



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

12th September, 2022

Sunday Sermon

Continuing in Esther and focusing on Mordecai's action in reporting the assassination attempt, John, last week, took this as a model for Serving God. It is: rooted in character, not necessarily gifting; it means doing the obvious; and, though often frustrating, it leads to eternal rewards.

Yesterday, commenting on the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II, in a full and fitting tribute, John spoke of her outstanding example especially in her bold espousal and declarations of her faith in God and the key role it played in her long life and influential role as monarch. What is not known is to what extent that stance will characterise monarchy in the future.

Monarchy reminds us of the significance of God's kingdom. It has not, nor will it likely be, welcomed and tolerated by a secular society. Therefore, Christians need to learn how to live through warfare and opposition from the enemies of the gospel.

Esther 3's teaching, based on Haman's actions, shows that God's enemies are both relentless and deceptive in their destructive actions and influence.

But, like Mordecai, God's people must be faithful knowing that consequences – however adverse – belong to God.

Standing firm is buttressed with the knowledge that God's child is protected from "the wiles of the devil", as Mordecai was. That is ground to be assured that "what was meant for evil, God means – and uses – it, for good"

Reminder of Activities

It was good last Sunday to hear of the many activities being undertaken by the church. In addition to those listed in last week's Newsletter (Toddlers', Café, Hashtag, Ladies' Meeting, Mission of the Month, Pastoral visitation, Bible Study, and Prayer Times) others were mentioned, some with added challenges, like Toddlers ready for additional sessions if more helpers become available; Sunday School making arrangements for the wide age range attending; Hashtag is facing the same challenge with provision needing to be made for Youth (post-primary).

Implicit in all these activities is the behind-the-scenes contribution made by so many willing workers who gladly give of their time and energies to facilitate all of our activities. Their work is immensely important and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Mission of the Month

Ian Baird outlined what the Mission of the Month offering is and to whom it is distributed. Over the year so far £8010 has been distributed to a range of causes, both locally and in other countries; some annually, others periodically.

Last month it was Children for Christ in Romania, the mission with which the church is closely related. The sum of £550 was sent to them at the end of August.

This month's mission is Platform 67, an agency for initiating, informing and supporting missionary activity across the

globe and whose leader, Martin Dudgeon, is a regular visitor to Allander.

Missions

Being mission-minded is one of the distinctives of evangelical churches and Allander has always been very committed to that conviction.

Our own Inga McKendry is commended from Allander and supported regularly from the General Fund. It has been good to have her among us this summer and to get to know a little more of the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators, across the world and in Mexico in particular. Her varied activities while she has been home on 'leave' gives a glimpse into all that she and her colleagues are involved in both locally in translating the Scriptures into Mixtec and also the high-level of technical know-how and expertise in linguistics that is required to do the task effectively. Inga plans to return to Oaxaca on 29th September after her 'break' in Scotland.

Among the Missions we support are: Street Connect, Hope for Glasgow, Glasgow City Mission, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Faith Mission, Slavic Gospel Association, CWI, SAT-7, Myra's Wells, West of Scotland Gospel Partnership, Evangelical Alliance, Truth for Today (Sam Gordon), The Space in Govanhill, The Christian Institute.

Prayer

These, and other missions and missionary contacts of individuals within the

fellowship are regularly remembered in prayer. Indeed, there has been a good spirit in our Tuesday evening Prayer Times with more people gathering, a spontaneity in the prayers and a sense of burden to see the Lord bless. That has also been reflected in the morning half-hour Zoom Prayer Times on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Slavic Gospel Association Prayer

The next SGA Prayer Meeting will be held in Margaret Russell's home (53 Roman Road, Bearsden) on Friday 16th September at 7 30pm.

Bible Study

In view of the news that the Queen had passed away that afternoon the Bible Study was postponed last Thursday after John had offered a prayer on our behalf. We will now start this Thursday with an overview of Acts and its place in the Bible.

Preacher next week

Sunday morning's service will be taken by Terry Gallagher who, has been worshipping with us for some time. John is helping at Maryhill but will be back with us for Sunday evening.

Thank you

The Romanian choir commented positively about the warm welcome they received at Allander – best in Scotland, they said!

Finally,

THE CLOSE OF AN EPOCH: Hearing the sad news on Thursday evening that our beloved Queen had died at Balmoral my thoughts of her life and reign were taken to Micah Ch6 v8. *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God."*

When we look at this verse and the life of our late Queen we see God's words being fulfilled: *Act justly* - think of her sense of duty; *act with love and mercy* - think of her sympathy of heart; *walk humbly with God* - that was the secret of her life. May her sad passing bring us all closer to the One she loved and served for so long. Jim Gourley