



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

2nd November, 2020

Trusting in Troubled Times: 2 Thess 1: 1-4

Returning from holiday, John took us to 2nd Thessalonians with its portrait of a model church, yet living through troubled times. In the first of five studies in this book he cited three principles that the church learned: persevering through affliction develops maturity; trusting amid conflict leads to stability; and waiting with discipline cultivates responsibility.

Taking what is contained in these four verses (1) we can be thankful that God still works through human lives. There is an encouragement in seeing a person's spiritual life developing. Two possible reasons for this are: faith grows more and more in adversity. Though faith may be weak it is nevertheless alive and can be strengthened. And, growing faith is manifested in the fact that they loved each other; they felt a bond that persecuted Christians often experience and in doing so shared a common hope.

(2) Truth about God will always prevail. God is just and represents another perspective on the present situation. Dwelling on troubled times is counter-productive. It is better to see things from God's point of view and trust in Him and His truth in troubled times.

And (3) the action of God in the future (when Jesus returns in judgement and vindication) should shape our living today.

Fellowship with Other Churches

We enjoy fellowship with other churches. We have a special relationship with our friends at Maryhill and welcome their involvement with us at various times. Similarly, we pray for Jing and the Chinese Church which meets at Allander. And, of course, remember our neighbouring evangelical witnesses at St Paul's, St Luke's and the UF. Here are some reports to encourage us. First, from Danny:

Maryhill Evangelical Church and 20 Schemes have been working successfully together for over a year now. In light of present circumstances the ministry is continuing, albeit restricted, with Sunday, Tuesday Evangelistic Bible Study and Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study all going well. The Fellowship met recently to discuss the way forward and the outcome was positive. On Sunday evening 25th October we began a 6-week course, led by Tommy Millar, discussing Outreach, Children's Ministry and '1-2-1' approaches. Our goal is to reach out to the community with the Gospel. May God give us wisdom and assurance as we move forward. Thank you all for friendship, fellowship and prayer support. It is very much appreciated by us all just as we enjoy being part of Allander.

Jing has shared with us at our prayer times that there is still growing pressure curtailing religious activity in China and Christian gatherings in particular. Let's remember our brothers and sisters there

and the other many areas of the world where persecution is rife and, sometimes, very severe.

Visitors

It has been very encouraging to see a number of visitors attend our church meetings in recent weeks. We welcome them warmly and trust that Allander will indeed turn out to be a 'Bethel' for them. Bethel was the place where Jacob, in his distress dreamed of a ladder up to heaven and declared that "*surely God is in this place*". May it be so always.

Street Connect

Ricky McAdock of Street Connect informs us that "*We are one of the 5 finalists in the Cinnamon Network's Project Lab final which is being held on **Monday 9th November at 7:30pm on zoom**. It would be great if any from Allander were able to join us at this online event*". Details from Jim Gourley.

Bolivia

David McColl writes: *We returned to Bolivia a month ago and are thankful for a smooth trip and transition. We appreciate prayers for William as he continues to adapt to his new environment and also for safety for the Samaritan's Purse team as they continue working during the Covid-19*

pandemic. The Samaritan's Purse team are currently working with the Health Ministry to train health staff across the country on how to reduce the spread of Covid-19. We also appreciate prayers for Bolivia as a new President will be sworn in next month following elections last week. Please pray for peace as the new government transitions into power.

Sunday

Both services will be held in the church this Sunday with John Macleod's pre-recorded sermon played during each service. A two-minute silence will be held during each church service.

Children's' work

Thank you to the 18 people who joined the meeting last Tuesday to discuss future communication with Church children and those in the Community who are on our Data Base. We plan to start an online programme on 18th November: further details to follow. Please pray for the considerable amount of work being undertaken to make this possible and that children will come online.

Zoom Apology

The Zoom access number was wrongly given in last week's Newsletter. The correct one for all Allander meetings is: 819 2022 9424 and password 047533.

Finally

With all that is happening in relation to the pandemic, it feels at times as if we are learning a new language as we were encouraged to flatten the curve and work on our R number. One of the saddest phrases to be used has been Professor Jason Leitch's expression, "a digital Christmas". Sad because the word digital presents the cold, at times impersonal, world of technology whilst Christmas is such a glorious reminder of the closeness and intimacy of God to His people. We may have to prepare for a different Christmas, but don't let the loss of family festivity remove us from the warmth and love of Bethlehem.