

WBC Prayer Focus for May 2021: Rachel Spencer

Following Rachel's update during our service on the 2nd May, we would ask you to focus your thoughts and prayers on Rachel, her work and organization during the coming month.

Christine has given us a brief summary below of the sort of work that Rachel is involved with:

Rachel works in France with World Team, an international church planting mission. She is also, for administrative purposes, part of the Greater European Mission (GEM). For the past year she has been tasked with setting up a new team in the town of SQY-Sud. The town is home to a large number of immigrants, many of them asylum seekers. There is a lot of poverty and need. She works with a local Catholic mission, helping in their drop in centre and with French language classes. Helping to run homework classes and coaching school children in English enables her to meet people and build relationships. The pandemic has meant that it has been impossible for her to invite people into her home for conversation and friendship building with them. However, technology has enabled her to keep in touch with and serve those in need: for example, translating for someone who needed to communicate with the local authority over the phone but whose French wasn't of a standard to allow her to do so unaided. Besides working in the local community, Rachel is on the mission's French leadership team, is the Europe safeguarding officer and is nearing the end of studying for a Masters degree which she hopes will help the small French evangelical church in working out how it can more effectively reach out with God's love.

And Rachel has kindly written us a prayer that we can use as a starting point for further reflection and prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, we pray for the nation of France as it currently faces various challenges. We pray first for the effective management of the Covid-19 crisis, that the numbers of cases, hospitalisations and deaths would continue to decrease, and for the vaccination campaign which has faced a number of obstacles. We also pray for all those who have been affected over the last year by terrorist attacks in France. Lord, bring healing and peace where there is pain, grief and fear.

We pray for the church in France, and for our brothers and sisters there, that through them your light will shine into dark places. As the church faces new restrictions from the anti-separatism law passed last month, we pray that your gospel will not be hindered, that your people will boldly proclaim your name, and that your church will continue to grow, bringing transformation where it is most needed. We pray for the leaders of the National Council of Evangelicals, representing the churches to the government. Lord, give them wisdom and favour as they seek the best way forward.

We pray for the church-planting ministry of FranceVie in SQY-Sud, reaching out to the predominantly muslim community. During this time of Ramadan, we pray that you would reveal yourself to those who are earnestly seeking the truth of God. Lord, lead us to those people, and give us opportunities to show your love to all around us.

We pray for the developing partnerships with the MissPop and the Catholic Church, that we would find unity around our desire to make Christ known, and that we would find effective ways to work together in our shared community.

We pray for each member of the team; Rachel, Monika, Sam, Linda and Dorothy, that you would encourage and comfort them during these difficult times. We pray for strong relationships within the team and with others from the community, for opportunities to love and serve their neighbours, and for deep joy as they carry out the work to which you have called them.

In the name of Christ we pray, amen.