



HELD TOGETHER IN CHRIST

VISION AND COMMITMENT

A year to focus on integration



He **i**s before all **th**ings, and **i**n Him all **th**ings hold together.

Colossians 1:17 (NIV)

PRAYER TIME

Read Colossians 1:3-20

Explain that the Bible reading commences with an assurance from Paul to his readers in Colossae that they are being prayed for with thanksgiving, vigorously and continually. *The Message* paraphrase puts it like this:

'Our prayers for you are always spilling over into thanksgivings. We can't quit thanking God our Father and Jesus our Messiah for you!' (vv3-5).

It goes on to outline a list of Paul's prayer requests for them, that they will be filled, bear fruit, grow and be strengthened, receive endurance and patience, give thanks and share in the inheritance of all God's holy people. He reminds them that they are rescued from darkness and redeemed, forgiven from their sins. Quite a list!

Some people are prayer warriors, keeping a prayer journal or list - but how do you actually know who to pray for and what to pray about?

In preparation, invite a family or small group of mixed ages to lead the time of spoken prayer. Using the ACTS model, ask them to pray prayers of:

Adoration - *worshipping God for who he is, focusing on the Trinity, the Godhead, three in one, divine integration - a perfect pattern to follow in terms of working together.*

Confession - *saying sorry for the times when we go it alone, when we don't include others, when we are not team players.*

Thanks - *rejoicing and thanking God for the different people that make up the corps and the contributions people bring.*

Supplication - *asking God to make you aware of where he is already working with you, within the issues and concerns of your lives.*

There might also be current affairs that you can pray about where unity is required worldwide or local to your community, in your family and in your corps.