

Friday 31st

Today please pray for the ministerial team at Tabs, Roger and Claire Grafton, Owen and Lindsay James and the elders. Ask God to give them wisdom as they meet the needs of the church and community.

Contributions can be sent to john.stansfield5@btinternet.com or left in the pigeon hole before 7th of the month.

*KISC Kathmandu International Study Centre

Thought for the Month Ideas for God

Recently there was a mini building boom in Tabs. All the children in one Sunday group were waving around Monopoly houses and hotels glued to stones. No prizes for guessing which bible story they had been enjoying during their time in Sunday School that day. But who thought of the idea of sticking a bit of plastic onto a stone to illustrate that story? Coming up with original and new ways to reinforce often repeated stories can be a bit difficult. It is like an inventor who looks at a situation and sees something which no one else senses. As a result there could be a new labour saving device, a new product, a new, more efficient, way to do something. History is littered with examples of simple ideas which have revolutionised people's lives, like the wheel or spade.

So how do you bring fresh insight or ideas to a situation, like a parable, which has been often repeated and yet holds an eternal truth which bears much repetition and reinforcement? Sometimes ideas can be reused, because the makeup of the audience has changed, so an old idea is relevant to a new generation. When experience is involved a different method is needed. Prayer has always been promoted using paper to give topics and suggestions for prayer. In the 21st century many people find paper is old hat, so prefer to have an electronic reminder. That is fine as long as the technology works, when it fails a different method is needed, like a wind up charger for the phone instead of the mains power.

Ideas and change are constants in an ever changing world, prayer is still needed but new solutions to old problems need original thinking. That is a gift from God, so as you pray this month ask God to give you new ideas and insights as to who, what and why you should pray. Think laterally for original ideas about your favourite prayer situations.

tabernacle : penarth

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

prayer diary : august 2018

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Many people read the first part of Jesus' words about rest for the weary in Matthew 11, and think that God offers to help us when our burdens are heavy. If you have a heavy load, they surmise, God will give you rest from it. However, that is not a very good interpretation.

If you read on into verse 30, you will find that God's yoke is easy and his burden is light. In other words, if your burden feels heavy, it is not God's burden. If the yoke is uncomfortable, it is not God's yoke! If you are finding something a heavy burden, then it probably isn't God's burden... so put it down.

On the other hand, if you have no burdens at all for the Lord, you probably need to discover what your calling is!

Why not use the summer period when it is relatively quiet at church to ask the Lord, "What should I be doing in church for you in the autumn? What tasks should I be picking up... and what tasks should I be putting down?"

Pastor Roger

Wednesday 1st

Remember the leadership as they have a break from Leadership Council today. May they have a refreshing time.

Thursday 2nd

The Link Scheme run by the Pastoral Care team over the summer provides opportunity to meet together and have fellowship. Pray for those hosting, organising and using this service.

Friday 3rd

During the long summer holidays young people can find themselves at a loose end. Pray for constructive ways for young people to use their time and talent, instead of getting into mischief. Pray for any young people you may know.

Saturday 4th

Today ministers, pastors, lay preachers and others will be getting ready for services and ministry on Sunday. Uphold someone you know who does these things, maybe in your church.

Sunday 5th

Let the worship and praise offered in Tabs today be glorifying to God and uplifting to the congregation.

Monday 6th

Remember Christians who work. Pray for anyone you know who does the 9 to 5 routine, that they may be a good witness in their workplace.

Tuesday 7th

Many of the small groups will have suspended their meetings for the holiday, pray for those who miss gathering together, bless the leaders enjoying a well-deserved rest, and ask God to use small groups in reaching out to others as well.

Wednesday 8th

The needs of the poor are being met in a small way by the foodbank distribution which takes place at Arcot House every week. Remember the volunteers and users before God today.

Thursday 9th

Over the summer many students seek temporary jobs, pray for anyone you know who is perhaps working for the first time.

Friday 10th

Pray today for members of the emergency services who have to deal with the results of summer binges, riots, unrest or difficult situations.

Saturday 11th

RLNI and other rescue services see increased use over the summer as holiday makers use maritime and mountainous regions for recreation. Give thanks for dedicated volunteers who risk life and limb to rescue those in trouble. Pray for local lifeboats in Penarth & Barry.

Sunday 12th

When you are away on holiday pray for churches in the places you visit. Ask God to prosper their witness, ministry and outreach in places far and near.

Monday 13th

Today pray for any fellowships which you know about, perhaps a previous home church, one you visit, one where your friends attend or just one of the ones in Penarth.

Tuesday 14th

Using time to meditate on God's word can bring spiritual benefits when there is quiet and peace, like when on holiday. Ask God for a suitable opportunity.

Wednesday 15th

Pray for the Prison Fellowship operating in Cardiff, Swansea, Usk, Parc Bridgend and other local facilities. Ask God to bless those from Tabs who participate in this ministry.

Thursday 16th

Volunteers from Tabs will be operating on the Paradise Run in Cardiff today. Pray for them while doing this ministry.

Friday 17th

Praying for revival in Wales should be on every Christian's agenda. Ask God for revival in Wales, starting today.

Saturday 18th

Pay particular attention to Mums today. By now looking forward to sending the kids back to school. Pray for a Mum you may know today.

Sunday 19th

Pray for those visiting Tabs today. Pray for greeters and stewards to be aware of visitors and ask God to give them a good experience of Tabs.

Monday 20th

In a few weeks final year students at the Baptist College will be starting work in churches around the country. Pray for ministries starting soon.

Tuesday 21st

Exam results for A level, GCSE and University will mostly be known by now. Ask God to guide young people faced with choices about their future career, academic or other occupation. Pray particularly about anyone you know.

Wednesday 22nd

Please pray for those who are sick. A suitable list can be found in the summer news sheet.

Thursday 23rd

Pray today for a brother or sister somewhere in the world who went hungry today. Ask God to use Fairtrade, sustainable development, ethical trading and improved food production to provide enough food for everyone.

Friday 24th

Ask God to send rain to drought hit areas in India and Africa. If you did not know there is drought in these places, Google it and be informed.

Saturday 25th

Today pray for a topic which only you know about, someone who does not 'do' God, a situation at work or school, a personal problem. Take it to God in prayer.

Sunday 26th

Today pray for someone you promised to pray for, but might have forgotten. Uplift the Douglas family who minister in Nepal at the KISC* School.

Monday 27th (Bank Holiday)

If you enjoyed a nice holiday this year, thank God for the opportunity. Pray for those who did not get a holiday, perhaps too old, in hospital, unable to afford it etc.

Tuesday 28th

When you go to service today, ask God to show you how you can be of service to someone less fortunate than you.

Wednesday 29th

As the new term starts over the next few weeks, please pray for children, parents, leaders and helpers in Sunday School and Young Peoples' activities in Tabs.

Thursday 30th

As colleges and universities restart over the next few weeks, pray for students in Christian Unions, staff workers and Reach volunteers ministering to home grown and international students.