

Prayer Letter January 2025



United Beach Missions
Waterton Cross Business Park
South Road, Bridgend, CF31 3UL
0113 230 4362
office@ubm.org.uk
www.ubm.org.uk



New Year message from Tim Howlett, UBM Chairman

Dear friends,

'I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things.' Isaiah 45:5-7

Firstly, let me wish you a very happy 2025. Being a mathematician, I do like the fact that 2025 is 45 squared!! Maybe that made me think of chapters 45 in the Bible. They are all good (obviously) but Isaiah 45 has so much to encourage us to face the year ahead with confidence. Rather than try and tackle the whole chapter, here are three truths on which to meditate:

God's concern for his glory: God wants people to know that there is no other besides Him. This should be our motivation in Gospel work. People exchange the glory of God for other things (Romans 1) and Herod was struck down because he did not give God the glory! (Acts 12).

God's control over governments: It is incredible that Cyrus is mentioned (v1) many years before he was born. The Babylonian empire fell and was replaced by Persia. Under King Cyrus, the first Jews returned to Jerusalem. God is in control.

God's 'condition' of grace: In v22 we read "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." It links to the first point (God's glory) but it is the simple gospel message for all people that God provides salvation. The only 'condition' is that we turn to Him.

We look To God for 2025 knowing he is in control, wanting people to see his glory and seeing them turning to him.

Looking back on 2024

Mission Opportunity: It is always encouraging to reflect on how much opportunity we are able to take each year (70 weeks of mission). Having been just short of 1000 worker weeks in 2023, we were just above that in 2024. Having said that, the total number of volunteers was down (708 compared to 740 in 2023). Team members came from 340 different churches and it is a joy to have so many church leaders enthused to send their folk on teams. As well as our 'usual' centres we were able to go, for the first time, to Polzeath in Cornwall.

Discipleship: As well as the missional aspect of teams, we are encouraged that many team members see their week(s) on mission as being helpful in their Christian growth. For some it might be the opportunity to share their faith publicly for the first time; for others it could be a renewed excitement for the Bible.

Fellowship: Meeting Christians for the first time and serving together is a privilege. As well as teams, we have various events. These include our training days and the two reunion conferences (Newtown, Wales and Belfast). These conferences are open to any UBM supporter. Why not plan to come this year (5th-7th Sep in Newtown and 12th-13th Sep in Belfast)?

Personnel: James continues to grow in the role of Executive Officer, knowing that there are still things to become familiar with but, having looked after two summers of UBM now, these are getting fewer! Tirzah continues as Administration Officer and Ulwyn looks after the UBM administrative function in Ireland. Andrew has the privilege of being our Postal Bible Club coordinator and Hugh does ad hoc work for Irish UBM. We are grateful for the many volunteers who serve in many (often unseen) capacities. This includes Alan Wells who is the designated UBM treasurer.

Looking forward to 2025

There is much to be excited about for the coming year BUT we look to the Lord to help us. As usual, we continue to look at various aspects of the work (mission development, follow up, training, etc) to see what we can do better and ensure we are not 'dropping the ball' in any key area. Specifically, here are some things for this coming year:

Recruitment and retention: This should always be on our radar, but would you pray with us in seeing an increase of first timers and those coming back? It might be that you are able to arrange for someone to come and share about the work of UBM at your church. If so, please contact the office.

Strategy: the Executive committee (and the Management Groups) meet regularly. Pray that the most strategic topics that need discussion would be prioritised.

50 years!: St Ives UBM and Ballybunion UBM both started in 1975. It might be that we can use the 50th anniversary to create Gospel opportunities. Also, we really need to redevelop the house at St Ives. Please pray that funds would come in for this.

Week of prayer: This is scheduled for Feb 23rd – Mar 1st. If you want any more information, please ask.

With very best wishes in our Lord Jesus Christ and grateful thanks for all your support,

(Tim Howlett)

In association with Young Life (NYLC)
United Beach Mission Trust is a registered charity (no: 273912)

In addition to Tim's New Year's letter can I add my own new year's greetings. We hope that 2025 will be both a blessing and encouragement to you. A few additional points to bear in mind for 2025:

- We hold a monthly **online prayer meeting** on Zoom, usually the second Thursday of the month. (details below)
- Could you host a prayer meeting during our Week of Prayer (23/02-01/03)?
- We share daily prayer points on **PrayerMate!** You can download PrayerMate on your phone or visit <http://praynow4.org/unitedbeachmissions>
- Follow us on Facebook, X or Instagram. We try to post regularly post on **social media** and our posts can often be turned into prayer points.



PRAYING
for UBM

James Lycett (UBM Executive Officer)

We will return to a **full prayer letter** in February but here are a few prayer points for January.

SUNDAY
prayer points

MONDAY
prayer points

TUESDAY
prayer points

WEDNESDAY
prayer points

THURSDAY
prayer points

FRIDAY
prayer points

SATURDAY
prayer points

OUR MISSIONS AND THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF OUR WORK

Please pray for our Management Groups, Team Leaders, Seniors, Team Members and plans for the different work in UBM: **1) Christian Answer Missions. 2) English and Welsh Missions. 3) Irish Missions. 4) MV and Avancer Missions. 5) International Student Outreach weeks.**

2025 MISSIONS AND DATES

- 1) Finalisation of dates for some missions in 2025.
- 2) Good relationships with host churches and councils.
- 3) Our centre development teams as they plan for the year ahead.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- 1) The main January recruitment mailing.
- 2) New opportunities to promote UBM in churches, CUs, at conferences etc.
- 3) The effective use of the printed literature and online material.
- 4) That those who joined us in 2024 will return and bring friends.

LEADERSHIP

- 1) For co-leadership across all our 2025 missions and that we will be able to assign leaders to all weeks early in the year.
- 2) Those who will be leading teams for the first time in 2025.
- 3) The ongoing work of training and identifying future leaders.
- 4) For our Assistant Team Leaders and Leadership Team Members.

POSTAL BIBLE CLUB

- 1) The children who regularly return the activity sheets.
- 2) Those who take part who aren't from a Christian home.
- 3) Those who are signed up but aren't currently active.
- 4) Those who faithfully mark lessons and build relationships.
- 5) Andrew as our PBC administrator.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1) 8/02 – MV Day (Coventry).
- 2) 23/02 – 01/03 UBM Week of Prayer
- 3) 24/03 – Advisory Committee Meeting (online)
- 4) 10/05 – Leaders and Senior's Day

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1) The UBM staff (James, Tirzah, Andrew, Ulwyn, and Hugh)
- 2) New opportunities, as well as developing our existing missions.
- 3) New team members and links to new churches.
- 4) That the Gospel will be clearly proclaimed in 2025!



POSTAL BIBLE CLUB



**MISCE-
LANEOUS**

On **Thursday 9th January** there will be a short prayer meeting (on Zoom) from **8:30am to 9:00am.**

The login details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83470410489?pwd=WjZqZU5vcGhJVWpHVFAwLy9vMnhjQT09>

Meeting ID: **834 7041 0489**

Passcode: **UBMprayer**