



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

14th March, 2022

Sunday Sermon: Philippians 4: 4 - 8

Introducing this morning's sermon, Rick McAddock posed the question: where do we go when things around are overwhelming.

While the normal, secular, approach is 'bio-psycho-social' the Christian answer adds a spiritual dimension based on the word of God which makes it truly holistic.

According to this passage it entails, (1) Being joyful, rejoicing in all things, for "*the joy of the Lord is our strength*". Laughter is a tonic. (2) Being considerate, gentle, living life moderated by what we know of the truth of God. It is practising the presence of God in daily life. (3) Tapping into the fact that God is near. That means don't worry. While being anxious is a natural stance in a situation, continuing to be so and degenerating into a state of anxiety is not. Prayer means transferring that concern to God in faith that he hears and will respond. That should be done with thanksgiving and gratitude. (4) Appreciating that God gives peace - the peace of God which passes all understanding - to allay our concerns. (5) Focusing our minds on the right things. That is, on what is "*true, noble, pure, lovely, admirable - anything that is excellent or praiseworthy,*"

Lenten Service at St Paul's

Saturday, 19th March at 9 30am the third in a series of half-hour meditations on John 3: 16 led by Douglas Muirhead on the topic - The One who was Given - based on the phrase: "*his one and only Son*"

Sunday Services

Our visiting speaker next Sunday will be John Speirs from Selkirk Street Church in Hamilton. He was formerly leader of GLO in Motherwell and is currently involved in various aid projects across Europe. Communion will be in the evening.

Mission of the Month

In view of the awful situation still prevailing in Ukraine the Mission of the Month for March is the Slavic Gospel Association to support the work they do in providing care facilities for orphans and abandoned children. They recently marked their 70th Anniversary by recruiting and deploying 70 evangelists across the Slavonic countries.

Weekly Activities

Last Sunday, Jim Gourley stressed the importance of attending and supporting the various occasions when we come together for prayer, whether at the Tuesday evening Prayer Time or the Zoom sessions on Wednesday and Fridays. Alongside these, the regular outreach activities of Toddlers, Drop-In Café and #One2Seven continue.

But also, with Spring and the better weather, work is being undertaken by Jim Flett and his colleagues in maintaining the grounds and keeping the building and premises in such good condition and a testimony to a God. We appreciate all the work that goes on - outside and inside - to enable us enjoy such ambience.

So much goes on unseen but not unappreciated.

Chinese Fellowship

It is good to be able to support and enjoy fellowship with Jing and the Chinese Christians who come and use our facilities at Allander. Yet, little do we realise the scale of the work and witness that they undertake each week. For example, since December 2015 they:

- Conduct a Chinese Mandarin worship service onsite or online each Sunday.
- Hold an online Bible Study on Monday mornings because that is usually the 'day-off' for staff of Chinese takeaways.
- Have an online prayer meeting on Tuesdays at noon.
- Offer an online Children's Sunday School for Christian families' children in China where they learn the English Bible.
- Lead a Friday Bible Study at noon and in the evening offer the online Children's Sunday School to the children of Chinese families in the UK. About 269 children join in.
- Supplement these activities with a Children's Worship Song and Drawing Workshop for P1 – P3 and later for P3 – P6 with a total of 138 children.
- Consolidate that with reading a chapter of the Bible each day in an online group.

Some list! As well as being in fellowship with us as fellow believers they operate under Taipei Christian Assembly in China which is part of the Fuzhou Christian Business Men's Connection.

Pray for:

George Cowan and Margaret, Joyce Kyle, Christine and Jack Harvey, Janice Allan, Margaret Stewart, Stewart Campbell, Ian Baird, Danny, Iain Carmichael. And others.

Special Prayer

Allyson Flett has told us of a worldwide prayer initiative for the Ukrainian situation. Take a minute at 3pm each day to pray for the Ukraine situation.

Thank You

George Cowan writes: *Although I am still struggling to get back to better health, I am most thankful that I now have very limited movement and a little less pain. I am most thankful of the kindness and support I have received from members in the Fellowship and would like my appreciation to be recorded.*

I was greatly comforted and strengthened by the prayers, cards and phone calls all of which brought great encouragement and strength at a time of great weakness and pain. It's so wonderful to be a member of God's family and to receive such support and love in such times of great need.

Finally,

Spring is in the air!! Snowdrops are covering the ground, crocuses are to be seen in wonderful colour and daffodils are now opening up and soon we will see wonderful displays. Very sadly in Ukraine War is in the air!! Bombs are exploding, homes have been destroyed, the weather is freezing, food and power supplies are in short supply and many lives have been lost. As we look on in despair what can we do to help?

1. Pray privately and corporately as a church (James Ch5 v 16)
2. Give as you are able through the church.
3. Spend time reflecting on our priorities in life and on the needs of others.

Jim Gourley