

REST

Summer holidays have come to an end, boo-hoo! It is not an altogether happy thought particularly for those going back to school: our many teachers need to be in our prayers. Holidays are wonderful but if we are very honest even holidays don't always really satisfy our need for rest. Listen again to these well-known words of Jesus:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Real, anxiety-quelling, soul-soothing rest is found in Jesus as we take on his yoke, become his disciples, through simple trust, attentive listening and joyful following. As we enter this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness place yourself into the hands of the gentle and humble one and learn to live.

World Events

Use the news as a source of prayer pointers. Pray:

- For the continuing tensions between North Korea and its neighbours.
- For those affected by extreme flooding in Niger, Mumbai and Houston.
- For those negotiating in the Brexit process.
- For Syrian refugees in Lebanon, fearing forced return to unsafe areas within Syria (Lebanon has 1.5 million Syrian refugees, the highest per capita in the world).

Personal Renewal

Knowing "about" Jesus Christ is not enough. We need to engage him with our whole lives. That means cleaning out the garbage of noise and distraction from our homes. It means building real Christian friendships. It means cultivating oases of silence, worship and prayer in our lives. It means..... (from 'Strangers in a Strange Land')

How would you finish the sentence? What does it mean to *you* to 'engage Jesus with your whole life'? Pray for those areas in which you'd like to be more deeply engaged with Jesus.

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following the way of Jesus

loving God, one another
and the world



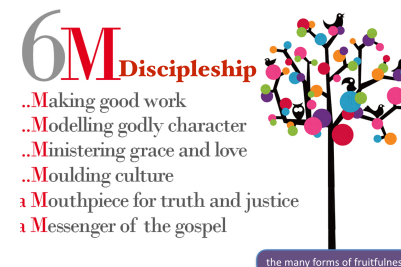
September 2017



Frontline Mission

As a church we recognise that God is interested in our whole lives. Each month we pray for our lives on our 'frontlines' - the places where TBC members spend their Monday - Saturday lives. We aim that our life on our frontlines would be shaped by 'Six Ms'. Use them as you pray for your own frontline life this month:

- **Model godly character** - bearing the fruit of the Spirit in everyday life.
- **Make good work** - doing everything we do as though working just for Jesus.
- **Minister grace and love** - living generously and sacrificially to serve those we meet.
- **Mould culture** - seeking to influence our surroundings to reflect the reality of God's values.
- **Mouthpiece for truth and justice** - standing and speaking for those we meet who are the victims of personal or institutional oppression.
- **Messenger of the gospel** - speaking about our faith with our frontline colleagues and companions.



Community Mission

Inside Out is a monthly social group for anyone attending TBC or brought into contact with TBC via outreach. We visit interesting venues during the summer months and have varied talks during winter months. Usually there are around 30 people joining us at these events. We observe that Inside Out gives space for friendships to grow, introduces others to members of the fellowship and gives us opportunity to live out our faith in the care of others.

Prayer needs:

- give thanks for new people coming who aren't members of the TBC community - that they would feel welcome and be able to form relationships that enable them to move nearer to the Lord.
- for those with health problems - that they would feel stronger and comforted.
- for additional members of the organising group to help 'spread the load'.
- for strong friendship links for those who live alone and anyone who experiences loneliness.

Local/UK Mission Partners

One25 is a charity in Bristol supporting vulnerable women. They often have addictions, malnourishment, a history of abuse and have lost touch with family. They are street sex workers and extremely at risk of being victims of violence.

Pray for:

- women who have made changes in their lives and those who believe that change is possible.
- those seen via the van outreach, often the first step towards change, open five nights a week.
- the drop in: a woman only space meeting basic needs: food, showers, clean clothing and also intensive support from specialist workers.
- volunteers and staff who constantly 'go the extra mile'. Give thanks that one woman could say 'they loved me until I could love myself. That's something I had never been able to do'.
- for an 18 month pilot project called Pause Bristol, working with 20 women using an innovative and proven model of care. A joint project with the city council aiming to help women who have had two or more children removed from their care.
- ongoing reliance on the Lord to continue to provide for this work.

Mission Partners

TBC has actively supported Elam for many years. Their mission is to strengthen and expand the church in the Iran region and beyond.

Recently they have trained 82 people from inside Iran (previously students had to study outside of the country). They are from 20 cities and towns across the country.

- Please pray for them - that God will expand the impact of their ministry in the country. They are all using resources provided by Elam in their weekly ministry.

In neighbouring Turkey, more than 2,000 have been at various discipleship training events. Over 400 people have been baptised since May. It is amazing to think of the Gospel impact there will be as these believers share the Gospel with family and friends back home in Iran.

- Thank God for the work of Elam and pray that the gospel will continue to bear fruit across Iran and beyond.

Use the weekly notice sheet and e-news to pray for **healing needs** in the church.

Children & Young People

Pray for:

- Those starting school or moving to new schools, that they would settle well and make new friends.
- Those starting University, that they would find a church and Christians to support each other.
- Open the Book teams as they start a new year of assemblies in local schools.

All of our mission partners are listed under the 'mission' tab on our church website, so do search there for more information. Many also have their own websites, and you will find those links in their listing on the church website.

Salvation

We believe that Jesus is the Saviour of all people, and that all people need to be saved.

Pray for:

- Your own friends, neighbours and colleagues on your own frontline (see article on front of Connect).
- Those in our community work projects that are restarting this month (see separate insert).
- People on the fringes of TBC who do not yet love Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.