

Dear Prayer Intercessors,

Although it's gray and gloomy today, yesterday we were reminded by booming church bells and an impressive boys choir singing atop the beautiful Magdalen College tower that it was [May Morning](#)! Spring has arrived. After being encouraged by our neighbor for two years running, David, Charlie, and I got up at 5:30am to share in the festivities that start at sunrise and include [Morris Dancing](#) (English folk dancing), live music in the streets, and a prayer for the city of Oxford led by the Dean of Divinity.

In addition to spring, this is also the beginning of the third and final term here at the University of Oxford and there are many things we'd covet your prayers for:

Socratic Happy Hour Tonight: This evening at 7:30pm David is leading a Socratic Happy Hour with the Graduate Christian Forum on the topic of "Can I Get All A's and Still Flunk Life?: A Conversation About School, Work, & What Really Matters". These gatherings feature a warm, thoughtful, facilitated conversation on one of life's big questions. They are pre-evangelistic events, perfect for those who are seeking spiritually, but who might not feel ready to attend a formal "church" gathering. Everyone gets to join in a Socratic conversation, and while doing so they also get to hear a compelling Christian world-view, sometimes for the first time. **Please pray that the Lord would clear the schedules of those he would want present and that grad students would be bold in inviting their coursemates, housemates, and friends to come along!**

David's Seminar Presentations: In a few weeks time David will be giving talks about his research both at the Christian Ethics Postgraduate Research Seminar for Oxford's Faculty of Theology & Religion, and also at the Applied Theology Seminar at Wycliffe Hall, the evangelical theological college at the University of Oxford. **Pray for his ability to be a clear communicator, for his preparations and discernment about what to include and what to leave out, and for God's guidance in ordering his time and energy in these coming days.** These are both wonderful opportunities for him to start sharing his research more widely!

Fundraising Trip this Summer: Please pray for us as we prepare for our summer trip back to the States to fundraise for our ministry here. We plan to be in NC for most of July and Aug, and we hope to take some side trips to NYC and DC to reconnect with friends and supporters. At the end of August we'll also fly to Seattle to see Alissa's family. Please pray that 1) the **logistics of traveling with Charlie** would go smoothly (specifically that he would not get air-sick - the poor little guy doesn't do well with turbulence), 2) that we would divinely be able to make **50 new connections with individuals/families and 2-3 churches** interested in supporting our work, and 3) that we would find pockets of time for **spiritual and physical rest.**

Graduate Christian Forum Planning Retreat: Before we leave for the States we're hopeful that we'll be able to orchestrate a planning retreat for GCF's new student leadership committee. Please pray for us as we think through our agenda, finalize a date, and explore ways we can further **capture key learnings from the past, and strategize around next Autumn's graduate student Welcome Week activities.**

And we praise God for his faithfulness as well! We had a wonderful April with David's parents in town for four weeks, and a lovely Easter celebration. Charlie was on cloud-9 with the extra attention and the extra pairs of hands and feet willing to chase him around. Mike and Dale also helped us clean up our backyard, a perfect place for Charlie to play as the weather gets warmer and he gets more (and more) active. We're starting to have a hard time keeping up with the little guy - and loving every moment!

Thank you for your wonderful prayers and support,
Alissa, David, & Charlie