

Prayer needs from Cambridge Barnabas group meeting 20/7/2015. Much is written in the form of news update - it's assumed you can work out what needs praying for ! Apologies to anybody I've misrecorded, whether due to bad memory, poor hearing, or failing to take adequate notes.

Gary: Life is dominated by practical issues of looking after his mum, who is not even eating properly without help. (Her 7-day ECG recording showed "minor irregularities only". Echocardiogram showed a thickened aortic valve.) Gary is getting no free time to himself, or to see friends or go away. Prayer for this situation would be appreciated. School is now on summer holidays until 1/9/2015.

Tim: His parents are likewise problematic, though mainly being looked after by one of his two brothers who lives where they do in Nottingham; the other brother, like Tim, lives a 2-hour journey away. The insurance paid up Â£2.5k to cover the accident mentioned last time - thanks for that. Lots of people are retiring from work at the moment, despite not being really "old enough" to, because they can't stand the stress of teaching any more, and he will need to replace them.

Marion: Led the funeral of her friend she'd been caring for last time, which went well (though bizarrely - relatives chose the theme of Match of the Day to exit to !). All her family came to the funeral, and found it strange that Marion rather than Dirk was speaking. Joshua has been up and down - particularly bad time last week, when she arranged for him to be seen as an emergency in clinic. However, they said that as he wasn't immediately suicidal, there wasn't anything they could do until an appropriate therapist became available, which wouldn't be till December at the earliest - and suggested she pay and go privately, which all present thought was pretty awful. A particular issue is school, who have recommended he retake the year (year 10, first of two years preparing for GCSE). Joshua doesn't want to retake the year because he can't cope with the idea of changing the bunch of peers he is with - but it seems pretty unlikely that he will be fit to start on the next year by September with one whole year having been missed. He also doesn't want to change school. Elizabeth has just turned 18 and suddenly smelled "freedom" - in this case to go to night-clubs and the like. One night she got attacked in the street by a man, but managed to get away and avoid being raped, which appeared to be his intent.

Peter: Health problems - prostatic hypertrophy and UTI, ? prostatitis, near-normal PSA, started tamsulosin with good effect, waiting to see a urologist. Daughter (Joanna) is now going through divorce proceedings and looking for a job. Matthew is in steady state, and actually seems to abhor the idea of pursuing a gay lifestyle despite not currently calling himself a Christian, and continues to be in good contact with his friend Stephen who has returned to God. Barbara would like Joanna to come back to live at home (but Joanna would prefer to stay in Durham).

Anbesan: Thanks for a good term now nearly finished, and for the CMF group, which has been running a course on ethical issues. Pray for James, a militant atheist who frequently challenges him. He is going on an ICMDA camp in Western Ukraine during the upcoming summer break. Thanks for his mum's work, which is going well. Samayesin, his brother (possibly spelled wrong), has graduated and is working for Sainsbury's in Chester (last time had shown signs of returning to faith after some time away).

Chris: Thanks for the ongoing sales of houses in Rwanda and Histon (or maybe Impington, I'm never sure of the difference). Also ongoing are his attempts to buy a house to live in (and move out from mum's house) - latest attempt has fallen through because of time Chris would need before being able to complete. A non-Christian single mother (D) who works for him (and is 15 years younger) has made it very clear to him that she fancies him - and has been coming to Chris's church recently, and plans to come regularly with her 6-year-old. Chris has made it clear that he's not interested, both because she isn't a Christian and because he doesn't know her well enough to trust her. She's been with a lot of men in the past. Chris would, however, like to get to the point of finding a girl-friend, but not her.

Roger: Thanks that colonoscopy found no serious pathologies, only "curiosity" level differences from normal anatomy. Prayer requested for two friends. D1 is somebody we've known for 40 years, now in his mid-40s, who in the last few days has discovered he's got stomach cancer (which has a very low 5-year survival rate). As yet he doesn't even know whether it's sufficiently early to be worth operating on. He's apparently been a Christian in the past, but 20 years ago quit the faith. Nonetheless he's an incredibly nice guy. He has two children under 3, and his wife is also facing a difficult time. D2 is a friend from undergraduate days who fell off a mountain 1 year ago, and remains in hospital, with severe neurological impairment. Currently at the Royal Hospital for Neurodisability in London, which is a lovely place, but takes hours for his wife to go and visit him. Not clear whether the NHS will continue to provide funding for him, which is a problem as it is patently impossible for his wife to look after him at home.

Apologies for my failing to manage the time of the meeting adequately - there were so few people there at the start time that I felt somewhat relieved that I wouldn't have to be moving people on all the time, and then as more people arrived failed to change mode.

It would really help if everybody could arrive on time !