

Prayer for BCF – January 2006

Thank you, Father of life, for growing this church for this time and this place

Thank you for every member of this body, especially those whose work is hidden

Let this be a time of water-walking, of disciple-making and joy increasing

Renew our sense of purpose and urgency for the job you've given us – bringing heaven's rule to earth. We want to see your justice, joy and peace liberating lives in this city and in the nations we touch. Show us how to use our time, money, resources and buildings most effectively in this task

Thank you, God of faithfulness, for the words and promises you've given us. We believe you will fulfil each one -

You called us to be an Antioch church

- Increase our vision and enlarge our hearts to embrace the people and nations you want us to serve and make us generous with our lives and resources
- Increase our dependence on you, so that our direction is born from worship, from prayer, and from fasting
- Increase our hunger for your word – in scripture and in prophecy - and release a new depth of prophecy and teaching

You called us to be a church that resources, equips and trains

- Strengthen our work with children and young people, and guide and inspire those who work with them
- Make us a church of learners who lead, and leaders who learn – through discipleship and mentoring we want every single member to grow and keep growing
- Let our work with other churches and other nations be both radical and creative – changing lives and communities

You're calling us to discover more of your power to bring Heaven to earth and drive out darkness with light

- Raise our faith, we want to see waves of healing – minds, bodies, and relationships – and a new tide of salvation
- Deepen our faith, we want to dig deeper and deeper to uncover fresh wells and rivers of your Spirit

You've made us a diverse church, but make us more inclusive, welcoming all people, especially those the world does not value. Please increase our unity - across generations and between people of all backgrounds

We ask all of this, confident in the resurrection and soon-returning of your Son Jesus

Above all, mighty Father, loving Son and life-giving Spirit, we worship you. For your limitless love and boundless grace we offer the sacrifice of our lives. Our struggles and suffering, our joy and our pleasures – all of this we offer. Let the fragrance of Christ and the sound of Heaven grow stronger and stronger in this church.