

spend their holiday trying to make someone else happy too, like catering, running Christmas meals, etc.

#### **Sunday 26th**

Take time to give thanks to God for the many blessings which you have enjoyed.

#### **Monday 27th**

Many families will be doing the annual visits to the 'once a year' relatives in distant towns and cities up and down the country this week. Pray for harmonious visits and travelling mercies.

#### **Tuesday 28th**

Remember all the people who have to work in retail shops to satisfy the craving of the holiday shoppers' demands for sales goods.

#### **Wednesday 29th**

Please pray for those suffering from the results of natural disasters. Remember the victims of the Indian Ocean Boxing Day Tsunami and similar events since.

#### **Thursday 30th**

Do you keep short accounts with God? How about burying the hatchet with that irritating person who has bugged you for years? Ask God for grace to tidy up unfinished business which is spoiling your relationship with Him.

#### **Friday 31st (New Year's Eve)**

On New Year's Eve everyone will be out to have a good time. Please pray for those who have to pick up the pieces: doctors, nurses, paramedics, police, Street Pastors, fire crews and family members dragged into situations not of their own doing. Ask God to restrain the powers of evil at work today.

Contributions for the prayer diary should be sent to [john.stansfield5@btinternet.com](mailto:john.stansfield5@btinternet.com) or left in the pigeonhole in the foyer by 7<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### **THOUGHT OF THE MONTH**

December is a time when thought in Western countries turns to the festive season and all that involves. In other cultures the celebration of Christmas can be confined to a minority. The day is just another working day and the desire to worship God and celebrate the birth of Jesus draws a yawn rather than enthusiasm. In that situation the duty of the rest of the church is to uphold those fellow believers in their wish to worship God and give thanks for His gift of Jesus. Please think about which bits of the church you could pray and lift up to God.

What sort of prayer would you like to be said for you if you lived in China or Saudi Arabia? Many expatriate people live overseas and do not have the opportunity to go home. Please uphold anyone you know who lives overseas. Think particularly of those with children, please send them a greeting.

Happy Christmas.

# tabernacle : penarth

purpose : to reflect God's love in  
our church, community and world

## prayer diary : december 2010

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders;  
make the most of every opportunity.

Colossians 4:5

The run up to Christmas is an ideal time for evangelism and mission. Even if people aren't sure of all the details of the Nativity story, there is still a vague cultural awareness that Christmas and Christ are related! People are also more inclined to visit church during the Christmas season, and singing carols and attending candlelit services are almost universally enjoyed. Even Richard Dawkins once said, "I actually love most of the genuine Christmas carols... So, yes, I like singing carols along with everybody else." Who will you invite along this Christmas? Please pray NOW about it, take an invitation home, and bring someone with you to one of our special services over the Christmas season.

### **Pastor Roger**

#### **Wednesday 1st**

Please pray for the work of those who broadcast the gospel into the Middle East. Some countries are now so repressive this is the only succour which some Christians receive as meeting together is too dangerous.

#### **Thursday 2nd**

Pastor Roger and Claire are in Rome for a few days to celebrate their wedding anniversary. Please pray for them, their marriage and their family as they seek to minister to the church together.

#### **Friday 3rd**

The old, sick, lonely, housebound, homeless, refugees, poor, destitute, societal rejects and all who need a touch from God should be of concern in prayers today. Jesus made special efforts to encounter such people, yet as His followers can we claim to do the same? Please pray for those in need today, whatever that need may be.

#### **Saturday 4th**

TWAM (Tools With A Mission) have a ministry to ship tools and equipment to Africa to help people earn a decent living. Please pray for the folk who work at TWAM in Penarth every week.

### **Sunday 5th**

Please think about the persecuted Christians in Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries. A recent massacre in Baghdad highlights the hate filled hearts of the Islamic extremists who shout their depraved message at the world. Please pray for the remnants of the church in Iraq and those who are so frightened of their message they can only use violence as an answer. The World Evangelical Alliance is calling for today to be a Global Day of Prayer for Sudan, with a critical referendum due in January.

### **Monday 6th**

The Leadership Council meets today (instead of it's normal day), please pray for all the decisions which need to be made.

### **Tuesday 7th**

Please pray for the ladies of Dorcas who meet together to do craft and have a good natter. Please also remember the leaders and children who meet as JAFFA club every week.

### **Wednesday 8th**

Please remember the families of people in prison today. Please pray for prison chaplains, visitors and Prison Fellowship as they try to improve the lot of those who have got themselves into bother.

### **Thursday 9th**

Emergency Services all have to work over the festive season. Please pray for those putting their lives at risk on sea, land, on mountains and in the city.

### **Friday 10th**

Please pray for expatriate families who will not be at home this Christmas. Think of those in remote locations for mission, working on development programmes, or just away on holiday. Please remember any people who you may know living abroad.

### **Saturday 11th**

Please today think of the poor and repressed in two countries in particular: Burma and Zimbabwe. These places have suffered at the hand of brutal political dictators for years, the people are exploited and the rest of the world pretty much has given up. Pray for freedom in these countries.

### **Sunday 12th**

Jesus asks His followers to be salt and light in the world. Sometimes we fail and sometimes succeed. Let us rededicate our lives again to Jesus in Tabs today.

### **Monday 13th**

Please pray for the church's small and Alpha groups who will be holding Christmas parties over the next few days. Let everyone have a good time and be thankful for God's bounty.

### **Tuesday 14th**

There will be lots of young people doing nativity plays and getting very nervous in the next couple of weeks, please remember all small performers.

### **Wednesday 15th**

Please remember the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT) as they beaver away at bringing the word of God to any culture and people group who need it. Special Christmas presents this year for two tribes in Cameroon (Deny and Kenyang) - The New Testament in their own language! Let's pray they'll learn more about 'God With Us - Emmanuel' - and we will too, (Cedric Longville).

### **Thursday 16th**

Think of those who are homeless this Christmas. Remember the staff of Home Access as they seek to help people in need this festive season.

### **Friday 17th**

At the festive season let us pray for those who will be facing persecution at this time. There are many Christians around the world who would love to celebrate the birth of Jesus openly, but to do so would invite persecution.

### **Saturday 18th**

Please pray for Roger Grafton and other ministers who have to be on duty at Christmas. Remember the extra burden each one faces as demands from needy people appear.

### **Sunday 19th**

Today will be the Carols by Special Light service in the evening at Tabs. Please pray for a good service.

### **Monday 20th**

Think of someone who may appreciate a visit, phone call or other contact. Perhaps pray about inviting someone to join in on Christmas Day.

### **Tuesday 21st**

Please think of people in Britain for whom Christmas is not a special time. Pray for those of differing faiths and none to see the true meaning of Christmas through all the glitz.

### **Wednesday 22nd**

In the hectic rush to be ready for the great day please remember today those who have lost loved ones in the last year. For them Christmas will be hard, so please pray for those who mourn at this time. Ask God to uphold them while the rest of the world holds a party.

### **Thursday 23rd**

Perhaps today you could take time to pray to God for forgiveness for some of the meaner or unchristian things you have done this last year. Ask God to give you the gift of a clear conscience this Christmas.

### **Friday 24th**

There are special services today in the afternoon at 3.00 pm and communion at 11.15 pm. Please pray for Jesus to be at the forefront.

### **Saturday 25th (Christmas Day)**

Today is the day to celebrate the festive season by giving thanks to God for all the good things that He gives to us all.

Please pray for those who have chosen to