

***JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015***

8 people met on 14<sup>th</sup> April for the Justice and Peace Group. We began by sharing 2 good things which have happened or which we have noticed in the news recently, after which Mary summarised the Modern Slavery Study Day the previous Saturday (full report in last week's messages). Mary also shared her 10 years' experience of writing to prisoners and her recent visit to one on the Isle of Wight.

The subsequent PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS, for which 2 more joined us, was introduced by Jenni Crozier, who recounted her experiences with Ethnos in Bangladesh and elsewhere in SE Asia, which gave us much food for prayer. As she said, God is real and active and has ways of working, but asks us to work in partnership with Him, so we must keep praying.

*The following prayers were provided by Nona Wright:*

Father God, who sees all,  
understands all, and weeps for broken humanity.

We come to you today conscious of our own weaknesses and failings,  
but with our hearts full of concern for our fellow beings.

We long for justice for all your children,  
We long for peace throughout the world.

Help us to be agents of justice and peace  
and  
Help us as we seek to aid persecuted Christians throughout the world.

***A Prayer for Refugees from "Embrace the Middle East"***

God of compassion,  
whose own son experienced life as a refugee,  
we remember those fleeing from danger,  
hungry and afraid, with nowhere to call home.  
God, we ask for them warmth, security, food and peace.

God of hope,  
we thank you for those who are working to bring relief and comfort to those displaced,  
showing glimpses of grace in the darkness of despair.  
God, give them strength.

God of justice,  
guide the nations and the leaders of the world toward peace,  
stir hearts to be generous and compassionate.  
God, help us to play our part in bringing about the change that we want to see.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen.