



# **Week of Prayer**

## **2017**

### **Unique**

**8 - 15 January 2017**

# Week of Prayer 2017

## Freedom of Conscience

"Here I stand. I can do no other!" It is said that Luther after one day of consideration declared these famous words at the court of Charles V in Worms. These words made him an outlaw. But these words also made him the man who laid the foundation for our modern understanding of *Freedom of Conscience*.

"Try my claims with Scripture and prove me wrong, if you can, and I will revoke what I have said." These were the words which went before his above declaration.

The Evangelical Alliance Week of Prayer 2017 is based on the *Solas, Alone by/through* which marked the reformation, made Luther and many others outlaws and yet transformed the world.

These *Solas* tend to make Christians outlaws even today. In a day and age where almost everything is relative, you don't earn credits if you declare absolutes.

Have you ever thought that *Freedom of Conscience* only makes sense in a society which believes in and tolerates absolutes? And yet we live in a society which does not only ban absolutes but even punishes people who believe in absolutes. We move from banning things, from being politically not correct to legislate what can be said and what not.

We as Christians have been guilty of this as well when we used our power to forbid certain convictions.

Only where free discourse is possible can you claim to have freedom of conscience, freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Upholding the *Solas* today is foundational to this.

As you go through this Week of Prayer I pray that you may be encouraged to wrestle and grasp anew what it means to stand true to

*Sola Scriptura - by Scripture alone - Scripture over tradition*

*Sola Fide - by faith alone - faith over works*

*Sola Gratia - by Grace alone - grace over merit*

*Solus Christus - through Christ alone – Christ the only way*

May this result in *Soli Deo Gloria! Glory to God alone!*

Praying with you

Thomas Bucher

General Secretary European Evangelical Alliance

PS The materials for the week of prayer 2017 was developed by the DACH members of the EEA. DACH standing for Germany (D), Austria (A) and Switzerland (CH). Heartfelt thanks go to them for their efforts to contribute to 500 years' celebration of the reformation and make it truly special.

## Sunday January 8 - By Christ alone – The one and only way

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”. (John 14: 6 NIV)

*Additional passage: Hebrews 1: 1-3*

**A heavenly father decides to come to Earth, embodied in his Son.** This Son, an innocent, sinless man, is the only one capable of bringing a fallen creation back to its creator. He takes all of creation’s guilt and places it on his own shoulders so as to die in its place. In our place. The father accepts this sacrifice and raises his Son back to life.

Throughout all history, there is no other rescue mission quite like this one. What a sacrifice! And this father, this God, is now calling everyone to put their faith in Jesus Christ. God has given his Son authority over all. Christ is the one and only way to the father and those who trust in him can experience salvation.

This is just a short summary of such an (un)believable story! And it IS true. Christ allows us to be renewed so that we can become the people God originally intended us to be. We have been offered true life again, life with such hope and joy, that it can even overcome death. If we look at the passage around this verse, the Last Supper, we see how clueless Jesus’ disciples were about His purpose here on earth (see John 13-14). Thomas had absolutely no idea what Jesus was planning to do and Peter thought much too much of himself, thinking he would be able to sacrifice his life for his Master. But Jesus replies with patience and encouragement. He builds up their trust in him and explains that the path he must walk is “to prepare a place” for them. “My Father’s house has many rooms“, He says, and “I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” (see John 14: 2-3).

We as Christians are on a pilgrimage towards that heavenly homeland. Often, we fail to see the path before us, which causes us to stop, uncertain, just like these disciples. But we do not have to lose faith. One thing we can be sure of is that we have someone leading us. Thank God we do not have to create our own path! Through Christ we can just follow the road that leads us directly to our father, to our home. Jesus ensures that he will get us there. And so, the focus of our prayer today is the Son of God. Let us celebrate him together as fellow travellers of on the same road!

### Prayer Focus

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature <sup>[a]</sup> God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature <sup>[b]</sup> of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Phil. 2:5-11 NIV)

**Thank you:**

- for your rescue mission. God, you reconciled the world to yourself through Christ (see 2 Cor. 5:19)
- that Jesus did go on that path to the cross, and that he has already prepared the way for us to heaven

**Sorry:**

- for our tendency to put ourselves first
- for not always being conscious of the fact that Jesus is the one and only way to the father
- for not loving our fellow Christians, making us unrecognisable as Jesus' disciples (see John 13:35)

**Intercession:**

- for those who are on the false path to finding salvation (religion, esotericism...), that they find Christ
- that we as Christians never turn away from Christ's love
- that we help and appreciate our fellow companions on the path to the Father

*Christoph Grötzinger, Salzburg, General Secretary of the Austrian Evangelical Allianz*

## Monday January 9 - By Scripture alone: Our Foundation

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things (Luke 24: 45-48 NIV).

*Additional passage: 2 Timothy 3: 16*

**Christ is at the centre of God's word and it is he, Jesus Christ, who reveals it to us.**

After being raised from the dead, Jesus meets two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus. Jesus explains to them through scripture why he, the Messiah, had to suffer, die and come back to life. There are references pointing towards Jesus throughout the whole Bible, testifying to Christ's coming, awakening faith in those who read it and hear it.

It is easy to forget how privileged we are to have the Bible available to us in our own mother tongue. There are those who still do not have access to it and those who cannot read it. When the Bible is translated for the first time in a language, it can bring so much joy to the native speakers. Something I witnessed in Turkey is how another language can give you a new perspective on God's word, for example in the imagery used. The following is a literal translation of a passage in Turkish:

"Today, when you hear his voice, do not allow calluses to grow on your heart." (Heb, 3:15).

Hardened skin growing on your heart.... that is quite a vivid picture. It warns us of devaluing the Bible's message and closing our heart to God's word. It is a warning against disobeying the scriptures and devaluing certain passages by saying that they are irrelevant and outdated for modern society.

Years ago, an Indian theologian stated that ever since we have learnt how to read the Bible, we have forgotten how to listen to God's word. He said: "When I read the Bible, my eyes are always above the scriptures. However, if I listen to God's word I must place myself below it." We can put our trust in God's Word. Preaching based on the Bible awakens faith, for faith comes from hearing and from the things heard (see Romans 10: 17).

### **Prayer Focus**

#### **Thank you:**

- that the Bible has been translated in so many different languages
- for preachers who put Christ at the centre of their message, awakening faith
- for worship songs and hymns based on the holy scriptures

#### **Sorry:**

- for when we didn't listen to God's word. When it hasn't been the foundation of our church

#### **Intercession:**

- that the Bible can be translated in continually more languages
- that God's word is preached and listened to at our churches

- that we learn more Bible verses by heart
- Detlef Garbers, Sinsheim*

## Tuesday January 10 - By Grace alone: our Opportunity

<sup>21</sup> But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus (Rom. 3: 21-24 NIV).

*Additional passage: 1 Corinthians 15: 10*

**“If you don’t put the effort in, you won’t achieve anything!”** This is something we hear again and again our whole lives; be it from parents at home, the strict maths teacher at school, at work... Sometimes it acts as a little nudge and sometimes it feels like a massive shove. It is something I even here myself saying too: “I’ve only got one chance left to prove myself... if I just try a little harder...”

Even when I do put more effort in, I often notice how quickly I reach my limits. I wanted to meet a friend and say sorry for an argument we had had recently, but something popped into my head that was much more important all of a sudden. I pushed the plan of reconciliation to the back of my mind, although I so desperately wanted it before. Someone who can be honest with themselves quickly notices where their limits, their faults and failures lie. Life, however, is much more than just getting the best marks in an exam, being a success at work, or even just having a better-than-average life. Leading a life that is satisfactory in the eyes of God – that is what really counts. That is what makes me realise just how pointless my efforts are in trying to make myself worthy before Him.

The Apostle Paul states that he has worked harder than anyone else, and rightly so (see 1 Cor. 15: 10). He does not however let it get to his head. He stays humble, in the full knowledge that he would never have managed it without God’s grace. Goethe coined a phrase, roughly translated as: “those who arduously exert themselves, they are the ones we can save”. Just like Paul, Martin Luther also discovered that this motto just was not true. Luther consequently went on to turn western society’s “principle of efficiency” on its head. The Church Reformation was founded on the principle of Grace, instead of on this “principle” of our own achievements or accomplishments.

We are passive. It is God who is the active doer. When I get to the end of my tether and think that I have run out of all alternatives - that is where God steps in. He is the best and only person who can give me another chance. Through his Son’s suffering and death on the cross, God has blessed me with his grace. If I did not have grace, I would have no perspective in my life, or in my death. But with God’s gift of grace, I can be who I should be: God’s beloved child.

**Prayer focus** (Psalms 103)

**Thank you:**

- that God has given to me and all those around me the gift of grace and reconciliation

**Sorry:**

- I want to share God’s gift of grace with other people, but I do not do it often enough

- I am continually losing my sense of self-worth, attempting to rediscover it from within and through my own efforts. This is not the answer. Help us, oh graceful God and father, to come back to you every single day and to rely on your grace alone!

**Intercession:**

- for those in jobs who try to define their self-worth through their own accomplishments (CEOs, celebrities...)
- for those who need protection, grace and care, but who only receive rejection and loneliness (refugees, children in difficult family situations)
- for people in leading positions during war conflicts, that they strive for reconciliation

*Marieluise Bierbaum, Bremen*



## Wednesday January 11- By Faith alone: Responding to God's offer

<sup>27</sup> Then what can we boast about doing to earn our salvation? Nothing at all. Why? Because our acquittal is not based on our good deeds; it is based on what Christ has done and our faith in him.

<sup>28</sup> So it is that we are saved by faith in Christ and not by the good things we do (Romans 3: 27-28 TLB).

*Additional passage: Luke 5: 1-11*

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Sola, "by faith alone", is an appropriate response to God's offer to us.** We all know the feeling of giving a present to someone and waiting apprehensively for their reaction. We hope desperately that the gift will be noticed, accepted and appreciated, and that the gift itself is suitable for the recipient. So how does God's gift work? Paul says here in Romans that we can only receive God's gift by trusting Him in faith.

There are always the same old misconceptions about what "faith" really means. This is what Paul is tackling in the verses above. The first misunderstanding is "boasting". This is when faith in God is seen as a "pious achievement". The problem here is that too much importance is given to having a deep, real faith, attained through one's own strength. Sometimes we even demand others to have the same faith, as if they can just fabricate it out of thin air. But faith is something we cannot make ourselves; it is something that we must request from God.

A second misconception is what "good deeds" means. There is still the same old religious temptation to want to earn God's favour. Or at least to try to help God in what he has already done. Paul highlights, however, that faith alone is enough. There is nothing more to be done. God has done it all.

"By faith alone" is also a solution to a third misconception, one that is probably more relevant to our modern society than the previous two: that what God has done puts us right with him, whether we accept it in faith or not. There are a lot of people these days that want an easy option, so that they can switch their "godliness" to autopilot. Where it is anonymous and automatic, regardless of whether you have responded to God's offer or of whether you even believe in it or not. But Paul reminds us in this passage that God has approached us through Christ because he desires a relationship with us. Such a relationship can only be achieved "by faith alone". That is why we invite people to also experience this faith.

What is your biggest "religious" temptation? Is it in boasting about your own faith, even though it was a gift? Is it, perhaps, trusting in your own godly accomplishments, even though it does not bring you any more favour with God? Or is it in the deceptive hope that it can still work without faith? Answering these questions honestly can help you decide what direction your prayer should go today.

**Prayer Focus** (Eph. 3: 14-21)

**Thank you:**

- for the gift of Grace, which we do not deserve
- that Christ has done everything necessary for us
- that God has induced faith in us

**Sorry:**

- for often boasting about our faith
- for trying to win your favour through our own efforts

**Please:**

- “I do believe – help me overcome my unbelief!” (Mark 9: 24)
- for unity in faith

**Worship:**

- because God is reliable
- because the way to God is open

*Dr. Guido Baltes, Marburg*

## Thursday January 12 - By Faith alone: God's invitation to the world

<sup>37</sup> On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive." (John 7: 37-39a, NIV)

*Additional passage: Acts 17: 22- 24*

**There is a German song that goes: "God has invited us to His party, let's go, and let's tell everyone who we meet on the way about it..."**

When I receive an invitation to a party, it makes me feel so special. What an honour to think that the host wants me specifically to attend. It is so important to God that every single person accepts His invitation. We are so precious to Him and he wants desperately for us to be near to him; not temporarily, but permanently. Not as a guest, but as one of the family. He wants US to be a part of HIS life and HIS being. He is offering US a meaningful and fulfilling life, one that is made perfect in His eternal presence. What a privilege that is! And what a prospect that is for us humans. Jesus uses this imagery of a joyful party to make it clear that HE is inviting us and that HE wants to celebrate with us.

HE has prepared heavenly dwellings for us in his eternal realm. And there is no entrance fee, no rent to be paid and no credit needed. There is nothing else for us to do, but just believe: *by faith alone*. Faith is much more than just a ritual or a heightened awareness of God's presence. Faith means embracing that God fulfils His promises and also trusting in God's works rather than in our own.

Jesus sent out His disciples 2000 years ago and he is sending US out today, so that every single person on this Earth can receive His invitation and say yes to him. God has a place for everyone, but will each place be accepted? Jesus has his arms stretched wide to joyfully accept every person that comes to him. It pains him when someone rejects his invitation. Today, let us thank God for His all-inclusive invitation to the world and ask Him to help us accept it with joy.

### **Prayer Focus**

*"<sup>2</sup> We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup> We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1. Thess. 1: 2-3. Read on till verse 10, NIV)*

### **Thank you :**

- that Jesus honours us with an invitation to be with him

### **Sorry:**

- for often trusting ourselves more than we trust Jesus

### **Please:**

- Lord, forgive our unbelief and strengthen our faith in you and in your promises

**Intercession:**

- Father, open the hearts of people all around the world so that they can hear your invitation and accept it in faith

*Horst Weippert, Gärtringen*

## Friday, January 13 - By Grace alone – God’s heart for the world

<sup>25</sup> *At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.*

<sup>27</sup> *‘All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

<sup>28</sup> *‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

<sup>30</sup> *For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’ (Matthew. 11: 25-30)*

*Additional Verse: Exodus 34: 6*

**God’s heart beats for the world and this is why He sent us his Son Jesus.** For God already said to the Israelites in Egypt, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people” (Ex. 3:7). God sees our despair as much today as He did back then: nations torn up by civil wars, exploitation and abuse; people who have lost their homes and so have become refugees. These people painstakingly try to build up a new life for themselves in an unfamiliar land where they are called foreigners, like they are here in Europe. God sees them and suffers with them. His Grace is naturally extended even to those who do not yet know him, for he is always there for people who suffer, regardless of their religion or race.

God sees all of our hardships and burdens. He sees all of our faults and failures. He sees the problems we have at work, in our marriages; he sees when we struggle with our kids or in financial disasters, with illness, accidents. “We are all in the same boat”. But sometimes it seems like God is absent. Doesn’t the world seem to be getting worse rather than better? That question comes up a lot. But God really did send his son. He is in the world and he is here for us: Immanuel, “God with us”. And that is why he died on the cross.

God has not forgotten us. His grace is meant for us specifically, and that is why Jesus is calling us to him today. He has taken on the world’s burdens as well as each person’s individual needs. “Come to me, those who are weary” (Mt 11: 28). He wants to take our burdens onto his shoulders, which means that we do not need to carry them alone. When we pray to Him, that is when we can share his “yoke”. We become a team with Jesus. That means we are not alone. He is the one who is next to us and with us, carrying all of our burdens, even if we cannot see him or feel him. When we pray to Him, that is when our burden becomes light. Let us now join together in prayer, so that God can carry us.

**Prayer focus** (Luke 1: 46-55)

**Thank you:**

- that your heart is open wide for us
- that we do not have to come up with all of our own solutions, suggestions and plans, but that we are able to just trust in you
- that with you, we are allowed to fail and do not need to know everything

**Sorry:**

- for when we think that you are not here, that you have forgotten us, that you do not care about us
- forgive us for often relying on our own strength and resources, rather than just coming straight to you

**Please:**

- strengthen our trust in the fact that you are in command and that you will make sure that everything will have a good end
- win over the hearts of those in power, so that they strive for good and for justice

*Magdalena Paulus, Götzis, Vorarlberg*

## Saturday, January 14 - By Scripture alone – God’s voice in the world

<sup>4</sup> While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: <sup>5</sup> “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. <sup>6</sup> Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” (Luke 8: 4-8 NIV)

Additional passage: Matthew 4: 1-11

**The fields are pretty bleak in the winter.** It is hard to imagine that anything could ever grow from them again come spring. But whilst a bare field might look barren to us, a farmer sees it as a potential harvest.

Jesus is just like this farmer. Unlike us, he sees exactly what a seed of God’s word will grow into. There are, however, always a few obstacles before a seed can properly take root: the path, rocky ground, the thorns...

Jesus does not use this parable as a warning from these dangers, but as a promise about God’s Word when it falls on good soil. This parable teaches us a few things about how God nurtures his “Word seed”:

- It takes time. If you want to grow a plant, there are no shortcuts. How do you react when you do not see the fruits of your labour straight away? How do you react when God’s message does not strike like a bolt of lightning but instead grows at a snail’s pace?
- It is easy to lose patience, but slow, arduous growth is to be expected. Are we ready for it?
- A seed will only grow well on good soil. Are we doing enough to prepare the “soil” in our churches?
- Sowing reaps a large harvest. From one seed comes a hundred new ones and each individual seed needs space and air to be able to mature.
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Whilst living in Africa I would see hundreds of Christians hurrying to Church with a Bible tucked under their arm. Here we tend to leave our Bibles at home on the bookshelf. We mustn’t attract any attention! That is our fear. So why are we not proud enough of our Bible to show it to others? The Bible has played a crucial role in our society over the centuries. Biblical phrases such as “freedom” and “justice” are now constitutional requirements. A great amount of charities are built on biblical values. We should bring the Bible’s message to the ploughing field with joy and with expectance, confident in the knowledge that it is God’s seed and that it is unique.

### Prayer Focus

<sup>24</sup> When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup> You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: ““Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord

*and against his anointed one.’<sup>27</sup> Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.<sup>28</sup> They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.<sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.<sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” (Acts 4: 24-30 NIV)*

**Thank you:**

- for the power of God’s word that has been working among us for 2000 years.

**Sorry:**

- for the way we sometimes sheepishly tiptoe around talking about the Bible in public. We often focus on the problems with God’s Word rather than on its power and vitality.

**Intercession (specific names if possible):**

- for those who publically preach about God’s word
- for those who have recently allowed the seed of God’s word to begin to grow in their hearts.  
For those who are experiencing difficulties in their growth
- for Christians who are spreading God’s word using the media (internet, radio, TV etc)

*Thomas Hanimann, Schaffhausen*



## Sunday January 15 - By Christ alone –The hope of the world

<sup>27</sup> To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. (Col. 1:27-28 NIV)

*Additional passage: Isaiah 42: 1-12*

**This passage in Isaiah is a daring theory.** Would anyone contradict that Jesus is our only hope? The reality is that a lot of people do disagree with this statement nowadays. Hope is dwindling, fuelling anxiety about the future. We speculate about our lives increasingly. Panel discussions forecast a multi-religious world and the people watching the debates are craving answers, or are disillusioned. Where is the hope for this world? Is it only in Christ?

Paul writes to the Colossians about unity and truth. He sent this letter so as to make them aware of Jesus' unique nature (Col 1: 15-23). Christ is enough! He is the visible image of the invisible God. Christ is the head of the church. He is the risen one. Everyone should know about this marvellous secret! This is our hope.

Since then Paul's message of hope has inspired and motivated countless people. Christian mission has changed the face of the world, but we still haven't reached paradise. To experience personal change, we are required to voluntarily accept Jesus as our sole saviour. Each new generation has its expectations of the future. And each generation needs to hear preachers of the gospel that declare, clearly and publicly, „in Christ alone – the hope for the world“.

Prayer is a part of this mission. It is not enough to carry hope and faith in our hearts; we must move from believing to doing, from talking to taking action. Our generation are searching for projects, churches and for people to give them hope. A very important step we can do first is to pray together in unity. Publicly committing ourselves to Christ empowers others. Jesus Christ is the only hope for the future. No matter what happens to us locally, or worldwide, we can live or die in the knowledge that we are with Him.

**Prayer Focus** (Jesus' prayer for us)

<sup>20</sup> *My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,*  
<sup>21</sup> *that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.* <sup>22</sup> *I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one –* <sup>23</sup> *I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

<sup>24</sup> *Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

<sup>25</sup> *Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.* <sup>26</sup> *I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.'* (John 17: 20-26 NIV)

**Thank you:**

- that Christ is the source of hope and new life
- for churches and projects that spread this message of hope

**Sorry:**

- for fearing those who criticise us
- for reading the bible half-heartedly
- for lacking in confidence

**Please:**

- for boldness in setting our priorities
- for renewed trust in Jesus Christ as our hope

**Intercession:**

- for evangelism world wide
- for church-planting projects

*Wolfhart Neumann, Leipzig*