of who they are in Christ
- for an atmosphere of love in the groups each week, as well as a level of self control
- topics and teaching themes that meet the children where they are at
- unified vision between team and parents
- a full team of passionate, well equipped and supported volunteers

Queen Caroline Toddlers:

- Pray for all those who come that they would feel warmly welcomed
- for protection for all the children and carers as they build new friendships

- for all volunteers that they would be blessed and encouraged in this important ministry
- that QCT would be a bridge from the community to the church
- that volunteers would continue to come forward to grow this vision

St Paul's Primary School:

- Pray for children to flourish, achieve, aspire, encourage each other, grow in all areas and have teachable spirits
- for support and resources for staff, for their wellbeing and for inspiration
- for families to grow in their self-belief, for desire and motivation to make things better
- for Governors and parents to partner with school in support, prayer and active involvement
- for conflict resolution - especially for children, but also for the whole community

Youth:

- Pray for all the young people at St Paul's, as their love for God grows and as they navigate the many pressures facing them in their communities and at School
- that through the Youth Church the older young people would continue to develop a deep rooted faith.
- for our growing group of younger youth, that the group would grow in unity, and that they would develop a greater confidence in their faith
- that through events like The Vibe, and Kiss the Street, we would faithfully communicate the gospel in a way that is powerful and effective

W6 Youthworks:

- for significant opportunities to make an impact in young people's lives
- for blessing on, and encouragement for, all the staff and volunteers involved
- continued funding to provide sustainability to the work

Students:

- Pray for students on campuses close to here, such as Roehampton University and Imperial College
- for confidence, holiness and grace for students reaching out to their peers
- for our ministry to students as a church, that they might be well integrated, equipped to serve God and released into great things

Further intercessions:

- the media, the arts & fashion
- farming & fishing
- commerce & industry
- those whose work is unfulfilling, stressful or fraught with danger
- all who are unemployed

Space for reflection

Closing Liturgy: Morning, Day or Night, on pages 4 & 5

Thursday

Opening Liturgy: Morning, Day, Night, on pages 4 & 5

Space for reflection

Praying the Lords Prayer:

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us...

Spend some time reflecting on the health of all relationships in your life. Allow God to prompt you about relationships or situations where there may be a need for reconciliation.

Space for confession

Praying with scripture:

Spend some time reading these verses below, soaking up any word or phrase which attract your attention. Repeat the word or phrase again and again, allowing it to speak to you. Ask God if there is anything he may be saying to you.

Mark 10:21-28

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"

Space for reflection and notes

SPH Intercessions: Relationships

Singles:

- for grace filled, healthy friendships and new relationships to flourish amongst us
- that single people would choose to live in fruitful, fun and faithful relationships and that differently shaped radical families would begin to form amongst us
- for those who struggle with being single to feel able to embrace life fully knowing that they are loved fully in God

Marriages:

- for protection over all marriages in our church
- pray for unity, that anything that is hidden in darkness that might cause disunity will be brought to light
- For God to fill all marriages with a love that keeps no record of wrongs but flourishes in forgiveness, grace and tenderness

Families:

- ask God to lead our families to become all God intends them to be
- pray for protection and provision praying God provides for all of their needs
- prayer for unity asking that God would bring peace and love to all our families
- for God to fill our families with the fruit of his spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control

Further Intercessions:

- local government, community leaders
- all who provide local services
- those who work with young or elderly people
- schools, colleges and universities
- emergency and rescue organisations

Space for reflection

Closing Liturgy: Morning, Day or Night, on pages 4 & 5

Friday

Opening Liturgy: Morning, Day, Night, on pages 4 & 5

Space for reflection

Praying the Lords Prayer:

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...

Take time to seek wisdom, strength and guidance in the choices we make. Become aware of areas of temptation and ask God for help.

Space for confession

Praying with scripture:

Spend some time reading these verses below soaking up any word or phrase which attracts your attention. Repeat the word or phrase again and again allowing it to speak to you. Ask God if there is anything he may be saying to you.

Mark 10:35

"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Space for reflection

SPH Intercessions: Community initiatives

Spear:

- Pray for those who attend SPEAR, that their lives would be transformed by the power of the Spirit. That they would be envisioned, find hope and the job or training they are after and ultimately come to know Christ

- future SPEAR students, that God would direct us to them and that the right number would be signed up for each new course
- Pray for health, energy, perseverance, and spiritual protection for all the team
- the practical needs of SPEAR including the funding of the project, the provision of work placements and mentors
- most importantly - that the hand of God would permeate every part of the SPEAR programme. That He would be glorified through every activity that takes place

SPEAR Chelsea:

- for God's favour on the estate - leading the right young people to the programme
- for the unity and encouragement of the team as they leave the central SPEAR office
- for the establishment of good relationships with local agencies and churches
- for the St John's Centre building where the course is held – that the leaks would be stopped

Debt Advice:

- Pray for all our clients –past and present – that they may move forward on a stable footing and also receive a revelation of God's purpose in their lives
- for guidance covering the development of a dynamic presentation of the SPDAC funding needs for this year which will resonate with funding agencies
- for current donors to continue their generous financial support
- for blessing and guidance upon the members of the SPDAC volunteer advisors

Insights for Life:

- The steady development of the 'as 2 become 3' Project reaching first time 'parents to be' particularly in the Hammersmith & Fulham area
- Bob and Jess Read as they head up this initiative and for current and future helpers to ensure that this ministry grows
- for openness of the 300-400 couples reached through the workshops and courses
- for the appropriate follow up of the people met through the work particularly using the New Dads Breakfast & Family Teas
- good relationships with all the various other individuals, groups and organisations that this initiative is working with
- prayers who will help to spearhead and develop this ministry for the glory of God

Further intercessions:

- the social services
- all who work in the criminal justice system
- victims and perpetrators of crime
- the work of aid agencies throughout the world
- those living in poverty or under oppression

Space for reflection

Closing Liturgy: Morning, Day or Night, on pages 4 & 5

Practical tips for fasting

Partial Fast:

A partial fast eliminates certain foods, drinks, or non-food pleasures. For example:

- Just lunches or dinners
- drinking fruit juices
- eating bland foods
- eliminating meats
- eliminating sweets, chocolate, alcohol
- eating only fruit, and or vegetables
- abstaining from non-food items like a favourite TV show, or eliminating TV altogether, Internet, shopping, hobby or favourite sport

Complete Fast:

A normal fast is no food, but beverages are allowed (caffeine is to be avoided). Unless you are certain of God's direction should not do a complete fast for more than 3 days and nights.

Before starting a longer fast (3 days or more):

- direction - Be sure you are led by the Lord as to what type of fast and how long
- no caffeine - discontinue a few days BEFORE the fast
- eat less the day before a fast to help your body adjust
- eat fruit as a last meal before the fast
- temptations - know that the evil one will try to discourage and distract you during your fast. Be sure to trust God, not your feelings during this time

During the fast:

- dress warmly - you can expect to feel colder during a fast, especially in your hands and feet
- use warm, not hot, water for showers and baths
- avoid ice cold beverages
- exercise regularly, but moderately - if you experience weakness, discontinue

After the fast:

- avoid starches for a few days
- chew your food well
- stop eating when you feel full
- don't become physically active too soon
- eat healthy food
- In small quantities eat salads, homemade vegetable soup without grease, cooked vegetables

When could a person fast?

- a season of prayer
- a special church season (Lent, Advent)
- times of repentance
- times of interceding for others
- seeking a vision or direction from God
- preparation for receiving communion
- Is there a time not to fast? Yes. **Don't fast when it's time to celebrate and have fun!**

DO NOT UNDERTAKE A COMPLETE FAST IF YOU ARE:

There are certain persons who should NEVER fast without professional supervision. For example:

- Persons who are physically too thin or emaciated
- Persons who are prone to anorexia, bulimia, or other eating disorders
- Those who suffer weakness or anaemia
- Persons who have tumours, bleeding ulcers, cancer, blood diseases, or who have heart disease
- Those who suffer chronic problems with kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, or other important organs
- Individuals who take insulin for diabetes, or suffer any other blood sugar problem such as hyperglycemias
- Women who are pregnant or nursing

Practical tips for Retreating

A Retreat is a RETREAT FROM our ordinary patterns and a RETREAT TO a place and space where we can be more receptive to hearing God's voice.

On retreat we are letting go of our need to impress – ourselves or others or God; we are letting go of performance and our need to strive and excel. We find a place where we can be the self God wants us to be, rather than the self we try to portray or pretend we are, or that others project onto us. We slow down and let our souls catch up with us. We become still and learn to rest in the presence of God. In silence we are prevented from being suffocated by the world of loud competing voices and we begin to recognise the gentle whisper of God. In solitude and stillness we learn the way to let our behaviour be shaped not by the compulsions of the world but by our new mind, the mind of Christ.

In retreating we withdraw from all that is driven and false:

- Learning how to remove all external distractions
- Discovering where we are entangled and enslaved to the world
- Redirecting our appetites in towards God in prayer
- Rediscovering what is really important

Retreats can be done at home (if your home environment allows), or at a church or retreat centre with a group or on your own.

There are classically four types of retreats:

- Self - planned retreats with some element of community meals and conversation
- More Monastic - self planned with option to join in with community meals and conversation
- More monastic still, with elongated times of solitude and silence with guidance (optional)
- Guided retreats with Spiritual Director or retreat guide around particular traditions or themes e.g. Lent, Advent, Ignatian or Benedictine.

Planning and preparing for retreat:

It is important to pray, plan and prepare before going on retreat so you make the most out of the time.

Tools for retreats:

- Bible
- Journal
- One or two books particularly with a prayerful leaning
- Worship music (mp3, i-Pod)
- Arts and craft are can also be helpful

A typical day on an individual retreat:

A typical day on retreat might involve a pre-planned routine that consists of many elements. The retreat house may have its own routine that you work with alternatively you may need to create your own routine, below is an example:

7.30-9.00am:	Breakfast
9.00-10.00am:	Bible study, meditation
10.00-12.30am:	Prayer Walk, reading and reflection
12.30-1.30pm:	Lunch
1.30-3.30pm:	Prayer Walk, reading and reflection
3.30-5.30pm:	Intercessory prayer
5.30-6.30pm:	Silence
6.30-7.30pm:	Dinner
7.30-8.30pm:	Night Prayer

For information on retreat venues please contact Ashley Meaney at ash.meaney@sph.org

Written by a young pastor in Zimbabwe, after he was martyred for his faith in Jesus, this letter was found in his desk

The dye has been cast.
The decision has been made.
I have stepped over the line.
I won't look back, let up, slow down, or back away.
My past is redeemed, my presence makes sense,
my future is secure.
I am finished and done with low living, sight walking,
small planning, smooth knees, colourless dreams, tamed visions,
mundane talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.
I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position,
promotions, plaudits, or popularity.
I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised,
regarded or rewarded.
I now live by faith, lean on his presence, walk with patience,
live by prayer, and labour with power.
My face is set, my gait is fast, and my goal is Heaven,
my road is narrow, my way is rough, and my companions are few,
my guide is reliable, my mission is clear.
I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away,
turned back, deluded, or delayed.
I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice,
hesitate in the presence of the adversary,
negotiate at the table of the enemy,
ponder at the pool of popularity,
or meander in the maze of mediocrity.
I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up,
stored up, prayed up, paid up, spoken up
for the cause of Christ.
I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.
I must go 'til He comes, give 'til I drop,
preach 'til all know, and work 'til He stops me.
And when He comes for His own,
He will have no trouble recognizing me.
My banner is clear:
I AM PART OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED!

Recommended Reading: (all available to buy or order at our bookshop)

Finding Sanctuary, Monastic Steps for Everyday Life, by Christopher Jamison, ISBN-10: 0297851322

Prayer, Finding the Heart's True Home, by Richard J. Foster, ISBN-10: 034056900X

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