

Email

Dear Friend,

This week our prayers are focusing on those who participate in short-term trips, and the effects that they can have in the location the trip visits. Whilst all of the locations and names have been changed for security reasons, the stories are from the last 12 months. Short term trips are not simply something that used to happen, they continue to play a vital role in in the extension of God's kingdom within the Muslim World.

Short-term trips open us up to God's heart for the nations, encourage field workers, can break new ground for God's Kingdom, and can expand our church's understanding of missions which can bring transformation both at home and overseas.

May God bless you as you pray and intercede this week.

For His glory in the nations,

Charlotte and Richard

Prayer Mobilisation Team

Monday 12th August

Heart transformation

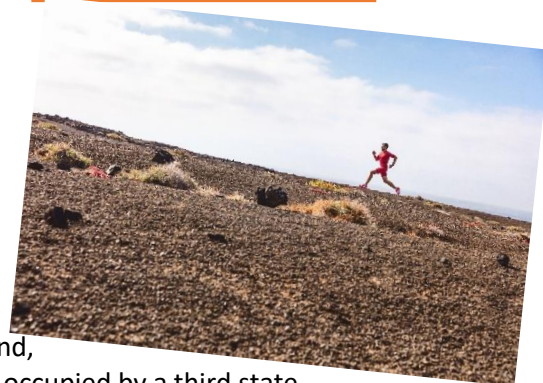
By visiting other nations and engaging with their people we begin to discover God's heart for all the 'families of the earth.' Unreached peoples become more than an unpronounceable name or a statistic when we've walked their streets, laughed and shared a meal with them, talked about faith and prayed for their sick. Their faces become embedded in our memories and our prayers for them come alive.

Many short-term trips are based on the provision of some sort of humanitarian support, or of prayer ministry. However, another way in which short term teams can access some of the countries that Frontiers works in is through sporting events. These can be high profile international events like the Olympics or the FIFA World Cup, or lower key, but regular, events like marathons. One story from the last year follows.

The Mahwe'h* Marathon takes place to raise awareness of the plight of Mahwe'h* refugees. As well as a sporting event it is a week-long cultural experience, staying with refugee families and taking in their stories and way of life. For us the intention was that whilst we ran, we would also pray.

What struck us initially was both the warmth with which the Mahwe'h welcomed us, and their resilience. From our hosts and others, we heard stories and learnt of their culture and faith. We also heard about the treatment they have received from the neighbouring state which drove so many to seek refugee status across the international border. So much of their identity is tied to the land which has now been disputed both politically and militarily for decades.

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Many Mahwe'h said that they hope one day to return to their homeland, which is now occupied by a third state, but that their military forces are out-resourced and outnumbered. It seemed like their dream to return was hopeless. Some of the younger generation, especially those born and raised in the camps, were less attached to this vision. We saw a desire to leave the camps and live elsewhere in the world but, apart from summer study initiatives, the chances to do so were few and far between.

It's hard to know what outcome to pray for in the ongoing conflict but it is clear there is a need for real hope and a new identity in Mahwe'h hearts.

Prayer

- Pray that God would make a way for the Mahwe'h people to encounter and receive the gospel so they may have hope in the promised land of new creation.
- Pray for the children who do get to leave the camps, that God would use that opportunity to reveal Himself to them.
- Pray for the five members of the long-term worker team that God would bless the relationships being built with people in the refugee camps, that the Holy Spirit will work through them.

*People group name changed for security reasons.

For more information see

<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

Tuesday 13th August

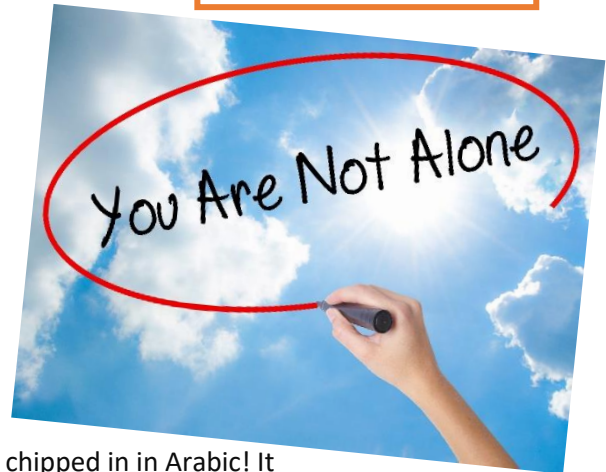
Encouragement

Some people fear that visiting short-term teams can be a burden to long term workers in a location. Frontier's experience, however, is that visiting teams can be hugely encouraging to workers who have been labouring, often in isolation with little fruit, for many years. As visitors arrive bearing gifts, have fun with them, take an interest in their vision, hear their stories and pray with and over them, they can be a huge blessing.

Further, well prepared teams often come full of faith, expecting God to move powerfully through them. This usually ignites fresh faith in those who live there, refreshing and strengthening them. If the apostle Paul needed friends and encouragers in his pioneering ministry, so do we today! In Romans 16 he mentions and greets 26 of them by name. This theme of encouragement comes through in the following story from a short-term trip to North Africa two years ago.

The seven cities we visited had little witness. Two of the cities were the size of Bristol, with two adult workers apiece, a few local believers and no fellowship meeting together. We encouraged the workers there. One, who had been in the city for over a decade, commented, "No one ever comes here."

We had the privilege of sharing something of the gospel with two national doctors who, like us, were innocent victims of a three-car shunt at traffic lights. In the country one must wait for a senior notary to come and complete forms detailing what happened for the insurance. Our fellow victims spoke English, so after a passing cyclist said the accident was because they, as Muslims, had not prayed their five-times a day salat prayers I started a discussion about Jesus' attitude to prayer, and the workers and a couple of local believers



chipped in in Arabic! It was wonderful to see the locals witnessing boldly.

Prayer

- Pray that short term teams will be an encouragement to both long-term teams and to local believers wherever they go.
- Pray that more short-term teams will go and be an encouragement to the 'rarely visited' cities of the world.
- Thank God for the freedom that short-term teams have to witness and the many chances to do so.

For more information see

<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

Wednesday 14th August

Breaking new ground 1

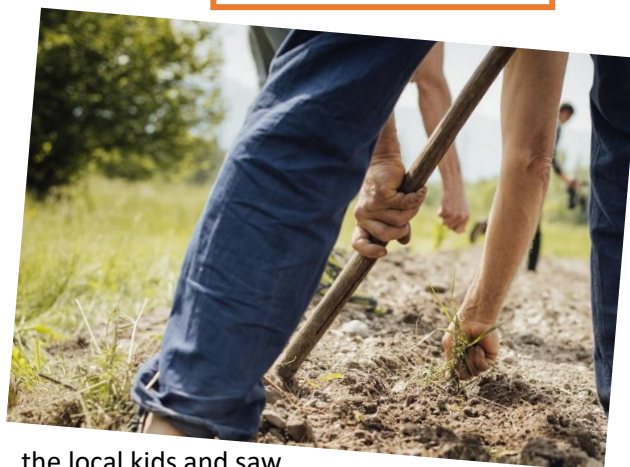
In some settings short-term teams can provide the extra numbers to go to places that resident workers can't. For instance, workers can arrange for short-termers to stay in local Muslim homes where they are welcomed in as part of the family. Having received some basic training, they can boldly and respectfully share their faith and pray for their hosts. One such story shows us what is possible.

After fifteen years reaching Muslim women in Southeast Asia, I was feeling discouraged. I started praying and fasting for more of God's presence here. Around this time my sister in the US was seeing the Lord move powerfully as she stepped out in faith and in her identity and authority in Jesus. She has a burden for the country where we live so brought a seven-person short-term team to bless us. They fasted and prayed before coming with the ambitious goal of starting a revival.

After praying with them we took a week-long trip together into two new unreached areas where we prayed, worshipped, saw several miracles and led a few people to the Lord. We are still in touch with some of those people.

The second week we visited a refugee camp where the Lord did more miracles through us. People were hungry for the gospel and many wept as we spoke the word of God into their lives. This refugee group has never been the same since. Many, including leaders, have started following Christ. One woman who'd read a bit of the Bible said she experienced what the Bible spoke about.

For the last 3 days of the trip the team focused their prayers and efforts into one village in our city. We blessed, encouraged and spoke hope over people. We played with



the local kids and saw about ten miracles (a painful shoulder and a toothache healed, etc.). We met and prayed for the head of the mosque, who said his health dramatically improved after receiving prayer. He is now a believer in Jesus.

Our long-term team continued to follow up these people making house visits until eventually we were stopped from coming in. We led many to the Lord, saw healings, taught about the kingdom of God and visited other nearby villages as we were invited. So far this move of God has affected about 25 other areas. God is good and it has been such a privilege to see his kingdom come here. We would happily host teams like this again!

Prayer

- Pray that short term teams going to the Muslim world will be open to God's voice as they prepare and go.
- Pray that these teams would be obedient to the direction they hear from God.
- Pray that short term teams will be obedient and persistent in their prayers for healings and other signs.

For more information see <https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

Thursday 15th August

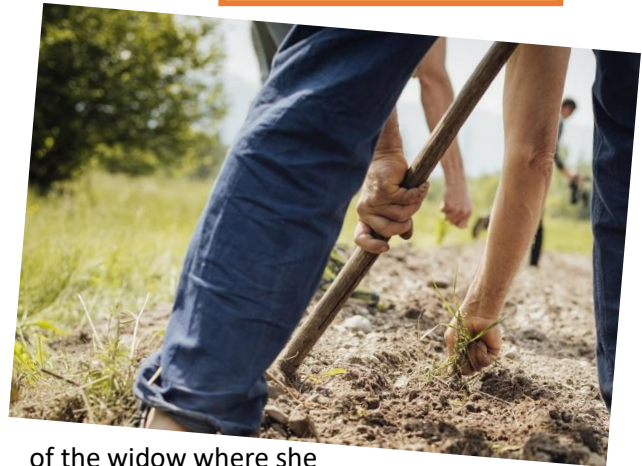
Breaking new ground 2

Last summer a short-term team of 5 people visited a town in a region of Western Asia where there are 170 towns with no gospel access. The team were part of an initiative to visit and pray in all 170 towns and their brief was to prayer-walk all around their allotted town, talk to local Muslim people about our faith, and enjoy their hospitality. They were in the town for less than three days so what impact could they realistically have in such a short time? This is the team's story...

Arriving in the town of around 10,000 people we began walking the streets. No one greeted us until the Lord led us down a street where we waved to two ladies sitting on a balcony. They immediately invited us in for coffee. The host, a young widow, together with her 16-year-old son, helped us find accommodation in some sparsely furnished apartments. She provided us with bedding... what hospitality!

We walked around the town and up hills overlooking the town. We prayed and spoke God's words over the town. We also prayed with several of the people we met. While we enjoyed hospitality, our overwhelming sense was that it was a place of 'sadness'. There seemed little joy. There were no tea-gardens, no music, the sports club had closed down, and everyone we eventually spoke to was living to survive. The few youths we engaged with seemed to have little hope and few dreams. The beautiful reservoir on the edge of town was underutilised with no swimming allowed and no apparent boats.

On a high hill over the town, we built a prayer altar and wrote verses and prayers for locals to find among the stones. One evening we revisited the widow's house and met all her children. They remarked on the joy we brought to them. We interpreted the dreams



of the widow where she saw herself walking on water. She invited us to her daughter's wedding next year.

Lord, may your kingdom come to this town – fill the town with the joy of your salvation.

Prayer

- Praise God for the culture of hospitality that acts a bridge for the Gospel throughout the Muslim World.
- Pray for the town that this team visited, that new tea-gardens would open, the sports clubs re-open, and hope would return.
- Praise God for the joy that this team took with them, and the well of life that they opened in prayer in the city they visited.

For more information see

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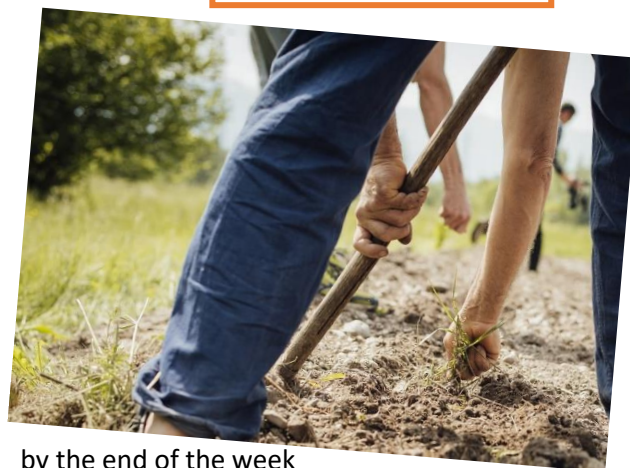
Friday 16th August

Breaking new ground 3.

This summer another Frontiers short term team visited a location in Eastern Europe. Again, their role, through both engagement in a specific project and also in the less tangible discipline of prayer walking, has helped with the opening up of new connections for the long-term team located there.

The Project: With workers serving in the city there, we helped in a youth centre in an area of the city that is pretty closed to outsiders. The opportunity to work with the youth centre appeared to be God swinging the door wide open into this community. We had no idea what to expect and went into it wanting to love the young people but being told that we shouldn't explicitly share our faith with them. But it turned out that God had other plans! Whilst we interacted with the young people, we found that many of them asked about what we believe, and it led to some great conversations about God. Over the week we were able to make lots of great connections and God really blessed the long-term team with favour in that community. We're praying that there would be more opportunities to work with the youth centre and to develop real relationships where the long-term team can share about the hope they have in Jesus.

Prayer Walking: As a team we committed to prayer walk around the city throughout the week we were there. Each morning, we walked the same route past all the local mosques, and as we walked, we prayed that God's kingdom would come. During the week people became increasingly open and curious about what we were doing. On the first day we had no interactions with anyone as we walked around, but then each subsequent day we had more and more conversations, until



by the end of the week we were having tea or breakfast with multiple people.

One man who we met on the second day told us (via some miscommunication) that his wife had a bad back and leg and was in a lot of pain. We prayed for her with him, but when we went back to see him the next day he wasn't there, nor again on the following days. It got to the day we were leaving, and so we went one last time to see if he was around, he was, and we asked about his wife he shared that she was a lot better!

Prayer

- Pray for short term teams dedicated and disciplined in prayer walking to pray around the towns and cities of the Muslim World.
- Pray that God will use short term teams to help open up hard to access communities around the Muslim world.
- Pray that short term teams will see many miracles as they pray for the people they meet during their trips.

For more information see <https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

Saturday 17th August

Transforming your church

Sadly, many churches see overseas ministry as something for a few specialist or 'called' people, but the Bible makes it clear that it's the responsibility and privilege of all local churches to see the nations reached with the gospel. Taking a small team to an unreached place can light a missions fire in your church as ordinary people share the stories of their experiences.

Our church is waking up!

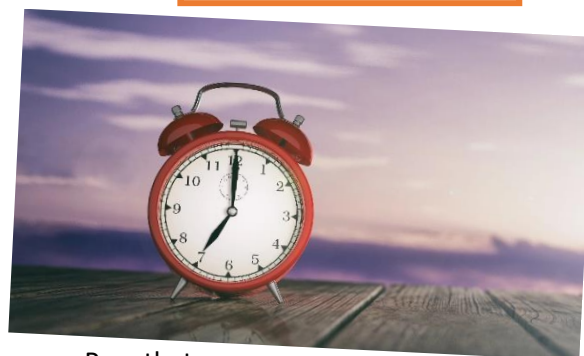
Having recently returned from a prayer & share trip to an unreached town in western Asia we told our 'God stories' to a gathering in our church. Many were struck by the fact you could share so boldly in a Muslim country and were moved by the stories of the local believers we had met.

As a church we have a great vision for our town and do a lot to bless our community, but now God is waking us up to the needs of unreached nations.

We're planning to send teams over several years to the same region, supporting the handful of resident workers, and looking to raise up young people to move out there. As a church we can have a significant impact in the Muslim world. What a joy it will be to meet people from that region in heaven, partly because our church invested in that place!

Prayer

- Praise God that bold sharing of Jesus is possible in Muslim countries. Pray that short term teams would be wise as well as bold in how they share.
- Pray that more churches will wake up to the needs of the unreached all around the globe.



- Pray that more church-based short-term teams will be sent from around the UK into the Muslim world.

For more information see:

<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>