

Connect

Monday: Frontline - Digital and Media

My name is Mateusz Rakowski (Matt), and several months ago the Lord clearly called me to start a YouTube channel called Hoshiana Testimonies. “Hoshiana” simply means “Save now!” – the cry the crowds shouted when Jesus entered Jerusalem. That is still the cry of so many hearts today.



My frontline is the digital mission field.

Every week I record, edit, and upload real stories of how Jesus is saving, healing, and setting people free right now. Testimonies come from people from Bristol who experienced saving grace and miracles from our Lord Jesus, and want the world to know.

Being a Christian on this frontline means fighting spiritual battles, standing firm when algorithms bury the videos, and trusting God for provision.

Prayer points:

- That the Holy Spirit would give us fresh boldness to proclaim Christ online.
- That algorithms and policies would not silence the gospel.
- That millions who are searching in darkness would find the light of real testimonies and meet Jesus.
- That God will send the right people to share their testimonies and grant us the gift of discernment.
- You can find the channel by searching Hoshiana Testimonies on YouTube or scan the QR code.



Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

As we look forward to Christmas, it would be great to pray for the following events:

- Advent Sunday services.
- The donkey Nativity service on 14th.
- Our Christmas Eve carol service which is attended by many who only come to church on this one occasion each year.
- The many family, children's and youth events happening in the lead up to Christmas.

Prayer points over Christmas:

- That God will be in our planning and will be at the centre of all that we do.
- That the good news of God's love for us, as seen in the birth of His Son, will be evident to those we come into contact with both inside and outside the church.
- For comfort and peace for those who find Christmas and New Year difficult.
- For a sense of family, community and care as we join together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

The charity **Sixty-One** inspires, enables and supports the community in Greater Bristol to help people with a criminal conviction lead crime-free and meaningful lives. MentorMe is its main project which seeks to pair volunteer mentors from the church network in the Bristol area with those that have a criminal conviction. The pair then has weekly hour-long meetings with a focus on goals. These goals can be anything from accommodation, employment and training, to hobbies, interests, socialising and so on. The mentor helps the individual set, break down and work towards their goals through encouragement, signposting, giving advice and listening. The standard support lasts around a year to aid resettlement in the community after prison.

Prayer points for Sixty-One:

- Pray for the high number of our mentees that are experiencing significant mental health challenges.
- Pray for our mentees that need stable long-term accommodation.
- Pray for new volunteers to become mentors.

Thursday: World Mission

Thornbury Baptist Church partners with **SAT-7**, a Christian media ministry that brings joy to the people of the Middle East and North Africa through powerful, faith-filled television and digital media programmes.

Praise God for answered prayer in the Holy Land! Pray that the ceasefire agreement will be honoured by all parties, and give thanks for the return of hostages and prisoners. Pray too for the tiny Christian population as they question their future.

Prayer points for SAT-7:

- Please remember Sudan in your prayers, where suffering continues after more than two years of devastating conflict. Raafat, a Sudanese believer, told SAT-7: "We have felt forgotten and like nobody cares about what is going on. We don't see our plight on the news."
- Pray for SAT-7's viewer support team who receive hundreds of messages each day like this one from Idriss in Algeria: "I want to learn about Christianity because I admire the humanity and justice that its people embody. I don't know much about the Christian faith, but what I do know is that Christ called for peace."

Friday: Youth @TBC

The current TBC youth provision sees us connect with many local young people within our community during the week.

On a Sunday we run discipleship groups in the morning and evening for our younger (YR 6-10) and older (YR10-13) youth. Over the past year the Sunday morning group (Wonder) has seen a growth in friendships and faith in God as we have explored the word of God and youth-specific topics together and in the evenings the older youth (Waves) have got stuck into some tricky topics, Bible studies & spent time worshipping together as a youth band!

Prayer points for the Youth Ministry:

- Thank God for all he has been doing within Attic and Basement, pray for increased opportunities and openness to hear about God.
- That the discipleship groups would continue to be spaces for faith to grow and that God's word would build a solid foundation in their lives.
- Thank God for the musical gifts the young people bring to the youth band, pray that their time of worship together would see them encountering God in a fresh way!
- Pray for the teams and everyone taking on maternity cover whilst Charlotte is on maternity leave.

Saturday: Persecuted Church

Pray for the Persecuted Church

Sri Lanka

Pabasara and her family, including two young children, fight every day to maintain their faith against the opposition they face and the perils of poverty.

The local Hindu monk visited her family and compelled her to return to the temple: "Leave the church and the Lord. Come to the temple. You will receive support." But Pabasara stood firm and replied, "I have chosen the Lord."

Open Doors partners have been able to meet with Pabasara and her family to pray for them and help build a bathroom for their home.

For the most up to date information on the suffering church look at the 'Latest News' section of the Open Doors Website (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

Sunday: Renewal

An Advent Prayer for Renewal

Coming King,
Teach me to wait with hope,
Believing your promises to me
Even when I have yet to see their
fulfilment.

Immanuel,
Teach me to wait with peace.
Trusting deeply in your presence
As my provider, defender and guide.

Saviour,
Teach me to wait in love,
Receiving and sharing your compassion
For the last, the lost and the least.

Light of the World,
Teach me to wait in joy,
Giving thanks for all the blessings
Of this season of the year.

God of Advent,
Shine in my darkness
and renew me from within.

Amen.