

PRAYER FOCUS

SUNDAY - CHRIS FISHER

It appears that Chris Fisher, our Resource Centre Manager has suffered a heart attack. Please pray that the Lord will bring about a speedy recovery. Also for his family, Helen, Luke and Sophie as they support Chris.

MONDAY - CITY MISSIONS

Pray for all City Missions that the Lord will use their ministries to show the love of God to many. Remember especially our friends in the Valencia City Mission. Pray that the Lord will supply all their needs and bless their ministry to the people of their city.

TUESDAY - GSUS LIVE

The Youth Team are having an exciting time in schools with the GSUS Live project which is owned by Counties. Pray that all the young people will remember what they have heard and that they will be challenged to think about the Lord Jesus more.

WEDNESDAY - ELDERLINK

Remember the work of ElderLink. As our population becomes more aged the challenge of loneliness is a real problem for some. Pray that all who attend the lunch clubs will have an enjoyable experience and that God will speak into their hearts.

THURSDAY - CARE CENTRE

Pray for the Care Centre as on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday evenings up to 40 guests visit and have food as well as hear something from the Word of God. Pray for Jon Tiley, Steve Bagnall and our volunteers as they operate this great project.

FRIDAY - MISSIONARIES

Pray for our City Missionaries as they reach people in the city centre and in their local communities. Ask the Lord to give them God-ordained encounters.

SATURDAY - FINANCIAL NEED

Give thanks for those who gave their time and energy to hold a Big Brum Cake Sale last month and raise much needed funds for the Mission.



A Halesowen youth group's cake sale

The months of July and August are often financially challenging as holidays take priority. Please pray that the Lord will meet our need over the summer.



A BCM team of four spent a week with Misión Evangélica Urbana de Valencia in Spain. It was an opportunity to see a city mission in a different country and culture, to learn about their challenges, encouragements and plans.

The Misión's headquarters in the city centre opens its doors to homeless and needy people, providing a breakfast or evening meal. They offer showers, shaving equipment, haircuts and clean clothing.

We helped on the 'bread run', visiting the bakeries in nearby streets, many of which were ready to hand over several sacks full of freshly baked loaves. Communication was at times a challenge but this did not prove to be a huge barrier. We were grateful for some English-speaking Spaniards amongst the volunteers and clients too - and at times turned to 'Google Translate' on our mobiles!



On one evening we joined a large team of people gathered at the Director, Emilio's home church to help with a food distribution. This took several hours. Basic food supplies were provided to families with the amount received depending upon the size of each family. Our

team were impressed with just how much food the church gave out - between two and three hundred families were helped and some five tonnes of food were provided to them.

On another evening we joined a small team of people who go out into the city streets, armed with a shopping trolley filled with sandwiches, cakes, and coffee and hot chocolate flasks, and seek out those who are sleeping rough. As with the help provided to those who come into the headquarters, the aim is not just to provide food and drink, but to build relationships with these people and if possible witness to them our Christian faith.

It was a privilege to get involved in the work of the Misión Urbana and enjoy fellowship with Emilio and the team. Please pray for them as they seek to serve the Lord and serve their city.

Jonathan Hackett

BCM MONTHLY



Preach in season and out of season

// "Get in here, you," shouted a hooded man to my youngest son, Cameron, as he held a knife to his throat. He was opening the door to the office at the restaurant where he works and it was the night following the recent attacks in London.

As he was pulled into the room another two hooded men appeared. One of them, brandishing a machete, started to scream at Cameron. He was pushed to his knees and found himself next to one of the female staff, who had already entered the office. A few minutes later, the Manager was dragged in, and the men demanded the keys to the safe.

As they were filling their bags with money, another female staff member began to ascend the stairs, and on realising that something was amiss, she ran into the restaurant, shouting, "Get out quickly, they have knives!" Thankfully, as the restaurant emptied, the gang ran down the stairs without injuring anyone and fled in their getaway car. Cameron immediately phoned the police and they eventually arrived, some 25 minutes later. The same length of time that they had all been held captive!

Every day we go about our business but we never know what a day will bring. In recent weeks we have all been shocked and devastated by the sad events in Manchester and London, and our hearts have gone out to the families and friends of the deceased, the injured, and all who were affected by those tragedies. Quite rightly, questions have been asked and action has been and is being taken, albeit not as quickly as most people would like. The reality is that for those who lost their lives or were injured, those terrible days began just like any other day.

I have just returned from a funeral in France of a dear close friend called John Pennell. I knew John for over 50 years and at one time he and his wife Elise worked for BCM. He had bravely fought cancer for many years and through it all he kept his faith.

During his thanksgiving service, which his daughter Sarah (amazingly) led, I was struck during one of the songs by his little granddaughter. Leonie was on the front row with her mom, right next to the coffin, and while we sang she danced gently along the row to the sound of the music. It was all so natural and beautiful. 'In the midst of life we are in death.'

I thank God from the bottom of my heart for protecting Cameron and for keeping him safe. It could have turned out so very differently.... All that has happened in recent weeks has reminded me of the importance of sharing the Gospel with as many people as possible because we can never be certain of our tomorrows. As Paul said to Timothy, 'Preach the Word in season and out of season.'

The summer months provide many opportunities to share the Good News. Please pray that God will bless all of our efforts and that some may find Jesus as their Saviour and discover hope for the future, whatever comes their way.

Wes Erpen Wes Erpen, Chief Executive

JULY/AUGUST 2017

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Registered Charity No. 1051023 Company Limited by Guarantee Reg. No. 3112321

Birmingham City Mission's

ANNUAL celebration

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER

2.00 - 3.30PM • WITH SPEAKER BOB TELFORD
at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham B4 7SX

SHOWCASE AN INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION SHOWCASING
THE MISSION'S PROJECTS

from 12 noon

- Find out what's happening
- Chat with the team
- See, hear, taste, discover
- Get involved & volunteer

**HOMELESS
ELDERLY
SCHOOLS
CHRISTMAS
OUTREACH**



BIRMINGHAM CITY MISSION
Tel: 0121 766 6603
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One person was Metla from Iran, who requested a Bible. I shared with him the gospel message and he took some literature. Another was Ahmed from Iran, a Kurdish person, who received a Muslim testimony DVD and some Arabic literature. He came back some time later to let me know that he had become a Christian.

'Every house in Ladywood and Newtown will be visited every two months.'

Another person is Rahel from Eritrea, whom I met in the Resource Centre. I shared the gospel with her and took her to BCC Church. She is now going to the Eritrean Church in Hockley (see her report).

Every house in Ladywood and Newtown will be visited every two months. Please pray for the Good News paper and the literature which go into every home.

Bernd Scholz



Bernd's beat

MY DISTRICT IS LADYWOOD and Newtown. Every week I do door-to-door work in the area and also have a booktable outside the shops, where I do personal work. Over the past 10 years we have seen a demographic change of people from many parts of the world. In some of the tower blocks we have 20-30 different nationalities, including many who recently arrived in Birmingham. We have people from Somalia, Sudan, Gambia, Eritrea, Syria, Iran and many African countries. I mention this to make the point that most of these people don't have a Christian culture in their background and sometimes some are hostile to the gospel message. On the other hand it gives us opportunity to reach people for the first time who have never heard the gospel.

Every week I speak to people who don't know what Christians believe.



I, RAHEL, MET EVANGELIST Bernd at the BCM Resource Centre about 2 years ago. Bernd took me to BCC Church and helped me with items plus food from the Mission. I am very grateful for this because at this time I need to help my family in Eritrea, especially my mother who needs an operation.

Thank you so much as a Mission. It helped me to come close to God. I'm going now to the Eritrean Church which meets at Hockley Pentecostal Church.

BCM SUMMER OUTREACH

Have you got a week or two free in the summer? Why not join BCM Summer Outreach?

It is a great opportunity to learn and share your faith with people in Birmingham. You can come for one week or two.

Tues 25th July to Sat 5th August

A summary of the programme looks like this:

Week one - seminars on relevant topics and evangelism in the city centre

Week two - working with a church

For more information and a full programme: paulolise@birminghamcitymission.co.uk or 0121 766 6603

IN LADYWOOD...

- 78% of the population live in deprived neighbourhoods, compared with 40% for Birmingham as a whole
 - 43% of children are defined as living in poverty
 - 13.6% claim Job Seekers Allowance, well above the city rate of 6.3% and the highest of all Birmingham constituencies
 - the population is the city's most ethnically diverse with the Black and Minority Ethnic proportion at 72.7%
- Information taken from Birmingham City Council's *Ladywood Constituency Economic and Employment Profile* (March 2015)



Junior Camp gave 18 children a brilliant weekend discovering more about the God who calls us precious.



Year 6 pupils at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School had a great day learning about science and faith.



On 24th June we officially opened The Clock Tower. Thank you to everyone who came and joined us in thanking the Lord for His goodness to BCM.

To commemorate the occasion 50 balloons carrying the words of John 3:16 were released. A week later one balloon was found in Rutland in this grass field being cut for hay!



Thank you to all who came and 'danced till they dropped' at this year's BCM Barn Dance. Thanks too go to the band and helpers. It was a wonderful evening and the auction alone raised £850.

GSUS LIVE IS A MOBILE EDUCATION UNIT which is a multi-media classroom in a lorry trailer. It tells the story of three teenagers facing real-life issues (rejection, fear and forgiveness) in their lives, and how they get inspiration from the Bible to deal with their problems.

The Youth Team and volunteers from local churches and other Christian organisations are currently working with this trailer from Counties. It is a real privilege to use this resource each year which enables students of all faiths and none to reflect on the issues mentioned above. The sessions also give us opportunities to share our faith and how we too get inspiration from the Bible and Jesus' teaching when facing these life issues.

The students and staff at all schools are excited when the trailer arrives and very appreciative when we leave. We cause a real buzz around the school while we are there and often the sessions lead to a closer working with the schools involved.

Two Year 8 boys came up to the team in the canteen one lunchtime and thanked us for the lesson saying how much they enjoyed it. One lad said:

'I learnt a lot about Christianity. I knew something about it before but not a lot, but I learnt a lot. It made me want to learn more.'

The other boy in the conversation said that he would now 'start praying'.

At the end of a lesson, a Year 9 girl asked why we were Christians. She said she believed in someone 'up there' but doesn't believe they will do anything. She had tried reading the Bible but found it difficult to understand. We recommended she read one of the gospels in a translation she finds helpful. We suggested using Bible Gateway online. We only had a few minutes to respond to her but pray that God will do something in her life.

A Year 9 student commented at the end of a session:

'God is always with us and you can talk to God at any time and you can trust in Him!'

The staff as well have found the sessions really helpful and are pleasantly surprised when all the students engage so well and get so much out of them - not least the 'difficult' classes!

We are grateful for people praying for us during this time with the trailer and would ask you to continue to pray for the students and staff we have worked with these last few weeks, that God will enable the seeds sown to grow.

Laura Williams

