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# Prayer Letter

## May 2020

Mark 6v23-26

“Herod vowed to her, ‘Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom.’  
 And ... she asked, saying, ‘I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.’  
 And the king was exceedingly sorry.”

These verses don't really have anything to do with prayer! However, when we look at the famous Eph 3:20 (“to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think”), we can contrast what a loving God can do and what any human (even a powerful ruler) can do. Herod seems to offer much but there is still a limit (“half of my kingdom”) but God's goodness knows no bounds. The Lord offers much, much more than we can possibly imagine. Then Herod is in despair as he fulfils the wish of Herodias's daughter, but our God delights in giving to us. He rejoices over us with gladness.

### UBM Evangelism This Summer



We will very much miss having opportunity to have 2020 Team photos like this! Although we have said we could reinstate missions if, and only if it is appropriate, the reality is that this is very unlikely (certainly for beach work). Maybe some Christian Answer missions could be rescheduled for later in the year. However, we are beginning to make plans as to what we can do (low cost) online in the areas of evangelism, training and fellowship. More detail to come in due course but we already have various platforms we could use (YouTube channels, FaceBook pages). **Please pray:**

**SUNDAY**  
prayer points

- for creative and easy to implement ideas that will reach many families who we might've met this summer.
- that team members will have opportunity to reconnect with people they have met in previous years.
- that it will give another opportunity for engagement with families who do Postal Bible Club.
- **Give thanks** that we have had positive interaction with local councils as we have been in touch with them recently. **Pray that** these will cement relationships going forward.

PS. If you do FaceBook, it would help if you are able to like [www.facebook.com/beachteampage/](http://www.facebook.com/beachteampage/) and [www.facebook.com/thechristiananswer/](http://www.facebook.com/thechristiananswer/) and any of our centre specific ones (eg /TheBeachTeamCarbisBay/).

### Staff



In this picture (l-r) we have Ulwyn (Belfast - p/t), Richard (Billinghay - p/t), Tirzah (Bridgend - f/t), Paula (Stoke - p/t), Marion (Belfast - p/t) and Tim (Clevedon - f/t). Hugh (Belfast - p/t) is not pictured. **Please pray for:**

**MONDAY**  
prayer points

- Tirzah, Ulwyn, Marion and Richard as they are furloughed until the end of June.
- Tim as he is given 3 weeks sabbatical/furlough from May 8<sup>th</sup> (back on June 1<sup>st</sup>).
- Paula as she carries on with the administration of Postal Bible Club. There have

been some necessary changes to how lessons are sent and marked because of coronavirus.

- Hugh as he progresses the required work needed to ensure legal compliance for Irish missions.

PS In effect the UBM office will be closed from May 8<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. We will only deal with urgent things.

### Executive Committee



The Executive Committee (the trustees) are meeting on a regular basis to discuss the implications of Covid-19.

Since a) we have no missions this year and b) life will be impacted for some years to come, it gives 'Exec' a real opportunity to think about all things UBM strategically, tactically and operationally. **Please pray for:**

**TUESDAY**  
prayer points

- the Executive Committee of Steve Taylor (chairman), Steve Wright, Dave Ainscough, Jason Duffin, Dave Norbury, Dave Johnson, Alan Mitchell.

- the 'Exec' as they take this time that the Lord has given, to think about the work of UBM for the future.

- The Irish Management Group and the English and Welsh Management Group as they also meet to plan.

In association with Young Life (NYLC)

United Beach Mission Trust is a registered charity (no: 273912)

## Follow Up



It has been thrilling to have had several requests for literature in the last month through our evangelistic websites. One was from a person who met the team in Leysdown. It was also great to hear that a team member had invited people he had met through UBM missions to an evangelistic Bible study, resulting in some real good questions being asked. As has already been mentioned the work of Postal Bible Club continues. Even today (May 4<sup>th</sup>) we have had 3 more children apply for it. **Please pray for:**

- Paula as she administers the PBC and **pray for** the extra children who have requested to join PBC.
- those who have requested literature. **Pray** they would read what has been sent and put their trust in Him.
- team members who are taking the opportunity of coronavirus to send things to people they met last year.

# WEDNESDAY

prayer points

## Ireland



The 16 weeks of mission in Ireland aren't happening (obviously) but other things are! Without going into the technical detail, we need to set up a new Trust (or more likely a company limited by guarantee). A lot of work has been done but there is still plenty to do. **Please pray for:**

- Hugh Martin as he leads on this piece of work. The next main step is to complete a comprehensive questionnaire for the solicitors.
- the new set of trustees/directors (Ian Kennedy, Gordon Liston, Alan Mitchell, JP Walsh, Steve Wright). Tim Howlett and Hugh Martin will be involved as UBM staff.
- wisdom in knowing how things will work operationally as, although there will be two legal entities, we want to appear as one work operationally and in ethos.
- wisdom in knowing when to reschedule any 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

# THURSDAY

prayer points

## Reunions



At this time of year we would be fairly well-advanced in our planning of the UBM reunion held in Cefn Lea (currently planned for 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September). We had got to the stage of finalising the main programme (including speakers). Planning for the Irish reunion would have started too. We plan to make a decision in a month's time as to whether these go ahead or not. **Please pray for:**

- wisdom in knowing what to do (although quite possibly the decision might be taken out of our hands).
- the planning team who are beginning to think if an online alternative is possible (although it wouldn't be a whole weekend).
- Christian conference centres, like Cefn Lea, which are massively impacted by the coronavirus crisis.

# FRIDAY

prayer points

## Miscellaneous



As mentioned in the last prayer letter, we have many friends who are also facing challenges of Covid-19. Do continue to **pray for them** (camps, 10offhose, Young Life, missionary organisations). Another of our partners is Christian Safeguarding services who are now able to provide online training on safeguarding issues. They come with our hearty recommendation – see <https://christiansafeguardingservices.phasic-ltd.co.uk>.

There are other many assorted items for which we would value **prayer**. Here are some:-

- Christian Safeguarding Services and the vital work they do in supporting churches and organisations.
- Other organisations whose summers have been hugely impacted by the coronavirus.
- A technical issue that needs to be resolved on our online system before it becomes major!
- The production of Welsh and Urdu versions of the Key to life leaflet (and reprinting of the Italian and German versions). This is slightly on hold – but they are all ready to go to print.
- Engagement with new churches and new team members would not lose momentum by having no missions this year.
- Host churches at places where we operate. Some of them will keenly feel the absence of UBM this year!

# SATURDAY

prayer points