



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

12<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

#### **"My peace I leave with you" John 14: 23-31**

Knowing that his path and theirs are now separating, Jesus prepares his disciples for what lies ahead – and beyond to our day. He wanted to impart his legacy, recognising that difficult times would be ahead for them – just as they are, and will be, for us.

While coping with what lies ahead is something for which they have a responsibility to do for themselves (Paul *learned to be content*) they need not face it alone. He would give them His Peace.

While obeying his word is the *expression* of love, accepting his peace is the *experience* of that love.

That peace is different from what the world offers. Defined by grace, it is the bestowing of a blessing that will enable them to face the challenges ahead.

It is not a negotiated peace, based on compromise, but shared freely from the heart of God. It is a peace which he *gives*.

It is a peace made secure by his sacrifice as Saviour of the world. Drinking the "*cup*" that he was about to drink would turn out to be more potent and more powerful than any miracle they had seen so far.

Based on his having '*triumphed over principalities and powers*', it is a peace that is safeguarded by his authority. Satan now has no hold on him – or us.

And, it is experienced by the reality of his presence through the Holy Spirit. While he is deservedly with the Father, we – his faithful believers – can know the blessedness of "*Lo, I am with you always*".

#### **Family Fun Days**

*Jim Gourley writes:* Looking back on our Family Fun Days we want to give thanks to God for all that was achieved, to the people who helped both at the events and in prayer, also the support received from MAD (Make a Difference ministries)

We were uncertain what to expect due to all that has happened because of Covid restrictions.

Over the two days a total of 92 children plus parents/relations attended. This shows the extent of the opportunity and challenge we have to reach people with the good news of the Gospel.

It was also great to be open again and to work together in serving our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Continue to pray for our outreach in the community.

#### **Mission of the Month**

MAD Ministries helped us with our Community Fun Days last week so we are glad to be supporting them in their valuable work among children and, hopefully, a Holiday Club in October during the School Week.

#### **Keswick**

The annual Keswick Convention starts up on Saturday after being cancelled last year because of the pandemic. In-person meetings are being held during each of the three weeks. The meetings are also being live-streamed. See [www.keswickministries.org/convention](http://www.keswickministries.org/convention) for details.

## Bible Study

As previously intimated, there will be a one-off Bible Study this Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, at 7 30pm on Zoom. It will serve two purposes. Mainly, it is a means of keeping in touch over the summer months and, secondly, a chance to 'finish' Leviticus by looking at Chapters 24 and 25. Those two chapters constitute the homework if anyone still wants to work during the holidays!

## Elders

The Elders will meet next Monday, DV, to consider further steps in the way ahead.

As far as activities go, along with the prospective re-start of #One2Seven (Wednesdays from 1<sup>st</sup> September), Mothers and Toddlers, (Tuesdays from 7<sup>th</sup> September), the Ladies' Meeting (Fortnightly from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October) it is hoped to launch a Drop-In on Wednesday mornings from September 1<sup>st</sup>.

In the equally important aspect of promoting effective functioning as a church, the challenge remains of 'devoting ourselves' – as individuals and as a church – to '*doctrine, breaking of bread, fellowship and prayer*' thus encouraging spiritual wellbeing and faithful witness.



## Finally,

The recent Fun days enabled us to engage with young families in the community and it was such a blessing to see the building busy with visitors and workers alike. One comment that captured my mind was made by a couple of people who expressed sincere thanks that we were doing this for the children, because "no one else is doing anything". What a blessing that the church was first to serve a need! Historically the church has been the first to provide health care and social welfare and we will always be first to do the right thing if we endeavour to serve our God and Master, Jesus Christ "who went **around doing good** and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." May we see more of God's healing and delivering power flow from the good we seek to do in His name.

John Macleod

## Outreach Agencies

We continue to pray for, and support, the many agencies seeking to reach out and minister to those in special need. Among these are: locally, Hope for Glasgow, Street Connect, Glasgow City Mission. Farther afield are: Slavic Gospel Association, Children for Christ, SAT-7, OM, the Faith Mission, to name but a few. And those ministries, like SU, creatively opening up new opportunities to provide Christian teaching and fellowship for children and young people.

## Days Out

Always looking out for opportunities to share and demonstrate the gospel, Gordon and Janice Thomson - denied the chance of running their camp this year - are taking various families on 'days out' as an alternative. They would appreciate prayer for this new venture.

## Pray for:

Those who have been named in recent days as needing special prayer, including: David Jack, Liz Baxter, Liz Walker, Inga McKendry in Oaxaca and her colleague Sue (currently in the US with health problems), Ian Baird, David and Morag Wilson; and our regulars in various situations and circumstances.