



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

#### Sunday Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-12

Yesterday's visiting preacher was Gordon Thomson of the Faith Mission and a frequent visitor to, and friend of, Allander. He took the opportunity to thank Allander for generously letting FM use the premises for the monthly Rallies and for Rejuvenate for young people on a Saturday night each month. And for prayer and financial support.

Based in 1 Thessalonians 4, his message was entitled **Living to please God**.

These people had already taken a significant step in pleasing God *"when you received the word of God, which you heard from us (Paul), you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God at work in you."* For, when they *"turned to God from idols"* they became Christians and served *"the living and true God"*.

Now he encourages them to continue living to please God *"more and more"*. Against the background of possible stagnation he urges them to apply themselves to monitor and control their practical living and let the Holy Spirit generate holiness in them for *"it is God's will that you should be sanctified"*. While accepting Christ means justification – a once and for all action of God – sanctification is a lifelong, ongoing, practical process.

In an impassioned plea he urged anyone not yet having taken that step to do so; and for those who had, to apply themselves diligently, with the Holy Spirit's enabling, in living to please God.

#### This Week

Our regular activities continue this week with Toddlers in the morning and Prayer Meeting at 8pm on Tuesday; Drop-In Café from 10 30 to 12 30 and Hashtag / Youth Challenge at 6 30pm on Wednesday; Bible Study on Thursday; and Zoom prayer times from 9 to 9 30 on Wednesday and Friday. John Macleod will take both services on Sunday.

#### Bible Study

Having reached the second missionary journey on our way through the Book of Acts, we decided to take a break and look at the letter Paul sent much later on in his life (when he was a prisoner in Rome) to the church at Philippi. Among those sharing their thoughts on the gems contained in that letter, Janice Allan offered the following four joys of the epistle:

- The **joy** in living for Christ;
- The **joy** in serving Christ;
- The **joy** in knowing Christ; and
- The **joy** in resting in Christ.

That was followed last week by a return to the second missionary journey, now redirected to Europe, with a visit to Thessalonica, Berea and Athens in Chapter 17. This week we take a look at the letters Paul sent to Thessalonica.

#### Pray for:

People whose names have been mentioned this week for prayer include: Ian Baird, George Cowan, Margaret Russell, Joan and Terry Gallagher, and Larry Malkin. And there are others.

### **Scottish Bible Society**

A Volunteers' Conference for the SBS will be held in Allander on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 10 am to 2 30pm. We need a representative volunteer to look after the Society's interest at Allander. Notwithstanding, anyone is free to attend this gathering without obligation.

### **Turkey / Syria Earthquake Appeal**

There has been an overwhelming response to the opportunity to contribute to the Turkey / Syria Appeal through Barnabas Aid. Taking advantage of the paintings donated to the Appeal by Jean Malkin £1155 has been raised and forwarded to the Barnabas' Fund for distribution. God bless each donor.

A recent visitor to Istanbul made the following comments about the situation there:

*Istanbul, a city of between 16-20 million people, was subdued. The recent earthquakes overshadowed everything.. For a tiny group of marginalised, often scapegoated and sometimes persecuted people that is the church in Turkey, the response has been quite amazing. Even the smallest fellowships in Turkey gave unselfishly of its resources and*

*rushed to help. There is currently in many places a spiritual openness rarely seen. Many are asking Christians why they are helping.*

### **Milngavie Churches Holy Week Services**

This year the services will be held in Allander from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7 30pm each evening. The guest speaker for the week will be Dr Sandy Roger who is an outstanding preacher, so please don't miss this opportunity to hear his ministry and to encourage others to come along. Refreshments will be served at the close.

### **Easter Day**

Following Holy Week and its nightly services at Allander we will have a special service on Easter Sunday morning, 9<sup>th</sup> April, to celebrate this great event in the Christian calendar. It will be followed by a church family lunch. Details to follow,

### **SGA Prayer**

The next prayer meeting for the Slavic Gospel Association is planned for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Venue to be confirmed.

### **Finally,**

#### **Dedication**

On arrival in Dubai Rasul, one of the drivers from Torishima, the company Alister works for, picked us up. He is an Indian, a lovely guy, whom we have got to know over the years by visiting Dubai. He works away from home so that his family back in India can have a better life. He also is a Muslim and dedicated to prayer. He gets up at 5 am to go to the Mosque and pray every day: if he could he would go five times a day.

It challenged us both to see his dedication to prayer. He also told us he had friends there with whom he shared the problems in life that they each were experiencing before and after prayer and how much it helped them during the day.

We both were challenged by our dedication to prayer. Would we be willing to get up at 5am and go to church and pray, not once but 5 times, a day?

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you all in Christ Jesus. (I Thessalonians 5-12)*

Jim Flett