

# Get Involved: Pray

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**EMBRACE Prayer Group**  
**September 2017**

## **New beginnings – new conversations – new understanding**

*There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

September is often a time for new starts - school, university, returning to work after a summer break. This September, EMBRACE committee members Noreen Christian and Dougie Tyler take on the new task of generating a monthly prayer letter and reflect on the differences of experience and background, yet common interests and faith they bring to this responsibility.

Noreen brings experience of work in Christian education in South Africa and in connecting people through the Currach Community, an inter-church residential community on a "peaceline". Dougie has worked with homeless young people, and those in residential care in Belfast and provides support to refugees through Corrymeela. As Christians they share an understanding that difference and diversity are gifts which offer the possibility of enriching our understanding and relationships in the living out of the Gospel. They are united in a calling to engage via church or charitable organisations with those who have arrived here from other countries.

A new start can bring new people together to have new conversations. In conversation our differences can be explored, understood and appreciated. In conversation we discover common interests, concerns and passions. As we talk with people who are learning English, skills, vocabulary and fluency can be advanced. Conversation can inform, encourage, teach, challenge, and build friendships; through conversation our lives are enriched.

In September, let us converse with God; listening and learning, and be guided into new conversations with others.

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## **We pray for**

- Refugee children attending school here for the first time
- All who run and attend English language and conversation classes, for meaningful conversations.
- Initiatives which provide 'safe spaces' for conversation, such as global cafes, Friendship Clubs and drop-ins.
- Opportunities to build relationships through conversations.
- Conversations which direct policy, that justice and concern for the vulnerable might inform decisions.

Contributed by Noreen Christian and Dougie Tyler