

Connect

Monday: Retail

I spend 12 hours a week at my Frontline working at the Checkouts at Tesco. It can be difficult building relationships with staff and customers when you only spend moments talking. However, I try to meet everyone with their name if possible and a smile. This can be challenging when customers are rude or aggressive. Or when receiving complaints about lack of products or increasing prices, all of which is out of our control.



If somebody shares personal difficulties like bereavement or ill health, I offer to pray for them and try to remember to follow up next time I see them.

I try to model good employee ethics remembering Colossians 3:22-25 (MSG). Servants, do what you're told by your earthly masters. And don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you'll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. Being a follower of Jesus doesn't cover up bad work.

Prayer points:

- Safety from abusive customers
- Diligence during tedious tasks
- To be the light to the lost

Tuesday: TBC Community Mission

The visiting team meets informally in the prison chapel lounge once every two weeks, by permission of the Anglican Prison Managing ex-Navy Chaplain with whom we have good relations and have received complimentary reports. There are official services in the chapel, ours are informal focusing on a topic. The most recent was about receiving and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Asking the men for feedback they say they appreciate our visits and feel our meetings are a safe place, where we are free to pray into their requests. Reading ability of some is low so being able to discuss Bible topics is one way of our going into the world teaching a living faith. You would not get a similar meeting in a Thornbury pub.

Prayer points for Prison Ministry:

- Currently numbers are dropping off due to recent releases, our desire is to see more men growing in faith.

Wednesday: Local/UK Partners

Beloved is a charity that offers practical, emotional and spiritual support for women working in the indoor sex industry in Bristol. We run regular outreach into the massage parlours in the city as well as offering a 1:1 casework service. We are supported by volunteers from local churches who work alongside a small staff team. We also work closely with local organisations supporting vulnerable and trafficked women.

Prayer points for Beloved:

- Our outreach visits into the parlours. That we would make good connections with the ladies we encounter and that those who need it will access our casework service. That we will be able to share God's love with the ladies we meet.
- For wisdom around going into new parlours we have not been to before.
- For employment pathways and strength for ladies we work with who are currently wishing to exit the industry.
- For continued financial provision for the charity and a successful and enjoyable fundraising event on 20th July.

Thursday: World Mission Partners

A few months ago, because of the low state of our finances, we were considering that we may have to close down in June. BUT God is good and we are still here by His grace. God certainly knows our need.

A letter arrived at Bridges with the news that Sydney Smith Trust was granting us funding which we had not even applied for. We are excited that Chris Beddoes and his wife, Rachel, will be joining us for a week during the summer holidays to help with the children's activities. Thornbury Baptist Church has also helped towards the cost of these activities. Thank you and may God bless you!!

Over the mid-term break, we were able to take the children swimming at Hornsea Leisure Centre and also to Rebound and Let Loose. All of these activities are very popular with the children. Thankfully we have now secured a minibus for the week - a local boxing club has provided theirs for the week!

Prayer points for Bridges Hull:

- Nic, Tiff, Stacey and the team as they run Bridges during the school holidays, for health, energy and a sense of peace in what is a very hectic time!
- For a successful summer club, everyone's safety and enjoyment, that the children, and families, that need it the most would be able to attend.

Friday: Children @TBC

What an exciting term we have had in the children's department! As the building work started, the Seedlings and Roots & Branches teams decided to combine forces and share the lower lounge space. Despite much anxiety around this, it has all gone swimmingly! The children are loving the new way of doing things and are sharing with each other how their own sessions work, for example how they pray each week. We are mixing a range of activities, some with the older and younger children together and some split apart to make use of the new opportunities we have with the shared area. We thank God for the chance to work in a different way! It is working fantastically.

Prayer points for the children:

- Families as the summer holidays approach.
- The continued success of the combined groups.
- An opportunity to open up a new space for the creche in the near future.
- Thanks that we have been able to continue the children's ministry despite the building work and for the flexibility of the children, families and helpers!

Saturday: Global Needs

Pray particularly this month for:

- For the persecuted Christians in North Korea.
- For the Christian community in Jaranwala.
- Continue to pray for Gaza, Ukraine and the many other places of conflict around the world.
- For our new Prime Minister and his cabinet as they move forward with governing the country.

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).

Healing & 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

LifeSOURCE – Rooted in God*

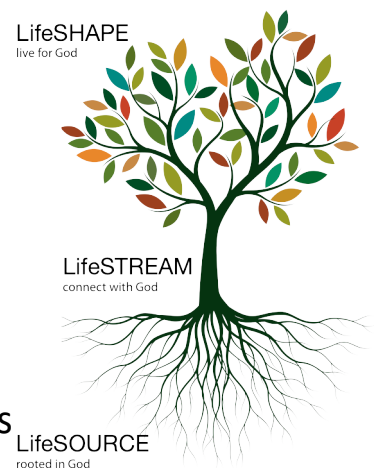
The Lord helps the fallen
and lifts those bent beneath their loads.
(Psalm 145:15)

- Can you identify with falling or stumbling at the moment? Or does it seem like you are being bent out of shape by a 'heavy load'?
- What has caused these circumstances?
- Do you find it easy to believe that the Lord can help you?
- What help do you feel you need from God?

Turn your thoughts into prayer this month.

*(Find all of our LifeWORKS discipleship resources on our website:

https://www.thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk/?page_id=15255)



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.