

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group August 2011

For this month, I am thinking of the families and friends of people who are back at 'home' thinking of their spouse, their son or daughter, their Daddy, their neighbour, their girlfriend who has migrated to Northern Ireland. If they have never been here, what were they thinking and feeling when this land flashed on the news with images of riots and fires? How did they celebrate the birthday of their loved one so far away – did they cook his favourite dish or sing to her on Skype? How come we haven't heard from him in 3 weeks – is everything ok – he said he might be made redundant – what does that mean? The money she sent back has really helped; Papa was able to get his operation.

2 Kings 24:14 *"Then he led away into exile all Jerusalem and all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land."*

Often it is the people with the skills, the money and the health and energy who will leave home to seek opportunity, refuge, excitement or a change in a foreign land. One of the consequences of this is that their home and community not only lose all that potential but also others are left to care for and support those who are left behind. I pray for all those who are struggling back at 'home', who may feel abandoned or vulnerable without the person who has migrated. I think of those who cannot understand why someone would leave their family, community and country to go to a new land. I pray comfort for those whose family member has fallen into difficult times in Northern Ireland or who has been mistreated or exploited here.

Contributed by Scott Boldt

This month we give thanks for...

- All the talent, initiative, new ideas and fresh outlooks that newcomers brings to Northern Ireland.
- Parents who have supported their children to come here to study, volunteer or find/take up work.
- Employers here who have given migrants work and new opportunities.

Please pray for...

- People who are missing their family and friends who are living here.
- Those back at 'home' who are lonely, poor, tired and uncertain about tomorrow.
- Those who feel that their relations have rejected their language, culture, religion or way of life to go live abroad.
- Hope that those at 'home' are living well and that those who have migrated have made the right decision.