



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

19th July, 2021

God Making Peace Colossians 1: 15 - 24

The peace (that passes all understanding) which Jesus promised his disciples in John's Gospel, is a theme that is echoed in the experience of the early church as evidenced in the letters of Paul.

Writing to the Colossians, he explains **the need for peace**. Like all men they are in a world which is permeated by tension and conflict. Since the Fall, human behaviour is totally discordant both in relation to God and to other people. Not only does the Bible story illustrate the existence of that conflict, but human history since then abounds with evidence of it and its devastating effect. This sinful world certainly needs peace.

Exploring **the nature of that warfare**, verse 21 emphasises the nature of that conflict in that it is grounded in an alienation; mankind is at enmity and estranged from God. That shows itself in antagonism against God and others through a mind-set that leads to defiant actions which can only be described as evil. Our contemporary world and our existence abounds in manifestations of it.

God's answer to that devastation is seen in **an action of grace** where the Lord Jesus, his beloved Son, willingly surrendered himself as a sacrifice on Calvary, as a substitute, taking our place and punishment, in order to reconcile us to God. Faith in that brings forgiveness and new birth by his resurrection whereby we can be made 'holy' through Jesus' victory over Satan and sin. Continuing faith in that gospel brings hope, stability, and abiding peace.

Elders

Remember the Elders as they meet this morning to discern the Lord's leading in moving forward, not only in finding ways to restore 'normal service' but to exercise the collective responsibility of being "*good stewards of the things of God*" and seeing his will "*being done on earth, as it is in heaven*" in an effective way in our community and generation.

Keswick

The annual Keswick Convention starts up on Saturday after being cancelled last year because of the pandemic. The programme is inevitably curtailed because of the restrictions but there is a variety of good teaching that can be accessed online. Further information on www.keswickministries.org/convention for live-streaming and other details.

MEC's Jungle Adventure

Danny writes: The Holiday Club at Maryhill Evangelical Church was centred on John 3: 16 with each day's topic being: Creator, Provider, Protector, Saviour and King.

There were Bible stories, memory verses, crafts, games, singing and daily challenges to perform during the day; and activities in the evening for teenagers, where a few of them met up and spent time getting to know each other and sharing God's word. We finished off on Friday with a "sausage sizzle" which 8 parents attended.

We invited the parents and children to join us on Sunday morning. It was lovely to see a number of them coming. The children took part in the service reciting

memory verses, singing and answering questions on what they were taught throughout the week.

It was wonderful - and also encouraging - to hear how much the children could remember of what they had been taught. We had a great time with the children and thank God for His care and protection. We thank you for all the prayers and support received from Allander friends and look forward to what God has in store for the future.

Holiday Arrangements

John Macleod will be away from 24th July to the 5th August. During that time, Alan Clark, of the Slavic Gospel Association, will take both services on Sunday 25th July and Terry McCutcheon, of Hope or Glasgow, on the following Sunday, 1st August.

Andrew Macleod

Andrew Macleod leaves Milngavie on Wednesday 28th July to study Business and Sport in Arkansas, USA. Our prayers and good wishes go with him and to John, Carol and Bethany who will miss him.

Mission of the Month

Our Mission of the Month continues to be MAD Ministries as they prepare special activities for holiday clubs.

SU Camp

SU are running a restricted camp at Lendrick Muir this week with limited

attendance and appropriate safeguarding. Remember our Gordon Craig as he cooks for both the campers and the team.

Pray for:

Those of our own folk in special ill-health situations just now: David Jack (another serious fall and now in hospital), Mary Linton (another bad fall), Liz Baxter, Liz Walker.

Others of our own, quietly enduring the long term effects of illness, various incapacities and adverse circumstances.

Inga and Sue, our missionaries in Oaxaca, Mexico, facing health challenges as well as the complex and heavy demands of the work of faithfully translating Scripture into Mixtec.

Children for Christ's need for storage facilities in Scotland; and the prospect of a potential site becoming available.

Those among us deprived of the blessings – and challenges – of meeting together for fellowship, prayer and ministry.

Our neighbouring churches and local Christians.

Sunday School

The Sunday School has got off to a busy start since it resumed a few weeks ago. Pray for those attending and for those taking it.

Finally,

We have heard a lot in the last week of the hatred towards the black footballers after last Sunday night. We are aware of the Hurt this causes these people. It made me think of how grateful we are to have such a loving God in our lives. We've been studying Leviticus and, in 19: 18 God instructs his people. *"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbours as yourself"*. Let us, as God's people, pray for the nation. In God's eyes we are all equal. Let us all pray for a revival in this country of ours so that many more people will get to know the love of God, and in turn, will be able to love their neighbour regardless of race or colour.

Jim Flett