



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

30th January, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Luke 1: 46 - 80

Concluding the series on faith, based on the events recorded in Luke 1, John emphasised that both Mary's Song – the Magnificat – and that of Zechariah illustrate the **Celebration of faith**.

The events of this chapter and the songs that characterise the response to them reflect the joy that there is evidence that, after years of apparent silence, God is now moving in bringing about redemption for His people. They reflect:

God's work. Events such as the miraculous conception of John the Baptist to an aged Elizabeth and Zechariah and the birth of Jesus to the virgin Mary are all acts of God. They are things He has done and brought about. Just as in Creation He spoke and things came into being so now He has spoken again and things have happened. The response is both personal, affecting individuals, and corporate relating to the nation.

God's mercy. It is the kindness of God to self-confessed unworthy, humble and underserving subjects.

God's salvation. They are actions with a redemptive purpose for they establish the means of salvation - with mercy bringing forgiveness and grace a divine enabling.

So, what should **our response** be? An acknowledgement that God in His mercy has provided the means of salvation through the saving work of Jesus whom He sent into the world *"to save sinners"*.

*"At Calvary's Cross is where you begin
When you come, as a sinner, to Jesus."*

Platform 67

Martin Dudgeon from the Mission, Platform 67, will be at the Prayer Meeting on Tuesday where he will share information on what is happening in, and to, churches in various parts of the world. It is always both an informative and challenging occasion when he comes and speaks to us.

Women's Christian Viewpoint

The next meeting of the Christian Women's Viewpoint will be on Wednesday 1st February starting with lunch at 1 pm and followed by a talk from Norman Liddell of the Bible Society of Scotland.

The Faith Mission

This week-end sees our monthly set of Faith Mission activities. These include:

Friday Night FM Rally

The monthly FM Rally on Friday at 7 30. These are very stimulating gatherings with music, a bookstall, challenging ministry and good opportunity for fellowship with those from other churches over a cup of tea. The speaker at this meeting is of special interest to us. He is Reuben Lyons, Bethany Thomson's fiancée, who is one of FM's workers in Ireland.

Rejuvenate for Young Folk

This key Saturday night activity for young folk is very much valued by those from both Allander and other churches who attend. It not only provides a haven for young people from competing unhelpful activities but nurtures an understanding

of Christian teaching and example; and strengthens bold stands for the gospel. It also (c/o McDonalds and the generosity of 'sponsors'!!) nourishes the 'inner man' with free burgers! Saturday, 8pm.

Gordon's vision to provide this helpful context depends on sponsorship. A major challenge for that support is an envisaged week-end away later on this year.

FM Prayer Union

Support is not only financial. It is a spiritual battle and so the monthly prayer meeting for Gordon and Janice particularly, and the work of FM in general, is of vital importance. Monday, 6th February at 730pm in Margaret Russell's home at 53 Roman Road, Bearsden. G61 2SG

Next Sunday

Communion on Sunday will be during the morning service with tea and coffee served as usual after it and, being the first Sunday of the month, following the evening service also. Both services will be taken by Sam Gordon.

Inga and Sue's projects in Mexico

It does not seem all that long since Inga was with us here in person at Allander. Now back in Oaxaca she, along with her colleague, Sue Huggins, is fully engrossed in the work of translating the Scriptures. Part of that is not only revising the translation but also obtaining useful

feedback from local users and dialect speakers to make the translation more understandable, accurate and user-friendly. This means visiting these areas in teams and then making changes in the light of suggestions - a painstaking task. Some of it is done electronically using apps on phones which is dependent on often unreliable internet connections and power supplies.

Alongside of that, Inga herself is heavily engaged in training other translators and making valuable contributions to a better understanding of linguistics, publishing articles, teaching on-line courses and participating in numerous online meetings and consultations with other specialists.

Over some of our next issues we will publish extracts from the helpful weekly prayer news that comes from them to help us maintain our prayer support for the work.

Mission of the Month

Street Connect, led by Ricky and Julie McAddock, is the Mission we support during February.

Pray for:

Continue to pray for Ian Baird, Mary Clark, George Cowan, Allyson Flett, Terry Gallagher, Jim Gourley, Jack and Christine Harvey, David Wilson; and others.

Finally,

Despite having had a number of holidays on the island of Malta it was only recently that I understood the significance of the famous Maltese Cross associated with the Knights of Malta who ruled the Maltese Islands. The cross has 8 points, believed to represent the 8 vows that the Knights had to observe. These were: Live in truth, Have Faith; Repent of sins; Give proof of humility; Love Justice; Be merciful; Be sincere and whole hearted; and Endure persecution.

These vows challenged me as to how I should live my Christian life, I hope they may be helpful to you also.

Jim Gourley