

HEALTHCARE SUNDAY

20 October 2002

The Cost of Caring

Prayer pointers

Father God, we pray for those local churches which are a focal point of the community, reaching out with practical caring and spiritual support. Please increase their faith and work.

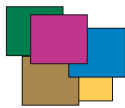
For the Christian witness of healthcare professionals and students that they will demonstrate Christ's love to their patients/clients and use the opportunities which God provides to share the gospel.

Please pray for the children of people with disabilities; that they would receive practical support and encouragement as they cope with the added pressures and responsibilities upon them.

That students will have boldness to challenge their lecturers and fellow students in lectures and seminars where anti-Christian opinions are given or taught e.g. humanism; random chance in evolution; religious "tolerance" and pluralism.

Remember the staff and volunteers at schools, day centres, residential homes, workplaces, leisure centres where people with disabilities learn, meet, work, relax and live. Pray they will be full of fun, understanding and kindness.

Ask God to bless the Ministry of those who work to make the gospel accessible to disabled people and ensure they have opportunity to experience the fullness of God's love.



That professionals and students will trust God and rely on His strength, not their own, in times of stress.

For students in their relationship with their supervisors on placement, as they know they are being assessed continually, that they will trust in God and behave as Christians, not just to please their supervisors.

Pray for people with disabilities who feel unable to fulfil their perceived role in life: e.g. parents unable to lift their children or provide hands-on care; young people unable to access employment.

That professionals and students will find the time in a busy schedule to witness to fellow students and colleagues.

For the many women struggling with eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and anxiety or depression.



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Loving Father we cry to you on behalf of children who are deprived physically, emotionally and spiritually. Please grant wisdom to those seeking to help them, that the right resources may be made available to alleviate their problems.

Remember children who are neglected and pray that local authorities will make wise and life-enhancing decisions about their safety and care. Pray for very many children to be placed with loving Christian foster families where they can be nurtured and prayed for.

Pray that carers will receive all the financial, practical and emotional support they need from families, friends, local authorities and charities. Pray for many more local churches to find ways to help carers.

Intercede for the children of asylum seekers and new immigrants; that God would protect them and that accommodation and schooling will be available as they recover from the trauma of being uprooted from their families and homes.

Lord of all compassion we thank you for the six million people in the UK who selflessly look after a family member, friend or neighbour. Please give them the energy to keep going when life is particularly stressful.

Father God please protect and provide for children in the developing world who are alone caring for parents, siblings and their family members. Bring adults into their lives to encourage them and find ways to enable them to be educated and enjoy their childhood.

Please pray for leaders and others in your local church who exercise caring ministries. Ask God to show you ways to encourage and bless them.

Pray for all health and social care professionals seeking to support carers; that they would be alert to physical and mental health problems and bring relief to the isolation and trapped feeling that can affect carers at home.

Pray for those responsible for the upkeep and management of hospital wards; that they would be effective in controlling infection and that, as staff, they would feel valued. Pray for patients to be in an environment that helps give them privacy, comfort, safety and dignity.

Remember those with the responsibility of allocating funds within the NHS. Ask God to show them where true priorities lie and how to ensure money and resources are not wasted or mismanaged.

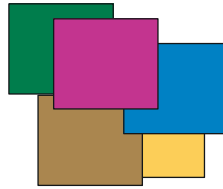
Pray about the need to recruit and train staff for the health service; that people of high calibre and clear vocation will be enabled to follow worthwhile careers in their field of healthcare.

Ask God to raise up many more Christian practitioners to serve on the committees of Royal Colleges and other statutory and professional bodies that make important recommendations and decisions about the NHS.

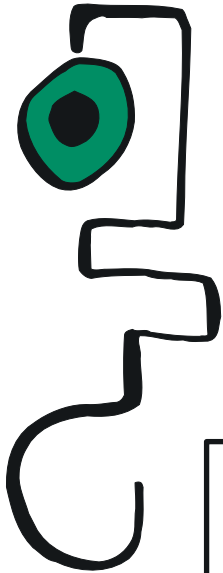
Remember women in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia where abortion is on the increase. Pray for the many Christians working to help them find alternatives and bring the compassion of Christ to those in need.

Pray for an increase of faith and wisdom for every counsellor listening to and praying for those facing a crisis pregnancy, or those in need of post-abortion help. Ask God to give them insight and understanding to bring freedom and healing into each situation.

That professionals and students will show Christian integrity in their ethical decisions about patient treatment and care.

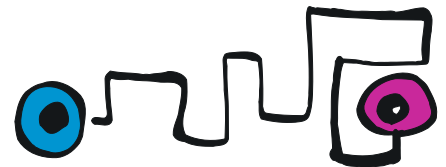


Remember children with a serious illness or disability who need special medical treatment and loving care. Thank God for the dedication of parents, relatives, nurses, therapists, doctors, teachers, helpers and counsellors and ask Him to encourage them.



For students away on placement, away from university friends and church, that they will find Christian fellowship and support.

Remember those who day by day prayerfully provide counselling and support for people in need.



For people living with chronic pain- that they will know God's strength in weakness and that they will grow spiritually as Christians and that those who are not Christians will find God in their pain.

Remember parents who are expecting a baby with a serious disease or abnormality. Ask God to give them peace, show them His way ahead and send those who will help them through the anxieties and heartache to come.

Ask God to guide all Christian organisations and individuals committed to upholding the sanctity of human life. Pray for increasing unity and co-operation to meet each new challenge and for public opinion to change.

Pray for students coming face-to-face with suffering and distressing circumstances on their healthcare placements, at a young age when they themselves may have very little life experience and have not developed coping mechanisms. Pray for God's wisdom and strong faith as they ask why He allows suffering and pain.

Thank God for the growing number of Christians who are interested in fostering children in care. Pray for courage, patience and determination in the most difficult cases as they work with children, their families and social workers.



With special thanks to CARE for the prayer points taken from their prayer guide.