

A young man came to W. E. Gladstone, Prime Minister of England and said, "Mr. Gladstone, I would appreciate your giving me a few minutes in which I might lay before you my plans for the future. I would like to study law." "Yes," said the great statesman, "and what then?"

"Then, sir, I would like to gain entrance to the Bar of England." "Yes, young man, and what then?"

"Then, sir, I hope to have a place in Parliament, in the House of Lords."

"Yes, young man, what then?" pressed Gladstone.

"Then I hope to do great things for Britain." "Yes, young man, and what then?"

"Then, sir, I hope to retire and take life easy." "Yes, young man, and what then?" he tenaciously asked.

"Well, then, Mr. Gladstone, I suppose I will die." "Yes, young man, and what then?" The young man hesitated and then said, "I never thought any further than that, sir."

Looking at the young man sternly and steadily, Gladstone said, "Young man, you are a fool. Go home and think life through!"

The new year is traditionally a time to reflect on the past and look towards the future, as we do so let's not limit ourselves as we give thanks for the past and look to a future with God from the perspective of eternity.

World Events

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

- those who are grieving or suffering following the bomb blast in Bethel Memorial Methodist Church, in Quetta, Pakistan.
- the heightened tension in Israel following Donald Trump's decision to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem..
- a peaceful resolution of the tensions between North Korea and its neighbours.
- Christians remaining in Iraq, which has one of the oldest Christian communities in the world (around 1.5 million believers in 1990), but more than 75% of them have left the country.

Personal Renewal

**Jesus said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.
(Matt 22:37,38)**

- What does it mean to me to love God with all of my *heart*? With all of my *soul*? With all of my *mind*?
- Where and how would I like my love for God to deepen this year?
- What will I do about it?

Pray for yourself in the light of this reflection.

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following the way of Jesus

loving God, one another
and the world



January 2018



Frontline Mission - Health Care

As a church we recognise that God is interested in our whole lives. Each month we feature and pray for a different 'frontline' - the places where TBC members spend their Monday - Saturday lives. This month we feature those who work in healthcare.

My name is Janette. I've been coming to TBC for about 7 years. I'm married to Tim and we live in Cromhall. We used to go to the village chapel, but when our two children became teenagers we thought it was important to for them to go to a church with plenty of young people, so I started bringing them to TBC.

I have been nursing for over 30 years and currently work in "The Medirooms" which are part of the theatre complex at Southmead hospital. As in all areas within the NHS it is extremely busy and we are constantly "bursting at the seams"! Working in this environment for long hours I find I have to rely on God to give me the wisdom, patience and empathy I need to get through the day!



Please pray:

- That I, and all who work in frontline healthcare, might have a positive attitude and shine with God's love to our stressed and overworked colleagues and to the patients.
- For wise decisions to be made by government and hospital management for the future of the NHS and our local hospital.

Community Mission

The GOOSE club is committed to working in partnership with parents and carers and Gillingstool primary school, to provide safe, stimulating, educational and enjoyable childcare for all children who attend. We aim to help parents to balance work commitments and family life by providing convenient affordable and high quality childcare before and after school during school term time, at the Thornbury Baptist Church centre.

The headmaster has commented that the families are very appreciative of the flexibility that GOOSE allows and although this is very hard to manage at times, we strive to continue to offer this service.

Please pray:

- for all the children and their families.
- for staffing, that the right staff will be appointed as needs arise.
- that through our actions we will show Gods love.

Local/UK Mission Partners

New Start Debt Advice (NSDA) is a Thornbury Churches Together community initiative, providing free, confidential, debt advice. Clients receive a service that takes account of individual needs. Many are referred by the Foodbank. NSDA trained advisers voluntarily give freely of their time and expertise.

Please pray:

- More volunteers.
- The advisers who cannot commit fully due to illness and other commitments.
- Insight and sensitivity for advisers.
- Confidence for clients to openly share their issues.
- Lives being transformed.
- Practical demonstration of Jesus' love for clients.



As we enter a new year, take some time this month to thank God for his provision in 2017, and to seek him about his plans for you in this new year.

Mission Partners

This month we are focusing on the humanitarian aid agencies working with the Yemeni people to provide food, water and medicine as the conflict continues into almost three years of fighting.

The BBC reports that an estimated 17 million people are considered food insecure and 6.8 million severely food insecure - 3 million more than in January 2017.

Please pray for:

- 'Action Against Hunger' (Christian Aid partner) as they seek to prevent further outbreaks of cholera and associated deaths.
- For an immediate ceasefire between all warring parties.
- Access to the millions of Yemenis civilians trapped in their homes, lack of fuel and infrastructure which is hampering the work of aid agencies.

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.

Children & Youth

At the start of this new school term please pray for:

- The Open the Book Teams as they lead assemblies. Give thanks to God that the Bible is shared in this way.
- All those in TBC who work in schools in any way and the many pressures they face.
- For those who will be leaving school this year, that they would know God's hand on their future.

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

Salvation

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

Pray for:

- those who attended our Advent and Christmas services, especially the many people from Coffee Shop.
- specific friends and colleagues on your frontline. Pray for the opportunity to speak to them about your faith.
- the Alpha Course starting in January. Ask God to bring to mind anyone you might invite. Pray for those who attend to come to faith.