



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

31st May, 2021

"You have not gone this way before"

Joshua 3: 4

As we move out of the severest restrictions from the pandemic it is important that the church learns from the experience and goes into this new sphere of life committed to whatever God has for us to do. Such changes can be daunting and to help us in the process we are going to look at some lessons from Joshua recognising that as we embrace the future, "we have not gone this way before"!

In the first of this short series, we are encouraged by seeing two basic principles that are powerful in encouraging the children of God in their journey with Him.

In the first place we were reminded that although we have not gone this way before, God has. God is a God who goes before His people as he proved in the rescue from Egypt and the years in the wilderness. He has guided His church through wars, plagues and disasters and we can trust that He goes before us, knowing and preparing every twist and turn of life and asking us to trust Him and obey Him. Although the next steps are unknown to us they are completely known to GOD.

Secondly, we are reminded that God does not deviate from His plan. Crisis forces worldly leaders to react and respond to situations, but nothing is a surprise to GOD and therefore as He leads His people, He takes us on a roadmap that never needs revision or alteration. From the beginning of the Bible to its end we see that God is shaping a people to be with

HIM forever and there is no pandemic or disaster that alters His eternal purpose. The challenge for us as it was in Joshua's days is to see what steps we must take to get where God wants us.

Finance

David Jack writes: I am pleased to report that your donations for the Mission cause of the Month amounted to £600. This has been forwarded to Myra's Wells for their work in Burkina Faso.

I am also pleased to report that a further £220 has been donated by you for the Christian Missions Charitable Trust's appeal for help to support 5,000 families in Chennai during the second wave of Covid 19 which is affecting the whole of India. This amount has been sent to their UK representative.

Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month for June is The Christian Institute who have undertaken significant measures to prevent the passing of unjust legislation and are continuing to make a bold stand safeguarding Christian values in society.

Morning Prayer Times

Starting this Wednesday, 2nd June and until further notice, our Morning Prayer Meetings will be from 9.00am until 9.30am by Zoom and telephone. The Tuesday evening Prayer Meeting will continue to be at 8.00pm until 9.00pm by Zoom and telephone until we are able to meet in the church on Tuesday evenings.

It is encouraging the number of people who have been coming together to pray

and we hope that more will feel led to join with us as we see the great needs that exist in the world today and the healing that is required.

Pray for:

Prayer has been requested for Joyce Kyle, Ian and Irene Carmichael, Christine and Jack Harvey, and George and Margaret Cowan. Also remember Jenty Munro who underwent an operation on Friday morning.

During the week we have heard of the passing of Stefani, John Macleod's cousin. She leaves a husband and two children who would appreciate our prayers. Pray also for Elsie McIntyre following the unexpected passing of her husband Neil last Saturday evening.

Faith Mission Prayer Meeting

The June Faith Mission Prayer Union will meet on Zoom at 7.30 pm on Monday 7th June. The access details are:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76724303942?pwd=UU1EYTdhTm44RWVURmh5d0k0OEQwdz09>. Meeting ID: 767 2430 3942; Passcode: j5sc4T

Visitors

Paul and Nesta Volle, retired missionaries who returned to Italy having gone out initially with OM in the 60s in George Verwer's mobilisation ventures, joined us in our Bible Study on Thursday night, all

the way from Norfolk where they now live in a retirement complex with its own Care Home and independent-living bungalows. Far from being retired they are still very active in witnessing in the complex and surrounding areas as well as literature distribution, visits to Wayland Open Prison and extensive hospitality. Sadly, Paul is suffering from a rare form of cancer. They would appreciate our prayers.

From Ricky McAddock at Street Connect

Thanks once again for inviting us over. It was an honour to share God's word with you and hope you all heard me OK. 😊 Also, hoping the evening presentation went well. My voice is recovering well and should pretty much be back to normal by tomorrow. We appreciate all the support you have given us over the years and continue to give, particularly the prayer support. This is so vital to ongoing growth and development of our organisation. All of you at Allander continue to be such a blessing to us.

Elders

Remember the Elders as they meet on Tuesday morning to further consider finding God's way for the days ahead and determining what steps to follow as we come out of lockdown and develop a new – but visionary 'normal'.

Finally,

One day I commented to a friend who worked for the BBC that I was amazed that some of the TV programmes from my youth were making a comeback. He told me that the reason for this was that the programme makers were now people of my age (this was a few years ago!) and were obviously leaning on the positive experiences of their own youth and seeking to recreate them. As we get older, we value the positive inputs we had in our formative years and this can be true spiritually. Looking back can be dangerous spiritually if it only creates nostalgia but looking back to the sources that gave us a love for God and a passion for His word and presence can be good if it inspires our desire to serve God in the present.

John Macleod