



Blythswood



WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE 2026

DAY OF PRAYER

**60 MINUTES TO GIVE THANKS
FOR 60 YEARS OF BLYTHSWOOD**

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WHY A DAY OF PRAYER?

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
(Colossians 4:2)

Is prayer something to be postponed for a more convenient time — when our diaries are less busy, circumstances are easier, or we feel a little closer to God? If that's your attitude to prayer, you're not alone. Yet Paul's words in Colossians about the importance of persevering in prayer were written while his own circumstances were far from ideal. Under house arrest, Paul still recognised the necessity of a life marked by continual prayer. Such prayer is not reserved for the spiritually elite or for those with nothing better to do; it is for all who trust in Jesus.

Alistair Begg says:

"Lest we fool ourselves into thinking that prayer is simply a nice treat once we get around to it, the calls to continual prayer alert us to just how essential an activity it is. Prayer is not optional; it is vital. Prayer is not an item to check off our to-do list, as though five minutes in the morning will cover us for the rest of the day. It is impossible for anyone to enjoy an intimate relationship with God without walking through their day, and the circumstances it brings, in an attitude of prayer."

It is 60 years since Blythswood's work began, but why set aside a day to pray about it? Would that time not be better spent making strategic plans or seeking needed funds? While planning and fundraising are certainly needed, prayer remains essential to all that Blythswood has done — and all that it will do. It is not merely an important part of the work; it is vital to every part.

For our 2026 Day of Prayer, we invite you to set aside 60 minutes to give thanks for 60 years of Blythswood. You may choose to do this on your own, with your family, with friends, or as part of your church prayer meeting. The 60 minutes can be taken all at once or spread throughout the day. This booklet offers a glimpse into 60 years of Blythswood's work and provides guidance to help you pray. Will you join others around the world in giving thanks for 60 years of Blythswood?



BLYTHSWOOD'S BEGINNINGS BLYTHSWOOD IN THE 1960s-1970s

Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.
(Psalm 119:90)

A VOICE FROM THE JOURNEY:

Angus Mackintosh was a member of St Jude's Free Presbyterian Church in the 1960s and was a keen supporter of Blythswood's work from the very beginning. This prayerful and practical support continued through the generations of Angus and Anne's family, with their daughters and grandchildren active supporters of the work throughout the year. Their daughter, **Flora Hymers**, asks us to give thanks that 60 years after the work began, some of the same gospel tracts printed then are still being produced today and distributed both in the UK and overseas. Pray that the gospel message, which was central to the work from the very start, will continue to guide Blythswood's work, change lives, and bear fruit for generations to come.

FOR PRAYER:

- Jackie (John Walter) Ross, Donald Ross, Ian Tallach and John Tallach led the work of the Blythswood Tract Society in its earliest days. May we continue the work they began, not in our own strength but in the Lord's.
- Give thanks for the hearts and lives changed forever through the Christian literature shared from Blythswood's earliest days — from gospel tracts to Christian bookshops, book vans, and Bibles sent overseas. Pray that in the years ahead, many more will encounter Jesus through Blythswood's work.
- Not every season has been easy over the past 60 years. We give thanks today for God's grace in sustaining Blythswood's work through the difficult days. We can trust Him with the days ahead.



CHRISTIAN CARE FOR BODY AND SOUL BLYTHSWOOD IN THE 1980s-1990s

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

(1 John 3:18)

A VOICE FROM THE JOURNEY:

Mike Ogborne was formerly Blythswood's chaplain, but his involvement in Blythswood began much earlier, when in 1992 he drove a lorry to Romania. He shares:

"It was just two years after the revolution and passing through the border into Romania was like entering another world. It has been a privilege to work with Blythswood and to witness the difference made to people's lives. In my latter years of visiting Romania, I attended a youth camp each summer, with young people now facing this new world, allowing them lifestyle choices that their parents never had, along with, in many cases, the ability to travel beyond their own boundaries. Please pray that the young people are not drawn away by the attractions of the modern world, but continue to walk with Jesus."

FOR PRAYER:

- Sending out loads of aid was an important part of Blythswood's ministry for nearly 30 years. Give thanks for the lives impacted for good through the practical support sent from the UK overseas at times of disaster and crisis.
- 300 gift-filled boxes were sent to children in Romanian orphanages in 1993. Praise the Lord that in His strength, through the kindness of supporters, more than 2.9 million shoeboxes have been delivered to people in need since our Appeal began.
- Blythswood's mission statement for many years included the words 'Christian care for body and soul'. Give thanks for the continued mission of Blythswood to care for practical and spiritual needs as we seek to see lives changed for good and forever.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS BLYTHSWOOD IN THE 2000s-2010s

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

A VOICE FROM THE JOURNEY:

James Campbell was Blythswood's Chief Executive from 1998 to 2024. The verses above meant a lot to him through this time. He shares:

"It was an enormous privilege to lead Blythswood Care for 26 years. I had the pleasure of meeting and working alongside some truly remarkable people of prayer — staff, volunteers and partners from Africa, Asia and Europe. Throughout all of this time, I was keenly aware of the Lord's leading and guidance and His faithfulness in so many different ways."

FOR PRAYER:

- Praise God for the partners in Africa, Asia and Europe who have shared the journey, whether for a short time, or many years, and the unique ways each has contributed to Blythswood's mission.
- We give thanks to God for His unseen hand of protection over Blythswood across the past 60 years — for dangers avoided, doors opened (and closed) and guidance given in ways we may never fully realise.
- It began in the 1960s with serving the homeless in Glasgow, then grew into sending aid across many nations. Through this work, lasting friendships were formed and meaningful partnerships established. As Blythswood enter a new season for partnerships, we pray for God's wisdom, direction, and guidance for the path ahead.



THE RECENT JOURNEY BLYTHSWOOD IN THE 2020s-TODAY

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

(Philippians 4:6)

A VOICE FROM THE JOURNEY:

John Tallach has been part of Blythswood's work almost from the very beginning. He shares:
"R. T. Kendall was once preaching in Westminster Chapel, London, on Philippians 4:6. Suddenly, he was struck in a new way by the words in his text 'with thanksgiving'. He was convicted of the sin of ingratitude. As a result, from the very next morning, he began each day by going over every reason for gratitude to God from the events of the previous 24 hours. As we look back over sixty years since Blythswood was first set up, may we also do so with thanksgiving".

FOR PRAYER:

- In 2020, as much of the world entered lockdown, we did not know what impact it would have on Blythswood's work. Yet that winter we were thankful to send more than 75,000 shoeboxes to people in need. We praise God that, time and again, His faithful hand of provision has been clearly seen.
- Blythswood has provided support to those affected by war in many places including Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Balkans, and now Ukraine. We give thanks for the faithful supporters who have given what they can to bring help in times of crisis. Pray that God will turn war into lasting peace.
- Over 60 years, much has changed. We have moved from pen and paper to typewriters, to computers. Some changes have brought clear benefits, others have presented real challenges. Yet through every season, give thanks God remains the same.

GOING FORWARD IN FAITH BLYTHSWOOD IN THE FUTURE

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

(Lamentations 3:21-24)

A VOICE FROM THE JOURNEY:

Jeremy Ross is Blythswood's Chief Executive. As we look to the future of Blythswood, going forward in faith, he shares:
"Moses said, 'If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here' (Exodus 33:15). God had just said His Presence would go with Moses, but Moses sought reassurance and wanted noticeable signs of God being pleased with the steps he would take. Our prayer is the same for the future. We are confident God will not leave us — we pray he won't — and we ask that we will have noticeable reassurance on the way."

FOR PRAYER:

- Give thanks for every person who has played a part in Blythswood's work over the past 60 years. Pray that God will continue to call, raise up, and equip many more — partners, staff, supporters, and volunteers — to serve faithfully in the years ahead.
- We praise God for 60 years of Blythswood. As we give thanks for all that has gone before, may we step forward in faith, trusting that it is in the Lord's strength that we continue to serve to see lives changed **for good and forever**.
- Give thanks for the prayer support that has sustained Blythswood from the very beginning and continues to do so 60 years later. May we go forward not in our own strength but in prayerful dependence on God.



GIVING THANKS FOR 60 YEARS OF BLYTHSWOOD

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:18)

Blythswood's Day of Prayer on Wednesday 3rd June gives us the opportunity to look back and give thanks to God for 60 years of Blythswood.

As we look to the future, we would love your support!

PRAY

blythswood.org/prayer-diary

GIVE

blythswood.org/donate

FIND OUT MORE

blythswood.org



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