



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

#### Hello

26 weeks – half a year - of lockdown have now been experienced without any real end in sight. It may be time to review how that time has been spent and consider to what extent the purposes of God are being fulfilled. We are still called upon to “redeem the time”.

#### Sunday Sermon: Aspects of Faith

Refreshed from his Hebridean holiday John started a new series on Aspects of Faith prompted by the challenging question at the end of the parable of the Persistent Widow: When the Son of man comes will He find faith on earth?

In the parables in Luke 18 which followed the exhortation to keep on praying and not give up, there is the depiction of two different approaches to prayer represented by the Pharisee and the tax-collector: the one proud and self-righteous, the other humble and broken.

The parable was directed at **people**: some basking in their outward piety and practices and the others – standing afar off – conscious of their unworthiness.

The **process** of such praying contrasts the proud stance of the performance-oriented Pharisee with the contrite appeal to God of the publican.

And that difference is the **principle** that Jesus sought to emphasise – then for those two; and today for us who may unwittingly be cultivating a wrong attitude or humbly exercising true faith.

#### Bible Study

The Zoom Bible Study got off to a good start on Thursdays at 7 30 with David Jack providing an extra introduction to the inter-testament period, an excellent collection of references to the link between the testaments, Jim Flett’s examples of promises from the OT being fulfilled in the New and a look at the structure of the NT. This Thursday we look at the Gospels with the homework being choosing one of the Gospels and saying what is special about it.

#### Mission Partners

Pray for our Mission Partners: Inga as she prepares to return to Mexico; David McColl overseeing the work in Bolivia at a distance; Sat-7 reaching out to the distressed in Lebanon; Scripture Union seeking to re-establish work in schools; Sam Gordon prevented from visiting Kenya, and all the agencies in Glasgow reaching out to the marginalised. With added restrictions, their work, as we read last week of Hope for Glasgow, becomes more challenging.

SAT-7 invites us to join in live zoom prayer event on 30 September. Details from Jim Gourley or Howel (956 5866)

## Church Services

While most of our neighbouring churches have faithfully streamed or broadcast services each week during lockdown it seems that Allander (and our friends at Maryhill Evangelical) is the only place open on Sundays as yet. Milngavie UF, however, having so far been prevented because of remedial building work, hope to open this Sunday Evening. Meanwhile they continue to offer a full Sunday Morning service on YouTube. St Andrew's and St Luke's are also considering.

## Gordon Thomson

At the FM prayer meeting last Monday Gordon gave encouraging reports of the time he spent on Lewis preaching at Drive-In sessions and recording sermons for streaming in local churches. He says thank you to everyone in Allander who have been praying for him.

And, let's continue to pray for each other during these challenging times when isolation, circumstances, frustrations, discouragement and adversity can affect us all in different ways: yet, we have HOPE.

Finally:

In these days of uncertainty, anxiety and even confusion, when we contemplate the future with questions like: - When will we get back to normal? What will normal be like? Will we see an upsurge in the pandemic? Will I have a job to go to? And so the list goes on. We have been encouraged in recent days to place our hope in God who loves us and sent His Son to die for us, who has plans prepared for us to give a future and a hope. As the hymn states "We have a hope that is steadfast and certain, gone through the curtain and touching the throne; we have a priest who is there interceding, pouring His grace on our lives day by day".

Ian Baird

Allander Fellowship Newsletter 956 5866

## Request

Morag Wilson asked us to include this request from her daughter, Angela, to see if anyone would be interested in helping the Christian school where her three children attend.

*Melville-Knox Christian School is based in Robroyston, Glasgow, and plans to move to Parkhead (as soon as HMI complete their inspection) but at the moment they are extremely short of staff - both qualified primary teachers and classroom assistants. If you love children, have a heart for education that has a Christian basis and are able to commit at least one half day per week, please contact Angela Parkinson (nee Wilson) on 07771358642 or [anqdoll80@googlemail.com](mailto:anqdoll80@googlemail.com) The position is voluntary, but for such a time as this when Biblical morals are under fire in the state system, all help is appreciated. Alternatively, if you could commit to helping in other practical or financial ways please do consider it too."*

**Faith Hope Love**