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Dear Friends

EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE CALL TO PRAYER

May I take this opportunity to encourage you and your church, house group, fellowship or whatever, to really make 30 April and the process of political talks here a matter of substantial and earnest prayer, over the period of the talks.

Please make these important talks both a matter of personal prayer, and if possible get your church to pray, and/or join with others in whatever forum you can pull together.

You do of course know the issues, and doubtless there will be ongoing media reports to help us focus prayer, but here I believe are some of the things we should pray for:

- * Confession and repentance that we are all part of the problem here for "all have sinned . . .".
- * Pray for the Secretary of State, Peter Brooke, and all our politicians, that they may find before God a way forward.
- * Pray that our politicians may put this country and the good of all our people above their party. Ask that bridges of trust may be built and that a consensus may emerge.
- * Recognising the true source of our problems [Eph 6:12ff] pray against the spoiling power of the enemy - against sectarian attitudes and murders. Pray that the perpetrators and supporters of violence may be increasingly marginalised.
- * Praise God the talks have finally come about, and that with God nothing is impossible, not even our problems.
- * Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that God would revive this land and renew and strengthen His church.

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USING YOUR TIME

Perhaps in a church service two or three people could lead in a prayer of intercession using some of the above topics.

Or, if you can, split people into small groups and guide their praying for a few minutes.

You could call a special meeting for prayer, after an evening service, or emphasise it at your midweek meeting or house groups.

Where groups of more than 15-20 are involved, divide people into groups of 5 or 6 - less is too intimidating for some - more makes it difficult for everyone to hear.

Whatever way you do it, let us pray and keep on praying that God would have His say and His way in our community.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Ken McBride .

Ken McBride [Rev]
Chairman EA [NI]