



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

17th May, 2021

Peace in our time John 14: 1 - 4

In this passage the Lord Jesus is preparing his disciples for when – as foretold in Chapter 13 - he will have left them. He did that by speaking peace knowing that troubles were besetting them as they absorbed the implications of what he had been foretelling. It is a conversation that teaches us that:

Trouble comes to the people of God. The fact that he was going to leave them was something that was perplexing. His actions confirmed his pending departure. What would they do now? They had invested their lives and given up their livelihoods to follow him: were they now to be abandoned? And, already, the integrity of some of their fellow believers was beginning to weaken, with flaws like Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial. He knew all that, yet assured them that:

Help comes to the people of God. He said: *"Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."* It was more than advice: it was a command. They were to deliberately put their trust in him, not only in the salvation experience but also in the practicalities of ordinary living; and enjoy the peace that such confidence would bring. For God is our strength. There is also the assurance that:

God will take us home. In the meantime he has gone to prepare a place for us and, one day, will come and take us home to the security of his presence in heaven – a place where there is room for us and the prospect of enjoying his presence for ever. That should be a strong motivating hope.

Sunday Services

We are looking forward to having Ricky McAddock from Street Connect speaking at both services this Sunday. Please continue to pray for Ricky, Julie and the staff at Street Connect as they continue to engage with people during the continued ongoing restrictions. It will be good to hear first-hand from Ricky an update on this outreach that God has wonderfully blessed in the past.

It has been encouraging to see so many attend the Sunday services, so much so that the Back Hall has been brought into use as a parallel venue. Unfortunately, so far it has not been possible to relay the service visually to the overflow but it is being worked on. Meanwhile, as a provisional measure, the service is still available on Zoom.

Mission of the Month

This month's mission is Myra's Wells founded by Eddie Martin to supply clean water for villages and population centres in Burkina Faso in West Africa. Information about the projects is available on the Notice Board in the Crush Hall.

Restriction easing

From today many of the restrictions which have been in force are being relaxed. It will now be possible to meet in homes with up to six people. However, caution is still needed to safeguard against any fresh outbreak. Meanwhile, the precautions will still apply in the church while the possibility of meeting up over coffee and tea after the service is being tentatively explored. Still no singing!

Jim McKellar

It has been really good to have Jim McKellar play for us over the past month as we have waited for the service to start each Sunday evening. It helps to recall the words of inspirational hymns we are not allowed to sing because of lockdown restrictions. Thank you, Jim.

Bible Study

Having finished our journey through Exodus last Thursday, this week's session will take a reflective backward look at this interesting narrative and consider again some of the lessons it has for us in understanding the critical features of being "a pilgrim bound for the heavenly land".

So, for this Thursday, it would be good if each one could reflect on any particular feature of the Exodus picture that has spoken to you and share it with the rest of the group for mutual help.

Prayer

During the lockdown period there has been continued prayer for each other. This week there has been mention by name, among others, of David Morton, David and Jennifer McColl, Morag Wilson who has had a bad week with her dental problems, Ava, whose grandfather died on Friday and several others implied in more

general prayers, both in the prayer gatherings and in private prayer.

Various missionary agencies and personnel have also been mentioned including SAT-7, Slavic Gospel Association, Hope for Glasgow, Street Connect, Gordon Thomson leading a team of students in outreach work in Drumchapel, Scripture Union and the awful situations in India and in Jerusalem.

And a perpetual burden remains for those in our families, especially children, grandchildren, and friends because *"some have never loved Thee well; and some have lost the love they had"*.

Thank You

With the church back in use over the Sundays it does mean more work for several folks. Such quiet, diligent and faithful, service is very much appreciated.

Pentecost

Jim Gourley reminds us that this Sunday is Pentecost Sunday when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on the believers gathered in unity and expectation in that Upper Room. It resulted in the remarkable life pattern recorded in Acts 2: 42. For us, as individuals and as a church, an appropriate prayer would be: *"Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me / us."*

Finally,

When Jesus foretold Judas's betrayal, He assured us that the foretelling was deliberate in order to help his followers, so that when the event took place, they would know Jesus had Godly foreknowledge and that their belief in Him as the Son of God would be affirmed. I have been thinking that the principle revealed then is one that has constant application so that when we see the world today in the mess it is in, we realise that Jesus' prophecies about nations rising against nations are true. Knowing His prophecies are true encourages us to trust Him rather than letting events in the world cause us constant fear. The mess of the world can be worrying, but even the mess testifies to the reality of Jesus as the Saviour of the world. So as he said, *"Do not be afraid...."*

John Macleod