

Jonathan Edwards
Prayer Diary – February 2012

Wednesday 1	Home Mission Network Meeting at Baptist House
Thursday 2	Ministry Executive
Friday 3	Induction Meeting with Stephen Keyworth, Head of Faith & Unity
Saturday 4	<i>day off</i>
Sunday 5	Preaching at Cosham Baptist Church, Portsmouth – morning & evening
Monday	Induction Meeting with Mike Fegredo, a new regional minister in the East Midlands Association Afternoon – Futures Steering Group at Bristol Baptist College
Tuesday 7	Prospects lunch at the Athenaeum, Pall Mall (Prospects is a charity that works with people with learning disabilities) Service of Reconciliation, Healing of Memories and Mutual Commitment for the Church of England and the United Reformed Church, Westminster Abbey
Wednesday 8	Induction Meeting with new BUGB staff – Tracey Vallenge (Mission); and Paul Hobson and Alex Baker (Communications ... former employees of the Baptist Times) Meeting with Richard Nicholls, General Manager
Thursday 9	BUGB Trustee Board Futures Group
Friday 10	Senior Management Team Agenda Committee Thanksgiving Service for the Baptist Times
Saturday 11	<i>day off</i>
Sunday 12	Preaching at Newark Baptist Church – morning & evening
Monday 13	Free Church Directors' Meeting in London
Tuesday 14	Phone call to Tony Campolo re Assembly
Wednesday 16	Half Term holiday
Thursday 15	Half Term holiday
Friday 16	<i>day off</i> ... travelling up to Yorkshire
Saturday 18	Induction of Graham Ensor as Team Leader for the Yorkshire Baptist Association
Sunday 19	Worshipping at Newbury Baptist
Monday 20	Meeting with Ministerial Students at Regent's Park College
Tuesday 21	Joint Consultative Committee of Baptists in Wales, Cardiff

Wednesday 22	Leading Staff prayers at Baptist House Coffee with Baptist Union staff Denominational General Secretaries meeting, Methodist House, London
Thursday 23	Meetings at Baptist House
Friday 24	Senior Management Team (& Tithe Fund) Evening celebration at Leigh Road Baptist Church to mark the completion of the refurbishment (Leigh Road is my home church where my parents are still in membership)
Saturday 25	<i>day off</i>
Sunday 26	Preaching at Bretton Baptist Church, Peterborough – morning & evening
Monday 27	Farewell meal for Dr Rosemary Kidd who used to work in the Faith and Unity Department
Tuesday 28	Induction Meetings with two new Team Leaders, Geoff Andrews (London) and Graham Ensor (Yorkshire) Team Leaders' Meeting
Wednesday 29	Baptist Leaders' Team Futures Group meeting
Thursday 1 MARCH	Fly to Washington DC for BWA Executive meetings
Thursday 8 MARCH	Return from Washington

VISIT TO INDIA – Bethany and I had a superb nine day visit to Kerala. I had the privilege of meeting many old friends, speaking at five different gatherings and travelling to many beautiful parts of the State. And Bethany would want me to add that we also had a half hour ride on an elephant. This is the sort of thing that everyone ought to do once. Twice would be quite unnecessary! Some of you may know that we had a horrific last minute scramble to get hold of our visas and, until the afternoon before our departure, we weren't sure that we would be able to go at all. In India, we were wonderfully looked after by our friends Sugu and Jaya Chandy, and were fascinated to see the clear evidence of India's economic progress.

BAPTIST FUTURES CONVERSATIONS – I am so grateful for all the messages of support that I have received. This is a very challenging time and we all need a lot of prayer and support. However, amidst the obvious difficulties, we are all keen to see this as a time of opportunity. When funds are abundant there is always a tendency to keep the status quo going. However, a time like this forces us to ask all sorts of excellent questions about the nature of our mission and the most effective way of serving the Lord at this time. The online survey which was launched in order to get people's ideas for the future has received over 1,600 responses and I find that enormously encouraging. Please pray that the meetings of the Futures Steering Group and Futures Group (which draws together about forty people) will know the liberty, strength and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Please also praise God that the final total for Home Mission giving in 2011 exceeded £4 million and that the deficit for the year was very much less than we had feared. This outcome doesn't diminish the need to take clear action, but we certainly need to give thanks for the generosity of the denomination.

I am conscious that these are difficult times for many people at the moment and I pray that you will know God's peace and blessing in all that you do.

With warmest greetings, Jonathan