



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

9<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

#### **Sermon: The Pivotal Place of Prayer**

On a strange Sunday morning when we had to listen to a recording of John's sermon because he could not attend in person, due to continuing self-isolation, we were reminded of the *pivotal place of prayer* based on the last two verses in 2 Thessalonians 1.

Prayer is not just a safety valve and emotional relief when things are difficult but is an *investment* in the values of the Kingdom of God and the fulfilment of His purposes in "Thy will be done".

Praying for the Thessalonians, Paul does so constantly – regularly, frequently, deliberately, with conviction – and for a definite reason: fulfilment of God's purposes in and through them.

That means praying that they might be "*worthy of their calling*", that their very lives will turn out to be pleasing to God, that they might turn out to be faithful stewards whom God can trust and be pleased with. It also means that they, in turn, exercise their *initiative* – despite their adverse circumstances and experiences – to see what God can purposely do with their lives.

And, why? It is for His glory as they look forward – by grace - to the glorious hope of His return. That is the motive for Paul's constant praying for them, as it should be ours in these challenging days.

#### **Mission cause for the Month**

Our Mission Cause for the month in October was Blythswood Care. We are pleased to report that a sum of £440 was donated in the church before the end of the month with another £50 cash and £100 cheque being received on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November. All of these amounts have been sent to Blythswood Care to assist them with their work over Christmas. Thank you, too, for the 48 shoe boxes received at Allander and for the time taken to make them up. All the boxes were delivered last Monday.

Our Mission Cause for November is **The Faith Mission**. Please continue to remember their work prayerfully and financially during this time.

#### **Children's Online Programme**

As indicated last week, we are launching a pilot online Children's Club for the children who used to attend our #ONETOSEVEN and the summer Holiday Club. It will go out on Wednesday evenings at 6 30 pm through the #ONETOSEVEN link on the church website, starting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. We are pleased to confirm that details of our planned programme was mailed today to 78 homes. Please pray for the homes and children that they will engage with the planned programmes and as a result the children will have a full understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.

Thanks to Brian Lowrie and his colleagues on the MAD Ministries team who will provide the bulk of the programme and to those in Allander who have worked hard to get all the publicity and arrangements in place. Please pray for this venture. Thank you.

### **Church Programme**

With the Level 3 restrictions imposed because of Covid it appears that our opportunities for meeting physically and in person at the church over the rest of this year are very limited. Current arrangements for duplicate church services on Sunday, Zoom Prayer Times and Bible Study will apply until further notice. However, the Elders have given extensive consideration to the situation and its needs and have several projects planned. Further details will be issued in due course.

### **Prayer Chain**

Flora writes: *Please pray for Ellen Bruce's son-in-law, Steven, Jane and the family. Steven's father has passed away due to Covid. Before he went into hospital he said that he had made peace with God which is a comfort to the family. Please pray for peace for the family and healing for*

*Steven, his Mum and brother who also have Covid.*

### **And keep it going!**

Flora also adds: *Would you please make sure you pass on the Prayer Chain message to the next person on the Prayer Chain list? There are times when people are not receiving the request. If you require a further list or would like to join it please contact Flora on 07443038986.*

Good to see Stuart Campbell on the Zoom Prayer Time. He wishes to thank Allander folk for their prayers for him during his recent hospital stay and looks forward to further recovery.

And, we remember those on our extended list of people linked to the fellowship who would appreciate our prayers and support at this time.

### **National Day of Prayer**

The Evangelical Alliance, concerned about Christian witness and response during this pandemic, is calling for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November to be set aside as a National Day of Prayer and is encouraging individuals and churches to dedicate some time during the day to pray for the situations we are in.

### **Finally**

Some months ago now I wrote about the Baird Family Bible which had been sent to me by a distant relative in Australia, it had clearly been neglected and was very large. Someone in the church showed me another leather-bound New Testament equally old but much more cared for it was however tiny. This testament was about half the size of The Believers Hymn Book, so small in fact that you needed a magnifying glass to read it. I was surprised to see it was in fact a French version, not much use to me with my very rusty schoolboy French. It made me so grateful for the many versions of the Bible we have in English. It really made me appreciate the work done by Inga, Sue and the team in Mexico as well as numerous others around the world who dedicate themselves to translating God's Word into the heart language of the native peoples.