



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

27th February, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Romans 1: 8 - 17

Continuing the new series based on Romans 1, Sunday's sermon was entitled **A Gospel Community in a Godless World.**

Paul had not had any direct contact with the church to which he was writing. He had not founded it nor had he visited it at any time despite his longing to do so. He wanted to share with them the gospel that had been entrusted to him and which he had shared with other churches on his missionary journeys. Instead he wrote to them in an epistle which, mercifully, we can access and gain blessing from.

In this introduction to his letter to them he mentions **A Thriving Church** vibrant in its faith and testimony in a city that was noted for its debauchery and was once famously described as "a cesspool of iniquity".

Despite such an environment it was a **Community of Faith** for which he gave thanks and prayed for continually. His desire to visit them in person was to "impart to them "some spiritual benefit.

That benefit was a declaration of the **power of the gospel**. Following his own conversion and changed life he is not only 'not ashamed' of the gospel but convinced of its potency as a radical power able to transform their lives. And he wants them to be sure of it as the real gospel.

The **core of the gospel** is that it is the message of salvation bringing them – whoever they are - release from the guilt of sin and enabling them to continue living that new life. Becoming a Christian and living it is essentially by such basic faith.

This Week

Regular activities continue this week with Toddlers, Prayer Meetings, Café, Hashtag / Youth Challenge and the Bible Study. This week, the Bible Study, having reached Philippi in Acts 17 last week, will look at the letter sent to that church.

John Macleod will take both services on Sunday.

Turkey / Syria Appeal

The response to the opportunity to make donations for Jean Malkin's paintings given to the Appeal has been most rewarding. So far, over £250 has been donated. There is still opportunity until the next few Sundays to view and procure one of the remaining pictures.

Romania Packing Day

Our long-standing commitment to help the Children for Christ charity in Romania depends on generosity and volunteer help. The next packing session is on Friday morning, 3rd March at 10 30am. All help is appreciated.

Faith Mission

Next weekend is the first one in March which has now become known as our FM Weekend, with:

The Friday Night Rally

Now an established event of ministry and song, as well as updates on FM work around Scotland, this Rally will start at 7 30pm when the speaker will be our own Howel Jones and the singer will be Peter Candlish. Refreshments and fellowship will be enjoyed after it.

Rejuvenate

This key event for young people starts at 8 pm and includes teaching as well as food and games for the young folk drawn from Allander and neighbouring churches. Gordon expresses FM's appreciation for the use of the premises for this activity.

FM Prayer Union

This will meet in Betty Mackay's Flat at 44 St Germain's, G61 2RS on Monday 6th March at 7 30pm to pray for the Scottish work of the Faith Mission and Gordon and Janice's role in it.

Cornhill Workshop

Cornhill are offering a conference workshop to help those concerned with sharing the Word. Entitled: A day of Bible-Handling Skills – God's Word in my Hands - is being run at The Tron Church in Bath Street on Saturday 4th March from 9 30 to 4pm. Further information and booking at www.cornhill.scot/conferences

Echoes Conference

Echoes International will hold their Annual Scottish Mission Conference on Saturday 11th March 2023 at Woodhill Evangelical Church in Bishopbriggs. This is a good opportunity to hear what God is doing in various situations across the world and the role Scottish missionaries – like Inga – are playing in it. Details in the Entrance Hall of the church.

Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month for March is Platform 67 whose leader, Martin Dudgeon, at a recent Prayer meeting, shared with us aspects of the work as they support and partner with various missionary outreaches across the world.

Pray

Continuing prayer is appreciated for those undergoing medical diagnosis and treatment, such as Margaret Russell, Flora Macinnes, Mary Clark, Larry Malkin, Morag Wilson, and Margaret Craig's daughter; as well as for those in care needing care or caring for others.

Special prayer is needed for our national leadership with Kate Forbes exposed to cruel prejudice because of her bold Christian stand.

And for Inga as she teaches online, and consults with other translators on top of the arduous task of the minutiae of translation and recording local dialects.

Easter

Just a month away, Easter will soon be upon us. There will be services at Allander during Holy Week and an exhibition at St Paul's leading up to Easter weekend.

There will be a special lunch at Allander on Easter Sunday.

Finally,

When Jeremy Clarkson wrote an article in a tabloid newspaper expressing his views on Prince Harry's wife, it was crude, vulgar and distasteful. On realising his foolishness, Clarkson e-mailed the couple to apologise, but this was rejected. In Matt 18 v 32 Jesus describes his servant as wicked who showed no forgiveness to his fellow servant who owed him a small debt when, he himself had been forgiven a debt so huge, it was impossible for him to pay it back. When we realise the debt Christ paid for us, the issue of forgiving others is not difficult at all. If we find it hard to forgive others, one can only conclude that we consider the debt paid for us by Jesus on the cross as small, compared to the debt owed to us by others.

Sandy Allan