



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

14<sup>th</sup> June, 2021

#### Sunday Sermon: Joshua 1: 6 - 9

In this short series on the theme: *You have not gone this way before*, the attention has been on discovering 'how to be church' and be faithful witnesses in the uncertain situation we face as we emerge from the privations of the pandemic.

So far we have seen that, although it is unknown to us, it is totally known to God. He will not deviate from his purposes nor will he abandon his people as they seek to make progress. While the promise of his presence and provision is so reassuring it is worth noting from today's verses that we, also, have a responsibility in being co-labourers with him. It should show itself in three ways.

We should recognise that, as the people of God, we have a **shared responsibility for – and toward - the whole community**, not just for ourselves. The two-and-a half tribes which had been allocated land east of the Jordan were committed to be fully involved until all the land was possessed. That corporate responsibility, with each one faithfully playing their part in the growth, nurture and accomplishment of the church's commission, is central in New Testament teaching.

Although the task meant physical fighting the command was to **obey the word of God: to be guided by truth**. It is the only guide for what to do and how to carry out the task of being "*witnesses unto me*"

And, essential to it all, is to **follow the Spirit's guidance** and move only as the 'ark' (the presence of God) moves. That means, "*Follow Me .. and I will make you*".

#### From Sue and Inga in Oaxaca, Mexico

Inga and I really appreciate the faithful prayer support from Allander and all the people there. We are grateful for the various prayer meetings and the continued remembrance of this ministry. Blessings, Sue Hugghins and Inga

#### Mission of the Month

Our Mission of the Month for July is the Christian Institute – not an evangelism agency, but an important group of diligent and effective apologists seeking to maintain Christian values in our society and prevent further moral erosion in our day, with two important 'turn-arounds' won in recent months. They need both our financial aid and supporting prayers.

#### Scottish Bible Society

Another group which is playing an important part in nurturing Christian witness is the Scottish Bible Society producing excellent, contemporary, materials for encouraging Bible Reading. This month, their website advertises several new resources including 'Joseph and the Triumph of Grace' - a new, all-age Bible adventure in the book of Genesis. Follow Joseph, a young man who discovers that God's presence is with him, even when things go wrong! The book is available to pre-order now for £4 and an accompanying journal will be available later this summer. See the website for more information on this and podcasts dealing with suffering, loss and related issues; as well as Grace Gatherings available later this summer.

[newsletter@scottishbiblesociety.org](mailto:newsletter@scottishbiblesociety.org)

## Allander Fun Day

With the Holiday Club cancelled for another year due to Covid restrictions, the Elders are arranging an Allander Fun Day run by Brian Lowrie and his team on the mornings of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Any offers of help are welcome. Contact John Macleod or Jim Gourley.



### Pray for: -

all those linked with us (and farther afield) facing bereavement and its implications, illness, personal challenges, and trying circumstances. And, for deeper commitment to the things of God in the

outworking of His purposes in our lives as individuals and as a church; not forgetting our neighbouring churches. Prayer is the heart beat of commitment. What a privilege to be able to pray for others and to be supported by the prayer of others.

## Sunday Speakers

The services this Sunday will be taken by Jim Gourley in the morning and by Alex Bedford at night. Each would appreciate prayer for these services.

## Prayer Times

The revised morning prayer times at 9 am on Wednesdays and Fridays are proving a great blessing in keeping prayer at the forefront of our activity and encouraging us to respond to Proverbs' instruction to *"acknowledge Him in all your ways and he will make straight your path"*.

## Thank You

With Manuel and Ava on holiday this week it is a good opportunity to express our thanks to them for the excellent work they do in managing the technical aspects of our audio communication and visual displays on Sundays and for maintaining the website so effectively, despite being under great family- and work- stress in recent months.

## Finally,

Ollie Robinson is a name that you might not be familiar with, but his name recently made several headlines. He made a successful debut for England in their cricket team, but this newfound fame was blighted when comments he had made on social media 8 years ago were "discovered" and circulated. This resulted in Robinson being suspended by the Cricket authorities. The player apologised profusely for the racist and sexist comments, but to no avail, he still had to pay the price. What he did was undoubtedly wrong, but the experience reminds us of how much the world fails to exercise mercy and forgiveness. Even when there is genuine contrition for past actions, there is no mercy with worldly authorities. What a reminder to us of the greatness of the mercy of GOD and that the Gospel is truly a radical message we must bring to a merciless world.

John Macleod