



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

2nd August, 2021

Sunday Sermon: Jesus the Doctor

Basing his sermon on three stories in Mark's Gospel (1: 40 – 2: 17), Terry McCutcheon highlighted how Jesus was a good doctor in that he offered people what they needed rather than give them what they wanted.

The first patient was **the leper**. His disease was obvious and everyone was aware of it. Everyone else had abandoned him as being unclean. However, in coming to Jesus, He did not doubt Jesus' power and ability but his willingness. That power was based on the fact that Jesus had, as it were, absorbed the man's leprosy through his anticipated death on the Cross.

The **paralytic**, however, needed someone to bring him to Jesus who asked whether it was easier to say, "*your sins are forgiven*" or "*rise up and walk*". The former was easier because it required no evidence to prove it: but the second was tangible and evident. Through forgiveness of his sins (proving that Jesus was God and able to do so) Jesus raised the man into a new existence, healed and ambulant.

At **Levi's** house there is a meal attended by other tax collectors and grateful sinners whose lives have been transformed by the healing ministry of Jesus. Such benevolence called for gratitude, praise, and commitment - something that was resented by the cynical religious observers. Jesus pointed out that the heavenly 'doctor's ministry was for the needy, not the self-righteous. To benefit, we must come, trust and respond; for Jesus says: Follow me.

Keswick Week 3

The third week of this year's Keswick Convention is on now with seminars, Bible Readings, celebrations, etc, available online at:

www.keswickministries.org/convention

FM Prayer meeting

Our monthly Faith Mission Prayer Gathering will be held tonight 7 30 pm. Access details are: Meeting ID: 750 1918 6300; Passcode: Hn6NjT; Hyperlink: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75019186300?pwd=VjZGdWlGcFU1S1RqTXNOSDdOcG1iQT09> Or telephone.

Christian Institute response process

The Christian Institute have alerted us to a consultation process on the issue of banning 'conversion therapy'. Although a UK matter, the Scottish Government is responding to a petition submitted by Stonewall, LGBT groups and the like, advocating the extension of this ban to cover praying with people or even evangelising. These groups are well within their democratic right to petition the government who, in turn, are right to respond to public demand.

The sad thing, however, is that these are the views of a vociferous minority while the majority remains silent. The Scottish Government, being cognisant of this, have initiated a consultation to ascertain to what extent there is common support for these biased demands and are trialling a procedure that will ensure fairer representation in future. It is important that we respond to this particular petition

and also support the new canvassing procedure to establish balanced public opinion. Go to: bit.ly/contherapy-scotviews to respond before 13th August.

It works! It has just been announced that an Employment Tribunal has ruled that Scotland's biggest grant-making trust unlawfully discriminated against its CEO because of his Christian views on marriage. The case was supported by CI.

It was Confucius who said: *better light a candle than curse the darkness!*

Jean Wilson writes:

Hi Folks, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one for their prayers regarding my sister in law's funeral. Danny conducted a very dignified service and made sure that it also was a celebration of Ina's life. Thank you all once again!! Love Jean and Family.

David McColl update

David and family finished their work with Samaritan's Purse in Bolivia at the end of June and will be in Canada for the next couple of months. They hope to move to Scotland in September and are working on details. Please pray for the transition and

the details that still need to be worked out.

Mission of the Month

This month's Mission of the Month is the Scottish Bible Society which is responsible for the distribution of Bibles across many nations and also producing Bible material in innovative forms in this country.

Pray for:

While we pray especially for David Jack, Donald Macleod, Mary Linton, Liz Baxter, and Jack Adair and Bailey (car accident) because of the immediacy of their illness, we also remember Irene Carmichael whose father, Tom McDowall went to be with the Lord at the grand old age of 100. And, we continue to remember those whose indisposition and difficulties are more long term., such as: Mary Atwell, Ian Baird, Iain Carmichael, George and Margaret Cowan, Donald Crosbie, Anna Gardner, Jack and Christine Harvey, Joyce Kyle, Jean and Leslie Malkin, Peter Martin, Elsie McIntyre, and Peter Stephenson; including any others who may have inadvertently been left out. .

Finally,

Returning home recently from our evening service, I listened, as I often do (courtesy of Alexa), to the singing of George Beverly Shea.

The words of a song that evening "*I'm learning to lean on Jesus*" have remained with me ever since. Those words are:

Learning to lean; Learning to lean
I'm learning to lean on Jesus
Finding more power than I've ever dreamed
I'm learning to lean on Jesus
There's glorious vict'ry each day now for me
Since I found His peace so serene
He helps with each task, if only I'll ask
Every day now I'm learning to lean.

As we continue on life's journey may we all know what it means to be able to lean on Jesus?

Jim Gourley