

# Fathers Prayers



FATHERS PRAYERS FOUNDATION

P/A TROUBADOURSBORCH 65, 3992 BE HOUTEN

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

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Dear All,

Hereby you will find a newsletter of Fathers Prayers. This year in April we have organized a very successful international meeting of Fathers Prayers in Slovakia (Bratislava).

### International Fathers Prayers Meeting 5-7 April 2019 in Slovakia (Marianka)

On 5-7 April we organized this weekend at Marianka a well-known pilgrimage site in Slovakia near Bratislava. We have held these international meetings earlier in UK (2011), The Netherlands (2013) and France (2015) and this time it was Slovakia's turn. Unfortunately the country coordinator of Russia could not come but he sent us a special report for this newsletter (see below).

On Friday evening the participants first introduced themselves and every one made a short presentation of the situation of Fathers Prayers in their home country. On Saturday Willem gave a lecture about the current situation of Fathers Prayers in the world. After mass Ivan gave a presentation on the current situation in Slovakia (see below). In the afternoon we went on a wonderful hike to the ruins of Pajstun castle. In the evening we worshipped and prayed together mostly in our own languages. On Sunday Willem gave a lecture on the Fatherheart of God (see attached PDF) and after that we discussed the way forward with Fathers Prayers.

Fathers Prayers all over the world keeps regular and close contact with Mothers Prayers. This is very important both on the local country level and the international level. In the autumn of 2016 the international coordination team visited Veronica Williams at Star House in the UK. It was a very fruitful meeting in which we exchanged information and strengthened our cooperation with Mothers Prayers.

From many different countries requests for (more) booklets and information about Fathers Prayers keep coming in regularly. We try to handle the requests within the shortest timeframe possible. We send the booklets free of costs and maintain contact with the contact persons explaining Fathers Prayers and answering any remaining questions about Fathers Prayers.

We are very excited to hear that the Father Prayers booklet has now also been translated in Korean! We pray that in Korea many fathers prayers groups will arise.

It is important to once more emphasize that the existing Foundation of Fathers Prayers in the Netherlands will remain active in collecting funds to pay for the activities in the Netherlands but also in other countries all over the world.

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### Personal changes

In New Zealand and France there has been a replacement of the country coordinator. In New Zealand Gevin Mehrotra has replaced David Romanos and in France Alain Clappier has replaced Pierre Lecompte. We are grateful for all the work David and Pierre have carried out for Fathers Prayers all these years. We have also appointed a new country coordinator for Hungary: Robert Proszenyak.

The international coordination committee has been expanded with Alain Clappier. The international coordination team now consists of Ivan Melo of Slovakia, Alain Clappier of France and Maurice Schemkes and Willem Visser 't Hooft of the Netherlands.

The current country coordinators are as follows:

UK:	John Murphy
France:	Alain Clappier
Czech Republic:	Honza Brazdil/Mirek Liska
Russia:	Andrey Letyagin
Slovakia:	Ivan Melo/Petr Maxa
The Netherlands:	Ger Schmeits
Hungary:	Robert Proszenyak
New Zealand:	Gevin Mehrotra

As there are Fathers Prayers groups in many other countries we keep aiming to appoint more country coordinators and we will keep you posted.

### Printing of Fathers Prayers booklets

We would like to inform you that it is our policy that the country coordinators will decide on the printing of the booklets. However, if a country is in need of booklets and does not have sufficient funds, the international coordination team can decide to make a donation to that specific country in order to enable them to have booklets printed. We will investigate the possibilities to make the booklets in the various languages more alike with the same format and style.

### International website of Fathers Prayers ([www.fathersprayers.org](http://www.fathersprayers.org))

We realized that the international website needs some remodeling in order to make it more up-to-date and more accessible to everybody around the world. Thanks to the homepage we receive many questions from fathers from many different countries where Fathers Prayers groups are yet to be established. We are currently investigating how to make this

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website more up-to-date and to carry out more branding activities and will keep you informed.

### More regular exchange of information

There is a strong request for more exchange of information and we will do our best to draft more newsletters and exchange information about all the activities in the respective countries.

### Participating in international meeting of Mothers Prayers

In the week of 16 September 2019 there will be the international meeting of Mothers Prayers in Avila (Spain) and on Thursday the 19th we will give a lecture about the current situation of Fathers Prayers with testimonials.

### Situation in Slovakia

Ivan, member of the international coordination committee and national coordinator of Slovakia made the following presentation:

"Fathers Prayers started officially in 2004 when we printed first 4000 booklets and published our first newsletter. In 2005 we organized the first national meeting. The special guest was Maurice Williams, our founder. He came again for the next three national meetings. In the week before the national meeting we used to visit parishes to introduce Fathers Prayers. Maurice talked to men, sometimes, as a permanent deacon, he gave homilies at masses, and we prayed a lot together. Petr Maxa and I learned a lot from Maurice during these travels across Slovakia. We began to understand the value and importance of surrender, trust in the Lord, humility and of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Maurice was Fathers Prayers' spirituality personified.

As a result of this work, Fathers Prayers gradually spread out across Slovakia. We have now about one hundred groups, the attendance at the national meetings is 120-140 men and we also organize regional meetings in between the national ones. We were invited to talk on the christian Radio and TV, there was also an article in the catholic newspaper about Fathers Prayers. But, most of all, we hear many testimonies from fathers who say how important it is for them to pray and share together.

I believe Fathers Prayers is a special initiative from our heavenly Father. He would like us to imitate our patron, Saint Joseph, a man of few words but a shining example of great faith, trust in God, humility, justice, inner strength and a complete surrender. The most important decisions regarding his family were done between him and the Father. The blessing that fell

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on his family as a result, was enormous. St. Joseph, pray for us and for a great renewal of fatherhood on Earth!

### Situation in Russia

Andrew Letyagin, national coordinator of Russia sent us the following letter:

"I am very happy to have the chance to turn to you and bear witness of "Fathers Prayers"! In this letter I'd like to tell you how the "Fathers Prayers" movement members live and pray together with you!

This movement in Russia dates back to 2009. In the beginning those were individual men who prayed in their houses and later in their parishes too. In Russia the "Fathers Prayers" movement does not grow as quickly as "Mothers Prayers". I am sure that it makes no sense to discuss it. The Lord Himself gives each of us answers to our prayers. Over the last years I have observed that our movement has its own way and each of us gets answers to his prayers including the answer concerning the development of "Fathers Prayers" in Russia. Unfortunately I am bound to acknowledge that I've fallen out of touch with many our members but I do hope that they remain faithful to their prayers and they will definitely get their answers and join us.

Nevertheless there is the good news too. At present in Russia there are not only individual fathers who are praying but also FP groups in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Vladimir, Kazan, Novosibirsk and other cities as well. Thanks to our French brothers there emerged FP groups in Uzbekistan with priests and monks among their members. Priests from Kazakhstan addressed me with the request to organize prayer meetings in the city of Atyrau. For me and for all our brothers it is a great joy! In Russia the "Fathers Prayers" movement does not have an official standing yet but it was approved and blessed by the Catholic Church Metropolitan Archbishop Paolo Pezzi. "Fathers Prayers" also unite men of other confessions. Thus this movement is an interreligious one.

There are "Fathers Prayers" groups in the Catholic Church, in the Russian Orthodox Church and in the Protestant Church. All brothers have been blessed by Fathers Superior or Bishops of these Churches for the prayer of fathers as well as for the prayer meetings of the FP groups without violating neither any regulations nor traditions of their churches.

During our meetings there always prevails warm and homely atmosphere and we always welcome anyone who comes. We understand that in our midst there might be people of different denominations or those who believe themselves to be atheists or those who have visited similar groups before.

We always try to help each person who would like to participate in our meetings and we assure them that nothing that they have spoken about would be spread beyond their groups.

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Here in Russia we know that there is the International Coordination Committee that provides coordinating management of the movement. And we hope that in a short time all fathers will receive newsletters written by country coordinators and the International Coordination Committee and these newsletters will be sent to all countries. Across Russia all information is communicated and sent out to the addresses that fathers provide to my email: [fprayrus@mail.ru](mailto:fprayrus@mail.ru)

For now on a regular basis we bring out Russian newsletters which are sent out to groups as well as to individual men who want to get the information on us.

In the intervening years there have not been held overall national "Fathers Prayers" meetings in Russia yet. But I am confident that it is bound to happen. I believe that "Fathers Prayers" will hold their all-Russian and regional meetings for fathers as well as retreats that encourage spiritual growth. There will be organized pilgrimages which will bear faith, testimonies and strengthen the movement.

Of late there took place the regular international meeting of coordinators and fathers in Slovakia. Am really sorry that I was not able to attend and pray with my dear brothers whom I know personally and love very much! For me they are an example of Faith and male conduct! Due to them our movement lives and will live under the guidance of the Holy Spirit! I do think that we will meet by all means! I believe that our mutual prayer that ascends day and night to our Lord will be heard and blessed through answers and testimonies!

With you in prayers!

Andrew Letyagin,

"Fathers Prayers" Coordinator in Russia.

### Finally

I would like to wish everybody a very good summer and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions about Fathers Prayers

Once more we would like to remind you to pray the Fathers Prayers daily prayer everyday  
God bless you.

On behalf of the international coordination team of Fathers Prayers

Willem Visser 't Hooft

Chairman of the international coordination team of Fathers Prayers

General email address: [contact@fathersprayers.org](mailto:contact@fathersprayers.org)

Homepage: [www.fathersprayers.org](http://www.fathersprayers.org)