

BCM UPDATE



The favour of God

Every day it is good to seek God's favour upon our lives. It is an exciting fact that, as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we never know the consequences of what we do or say for God. Today we may have an encounter or conversation with someone that might be used of Him for His purposes. These encounters take place anywhere and at any time - at work, at the shops, on public transport, walking in the hills, or going for a cup of coffee.

Last week one of our staff sent an email asking if anyone knew someone who spoke Bengali as they had a contact they were trying to help who didn't speak English. For a few minutes I thought about our staff and who amongst them might know someone who spoke Bengali. Solomon, who comes from Pakistan and speaks three languages, came to mind.

I went into our Resource Centre and asked Chris, the manager, if Solomon was around. He told me that he was out on one of the vans collecting furniture. I explained that I was wondering if he spoke Bengali. Suddenly, I heard a voice coming from the other end of the office, 'I speak Bengali. I am Bengali!' I looked, and on the other side of the door hatch was a small lady with a lovely smile. It turned out she was a Support Worker for a housing association and she offered her help.

As I walked back to my office I thought, 'One couldn't write the script!' Of all the people in Birmingham to be at our Resource Centre at just the moment when I walked through the door with my question, it was a Bengali-speaking lady! I

don't know if we will ask her to help, but if we do, perhaps the contact may be more for her blessing than the contact who doesn't speak English.

Nehemiah, a great man of faith and 'wall builder', deliberately sought the favour of God upon his life. He had heard of the terrible situation in Jerusalem. The walls had been destroyed and the gates burned down, and his heart was moved. He prayed and fasted as he waited for the right moment. When the king asked him why he looked so sad, Nehemiah sent a 'telegram' prayer to the Lord. On hearing the news, the king gave Nehemiah permission to leave and, not only that, letters of safe passage, building materials and even an escort.

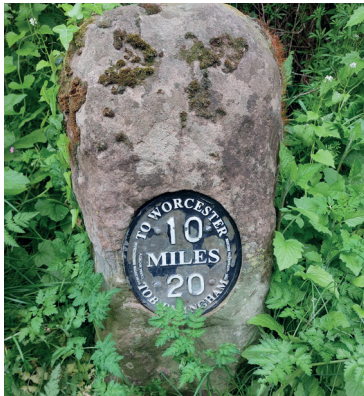
After being in Jerusalem for three days, Nehemiah set out during the night with a few men to survey the city. He discovered it just as he had been told, the walls turned to rubble and the gates destroyed by fire. He then spoke to the nobles, priests and officials, saying, 'Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and we will no longer be in disgrace.' He then told them of how the 'gracious hand of God' had been upon his life. In hearing this the people replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.' A man with the favour of God upon his life stirred the people to action.

Please pray that during the summer months God's favour will be upon our lives so that, as we help people and point others to the Lord Jesus, some will find him as their Saviour.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wes Erpen'.

Wes Erpen, Chief Executive

Destroyed socks and a bad blister

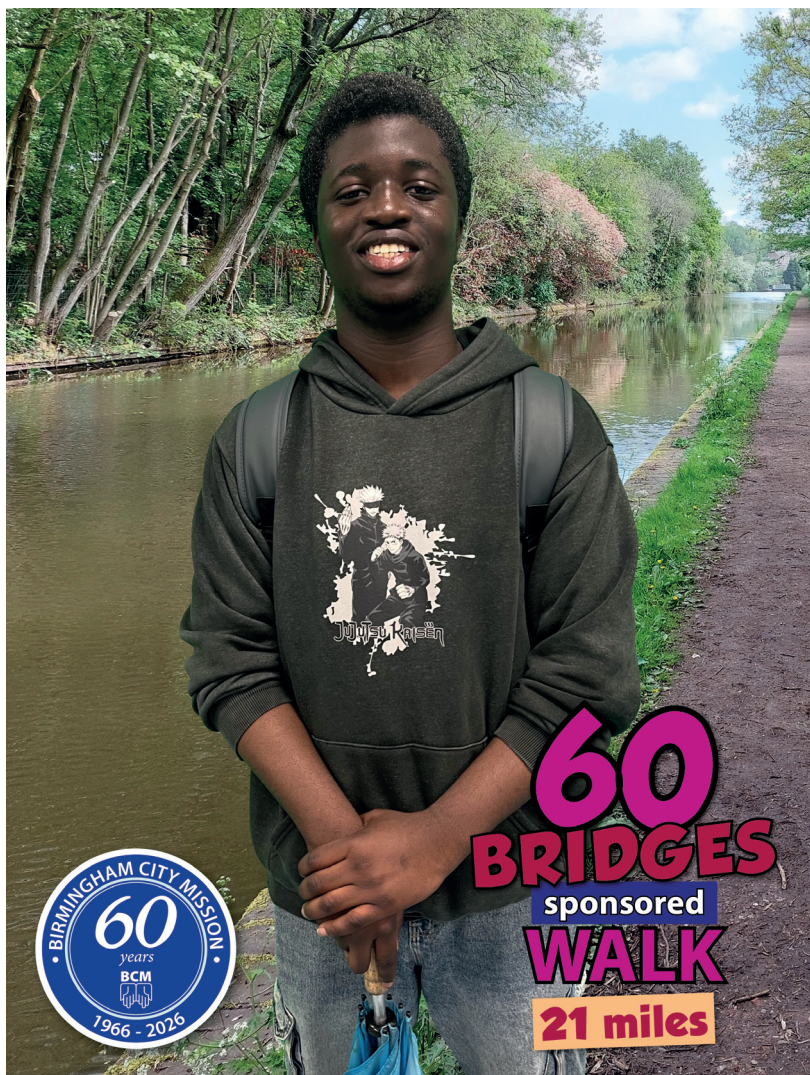


One Saturday at the beginning of June, 42 wonderful people (pictured on the front page) walked, cycled, limped and crawled the 21 miles of BCM's 60 Bridges Walk. They raised almost £10,000, a huge help to the Mission as it continues to proclaim the gospel and help those in need in our great city of Birmingham. We are thankful for their support and that of their many sponsors.

One of those taking part was Testimony Ajani (pictured below). He said, 'I'd never been on a walk before, so this was a new experience for me. For me the first part of the walk was slow as I wasn't prepared and my jeans were rubbing. But then I met Mike and Julia - we had discussions as we walked and I could follow their pace, all the way to the Care Centre. My socks were destroyed and I had a bad blister, but I would love to do it again. Next time I'll be more prepared!'

'I'm learning real practical skills, and it's a fun environment with kind people!'

Testimony has been a regular volunteer at BCM's Resource Centre since last summer. He is a college student working towards a BTEC in Health and Social Care, and his aim is to become a GP. He and his family moved to Birmingham from Nigeria 3 years ago and are part of Kings Norton



ALL VISITORS WELCOME

BIRMINGHAM CITY MISSION
60 years
BCM
1966 - 2026

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 4TH JULY
11AM TO 3.30PM

AT BCM'S CLOCK TOWER, 2 LANGDON STREET, B9 4BP

PROJECT SEMINAR UPDATES * ALL-AGE FAMILY ACTIVITIES
EXPLORE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES * TEA AND CAKE

TAKE A TOUR, DISCOVER MORE.

Baptist Church, which is led by BCM City Missionary, Francis Williamson. Testimony said, 'I volunteered at the Resource Centre to get some work experience. At the start I wasn't allowed on the vans as I was only 17 years old, but now I'm 18 I go out to do deliveries and pick-ups. When I'm not on the vans I pack food parcels. I'm learning real practical skills, and the Resource Centre is a fun environment with kind people.'

Each client referred to the Resource Centre's food bank receives one monthly parcel for up to 3 months, but stock is very low (apart from pasta!). **Can you help by donating items or holding a collection at your church or school?** The cost of living is hard for everyone, including those who donate, which means referrals are increasing and donations dropping. If you are able to give non-perishable food or toiletries, visit birminghamcitymission.org.uk/resource-centre to find out how. **Thank you.**



A challenging financial situation for the Mission

On 17th October at St Martin in the Bull Ring, we will be celebrating 60 years of Birmingham City Mission. 60 years of helping the people of our city. God has blessed and provided for our needs over the decades, and it has often been through the kindness and generosity of our faithful supporters.

Last financial year was historically our most difficult year ever.

Like many other charities, during the last two years we have faced increased costs due to government decisions. The last financial year was historically our most difficult year ever and after only two months of this year, things are very challenging.

We pray and seek God's blessing upon our work, and we also convey to our supporters our needs. As a supporter who receives our BCM Update, may I ask you to pray with us and, if you are able, to regularly support the Mission financially.

If you believe what we are doing is important, that is 'preaching the gospel and helping those in need,' and if you haven't done so already, please set up a standing order. You may only be able to give £10 or £20 a month but every gift will make a difference.

It is vitally important that we see our regular income increase.

If you are considering leaving a legacy to BCM in your will, ring our office on 0121 766 6603 (option 2) and ask for our legacy pack. Many people find great happiness in knowing that they are investing in the future work of the Mission.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Wes Erpen, Chief Executive



with speaker
PAUL MALLARD

Join us from 11am to chat to staff and discover more about our projects

- ★ worship
- ★ meet new staff
- ★ project updates
- ★ induction of new CEO



Precious moments

Kerria Court is a care home ElderLink visits regularly to deliver Christian services and activities to their residents who have dementia care needs. After one service I spoke to a man I have seen at least dozen times before. I had thought he was unable to engage with our services, apart from when we dance to music as this seems to spark his interest and he joins in. But this time he said to me, 'The Salvation Army used to do things like this in Scotland where I grew up.' He must have been hearing us all along and noticing a similar spiritual theme. The gentleman sitting beside him joined in, 'What you did was very good.' 'Praise God,' I said, and he responded, 'Amen, praise the Lord.' Usually many in the room are non-verbal, so we try to catch eyes and smile as we sing. Moments like these are precious. As we left a member of staff let us out. 'Thank you for coming,' she said. 'It was beautiful. It's so peaceful in there now.' The team left feeling encouraged that the Spirit had been at work.

Catherine Tresham, ElderLink Manager



Baking for BCM

A huge thanks to Jean Harborne, her family and friends and everyone who supported her Garden Party Take-Away Box fundraiser in June. As well as baking for dozens of cake boxes to take away, her garden filled with customers who came for a very special afternoon tea - all raising over £2,000 for the Mission.



The Man Who Changed The World

It was a joy for a team of BCM staff and interns working with local Christians to be back out presenting this excellent RE exhibition. Pupils from 4 primary schools visited the exhibition over 5 days at Kings Norton Baptist Church. More than 350 gospels of Luke and quiz sheets were taken home at the end of each 75-minute session. We were greatly encouraged when a boy returned later one morning announcing he had read the first two chapters of Luke. We trust the Lord for a lasting impact on these young lives.

Francis Williamson, BCM City Missionary

SUMMER'S PRAYER FOCUS

SUNDAY - CHILDREN'S TEAM

Please pray BCM's Junior Camp from 10th to 12th July is a fun, safe weekend, and for Children's Worker, Sarah Pitchford as she leads the teaching on Daniel, Jesus Calming the Storm and facing your fears. Pray too for a restful and refreshing summer break for the team.

MONDAY - VOLUNTEERS



BCM has around 110 regular volunteers, like Linda at the Care Centre (above) and Testimony (see *Destroyed socks and a bad blister* inside this BCM Update). Thank God for their hard work given freely, and please pray for more volunteers across our projects.

TUESDAY - ELDERLINK

Please pray that the befriending team are given many opportunities to offer words of real hope to our scheme members. Pray too for those planning our care home provision, that services would be dementia-friendly and be shared as widely as possible.

WEDNESDAY - YOUTH TEAM

Pray that students would be blessed by the lunch clubs, assemblies and lessons delivered by the team this term, and that summer camps and activities would be fun times with God at the heart.

THURSDAY - BCM SHOP

Thank God for new and regular customers, in particular those who have started going to church. Please pray for more eBay volunteers, and for staff, volunteers and customers to have a blessed summer.

FRIDAY - FINANCES

Please pray for BCM's challenging financial situation (see inside this BCM Update), that God would provide all that the Mission needs.

SATURDAY - CARE CENTRE

Pray for the police and medics dealing with the flow of dangerous drugs in our city. Pray for good candidates for the new Support Worker role being advertised. Pray too for Bible study groups starting in July, and for God's continued protection and provision.

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

birminghamcitymission.org.uk
Telephone: 0121 766 6603
Email: office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk

Mark 60 years of the Mission
and gather together for our

BCM BANQUET

Saturday 19th September
at 6pm for drinks, 7pm for food

at The Burlington
for a 3-course meal
with live music
comedian PAUL KARENZA
and speaker BOB TELFORD

Ticket: £60

Call 0121 766 6603 or email
office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk



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