

## Richard's Ramble:

At present, we are all trying to come to terms with the new 'normal'. However, the problem is that what is 'normal' changes from day to day, and yesterday's recommendations become today's restrictions. In terms of isolation, Carolyn and I are two weeks ahead of most people and we can say that it is not easy, but very necessary. As humans, we need human contact for our wellbeing and so being isolated is not easy. We are social animals who thrive when we are together (or at least some of us do - others of us would quite happily live in a monastery as long as we had enough books to read, but that is another story...). Connecting on-line goes some way towards filling the gap but there is no substitute for physical contact. That is why handshakes and hugs are normally so important. One thing I take reassurance from is the fact that it will be time limited. There is not doubt that the next few weeks will be difficult but normality of a kind will return at some stage. One thing we must all remember is that God is still God and that he is still with us. In Hebrews 13:5, we have the promise that "I will never leave you nor forsake you". He will not abandon his children but, rather, will be with them through the deepest darkest valley. During this time, use social media and telephones to stay connected. Also, use prayer to stay connected to the one who loves us the most.

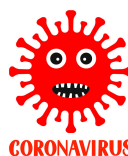
God Bless, Richard



## Restoration Centre

Support - 07917221896.

If you need a friendly phone call, shopping, prayer or simply want to see a friendly face via an app, then just leave a message on 07917221896 and one of our friendly team of volunteers from BCC are ready to help. You are not alone...in the words of Sister Sledge "We-are-fam-il-y-y-y".  
Andrew and Maxine



No calendar of events this month due to the current restrictions on meetings. Any alterations please be assured that you will be notified. **PRAY SAFE-STAY SAFE.**

## KNOWN FEB 2020

Hello everyone.

Encouraging update from the University of Birmingham Christian Union **KNOWN** event week 3rd-7th Feb which we asked you to pray for. Approximately 2000 people heard the gospel during the course of the week. 38 people responded saying they wanted to meet with members of the CU to chat or read Uncover Mark. 72 people expressed interest in finding out more about future CU events. We have heard some amazing stories coming out of the week as we follow-up with those who are interested. I have the joy of meeting up with someone who is interested in Christianity, we've had amazing chats and we are reading the book of Mark together!!! Thank you all for your prayers and please continue to pray for those people who came.

Sara



The current situation of COVID-19, highlighted by the W.H.O.'s announcement of the designation of COVID-19 as a pandemic and the increasing travel restrictions applied by several countries, have made it increasingly difficult for Mercy Ships to continue to carry out its programs to the required standards, while protecting against the possible spread of the virus.

Therefore, in line with the measures taken by the President of Senegal with the Ministry of Health, Mercy Ships has reviewed the activities associated with the *Africa Mercy* and has decided to wind down the programmatic operations of our mission in Senegal. The main concerns of Mercy Ships are the health of the Senegalese people and the safety and well-being of our own volunteers, crew and staff worldwide. While we regret these measures, we are convinced that they are necessary for the safety and well-being of all concerned. As we face these challenging events, we would like to thank you for your ongoing prayers and support to Mercy Ships and our mission to bring hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor.

I remain committed to working with Mercy Ships in the future. If anyone is interested in finding out more or even volunteering then I am very happy to chat or put them in contact with the UK volunteer co-ordinator.

I would like to thank anyone who donated and tried guessing the name of the bear, now called Nelson. I will be forwarding a cheque for £200 to Mercy Ships this weekend.

Janette

