



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

30th November, 2020

Recognising Responsibility 2 Thess 3:6-18

Concluding the short series on 2 Thessalonians, John focused on the closing verses of this second epistle. Among all the positive aspects of their collective testimony it appears that some were not acting responsibly and thereby tarnishing their witness. These verses call us to:

Recognise our responsibility to obey the word of God. Mankind has a sad history of not being obedient hence the strength of the command to now obey.

Recognise our responsibility to live a life that exemplifies what we believe and not be inconsistent. Faith should impact the way we live.

Recognise our responsibility as a church to exercise discipline. In a world that dislikes being disciplined, or imposing discipline, it is important to realise that the motivation for such action should always be redemptive, not punitive. Right discipline is a sign of love. It should be done by the church as a whole and against a pattern of wrong doing, not just a single act. And, when practised, take the form of 'distancing' to avoid false nurture, risky contamination or compromise.

Recognise the responsibility to do the right thing. Acting responsibly can be tiring but should be consistently persevered with.

Recognise our responsibility to stay focused on Jesus. He is the only source of sustenance and the giver of grace "to help in time of need". In short:

Keep your eyes on Jesus

Faith Mission Prayer Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7 30 pm on Monday 7th on Zoom. Access details are: ID 727-7154-1102; Password: pLf4kR

Lockdown and its effects

We have now had a week of the Tier Four lockdown. It has meant greater isolation for us all and, with that, highlights the value of being able to meet on Zoom for prayer and Bible Study. Thankfully, we can still meet on Sundays but permitted numbers have been reduced and an overflow accommodated in the back hall (thanks to all those who have and are working hard to making this possible). Concern for each other continues to be exercised with prayer, phone calls, texts and messages.

Prayer Requests

Our national leaders – both Scottish and UK – need our prayers as they have to take critical decisions, balancing expert advice and expectations from various pressure groups.

Meanwhile individuals face significant challenges of different kinds. In addition to those on our 'regulars' list, Jim and Laraine learned last week that their daughter's family have been tested positive, been unwell but now improving. Allyson Flett has been unwell for over a week now. Ian Baird finds some weeks where things are not so good for him. And Irene Carmichael's father, Tom, who celebrated 100 last month, is in QUEH after a fall, leaving her 100 year-old mother alone at home.

#Online Club Progress

The second #One2Seven Online Club has taken place with another lively and relevant presentation of the gospel story: this time R for the Real Christmas. Allyson, is dealing with the WhatsApp responses, and would appreciate prayer.

Raise the Roof!

-and put it back again! Work on replacing the leaking Crush Hall roof is due to start this week. Watch out for diversions!

Thank You from Blythswood

David Jack has received a letter from Blythswood Trust in response to the church's donations during October when they were our Mission Partners. *"Thank you for your donation of £540 in support of Blythswood Care. Your support is especially welcome at a time when we are faced with new challenges because of Covid restrictions. Your gifts are more significant than ever as so many families in countries like Romania and Moldova have been hit hard by the loss of work in wealthier parts of Europe. Your support helps us to deliver valuable aid to them."*

Christian Institute Week of Prayer

This week is the Christian Institute's Week of Prayer. Starting yesterday with a focus on Society and today on Authorities it will continue each day with an emphasis on: Marriage and Family, Schools, Sanctity of Life, Transgenderism and Religious Freedom each day. For further information contact info@christian.org.uk

Finally

There are a number of ministries in the UK who have, over the years, encouraged the church to pray for Christians in Public Office. The encouragement has been to get Christians into office and for them to be upheld and guided by God when in office. However, there is always a danger that whilst the church may be faithful to the prayer ministry the individual concerned may not be! I heard a well-known Christian, very much in the public eye, being interviewed regarding issues in their area of expertise and as the interview ended, the interviewer asked, "And what would you like for Christmas?" As I listened, hoping for even an oblique reference to the Saviour's birth, my hopes were dispelled as the person answered purely on a level of the things of this world. In the Bible, Esther ascended to a place of power for 'such a time as this', but when the time came she stepped out for GOD. Pray for Christians in Public Office that when they get their position, they will never forget to honour the One who put them there.

John Macleod

Betty's thoughts

Betty McKay shares that her favourite epistle is Hebrews, a fascinating book where God shows how the New Testament is linked to the Old and so conveys a sense of authenticity. Paul, through his earlier experience, is enabled to convey God's message to these young Jewish Christians in a context that made sense to them. As we read it we are reminded of the need to grow into maturity and exercise increasing faith in God, especially in these days of universal adversity when so many around us are troubled.

Mission of the Month

The Mission cause for December is **Children for Christ** and a copy of the latest Prayer topics from Romania will be distributed with this letter. At present, funds are being raised for repairs to the Calor Gas heating system at the camp in Varfurile with several fund-raising efforts being made. With this in mind, Fiona Ross, a Trustee from Prestwick, has been making Covid 19 facemasks for Ladies. She has provided Allander with 20 of these masks which are available from David Jack. There is no charge but it is suggested that £2 per mask would be a suitable donation.

SAT 7

An Advent Family Celebration will be held by Zoom on Saturday 5th Dec at 4pm. Join with SAT-7 for this event at - SAT7UK.ORG to sign up and also the opportunity to receive a free Advent Prayer Guide.