



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

7th September, 2020

Hello

Sunday Sermon: Anchors of the Soul

Preaching on Sunday, with John still on holiday, Jim Gourley took us to the story of Paul's shipwreck storm in Acts 27: 29.

Drawing on the picture of four anchors being cast from that boat, he outlined 'anchors of the soul' that can provide safety, security and motivation in life's spiritual journey. The first is hope.

Christian **HOPE** is more than wishful thinking. It is the confidence that a Christian has in the presence and work of God. It gives the Christian blessed assurance. It is "sure and steadfast".

A second anchor is **DUTY**. A committed involvement and active participation in relation to family, community and especially the church with all its opportunities towards the immediate Fellowship and the wider work of God and His people helps to hold us fast.

That commitment is expressed in **PRAYER**. It is the secret of experiencing God's blessing. We should avail ourselves of this opportunity and develop the practice.

And all is undergirded by the **CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST** and all that it means.

Fittingly, we concluded with: "*Jesus keep me near the Cross; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me*".

Communion

Although practical considerations have so far prevented us from observing communion and obeying the Lord's command to "*do this in remembrance of Me*" we now propose to do so next Sunday at both our Church services. In accordance with current guidelines, hygienically prepared portions of bread will be provided and those wishing to celebrate communion with us will be offered two communion cups, one with the bread and one with the wine.

Missions and Missionaries

Recent information received from Terry McCutcheon highlights the importance of the work and the need that exists for people living with problems of addiction. Meetings are presently being held online with services each day and also three evening meetings on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. A total of 81 people having accessed the meetings, the recorded number of attendances at the end of July was 720 while restrictions have been in place.

Because of being online, people are joining not only from Glasgow but from Ayr, Edinburgh, Gourock, Greenock, Irvine, Ki Imacolm, Kilmarnock, London, Musselburgh Nottingham, Portsmouth, Renfrew, Stirling; also from Kentucky and New Zealand.

Please pray for Terry and others in the organisation and especially the people they are engaging with that God would help those in need and free them from the addictions they have.

Reflections from the prayer meeting

Reflecting on the dominant theme of last Tuesday's Zoom Prayer Meeting Margaret Stewart shares the following acrostic:

H A **home** in heaven
O An **open** door for prayer
P **Promises** already kept
E **Eternal** Life for ever.

Pray for people

Margaret Cowan in Mugdock Care Home celebrated her 93rd Birthday last Friday but there are restrictions on when George and David are able to visit her. Christine Harvey is similarly restricted from being able to visit Jack in hospital. And we remember those, like Joyce Kyle and Agnes Wilson, who have been confined in Care Homes for a long time without a break. Others have requested prayer: Ava and Manuel, Morag and David, Jean Malkin waiting for knee surgery, Jack Adair looking for employment now that he is qualified, Ian Baird still doing so much work in the background; and Gordon Craig

working daily in the Mugdock Manor Care Home. Inga's plans to come west and visit relatives, local fellowships and Allander are now curtailed because of recent lockdowns; and, of course, her plans for returning to Oaxaca may also be affected. We also remember our fellow churches here in Milngavie and the many folk linked with us, like Mothers and Toddlers, who are denied direct contact and access to what the church can offer.

Gordon Thomson and the Faith Mission

Gordon has been in the Western Isles recording sermons for streaming by local churches and sharing his testimony in various "Drive-In" services there. The Milngavie and Bearsden Zoom Prayer Union meets tonight at 7 30pm. Access details are: Meeting ID: 751 3863 8777 Passcode: 3kpqi6

Prayer Times

The supplementary prayer times on Wednesdays and Fridays for half an hour at 10 am have restarted and are very encouraging. Whatever else will constitute the "new normal" prayer will be at its heart.

Finally

Psalm 91 always had a special place in the hearts of Isabell and myself, as Psalm 91:1 was engraved on a ring which she wore every day of her life. The Psalm notes the threats and dreads which people encounter in their lives but assures them that putting a simple trust in the Almighty (El Shaddai) brings them into a place of strong defence and divine care. No matter what difficulties we face may we experience that defence and care and appreciate the host of heavenly guardians who care for us each step of the way - Psalm 91:9.