



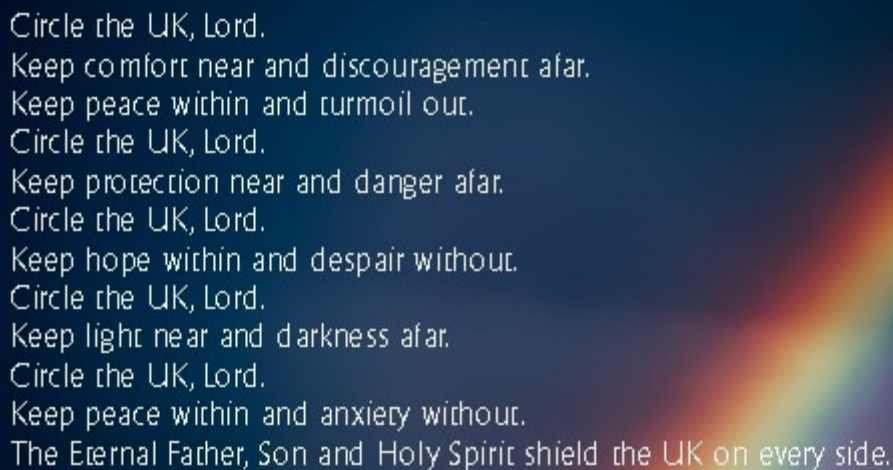
Malvern Mashal 298 - In His presence - A Kaleidoscope of Prayer

Report on the Day of Prayer on July 22nd

From what we have heard so far, every group who met to pray on Saturday for the nation were led and blessed, as were the people who were praying on their own. A woman who has amazing testimonies of radicalised Muslims to Jesus, joined a team of intercessors in Guildford and shared in a powerful day of collective intercession and worship there. The intercession was centred in the love of God for those who would cause us harm, to break the power of the Jihadi spirit and agree God's protection for the UK. God did indeed protect our nation on that day; may He continue to protect us from the Jihadi spirit and release more works of His beautiful Holy Spirit in our land in the coming days . . .

The Beacon House of Prayer in Stoke-on-Trent, the Worship BURN team in Gravesend and Treva Solanki's church were amongst those who held overnight continuous worship through the night of the 21st July and on into the morning. A group met 'ahead of time' here in Malvern on Friday evening too.

The Hastings group reports, "We've never known 16 hours to pass so quickly! It was really interesting to see repeated themes, Psalms 33 and 92 in particular, being brought by different groups, unbeknownst to those leading their particular sessions. People in various places were very conscious of angelic presence during the worship. Without in any way being narrowly 'nationalistic' in outlook, we prayed the Northumbrian (Caim Prayer) for the UK:



Circle the UK, Lord.
Keep comfort near and discouragement afar.
Keep peace within and turmoil out.
Circle the UK, Lord.
Keep protection near and danger afar.
Circle the UK, Lord.
Keep hope within and despair without.
Circle the UK, Lord.
Keep light near and darkness afar.
Circle the UK, Lord.
Keep peace within and anxiety without.
The Eternal Father, Son and Holy Spirit shield the UK on every side.

We had a really special time here in Malvern too, with Carol Sampson on fire for the Lord in the framework she made for the prayer and worship to flow far and wide at the Lord's leading. Tim Finch and Sally Mowbray took over after lunch, equally facilitating us in His presence.

Spirit led prayer as a 'royal priesthood' is always a privilege and an adventure. The Lord is so gracious that when we make seeking Him our aim, He reaches down to us. In among much serious God seeking, we had extremely precious times of fellowship with friends old and new.

In a society where His name is emphatically not honoured as holy by so many, the words of Graham Kendrick's song, Restore O Lord the honour of Your name remain as relevant as ever.

Concerning the security aspect of the nation - which was the original trigger for this day of prayer, of course - several people felt to pray for the safety of bridges across the UK, and to cover the ports and the ferries, particularly of Portsmouth, but also right around the coast. One serious bomb on a ship in the shallow waters of the English Channel would cause chaos.

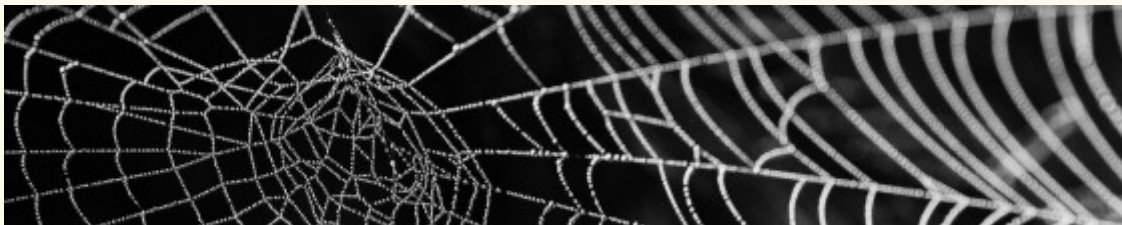
We obviously spent time praying into the near vacuum that now exists at the heart of our government - although, as Fraser Nelson explores in this article, it could be argued that however chaotic things appear at the political level, many things may actually be rather more positive in the 'real' world.

Since we were concerned with the 22nd as a significant date, we also prayed for the

influential 1922 committee of back bench Conservatives, who are likely to have a big say in what happens next. I continue to feel concern that the temptation to align ourselves with regimes that exercise oppression is very great. We felt to shore up in prayer relationships between NATO and America, a link that has been of vital significance in the past, and which may yet have a crucial role to play in the future. We also spent a good deal of time praying for Israel, where the current rise in tension is once again causing widespread concern.

From the past, when God has intervened to rescue our nation from extreme threat, Many find comfort from looking at our history and seeing how God has intervened to rescue our nation from extreme threats in the past – but there is no room at all for complacency. It has been at huge cost that pioneers in the faith brought us the gospel in the English tongue. Someone read to us a passage from a new translation: *The Passion* - a new dynamic equivalence version which sets out to “communicate at heart-God’s fiery heart of love to this generation using Hebrew, Greek, and also Aramaic manuscripts, merging the emotion and life-changing truth of God’s Word.” The portion we heard certainly made a deep impression on us all. [John’s gospel is available as a free sample.](#)

Concerted action against the 'dark web' - and a powerful example of the Internet being used for good



After praying for our literal ports, we went on to explore a very different type of 'port': the digital computer ones that link us to the cyber world. We prayed extensively for many aspects of cyber protection coupled with creative use of the internet for the gospel.

We have often called for 'interceptive' prayer concerning the dangers that cyber threats pose. Here's some good news to report in that context. As you may have heard, the Americans moved recently to close down Alpha Bay, the biggest avenue into the Dark Web.

The Dutch police were meanwhile doing something similar with regard to another large organisation, Hansa. Rather than just closing it down, however, they stealthily proceeded to run it themselves for a while in order to garner information on people who are using the dark web.

[See this article in Deutsche Welle, a German international broadcaster.](#)

“This coordinated law enforcement action in Europe and the US ranks as one of the most sophisticated takedown operations ever seen in the fight against criminal activities online.”

Pray that when similar organisations surface again in another incarnation, they will again be successfully tracked down. There is much to be thankful for – but so much too to cover in prayer in the whole realm of the cyber world.



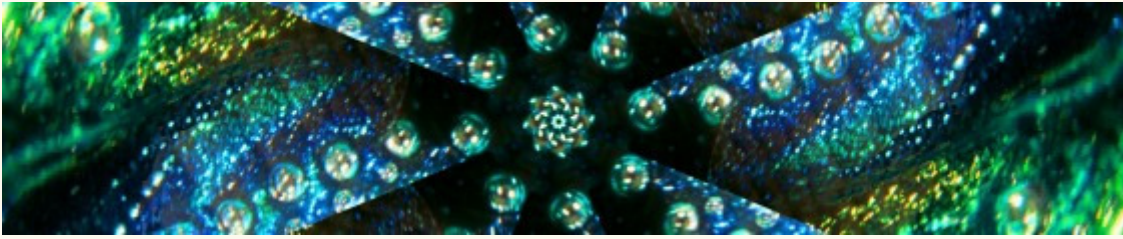
I came across a powerful video the other day by a young singer I had never heard of before, but who has become known as the 'Christian Adele,' Lauren Daigle. This song, “Trust in You”, which speaks of trusting the Lord at times when things are working out anything but smoothly, (very much along the lines of Habakkuk) has been listened to well over 40,000,000 times. Wow - thank You Lord!

Two comments from viewers struck me particularly: one from a girl who gave her life the Lord as the result of hearing the song, and another who changed her mind about committing suicide.

Thank You, Lord, for the freedom and the opportunities to communicate such truths across the air waves. May nothing succeed in blocking the proclamation of the gospel – and may the Lord add yet more of His power and effectiveness to all outreach and discipling efforts. How quickly His power can break though into communities!

May this song bless you as it clearly has done for millions of others.

A Kaleidoscope of Prayer



It is lovely to think of this great feast of prayer going up to the Lord, each element of which He is able to apply and interpret. I found myself mentally comparing them to the recurring patterns made by the continually changing symmetrical forms in a kaleidoscope; which prompted me to look up the meaning of that word. The first part originates from the Greek *kalos*, which means 'good, lovely, beautiful, the right thing' (as opposed to *kakos*: 'ugly,' 'evil'). *Eidos* means 'that which is seen'; 'form', 'shape'; and *skopeō* means 'to look to' or 'to examine.' In other words, we are speaking of 'the observation of beautiful forms.'

It is a beautiful vision: our prayers rising to the Lord in a continually changing pattern of shapes and colours. The image in a kaleidoscope may appear blurred and confusing, but as the Lord, so to speak, passes it through various levels of reflection and refraction, two or more mirrors reflecting each image, He makes perfect sense of all He sees and hears.

Which led me to see how those words were employed by the NT writers.

Skopeo basically means to keep your eye on the ball; to observe, take aim at, fix your eyes on and to take heed to. It means loving what the Lord loves - and keeping our distance from what He does not. In 2 Cor. 4:18, for example, we are urged to fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, for the very good reason that what is seen is temporary, whereas what is unseen is eternal.

Beyond that the word is used along the lines of 'see to it that' to indicate people and tendencies to watch out for. We are urged, for example, to watch ourselves (*skopeo*) that we "do not fall into temptation" (Gal. 6:1); and to "see to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness." (Luke 11:35) Eugene Peterson translates that passage thus: "No one lights a lamp, then hides it in a drawer. It's put on a lamp stand so those entering the room have light to see where they're going. Your eye is a lamp, lighting up your whole body. If you live wide-eyed in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. Keep your eyes open, your lamp burning, so you don't get musty and murky. Keep your life as well-lighted as your best-lighted room."

Likewise when we are warned not to spend time with people who promote division (Rom. 16:17-18) *skopeo* is the word used, and also in not looking to your own interests but to the interests of others (Phil. 3:17). It is a good thing, however, to keep your eyes on those who

live as Paul and his team themselves did. (Phil. 2:4) What a powerful thing example is!

May we have the grace to do that in a special way this summer, and to find ways to focus on that which is *kalos*: lovely wholesome and good!

I love Augustine's quote "Seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand". *Eidos* means seeing the shape or observable form of something. Although the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form (*eidos*) (Luke 3:22) Jesus tells His hearers that they have never heard His voice nor seen His form, (John 5:37), Paul reminds us in 2 Cor. 5:7 reminds us that we are to walk by faith not by sight (*eidos*). May we understand ever more of His form, His shape, his character and His nature.

Because *eidos* has to do with everything that strikes the eye, believers are urged to abstain from everything that has the form or 'appearance' of evil (1 Thess. 5:22) there are many things, doctrines included that are 'too good to be true' we need more discernment to examine them carefully.(cf Rom. 12:9 – Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.)

It's the time of year when people are heading off on conferences and summer camps: may the Lord meet them in great power in ways that will affect the rest of their lives – and bring others gloriously into His kingdom. And may He be with you wherever you are this summer.

With our love,
Robert and Ros

Two prayers set to music: **Give Glory to the Lord your God / Carriers of Your Kingdom Call**



Two short prayers can't even begin to encompass every aspect of the Lord's blessings and warnings, let alone embrace all the opportunities awaiting us, or extend to cover all the dangers facing us, but Ros and I are delighted to release two prayers that we have recently

written and recorded. May the Lord hear and find ways to apply these prayers of the heart.

The first prayer features the stunningly powerful music of Monteverdi. I have always loved his Vespers of 1610; how amazing now to be in a position to be able to record a portion of it! We had great fun rearranging pieces that were originally written for two choirs, period brass and strings for our much smaller group of contemporary instruments, and no voices. (I'm sure Monteverdi would have been only too happy to make good use of saxophones had they been around!) We may not have had the benefit of being able to record in St Mark's Cathedral in Venice, but it is still a lovely sound. Most appropriately, the title for the second short piece in this presentation is Nisi Dominus - "Unless the Lord builds the house. . ."

[Give Glory to the Lord your God](#)



Linda Entwistle wrote the beautiful music, 'Waterfall,' that accompanies our second piece. It features on our [CD Spirit of Prayer](#), but we have put new words to it here: **[Carriers of Your Kingdom Call](#)**



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We are delighted to share this gateway to the Malvern Mashal with you.
If you are unfamiliar with our ministry you can find [a basic introduction here](#)

With you all in spirit,
with our love,
Robert and Rosalind with Sally Mowbray