

A reflection triggered by reading Joel B. Green in the book  
“Evolution and the Fall” (editors Cavanagh & Smith)  
Many thanks, Ted.

### What is sin?

If we say we have sinned we usually mean we have done something wrong, for which we sometimes need forgiveness. There’s a line of thought which says Jesus died so that everything we do wrong can be forgiven. But Jesus actually says that if I do anything which hurts someone else, “I” need to put it right; if necessary with the help of others. And if anyone wrongs me, I need to be ready to forgive them. It’s possibly not helpful to call this “sin”. The old fashioned version of The Lord’s Prayer calls that trespass (stamping on someone else’s feelings) – which is a sign of, but not the same thing as “sin”.

“Sin” is more like a condition which we all share, an inbuilt tendency to do what is contrary to God’s will – even when we know it is! Jesus lived and died to show us how we can be freed from that condition. As Paul the great apostle would probably put it, if we live in Christ, and if his Spirit (his way of living) shapes our lives, then we are set free from a past which was controlled by the power of sin, and free to live lives which honour God.

Paul knew that Christ didn’t always rule his life – or the lives of any Christians, but when we are trying to follow the way Jesus has shown, God’s grace is sufficient to compensate for our weaknesses. Ultimately God’s love is greater than the power of sin, but we always have the free-will to choose which kingdom we serve.

# PASTOR’S PEP TALK

## SACRED SONNETS

As I write this I am thinking of the future of the church. We have no church secretary and next year will once again see our diaconate reduced in size as folk take sabbaticals. The church exists as a place where believers can worship God together, where we can study and inform ourselves about the ways of God, where we can support each other in fellowship and where we can work together to forward the mission of Jesus Christ. But at the end of the day it I never our church but God's, and we simply put our trust in God to see us through choppy waters. I hope these two poems are an encouragement to do just that.

### October

#### Community of Followers

He sat, with friends, at table, all prepared  
for what lay ahead, and spoke of loving;  
loving one another, as he had loved,  
with vulnerability, and opening  
heart to heart, commending this way of life.  
The spirit of the Church was born that day,  
community of followers filled with faith;  
who found their Christ – companion on the way,  
bore witness to his full humanity.

Cont’d...

Together at the table, one in him,  
 may those who follow on such a church be,  
 and testify to what all might become,  
 when living, in the spirit of God's grace -  
 Christ-filled, becomes a transformed place.

### Community of love

The dream of a community of love,  
 where faith inspires acts of great adventure,  
 is but a fantasy Church undreamed of  
 by those of a more cynical bent, sure  
 in their grasp of reality. But wait,  
 behind the stumbling efforts of the boor,  
 the thoughtless, the unkind and the irate  
 can be seen the glimmer of hope for more.  
 For this our world can be transformed by faith  
 and love, and no matter how fallible  
 and imperfect we are, we are signed with  
 Christ's cross, in fellowship agreeable.  
 The Church is not an army conquering all,  
 but pilgrims rising from a nasty fall.

extend her imprisonment even further. Help get Nazanin home.

If you go onto the AI website, and click "Get involved", then "Take Action" you can find the current campaigns, which change regularly. If you click on the campaign that you feel you wish to support, you will find a readymade email or letter. All you have to do then is fill in your name and email address and click "Submit".

[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)



## *Flower Ministry for October 2018*

*Thank you to those who regularly  
 support this ministry*



<i>7th</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>ACT</i>
<i>14th</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Ron &amp; Jo Bentley</i>
<i>21st</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>E Syme</i>
<i>28th</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Church</i>

**Sue Moore - Co-ordinator**

# PRAYER PAGE FOR OCTOBER

## **BMS WORLD MISSION**

### **BMS Supporters**

Praise God for the Christians and churches who prayerfully and financially support BMS, making all our work possible (that includes you - thank you!) Pray that God would continue to encourage and inspire BMS Reps around the UK in their brilliant advocacy for BMS and our work.

### **Most Marginalised**

Chad is the world's third least developed country. Pray for BMS' crucial medical work, which is bringing life-saving care to many vulnerable people. In 2016, Mozambique ranked 181 out of 188 on the UN's Human Development Index. Pray for BMS work seeking to tackle the underlying causes of injustice and poverty.

### **Health**

Pray for Seeta and Tham who are BMS supported workers providing pastoral care to those recovering from illness and injury in Pokhara, Nepal. In developing regions, 14 women die in childbirth for everyone in the West. Pray for the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals on health.

### **Mozambique**

Pray for BMS country team leader Carlos, training churches and communities in project management and small business skills, with the Mozambican Baptist Convention (CBM). Pray for the small businesses supported through our Loans for Life project that beneficiaries' businesses flourish and they can repay their loans.

Call on Iran to free Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. Nazanin is a 39-year-old British-Iranian woman, who ordinarily lives with her husband and young daughter in London. She works for the Thomson Reuters Foundation, a UK-based media charity.

This has been used against her as evidence of 'membership of an illegal group', the charge that Nazanin was found guilty of at an unfair trial which saw her sentenced to five years in prison. She was arrested on 3 April 2016 at a Tehran airport, when she was about to board a plane home to the UK with her then one-year-old daughter, Gabriella. They had been on holiday in Iran visiting Nazanin's parents - a trip Nazanin had made many times before, without incident.

At the airport, they were stopped by Iran's Revolutionary Guard. Nazanin was taken into custody, without being told why, and Gabriella was given to her grandparents, who had accompanied them to the airport. Gabriella's UK passport was confiscated at the airport (she does not have an Iranian passport), though it has since been returned. When Nazanin was first detained, she wasn't told why. She was put in solitary confinement. She was held in solitary for 45 days, and could not speak to her family or a lawyer. Her family were not told the reasons for her imprisonment. Nazanin did not have a fair trial. She was only allowed access to a lawyer three days before her trial. In September 2016, Nazanin was sentenced to five years in prison for 'membership of an illegal group'. We have recently been told that she could face an additional charge, which would

## BAPTIST UNION

Please pray for the South Wales Baptist Association which exists to encourage the building and development of healthy churches and to enable them to assist each other in mission in their community, Wales and the world. The Association Day was held yesterday in Bethel Baptist Church, Pontyclun.

[www.southwalesbaptistassociation.org.uk](http://www.southwalesbaptistassociation.org.uk)

This week is Prisons Week. Pray for prisoners and their families, for prison staff and those who work in the criminal justice system, and for victims of crime and all those wounded by the actions of others.

[www.prisonsworld.org](http://www.prisonsworld.org)

The Baptist Steering Group meets seven times a year to implement the broad strategic direction of our Union, as discerned by Council. Please pray for the members of the group as they seek to inspire, support and facilitate local churches in their mission.

[www.baptist.org.uk/baptiststeeringgroup](http://www.baptist.org.uk/baptiststeeringgroup)

This Sunday is Bible Sunday. Please pray that the Bible will be brought to life in all places across the world.

[www.biblesociety.org.uk/biblesunday](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/biblesunday)

## NORTHAMPTON FORUM

**Aldwincle Baptist Church.** Although we remain a small congregation, usually 3-6 of us for our weekly service, the Lord continues to bless us with both the enthusiasm and finances to continue our work in His service. Some of the members of the Village Voices Choir, which rehearses in the church, join us for our quarterly Songs of Praise service



Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who take injustice personally. They are campaigning for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

Current campaign information can be found on the Amnesty International website. You can show support by sending emails, or writing letters. This really does make a difference.

Call on Microsoft to investigate child labour claims. Amnesty investigators have uncovered terrible exploitation of children in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Children as young as seven are mining cobalt, toiling in dangerous conditions for the rare metal that's a crucial component in our laptops and mobile phones. It's backbreaking work. For 12 hours a day they lug huge, heavy sacks, breathing in toxic dust. They have no protection for their young bodies - no gloves and no mask. Corporations are required by UN standards to identify and prevent adverse impacts on human rights. This means they must disclose what they're doing to make sure child labour isn't being used anywhere in their cobalt supply chain. Microsoft must also remedy any harm caused to people whose human rights have been abused. Tell Microsoft to investigate its supply chain for child labour now.

and performed for us at our Harvest Festival. May the Lord continue to bless you all in your own walk in His service.

**Blisworth Baptist Church - Pastor: Mr Keith Barker**

We give thanks for slow but continued growth in grace and in numbers. We pray that we will continue and grow in our witness, with the Parish Church, that we might see many in the village come to know the living Saviour and Lord. Please also pray for our Assistant Pastor, Lee, as he learns to serve the family here and supports our Pastor.

**Braybrooke Baptist Church.** We pray for young supporters to help us and lighten the load organising our three well attended special services. As two elderly members we're encouraged by the villagers' and friends' continued support by attending our special services. Without our friend the retired Rev David Gamston and villager friend Alison Riches, a Multi- faith minister, these services would not take place.

**Broughton Baptist Church.** Please remember us in prayer as we go through the process of seeking a full time minister. We ask for patience as we look for the right person; strength and encouragement for all who are involved in the work of our busy church; wisdom and insight for those in positions of leadership, especially those involved in organising and running the work with the young people. We pray that our enthusiasm and witness will be constantly replenished and inspired through the reality of God's presence amongst us so that in all that we do, the honour and glory will go to Him.

**BETHANY HOMESTEAD**

KINGSLEY ROAD - NN2 7BP

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\* The EU has pledged to contribute £4 for every £1 raised!





# The Baptist Missionary Society

## Find out more on [www.bmsworldmission.org](http://www.bmsworldmission.org) **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS 2018**

On behalf of everyone at The Abbey Centre, I would like to wish the following members of the BMS Birthday Scheme a very happy birthday:-

Ron Bentley	Oct. 7th
Harvey Illing	Oct. 28th
Lewis Biddulph	Oct. 31st

Lewis will celebrate his 17th birthday this month.

If your birthday is in October, or any other month, why not celebrate it through the BMS Birthday Scheme? See me anytime for details.

Please can you let me have your BMS globes/boxes, donations or any outstanding birthday money by the 14th of October.

Did you know that there is help for you to pray for the BMS every day?

Go to <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/prayerguide>.

Claire Bedford's latest blog says:

The air is relatively dust-free. There's very little mud on the ground. I am wearing multiple layers of clothing. I am eating exciting things like bacon, cheese and berries. This can only mean one thing: I am no longer in Chad!

I landed back in the UK a little under two weeks ago to start a two-month period of home assignment. I am enjoying not sweating and catching up with friends and family who I've not seen in over a year. I have started my home assignment Church visits. You can find these on Claire's blog:

<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/a-change-of-scene>

Dee Hale

## Good Life Recipe

4lb Love

1lb Butter of youth

1/2lb Good Looks

1lb Sweet Temper

1lb Blindness to Faults

1lb Self forgetfulness

1lb of pounded wit

1lb Good Humour

2 tablespoon. of sweet argument

1 pint rippling laughter

1 wine glass of common sense

1oz Modesty

Put the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well furnished house. Beat the butter of youth to a cream , and mix well together with the blindness of faults. Stir the pounded wit and good humour into the sweet argument, then add the rippling laughter and common sense. Work the whole lot together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently.

Barbara.

