



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2021

#### Harvest Sunday Sermon

On this Harvest Sunday John based his sermon on Psalm 104 – a companion psalm to 103 – extolling God's work in creation.

While 'harvest services' are traditional in churches they may have little Scriptural warrant as such other than as genuine acts of thanksgiving for the providence and provision of God. Increasingly the link between planting and product is less obvious. The practice, nevertheless, has significant lessons and spiritual application for us, for:

Harvest is a sign of God's pleasure. Not only is it an expression of his goodness and generosity: it is something that he delights in and brings him satisfaction. As the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6 shows, God loves to bless. And, righteousness in the believer delights God at all times.

Harvest is a sign of God's presence. It is God that gives the increase. While others sow and contribute to nurture, it is God who provides the increase and without Him there is no life. As Philippians says: "*it is God that works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure*".

Harvest shows the source of life. The product is derived from what God gives. Peter declared: "*To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*".

Harvest speaks of the purpose of life. To what extent can it be said of our Christian testimony, having received Christ in our hearts, that "*herein is my Father glorified that you bear much fruit*"?

#### Mission of the Month

This month's Mission of the Month is Blythswood Care who provide relief and support for needy people in many areas of the world and especially in Eastern Europe.

One of the main ways churches can help in this work is by providing Shoe Boxes full of materials appropriate for needy families, especially at Christmas.

A leaflet was issued yesterday (and can still be obtained) listing what is appropriate for including in a 'shoe box'.

Filled boxes should be brought to the church this month and no later than Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October so that they can be collected by the Blythswood lorry and transported in time for Christmas.

Financial donations can also be given, either through the Mission of the Month offering box in the church or through Ian Baird, as treasurer.

#### Ladies Meeting

After a long interval of almost two years the Ladies Meeting will start up again this Thursday at 2 pm until 3 pm. It will be an opportunity to get together again, meet old and new friends and, of course, the usual 'tea and chat'. All ladies welcome.

#### Faith Mission

Gordon Thomson and his team's visit last Sunday evening certainly whetted our appreciation of the work done by the Faith Mission in Scotland and Ireland. There is a Prayer Meeting held currently on Zoom for voluntary supporters in this

area to pray for Gordon and Janice particularly and for the work in general. It meets tonight on Zoom at 7 30pm. Access details from contact numbers below.

### **Our Thoughts are with:**

David Jack who was visited at Milngavie Manor Care Home by Jim Gourley last Sunday and John Macleod on Wednesday. He appeared to understand that his visitors were from Allander but could not really respond because of extreme weakness. He is at peace, is asleep most of the time, and still exudes a strong sense of trust in his Lord.

Inga and her colleagues at Oaxaca who have experienced a serious blow in seeing one of their younger colleagues, Karina, succumb to Covid after a long and debilitating fight with that disease. The family and the co-workers will feel the impact of that loss severely.

Terry McCutcheon of Hope for Glasgow whose wife, Charlene, is still critically ill in hospital. Following a clear stand of faith she is showing some improvement.

And, more pleasantly, with Gordon and Janice Thomson's daughter, Bethany, on her engagement to Reuben, a Faith Mission Worker in Northern Ireland.

### **Bible Study**

The Bible Study is now well under way looking at the "Ready, Steady, Go" sequence in the Book of Numbers. This

week's chapters are 10 – 17 dealing with the fluctuating responses to the divine initiative.

### **Street Connect.**

The AGM of Street Connect will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 1 -2.30pm. Contact Jim Gourley for details.

### **Children for Christ**

John's – and his team's - deputation trip to Lewis and Harris went well with nine meetings and a 2-hour radio interview. Interest was re-ignited with commitment to support in finance and prayer.

### **Thank You**

A thank-you letter from Gayle Cattanach was read out last Sunday expressing the family's appreciation for the church's prayers and warm support during the time of their son John's illness.

### **Local Churches**

We continue to remember our friends at Maryhill Evangelical Church and our local churches and their leaders, no doubt weary from continuously 'holding the fort' during this protracted period of the pandemic and its restrictions.

**Allow** (Margaret Stewart)

Admit your need of Him; Love Him; Live for Him; **O**bey His word; **W**orship Him for who He is.

### **Finally,**

On my recent visit to the Hebrides, I quickly knew I was amongst my own folk when people felt liberty to comment on my weight! On the same day I had the comments; "my you are getting thin" and "are you putting on weight, bit of a bulge in your middle"! Thankfully I'm not a teenager with body image issues!! However, it did make me think what a mess we can get into when we listen to every voice around us and when we are governed by the perceptions of others. I would have gone from gorging to fasting in record time! When it comes to spiritual matters only the voice and opinion of our Lord matters which is why we must take the time and effort to listen to Him.

John Macleod