

PRAYER FOCUS

SUNDAY - ROB WARNER

Pray for our Finance Administrator Rob Warner. His father recently went to be with the Lord. John Warner was the main leader of Streetly Evangelical Church for many years and also a great supporter of BCM. Pray that Rob and his family will experience the Lord's comfort.

MONDAY - NEW SUPPORT

Ask the Lord to bless Derek Cotterill as he settles into his role as our new Development Officer. Pray that he will create fresh openings in churches in the city to share about the work and vision of the Mission. Pray too that the Lord will meet our financial needs this month.

TUESDAY - CHILDREN'S TEAM

The Children's Team will take a bible story with a clearly embedded gospel message to approximately 18,000 children, in 60 schools this month. Pray for them especially in the two schools that are new to us. Pray for the message 'Sharing' taken from 2 Kings 6:24-7:20.

WEDNESDAY - CITY MISSIONARIES

Every week our City Missionaries speak to people on their doorsteps. Pray the Lord will give them wisdom as they meet people from all kinds of backgrounds. Pray that Kevin, our new City Missionary based at Marston Green Free Baptist Church, will quickly see fruit for his labours and that young families will join the church.

THURSDAY - ELDERLINK

Remember ElderLink and especially the staff, that they will keep close to the Lord and remain fit and healthy. Please pray for more volunteers to visit and befriend the elderly in their homes. They also need more referrals to lunch clubs at Acocks Green and Hodge Hill.

FRIDAY - STAFF



Peter Sherwood left us during the summer to become the full-time Evangelist for Welcome Hall Church in Catshill. Pray for Peter, Emma and their children and that God will bless their ministry.

Pray that our regular Friday devotional meetings for staff will be refreshing and that these times will prepare everyone to face the challenges of their weekly ministries.

SATURDAY - BCM SHOP

Remember Helen Fisher, the BCM Shop Assistant Manager, and pray for her continued recovery and healing. Pray for good sales in the charity shop and bookshop in the run up to Christmas and for plenty of opportunities for good spiritual conversations.

Birmingham City Mission

The Clock Tower, 2 Langdon St,
Birmingham B9 4BP

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

CHRISTMAS TOYLINK

Volunteer help needed for BCM Christmas ToyLink for preparation work sorting & checking toys and wrapping. Please call.

New toys needed to help us provide Christmas gifts for 2,500 children in need.

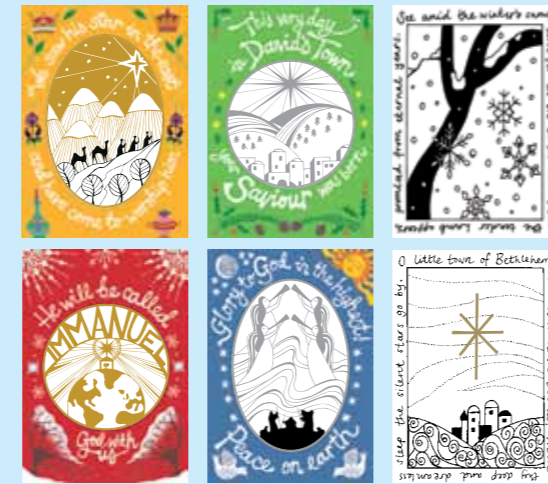
Please bring toys to...

BCM Resource Centre, The Clock Tower,
2 Langdon Street, B9 4BP

Mondays to Thursdays, 10am to 4pm

...or contact us if you need us to pick up large collections: office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk or ring 0121 766 6603.

BCM CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE



£3 for a pack of 8 cards

Choose from this year's exclusive new designs in full colour with gold and silver or last year's designs in black and gold.

Available at BCM HQ, BCM's Kingstanding shop or call 0121 766 6603 for mail order. All proceeds to BCM. View booklets at birminghamcitymission.co.uk



BCM has produced a range of Christmas booklets for children of all ages priced from 12p to 20p per booklet. To order, call 0121 766 6603. To view inside the booklets or download the accompanying presentations, visit birminghamcitymission.co.uk

Look out for the new booklet *A Shepherd's Tale* with intricate colouring-in pages for children aged 8-12 years.

Would you like a Christmas bookstall at your church or group event? Contact Warwick on 0121 384 3650 or bcm.bookshop@tiscali.co.uk



Welcome back to BCM! Derek Cotterill used to be the Senior Manager at our Washington Court Hostel. On 5th September he returned to take up the new role of Development Officer and will be

increasing the knowledge of BCM across the city. If you would like him to visit your church email derekcotterill@birminghamcitymission.co.uk

birminghamcitymission.co.uk

Telephone: 0121 766 6603

Email: office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk

BCM MONTHLY



Live by faith, not by sight

Jackie and I live in a manse in the middle of a council estate and next door is our church. The demographics of the area have changed over the years with some houses being bought.

Yesterday was prizegiving at our church, and it was a thrill to see almost 40 children come forward one by one to receive their prizes. Parents, Sunday School teachers and all clapped and cheered as they saw the pleasure each child displayed on receiving their book or shield.

Events like these represent hours of hard work put in by the teachers over the year but are a great encouragement. We don't know where these children will be in twenty years' time, but we have the privilege and the responsibility *now* to teach them the Word of God and to pray for their futures. It is great seeing moms bringing children to the church today who used to be part of our Sunday School when they were little.

A few weeks ago Jackie and I attended a wedding held in a church in the nearby leafy village of Clent. It was of a schoolfriend of our daughter Naomi, who was a bridesmaid. It was lovely to see Hannah, who we remember as a little girl, walk up the aisle and make her vows before God as she and her husband began their marriage 'adventure' together.

While photos were being taken Naomi introduced Jackie and me to another young woman in her mid-thirties. She looked familiar and once her name was given Jackie remembered her immediately. She and her sister used to be Jackie's girl Covenanter. Sarah went on to say that she still has her Covenanter shield and it is in pride of place in her living room. She said it has always reminded her that she could achieve anything if she put her mind to it.

A few months ago I attended a funeral in east Birmingham. Following the service those who remained had refreshments. While we chatted in the hall I was introduced to two ladies. They were sisters and I was amazed to hear from them that I used to be their Sunday School teacher.

One sister is now on the leadership team of a church where we have a City Missionary.

The reality is that most of the children that we reach in our churches will retain much of what we teach them and this will go on to help shape their adult lives, but only a few will come to faith in the Lord Jesus. Of course, we continue to pray that in their later years God will break into their lives and bring to mind the scriptures that they learned when they were young.

The ministries of any City Mission are conducted on the hard coal-face of life. We challenge people in the city centre where apathy and indifference reign; seek to reach the homeless who have been damaged by life with the love of God; or witness to the many needy people from other faiths who cross the door of our Resource Centre.

Please pray that God will encourage and help us to remember that we are those who 'live by faith, not by sight'. May God who is sovereign and all-powerful do what He wants through our efforts this month.

Wes Erpen, Chief Executive

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

OCTOBER 2017



A real sanctuary

The Sanctuary Nurse-led Clinic opened for the first time at the Care Centre on Tuesday August 8th after a significant period of planning and preparation.

The room has been equipped with furniture from Birmingham City Mission's own Resource Centre.

We have a desk and a leather recliner chair for clients to relax in whilst having their weary feet bathed and moisturised. We have a hot water urn which supplies water for the necessary handwashing and also for relaxing footbaths.

We have several cupboards, brimming with supplies, and many of the disposable nursing products (gloves, aprons, dressing packs) have been generously donated in bulk, meaning we have sufficient stock for the foreseeable future. Jehovah Jireh has certainly provided!

A trauma-informed approach to healthcare has been adopted. As such, the environment is a warm and welcoming one, with gentle instrumental worship music and candles setting the tone for relaxation and providing a cosy ambiance. The idea is that clients can enjoy 10 minutes of tranquility whilst having their wounds redressed or their feet gently bathed.

"I've not felt like this since I was a nipper and me mom used to bath me in the sink." Client having a foot bath

The Sanctuary Clinic's first month in numbers

Consultations	35
Wound care	17
Referral to other services	10
Foot bath & new socks	23
Prayer ministry	21
Weight/BP/temperature	3
Other treatments	6



Prayer ministry is also on offer if clients would like it. A surprising number do really welcome this!

Nurse Practitioner Wendy Ann Webb

Thank God for Wendy for giving her time, energy and expertise to look after the Care Centre's clients. Please pray for those who attend the Care Centre and its Sanctuary Clinic that they would find an answer to their physical and spiritual needs.

Looking for home

Two years ago Vanessa and her youngest son Jamie were living in Kings Norton where they met BCM Missionary Francis. Here she shares her story.

"Francis takes Jamie to church on a Sunday and the Friday night club. He loves his Friday nights. Then when the BCM Youth Camp came up we so appreciated it because of our situation at the time because in February there was an arson attack on our home and we had to leave. We were put in a hotel for a couple of months and now we're in a temporary property. BCM has really helped with a settee, fridge, things for the kitchen. They've been marvellous to me.

Jamie thoroughly enjoyed Camp. I'm not sure who paid for it, but I'm so appreciative of it all. Jamie really needed the break with everything that was going on. He needed to get away. It's done him the world of good. I wished I was going with him!

"He needed to get away. It's done him the world of good."

I'm still in temporary accommodation and having to deal with problems with the Council who won't put me on the housing list. I just had an email today about it. I get quite depressed about it all. I think I'm picking up then the next thing happens. It's so frustrating and I don't know which way to turn.

But I want to say how fantastic BCM has been. They've helped us through a lot and I'm so appreciative."

Please pray for Vanessa and Jamie as they continue to struggle to find a new and permanent home.



Jamie at this year's Youth Camp in Wales

You're never too young to get involved!

Youth Team Co-ordinator John Platt interviewed a young BCM supporter who gave part of her summer holiday to volunteer at the Resource Centre.



How did you first come to BCM?

Through John who goes to Spring Meadow Baptist Church where I attend. He told me about BCM's work and I have been to Fulfil events and the Sponsored Sleepout. These things gave me an interest in BCM's work and it made me want

to get more involved and try to be a part of it more. And when school asked me to decide where to go for work experience BCM was a really good option for me. So I did three days of work experience in July. I enjoyed the work so much that I decided that I would come back and volunteer whenever I could and did seven or eight days of volunteering over the summer holidays.

What work did you do at BCM?

I worked in the food bank marking food, stacking shelves with tins and making up the food parcels. I also worked in the office on reception, answering phone calls, booking deliveries and collections as well as manning the till. At first I was nervous about answering the phones but after a while it became second nature. I also handed out food parcels and bags of toiletries as well as tickets to clients when we booked them in.

What did you like best about your experience?

It's really hard to focus on one thing because it's all so important and the work BCM does is amazing, plus how BCM shares the word with people when they can. I really enjoyed my time with BCM - all the staff and volunteers are really nice. I loved the environment. There's a really comfortable atmosphere - it's a very welcoming place. They made me feel at home.

What was the most challenging bit?

Most of the time the clients were fine but other times a few would get funny or frustrated if they didn't get what they wanted - they would unpack a food parcel in front of you and if certain things weren't there they would complain. But I realised that you never know their background, what they've been through, how they're feeling and their mental state. These people are normal people who have fallen on difficult circumstances.

I could also see how caring the clients were about Chris (Resource Centre Manager who's recovering from a quintuple heart bypass). They were genuinely concerned, asking how he was. So clearly lasting bonds between clients and BCM staff have been made.

Leah is planning on helping out at the Resource Centre again during October half-term and is interested in getting involved in more projects - look out, other departments!

Thank you to Leah and the many young people who are BCM volunteers, whether as part of their work experience placement or on a regular basis. Please pray for them.

BCM is dependent on its volunteers so, young or old, get involved! Call Derek Duke on 0121 766 6603 or email derekduke@birminghamcitymission.co.uk



Young people of the Challenge Project raised money to buy 40 sleeping bags for the homeless before spending a day working at the Resource Centre. Enthusiastic young people of Brum...



Meet the new Interns - CJ, Tanatswa, Anna Maria and Terrell - at the beginning of their year with BCM. Please pray for them as they settle in, get to know the Mission's projects and staff and face new challenges.



Thank you to everyone who took part in the Sleepout this year, raising a fantastic £9,652.

Date for your diary...

BCM's Sponsored Sleepout 2018 will be on **Friday 16th February**

www.birminghamcitymission.co.uk or 0121 766 6603 for more details

Fulfil

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

7.30 - 9.30 pm

FOR 11-18s

Info & consent forms:
JohnP@birminghamcitymission.co.uk or 0121 766 6603
birminghamcitymission.co.uk

With speaker Prince Laryea
Main act coming soon...