



A WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.

'WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR' ?

This Sunday falls right in the middle of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 'Churches Together' have put together a booklet containing thoughts and prayers about the week, based around the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.v.25-37). Starting with the Lawyer's question **Who is my neighbour?**

The Prayers and Reflections are put together by the Churches in Burkina Faso in West Africa. Burkina Faso is in the Sahel region and borders the countries of Mali and Niger. About 64% of the population is Muslim, 9% follow the traditional African religions and 26% are Christian. A major jihadist attack in 2016 has led to a period of terrorist attacks, lawlessness and human trafficking. Schools, health centres and town halls have had to close. Christians have been particularly targeted and many priests and religious leaders have been killed. However the churches there strongly believe that the love of Christ unites all Christians and they commit themselves to walking the path of the love of Christ and of neighbour. They ask for our prayers.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

The Lawyer's Tale.

I love God's Law.
I dearly, dearly want to keep God's Law.
It is the foundation of my life
And my eternity,
But I want to know how,
I want to do it right.

That is why I asked
Who is it that I should love as myself
And He answered
With a tale about a strange encounter,
An encounter of strangers.

And I will reflect
About the one who showed mercy.
And I bear the challenge
To be like the one,
To walk in the outlaw's shadow.

A PRAYER:

God of love,
Who writes love in our hearts,
Instil in us the courage to look beyond ourselves
And see the neighbour in those different from ourselves
And to be the unexpected neighbour.
That we may follow Jesus Christ
Our brother and our friend,
Who is Lord for ever and ever.

TO THINK ABOUT ?

- PERSONAL:** Think of a person you have never really thought of as your neighbour. How can you be a neighbour to them in a practical way ?
- LOCAL:** Think of a church/congregation geographically near your own with which you have little or no contact. Pray for them and maybe visit them.
- GLOBAL:** Consider your neighbours in a different part of the world. (Perhaps Burkina Faso) Pray for them and try to find out more about them and to understand them.