

Stirling Free Church 9/05/21

When joining us by Zoom instead of going directly to the service you will be held in a 'waiting room' until you are let in.

All activities are conducted online via Zoom. If you would like to join us please contact us at stirlingfreechurch@gmail.com

Sunday 9th May - 11:00 am Rev Iain MacAskill

9th May - 7:00 pm A time of prayer focussing on the conclusion of Kenneth's court case which will happen on Monday.

Monday 10th May 9:00 am. Prayer time for Kenneth's court case, the conclusion, though not the verdict, is expected on this day.

Midweek Activities

Prayer for the City

10th May at 2pm via Zoom

Ladies Bible Study.

The Ladies Bible Study will be taking a break over the summer months. It is planned to resume on August 16th when the studies will be in Philippians using the '**Philippians' Life Builder Study Guide by Donald Baker. Please contact Ann Comrie if you would like her to order a study guide for you.**

Coffee and Chat each Wednesday at 11:00AM

Join us for an informal time of fellowship.

House Groups

Thursday 13th May 7:30 pm. We continue our series on the Lament

Psalms. For more background information on the studies see

<https://scottishbiblesociety.org/resources/conversations-lament-psalms/>

Study no 3. Psalm 42

Questions

1. What jumps off the page at you?
2. List the words the Psalmist uses to describe how he is feeling.
3. List the words the Psalmist uses to describe the physical impact of his suffering.
4. How does the Psalmist describe his current experience of God?
5. What has been your experience of having a downcast soul?

OPEN DOORS

WORLD WATCH LIST:

Open Doors have asked for prayer for the persecuted church each week, based on their world watch list, taking one country each week. <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>

Egypt is in 16th place on the World Watch List.

How many Christians are there in Egypt?

There are around 16.3 million Christians in Egypt, comprising almost 16 per cent of the country's population. The majority religion is Islam.

How are Christians persecuted in Egypt?

Persecution against Christians happens mostly at the community level, especially in Upper Egypt where Salafist movements exert a strong influence on the rural communities due to high levels of illiteracy and poverty.

Incidents include false accusations, community ostracism, mob violence, and the abduction of Christian women (causing many to feel unsafe leaving the house alone).

Although Egypt's government speaks positively about its Christian community, the lack of serious law enforcement and the unwillingness of local authorities to protect Christians leave them vulnerable to all kinds of attacks.

Furthermore, in contrast to how mosques and Islamic organisations are dealt with, churches and Christian non-governmental organisations are restricted in their ability to build new churches or run social services. Opposition also arises through communal hostility and mob violence.

Christians from a Muslim background often have great difficulty in living out their faith since they face enormous pressure from their families to return to Islam. The state also makes it impossible for them to get any official recognition of their conversion.

What's life like for Christians in Egypt?

Palestinian immigrants with a strict view on Islam arrived in the city of El-Arish and started threatening local Christians. They distributed leaflets, telling believers to leave or die.

How can I help Christians in Egypt?

Please keep praying for your brothers and sisters in Egypt. Your gifts and prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost.

Open Doors works through partners in Egypt to support the church with literacy training, education, advocacy support, medical care and youth, family and women's ministry.