



TBC's Frontline Missionaries – Law & Civic Authority

Hi, I'm Jonathan Wong. I moved to Bristol with my wife, Annie, and our 3-year-old, Jedidiah in November 2021. I'm a solicitor qualified in Hong Kong and (very soon) England & Wales. I am currently working as an in-house legal counsel at a software company based in Almondsbury.



I couldn't help but chuckle when the person approaching me for this started the conversation with: "I'm not after free advice." Since I started my career almost a decade ago, friends and relatives have been bombarding me with questions like "Can you help me with my property purchase?" "I've got a dispute with my neighbour. Can you help?" I've lost count how many times I've heard the comment – "I understand every single word of this sentence but when put together, I have no idea what the whole sentence is saying!" Sadly, the "law" is not always accessible to the general public. There is a reason lawyers/ teachers of the law in the Bible do not always see eye-to-eye with Jesus!

My prayer is that more lawyers – especially Christian lawyers – would serve others with humility and generosity. We are servants of God and those around us, not our own ego and/or our bank account balances. Pray for better access to law, especially for the underprivileged. And finally, pray for joy, work-life balance, and the devotion to make room for God while busy piling up the billable hours.

TBC Mission Projects

The festive season is upon us, and we would welcome your prayers as we plan the forthcoming Christmas services.

Please pray for:

- **Sunday 11th December - 10.30am**
Nativity service for all the family in St Mary's Shopping Centre. You can come dressed as a character from the nativity (optional) and take part in the drama (or costumes can be provided) and meet the real, live donkey. Coffee, Christmas cake and donkey rides to follow. This is an event to encourage our community to experience the real meaning of Christmas. We would therefore encourage all the church family who come to offer a welcome to those from the community who attend.
- **Christmas Eve - 6pm**
Our traditional service of readings and carols.
- **Christmas Day - 10am**
Our all-age celebration of the birth of Jesus.
- **New Year's Day - 10.30am**
Our all-age celebration.



Local/UK Partners

Revd (Major) Paul Green is a Padre in the army and is currently serving with 21 Signals Regiment, Colerne. The role of an Army Chaplain is twofold. Firstly, it is to provide spiritual and pastoral support to all those who serve, and their families, regardless of faith, at home and on Operations.

Secondly, as the religious advisor, the chaplain not only acts as the ethical and moral 'voice of conscience', but they will also advise the commander on the impact religion may have within the unit, and how the various religious environments in which the British Army operates may impact the overall mission. Chaplains also have the responsibility of teaching military ethics to all those who serve.

Please pray for:

- Events in Ukraine increasing the sense of anxiety and anticipation amongst the forces and their families as we train and prepare for any new threats.
- Soldiers who still carry mental and physical wounds, from previous Operations as they rebuild their lives.
- The nomadic military life. I am currently serving with my third unit in less than four years – as well as a seven-month tour with the United Nations in Cyprus. This 'mobility' of course adds enormous pressures and strains on family life and stability.
- I first joined the Chaplaincy in 2010 and I am currently due to retire (age 60) in May 2024. However, I have recently been offered the possibility of a two year Over Age Extension taking me up to May 2026 (age 62). This would require another move and, for family reasons, this time serving unaccompanied. I ask for wisdom to know God's will for the future.

World Mission Partners

SAT-7 is a Christian media ministry. Broadcasting on satellite television, on-demand and social media in Arabic, Farsi and Turkish, SAT-7 is watched by millions of people in the Middle East & North Africa.

Please hold the region and especially the scattered churches and isolated Christians in your prayers.

Please pray for:

- Greater freedom, including religious freedom for people in Iran. Iran's security forces have arrested over 16,000 people and killed over 300 people including many women and 43 children.
- Christians in Afghanistan (and for those seeking Jesus) who engage with "Church4Afghanistan" - a live social media programme providing teaching and vital fellowship for isolated Afghan believers.
- Greater freedom for Christians in Gulf countries and in particular Qatar (hosting the world cup). Migrant workers are able to worship in churches but evangelism of Qatari citizens is forbidden and it is illegal for them to leave Islam - yet we are aware that many watch SAT-7.
- For SAT-7's Viewer Support Teams who receive messages each day. Ask God to use them as they encourage, counsel and pray for people.

Youth @ TBC

Each week we run 2 outreach youth groups (Basement & Attic) and 2 discipleship groups (Wonder & Waves) for those in year 7-9 and year 10-13. This term has been full of fun activities, sharing together and lots of hot chocolate! We've loved taking the time within our discipleship groups to reflect on various themes from 'The Chosen', spend time hearing from God and journal together.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for all the young people who attend our outreach youth groups, pray that they would feel completely loved and accepted in these spaces, and give thanks for all who volunteer their time to serve them.
- Pray for all young people involved in TBC youth, in particular for those that are struggling with mental health and the stresses of school life, pray that they know, and are encouraged by, God's presence with them.
- Thank God for all he is doing within the discipleship groups and for our monthly worship nights, pray that they would continue to be a space in which young people meet with God and grow in faith together.

Healing & Comfort

Please pray for:

- All those affected by the war in Ukraine
- All those known to us who are unwell with Covid
- The family of John Harris
- The family of Dick Vooght
- The Ashleys
- Cher, now at home on dialysis
- David Phipps
- Caroline Finney
- Ruth Collett
- Wendy Titterton
- Gloria Hammond
- Mike Britten
- Angela Miles
- Micky and Roger Flight
- Chris and Hev Scorch
- John Shackford
- Angela Cann
- For the Well Course, that the participants experience the richness of God's love
- For full restoration of health for Nick

Please note that this prayer list, and any other prayer needs mentioned in Connect are for sharing within this church fellowship. Details of the people mentioned must not be circulated or republished on social media.

If you are concerned about someone who needs care or support, contact Paul Ferguson - paul@thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk



World Events

Please pray for:

- The tensions between North and South Korea.
- The ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia.
- Those families and individuals struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.
- The flooding in Brazil.
- The protests in China.

Renewal

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
– Psalm 51:10

And have put on the new self, which is
being renewed in knowledge after the
image of its creator.
– Colossians 3:10

Allow God's grace to fill your life
this season as we celebrate what
He gave us and what He provides
us with daily. May this time with
friends and family renew your souls
and build stronger relationships
in Christ.

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