

NATIONAL & GLOBAL ISSUES

Crying out to God for the deep needs of our nation and our world

Please pray

- For Syria
- For the fair treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.
- For the people of Haiti as they strive to recover from the hurricane.
- For peace in Palestine and Israel.
- For UK government as they continue to work out the 'Brexit' issue.

PERSONAL & CHURCH RENEWAL

Reaching out to God for a deeper awareness of his life in us.



John 15:5

'I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing...**7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. **8** This is my father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.'

Reflect or discuss with a friend what it means to you.....

- To 'remain' in Jesus? *How do you make sure you 'stay put' in Jesus?*
- To have the words of Jesus 'remain' in you? *Have any slipped?*
- To bear much fruit? *Are there ways you would like to be more fruitful?*

SALVATION

Praying for those we long to see come to faith

Pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work in your networks and contacts, drawing people towards Jesus.

Pray for opportunities to share the love of Jesus on your frontline this month.

Pray for any friends that you could invite to Advent or Christmas events.

Pray for any 'prodigals' in your family – those who once had a faith but who have wandered off.

HEALING

Seeking God's healing and wholeness for those with health problems

Pray for . . . Sarah Britten, Jean Cannon, Alison Collett, Noel Defraine, Rosemary Howell, Ruth Hulse, Joan Jones' niece Carol, Marie Merrick, Mike Spiller, Len Steele, Dave Tate, young Conan, and others who are suffering with ill health.

Pray for . . . all those known to us who have recently been bereaved.

PRAYER IS

Connect offers us resources to pray for others, but of course prayer is more than intercession. As you pray this month, reflect on those words from the book 'Beloved Dust - Drawing Close to God by Discovering the Truth About Yourself':

"Prayer is the place to come out of hiding. Prayer is not the place to be good, but to be honest. How honest are you in your prayers?

Likewise prayer is not the place to escape, but to rest. Prayer is not the place to hide from the world, but to abide in Jesus.

In prayer we often hide from God, through strategies to avoid His penetrating gaze. This can occur in any number of ways not least by solely focusing on praying for others. But prayer is also a place to receive. Prayer is a place to be known. Prayer is not a place to escape reality, but to rest with God in reality."

David Lawrence

FRONTLINE MISSION

This month: Education

Each month we pray for an individual and for all those who share the same area of life and work. Their Frontline!

Rachel Ling is a student at Nottingham University and doing a year in a German school



As one of the only Christians in my friendship groups and on my course at university, sharing my faith is a different kind of challenge to that in my life at home in Thornbury. I have finished 2 years of my degree in English and German and living with entirely non-Christian friends has given me new opportunities to talk about what I believe and to be more like Jesus in situations when others might act differently. The main challenge I face is making different decisions than others would, for example on a night out, and facing criticism and questions when I choose to go against the flow of what is seen as 'normal' for a student. With my friends I try to model Jesus in a way that makes love and kindness important and that doesn't make Christianity seem boring and put them off the idea of faith (which is anything but boring!).

Please pray the following:

- Wisdom to know how to share Jesus in a work/uni environment.
- That my friends will want to know more about faith.
- That I will settle into life and work in Germany and find friends and Christians to share with.

FRONTLINE MISSION (PART 2)

Emma Colwill is a teacher at Castle School and writes:



I teach pupils from 11-18yrs & all abilities, including pupils with special needs. This makes for an extremely interesting working life! I am lucky enough to work with an incredibly supportive & committed group of people, many of whom are Christians which means there are many conversations in our open office about God stuff. This open atmosphere provides a fantastic opportunity to share our faith but it's such an intense working day that conversations tend to be fleeting and unfinished. We also have the privilege of working closely with many young people, many of whom are local enough to know that we go to church and are Christians without even having to tell them! However, the pressure of the working day can also make it difficult to be a good witness to God's grace & love.

The pressure on Christian teenagers to fit in with the world's values is huge & they need our prayers. A CU has been just started at school to provide support to those pupils as well as a point of contact for those who want to find out more.

Prayer points:

- For Christian teachers to be alert to the opportunities to share their faith & to be good witnesses to God's love & grace, despite the intensity of their working day.
- For Christian pupils to be strong enough to stand firm in their faith & to withstand the pressure around them to 'fit in'.
- For the new CU as it supports Christians in the school and reaches out to those who are not.

WORLD MISSION

This Month: ROPE

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

ROPE work through a network of local partners, all are Christians & experts within their own community so are well placed to deliver a range of services tailored to meet local needs. Areas of work include community transformation, education & training for life, emergency relief, health & wellbeing, income generation & strengthening families. Through these partnerships they seek to deliver excellent services which ensure God's love in action is experienced, bringing dignity, restoration & hope to individuals & communities.

TBCC has partnered with ROPE for many years and been privileged to be part of the life-changing work they do. Please remember in prayer:

- Mamoli Mission in Mozambique providing care for orphaned & disadvantaged children giving them access to schooling.
- Rev David forming relationships with the very poor Roma communities in Hungary, opening kindergartens providing education, also offering after school clubs and house fellowships. Give thanks for the 14 churches that have been planted in these Roma communities and pray for their spiritual growth.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Helping to grow a faith that lasts

- Give thanks for the Open the Book teams & the willingness of all the local schools to allow them to share the stories of Jesus in assemblies.
- Pray for those who lead Bubbles & Splash (age 2 1/2 to school year 2) as they are growing in number and have limited space to work in.
- Pray for Ignite (years 7 to 9) & their need for more leaders (could this be you...?!)

TBC MISSION: Soaking our many outreach activities in prayer

This month: Youth Clubs



- Pray for the initiative of Thornbury Town Council in bringing youth service providers in the town together, that effective partnerships will be formed.
- Thank God for the increasing spiritual hunger amongst those in Attic Cafe (years 10-13) & the Youth Alpha course - that they will know more of Jesus & His love for them.
- Thank God for the good start to the new year in Basement Cafe (years 7-9) and the groups willingness to engage with Jesus as we share faith with them.

LOCAL & UK MISSION: Soaking our many outreach activities in prayer



This month: The willow Tree Centre

The WTC was set up by a group of Christians over 10 yrs ago. We have a base at the St Nicholas Family Centre in Yate where the service we offer is confidential, non judgemental, free & underpinned by prayer. The main groups we serve are girls & women who find they are pregnant & whose circumstances mean that this appears as a crisis for them. We provide a safe place, time, information & help to consider their options before they make any decisions. A second group are girls who have suffered the pain of baby loss, what ever the cause; a programme of support & reflective work helps them to work through these issues. In addition, we have an education service & a support worker for young mums. All our services are available to clients with learning difficulties & we have a strong link with Eastwood park Prison. Please pray:

- For a new Miscarriage Support group starting soon.
- For the Young Mums group meeting weekly with the support worker.
- The 'I Am' project starting in November at Eastwood Park Prison.
- For the training of new volunteers & all volunteers to know God's peace & prompting.
- For the selection and appointment of a new Director for the centre.
- For all our clients to feel valued & heard.