

# THIS MONTH'S PRAYER FOCUS

## SUNDAY

On Thursday 8th February George McIntyre, Chairman of our Board of Directors for many years until last summer, was rushed into hospital with severe back pain. It appears that his heart stopped on the way to the hospital and that he might have experienced a ruptured aneurysm. He was operated on, successfully, by the same surgeon who carried out his last operation a few months ago. Pray for the Lord's healing and a full recovery for George, and for the Lord's upholding and strengthening for his wife Isobel.

## MONDAY

Pray for the Children's Team as they run their Solid Rock clubs in Small Heath from 19th -22nd February. It is always an exciting week as up to 150 children, mainly from other faiths, enjoy the songs, crafts and Bible stories. Pray that the volunteers who help to make this club happen will also be encouraged and blessed.

## TUESDAY

Remember our City Missionaries and volunteers who will today be sharing the gospel in the centre of Birmingham. Ask the Lord to give them boldness and wisdom as they minister in a multicultural and multi-faith society. Pray that the Lord will bring people to hear the message as it is faithfully preached and that much literature will be taken from our book table.

## WEDNESDAY

Pray that the Lord will stir the right people to join our 2018/19 Internship programme. Historically, many who spend time at BCM go on to become full-time Christian workers. Anna Maria, Tanatswa and Terrell, this year's Interns, are excellent, working enthusiastically in all departments. Pray for guidance as they look to the next step for their lives.

## THURSDAY

Pray for Warwick, our Bookshop Manager, today. He has worked at BCM for many years and faithfully runs the shop in Kingstanding. Every day he talks to people who are in need of advice or encouragement. Ask the Lord to give him wisdom as he ministers to those the Lord brings across his path.

Pray for Karen and Hazel as they run our Charity Shop, also in Kingstanding, with the help of Derek and Roger from our main office. Pray for good sales. Pray for Helen as she recovers from her illness.

## FRIDAY

Thank God for all those who took part in our sponsored SleepOut on the Clock Tower car park, opened by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham. Many participants were youngsters who would have been impacted as they experienced what is sadly some people's experience every night! Pray that much money will come in from the SleepOut.

Pray also today for the ministry at our Care Centre. We have just installed a shower and we are preparing to open three *afternoons* a week, as well as the evenings. Numbers using the Centre have been surprisingly down in recent weeks, so please pray that they would increase.

## SATURDAY

Every year Rachel and her team at ElderLink will conduct or be involved in some 30 funerals. Pray for them as they support families and minister into the lives of those who are grieving, as well as deal with their own sadness at losing friends. Pray for staff and volunteers who pick up lunch club guests in our minibus, that they will be kept safe on busy city roads. Continue to ask the Lord to meet our financial needs. We are dependent upon Him to do so in whatever way He chooses.

### BIRMINGHAM SPRING CONVENTION 2018

Tuesday 1st, Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd May  
Evenings at 7.30pm at Carrs Lane Church Centre  
Speaker: DEREK CLEAVE  
*More details next month...*



**Getting rid of an old car? Call Giveacar & the proceeds will go to BCM!** Giveacar is a not-for-profit social enterprise that can turn your old car

into cash. They arrange free collection, then either auction your car or scrap it with the proceeds going to your charity. **To find out more, call 0207 736 4242 or visit [giveacar.co.uk](http://giveacar.co.uk)**



BCM works with Open the Book to equip church groups in Birmingham to lead bible story assemblies in primary schools.

If you would like to get involved, forthcoming training dates are:

**Tuesday 6th March, Wednesday 21st March,  
Monday 16th April, Tuesday 1st May & Wednesday 23rd May**

The training day runs from 9.15am to 3.15pm

Reserve your place: [childrensteam@birminghamcitymission.co.uk](mailto:childrensteam@birminghamcitymission.co.uk)  
*Training is free. Sessions may be cancelled depending on bookings.*

### Birmingham City Mission

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

[birminghamcitymission.co.uk](http://birminghamcitymission.co.uk)

Telephone: 0121 766 6603

Email: [office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk](mailto:office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk)

# BCM MONTHLY



## Hearts that are fully committed

A few days ago I had a call from a school friend of fifty years ago. He had contacted me because his mom had recently passed away and he was offering BCM some furniture. It was only a short call but it was good to catch up on a little of his 'journey' through life. He was now running his own successful business but when he was 16, he and other boys from my estate of Kingshurst started a rock band which eventually played on Top of the Pops.

Eddie's band was called 'Blackfoot Sue' and like many such young bands their beginnings were tough. As I read their website I was struck by their singleness of mind and the sacrifices they made to break into the music scene. Some of their strategies failed but they bounced back time and time again. As the years have passed by they have evolved into other bands and other activities but they accomplished what they did because their hearts were fully committed to achieving their goal.

King Asa was the third king of Judah and he had a long reign of forty-one years. The scripture says of him that his heart was fully committed to the Lord. He removed the foreign altars and high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He also commanded the people of Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, and to obey His commands. God blessed him and for many years the land had peace.

On one occasion, under threat from an enemy, Asa turned to the Lord in prayer and the Lord delivered him. It was a great victory. Yet towards the end of his life, when he was again faced with an enemy army, Asa relied upon his own machinations rather than seeking God's help. The Lord sent a prophet to challenge Asa and the king was upbraided for his lack of faith. The prophet reminded the king that...

*'...the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.'*

Sadly, Asa imprisoned the prophet and his final years went on to be years of suffering from disease in his feet, and yet he still didn't seek the Lord's intervention.

The record of this great king encourages me to be courageous and to take tough decisions when necessary, and especially to have a heart that is 'fully committed to God'. At the same time, his final years challenge me to be watchful and to ensure that as much as possible my focus continues to be upon the Lord.

Please pray for us this month. City Mission work is hard and often repetitive as we regularly minister to the needy of our city. If we are not careful, in the midst of this routine of activity, we can become half-hearted or carry hearts that are divided.

Pray that God will give us hearts that are fully committed to Him and that, in doing so, He might give us His strength.

*Wes Erpen* **Wes Erpen,  
Chief Executive**

**WANTED**  
**Second hand furniture**  
electrical appliances  
**bedding clothes**

If you have any good quality items that you no longer require, please phone us on **0121 766 6603**  
**WE WILL COLLECT**



**BCM Resource Centre**  
The Clock Tower, 2 Landon Street, B9 4BP  
Opening hours: Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 4pm  
Find out more about the Resource Centre at [birminghamcitymission.co.uk/providing-for-those-in-need](http://birminghamcitymission.co.uk/providing-for-those-in-need)

FEBRUARY 2018



# Love in Action

**In December BCM Monthly reported on the beginning of an outreach on the Masefield Estate in Kings Norton. As that outreach continues into the new year, BCM intern Anna Maria shares an encouraging story.**

'Elisabeth and I visited Sarah (not her real name) in one of the tower blocks. She asked if we were Social Services. We felt a sense of need so I asked if we could see her flat. She agreed, hesitating slightly as if embarrassed.

When we saw the flat we understood. She was sleeping on 3 pillows on the floor. There was almost no furniture. She has back pain and suffers from mental health problems. We brought her Jesus and prayed with her. No one was looking after her.

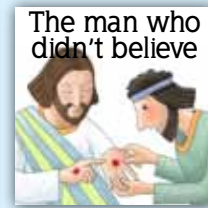
When we left the flat I felt overwhelmed. God showed us a rainbow and we talked about what we could do. That same day we sorted out a sofa bed for her. The next day we brought her some clothing and a wardrobe. She looked much better.

On Sunday she went to Kings Norton Baptist Church and when we saw her on Monday she was happy to tell us that it was her birthday. We helped her clean the flat and sort out the furniture. What a glory! It's encouraging to see someone's life change so quickly!

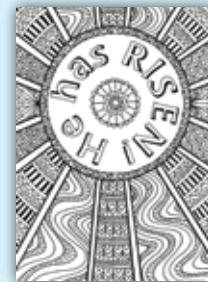
**Please pray for Sarah as she struggles with overwhelming problems and looks for God in her life. Pray for our missionaries as they meet numerous people in many different situations day by day, that they would be able to bring them help, love and hope.**



## Easter Story Booklets



For young children  
8-page full-colour booklets  
12p each plus P&P



For older children  
12-page booklet including intricate  
colouring-in to complete  
20p each plus P&P

To view inside the booklets, and download their accompanying Powerpoint presentations, visit [birminghamcitymission.co.uk](http://birminghamcitymission.co.uk)

To order, call 0121 766 6603 or email [office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk](mailto:office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk)

## INTERNSHIP

- A one-year hands-on training opportunity
- No fees required
- Accommodation, food & bus pass provided
- Wide choice of modules, including:
  - City centre & estate evangelism
  - Youth & children's work
  - Reaching the homeless
  - Supporting the elderly
  - Church ministry
  - Overseas mission experience

Probably one of the best all-round Christian training experiences you will find

For more information call 0121 766 6603 or visit [birminghamcitymission.co.uk](http://birminghamcitymission.co.uk)



## The interns hit ElderLink!

**With ElderLink staff absences in January, the BCM interns spent two weeks as lunch club locums. They prepared food, laid tables, served tea, danced and sang as well as met some great new people. These are some of their thoughts...**

### Tanatswa

'The clients were very friendly, funny and chatty with unique characters and a lot of life to share. They were just sweet. We had exercises and we danced together to get everyone's blood flowing - it was real fun. We did other activities like listening to old time music, doing quizzes (which some found difficult) and singing hymns and praises. And I spent time in the kitchen with Stan learning how to prepare food professionally - he's very precise.'

### Anna Maria

'When one of the ladies came into the building she was quite miserable. We started to talk and she told me that she is very angry at the Lord. She spoke about how disappointed she still is even though it is years since other people's life choices had negatively affected her.

We talked about how anger can poison people and the need to forgive, looking at the gospel. I asked if I could pray for her and she let me. After this prayer she looked different and uplifted. I am thankful to have witnessed God's work in her. Hallelujah.'

### Terrell

'I was very optimistic and excited that I was going to be at ElderLink for two weeks. I was looking forward to being in a more relaxed environment and being able to help wherever I was needed by the staff. In addition, it was amazing to talk with the clients and meet some new faces. I would 100% do it all again in a heartbeat. There is something so unique about ElderLink that makes me want to be back. Just to relate to

**'Age is just a number when we can share about our faith and life experiences.'**

and learn from the clients is really great. Age is just a number when we can share about our faith and life experiences - it can be very warming. I honestly don't think us interns are at ElderLink enough!

**Peanut the dog turned out to be the biggest star of the intern team during their time at ElderLink (left & below); Terrell gets moving to some old time music with a lunch club client (bottom).**



## ELDERLINK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

- to visit clients in their homes and in hospital
  - to help at the Thursday lunch club
- If you can help, call Derek on 0121 766 6603