

# Connect

## Monday: Frontline - Mentoring

I'm Elliot Mocharrafi and I work with MentorMe. Each referral that we receive at MentorMe contains a glimpse of a narrative far beyond the black and white details on their form. Each person's convictions, traumas and challenges are often presented for professionals to see. Sometimes it can be difficult to look beyond someone's worst moments that landed them with a criminal conviction.



However, when meeting them face to face, to see if they would like to engage with our mentoring scheme, it often paints a vastly different picture. Hearing their story and seeing their humanity allows God's image to shine through. Compassion arises and a sense of hope for their future can be rekindled.

Being part of the amazing team at 61, with the project MentorMe, has been a great opportunity to see the hope for change rekindled in prison leavers' lives. Seeing our wonderful volunteer mentors act as Jesus' conduits, and not treating anyone as their sins deserve, instils value in the individual beyond the worst things they have done. It's inspirational to witness and a great reminder of how God reaches out to us all.

### Prayer points:

- That prisons would increasingly become places of rehabilitation.
- Prison leavers would link with the right services.
- Individuals in the criminal justice system would find hope in God.

## Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

We are truly blessed by the lovely families who come to Two by Two.

Friendships are made and we have been able to share with several mums who are very open to talking about Jesus and the church.

We continue to have full groups and waiting lists, and are very grateful that the building work hasn't impacted too much on us.

### Prayer points for Two By Two:

- The children leaving to start school in September, that they will settle into their classes well, and that seeds sown through weekly Bible stories, and their leavers' book about Jesus, will take root in their lives.
- The parents and grandparents who are also leaving, that they will be open to reading 'Why Jesus?', which we are giving them this year, and that we can continue to build relationships with them.
- All our families over the summer holidays.
- The brilliant teams who give so much every term, that they and their families would all know God's rich blessings of peace, protection and provision.

## Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

Hello faithful friends of TBC. Lindz West here from **LZ7** married to the beautiful Lucy (Britten) from TBC. We run a charity called Light and I front the band LZ7 'taking the life changing message of Jesus to young people through music'.

Just landed from a 4 day mission in Albania where we saw thousands respond to the Gospel!

We run ILLUMINATE HIGH SCHOOLS TOURS and our next one is scheduled for BRISTOL in October culminating at 2 end of week evangelistic LZ7 shows at Woodies in Bristol. Please pray for this as the doors open into schools across your great city!

- Please pray for the following Youth Alpha courses that we set up and I take for the first few weeks - to see young people go from 'response to relationship' with Jesus... this is a key part of our work!
- Please pray for the London office/ move that Lucy and I have made to grow the work and partner with Alpha!
- We have a single launch next week of our new song called REWIND (taking you back to the first moment you connected with Jesus). We are holding the gig in a Chip Shop!! Should be great fun! Lots of press and mainstream radio getting involved etc!

## Thursday: World Mission Partners

**CRED Foundation** is a small UK-based charity that provides a range of supports to its partner organisations who are all locally-founded and locally-led and in the global south. Helen Harrison is our key UK contact into CRED, and as a church we support 2 partner organisations: Spurgeons Childcare Kenya, and IDAK foundation. Through individuals in the church we also support Faith in Action Ministries in India, and the Acholi Quarters informal settlement in Uganda.

### Prayer points for CRED:

- For all of the CRED Partners as they seek to demonstrate God's love and compassion in their part of the world.
- For safety and wisdom to all partners, especially those who are working in areas where Christians are persecuted.
- For health and well-being for all partners, as they work in areas that can easily feel overwhelming in regard to the magnitude of the need.
- For provision of resources, both financial and people, across all areas of the CRED family.

## Friday: Youth @TBC

**The Children's Ministry** has faced a lot of disruptions and change over the past year due to the building work, but it has been wonderful to see the team pull together and work so hard towards making the children feel safe and loved regardless of the changing program and venues. Now we face more (good!) changes! It is so fantastic to have a new room for the Seedlings group to meet in (along with accessible toilet!) as well as the beautiful new creche which has been filling up fast! We are seeing more and more new faces as the term progresses, and it is an incredible opportunity for us as a church family to welcome God's children and share his love with them.

### Prayer points for the Children's Work:

- As we grow, we find ourselves in need of more helpers in the primary aged groups. Please pray that God will stir the hearts of those gifted in this area to join the team.
- For the teams who put so much love and care into the lessons they prepare.
- Pray that God will provide the time they need to plan each week.
- For the children coming along from broken homes or foster care families.

## Saturday: Global Needs

### Pray particularly this month:

- For the current tensions internationally as policies are set and deals are made.
- Continue to pray for Gaza, Ukraine and the many other places of conflict around the world. We pray particularly as Gaza, Ukraine and Iran become the focus of peace talks.
- For the millions of African Christians displaced due to violence.
- For the Christians in Bangladesh being targeted as they emerge from hiding following last year's political and social unrest.

Find more up-to-date prayer items for Christians suffering for their faith in the 'Latest News' section of the Open Doors website ([opendoorsuk.org](http://opendoorsuk.org)).

### Healing and Comfort

Please use the weekly updated list of prayer needs sent out in the weekly notice sheet.

If you are concerned about someone who needs care or support, contact Paul Ferguson -  
[paul@thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:paul@thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk)

## Sunday: Renewal

Take time this month to use these lines from Paul's great prayer for the Ephesians. Pray them for your friends or use it as the basis for your own prayer for personal renewal.

I pray that from God's glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit and then that Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him.

I pray that your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.

I pray that you may you have the power to understand... how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.

I pray that you may you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.

(Ephesians 3:14-19)

### Is God speaking?

If as you pray through Connect, you sense God speaking to us as a church family, do pass your thoughts to the elders.