

Over recent months we have been thinking a lot about sharing our faith with others. One of the most important practices that fuels faith-sharing is prayer. We see this in the life of Jesus who routinely spent time away in prayer, a practice that had an immediate impact on life on his 'frontline' (see Mark 1: 35 – 39).

Pete Greig talks about the connection between prayer and faith-sharing in his helpful book *Dirty Glory*:

*"We are called to incarnate the presence of God, in streets, in hospitals, in schools and so on.*

*God's objective is not that we pray in some kind of transactional way, and then get on with our days, but that our very living and breathing is an in-breaking of the kingdom, is an act of emancipation to those who are oppressed, is an act of sharing the gospel of Jesus with those who need good news.*

*So then we have to ask 'How on earth do we live like that?' I think one of the keys to that is we re-centre on God's presence. We receive the Spirit of God afresh on a regular basis so that we leak his presence everywhere we go."*

There are copies of *Dirty Glory* on the shelves near the cards.

## World Events

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

- Continuing progress following the inter-Korean summit that saw South Korean President Moon Jae-in sign a joint declaration with Kim Jong-un.
- The deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan.
- The people of Syria and those whose decisions affect their lives.
- Protection for the church family in Pakistan from attacks or false accusations. Pray for comfort for those who continue to mourn after attacks on churches, and healing for those who are recovering

## Personal Renewal

A healthy spiritual life cannot be produced from a disordered or over-busy existence. To be fit spiritually, life needs to be well-balanced between four human needs: the need to create / work; the need to rest; the need to re-create (recreation) and the need to spend time alone with God (prayer, Scripture, study etc).

- Pray over this list of four things. Are you living a spiritually healthy life? What changes might you make to achieve greater health?

May 2018



**Connect**  
praying together at TBC

## Frontline Mission - Working in Finance

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 the world of finance.

After the collection is taken in an Anglican service, the prayer of thanksgiving that is used quotes the prayer of King David: 'All things come from you and of your own do we give you'. For all of us, and especially for those of us who work in finance, that is a vitally important perspective. Whilst St Paul says 'the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil', it is equally clear that we are expected to be good stewards of the money we have been entrusted with.

Christians who work in finance have a range of roles – for example, helping people make sure they have the money they need to support their retirement, making sure people have financial provision for ill health or bereavement or perhaps making sure that proper accounts are kept and there is probity in the use of other people's money.

**Please pray** for Christians in finance that they:

- stand out in the way they approach money.
- are good stewards of money that is entrusted to their care.
- help to make sure money is invested sustainably and ethically and not just for the greatest short-term return.



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following the way of Jesus

loving God, one another  
and the world



## Community Mission

Lunch Club began in the early 90s when the new building opened: it provides weekly meals and friendship for approximately 45 older people from the local community. Lovely meals are provided by a dedicated team of volunteers led by Helen Baker. Following the meal there is entertainment. This can range from a children's choir, square dancing display, a variety of talks, demonstrations, videos, music groups or a Christian-based reflection. If you would like to know more about lunch club, please speak to Helen Baker who has led the team for many years.

### Please pray:

- That the diners will feel welcome, have a good time, share friendship and Christian fellowship.
- Give thanks for the committed helpers, that they would be encouraged and enjoy this valuable service.
- For provision of resources needed to continue this fruitful work in the community.

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

## Local/UK Mission Partners

The aim of Thornbury Parenting Together is to support parents who live or have connection with Thornbury and the surrounding areas in all aspects of parenting. We work in collaboration with other agencies concerned for the wellbeing of children, teenagers and parents, and we are backed by Thornbury Churches Together.

### Please pray for:

- All parents in the area, who have a very difficult and demanding role.
- Wisdom about the way forward, particularly with Parent Buddies, our one-to-one support service for parents. While there is much enthusiasm for the concept we have very limited take-up for the service (as other similar agencies also find).
- Those parents who have completed or nearly completed Parentalk – the Teenage Years, that they will have a greater confidence in their parenting skills. This is a Care for the Family course, interspersed with guest speakers on topics such as social media, sex and relationships, and drugs and alcohol use.
- Good co-operative working with other agencies in the area.
- The right decisions about other parenting courses we could offer.

## Mission Partners

Paz y Libertad is a home for some of the 20,000 street children of Cali, Colombia. We as a church have helped them to improve their building and they now have been able to rescue another 6 children from the streets. Pastor Fredy Botero runs this home, where there are about 16 - 18 children in the home and five now going to University.

**Please pray** for the Pastor (he also runs a large church) for strength, wisdom and for the ongoing help that he needs to run the home.

**Pray for** our sponsored children at the Amigos & Hermanos Fundacion all who are high risk children, again from very poor families. There are many diversions for all the children, many of the families having had little education, drugs are a big issue and there is a strong need for guidance.

**Pray for** the couple and the helpers who are involved in the Little English Church School where a couple from YWAM are very active and there are about 50 children from 5 - 10 years attending the school.

All these projects have Christianity as their main focus. Included in their daily sessions are singing Christian songs, a bible input and prayers.

**Pray the Lord** will open the hearts of all these children and protect them from the dangers around them.

## Children & Youth

- It is exam season, a time of stress and pressure, so please pray for all those taking exams, that they will find space to relax and know the presence of God with them.
- Please also pray for parents and carers that they will be able to provide a supportive environment at this time.

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.

## Talking of Jesus

**"Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." (Luke 18:1). Let's be persistent in prayer for our friends and contacts who do not yet know Jesus.**

### Please pray for:

- your neighbours at home.
- individuals that you meet regularly on your frontline.
- members of your family.
- those who attend our community projects here at TBC.
- visitors who attend our services.