



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

13th February, 2023

Sunday Sermon: John 15: 4 - 8

Yesterday's preacher was Ricky McAddock who spoke briefly of the work of Street Connect reaching out to addicts, homeless and marginalised folk, introducing them to Christian rehabilitation and following through with provision, oversight and support. Having been fully involved 24/7 in the work for nearly 10 years he took a sabbatical during the summer months and shared with us some of the insights he had gained during that period of reflection, taking as his title: **The way to effective, lasting, service**

Apart from the value of the sabbatical principle as spoken of in Scripture and the exhortation of [Jesus](#) to "*Come apart and rest awhile*" and to "*Come unto me all ye who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest*" the secret is to abide in Him. Life comes from God and it is only when we abandon trust and confidence in ourselves and our own ability and exercise full dependence on Him that we know fruitfulness. Tribulation and difficulty is often God's way of teaching us the futility of depending on self. Indeed pruning is one of His strategies. But it produces fruit – the product of God's life in us. And that not only makes us effective but it brings glory to God, for it is His doing. -

This Week

This week is School holidays so some of the weekly activities, like Toddlers, will be suspended and others affected.

On top of routine suspension caused by holidays, these are difficult times for schools with extensive unrest over pay

and conditions on the one hand and major concerns over curriculum trends being driven by so-called, "liberal and progressive" – but often godless - pressure groups, much to the concern of parents and staff. The situation needs real prayer.

Prayer

There has been much emphasis on earnest prayer over this and other issues. It is good to meet together on Tuesday nights at 8 pm and, where possible, on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Bible Study

For various reasons we will stay with Acts 15 (rather than go on to Chapter 16) for this week's study, reflecting on the many lessons that come out of that chapter for us today, and their implications.

People and situations to pray for

From time to time we mention people to pray for. Inevitably, some are named while others are not. In some instances individuals have asked not to be mentioned while in others it is genuine oversight because we have not been made aware of it. All are included even of not named.

Alongside people, there are situations. One important one is concern for family members or friends who have either grown cold towards spiritual things or have not responded positively to being brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. These are real burdens constantly remembered.

And we cannot but pray earnestly for the people in South East Turkey and Syria devastated by the recent earthquakes. One possible practical course of action is to purchase landscape paintings completed by Jean Malkin during lockdown and contribute the proceeds to the disaster funds. Details next week.

Mission of the Month

The mission of the month for February is Street Connect which offers Christian hope that can lead to life transformation for individuals struggling with addiction and associated issues such as homelessness and poor mental health.

Led by Ricky and Julie McAddock they carry out a range of programmes including recovery, temporary accommodation, and spiritual help.

Local Churches

As we rejoice in seeing numbers grow and more people attending our services we keep remembering local churches with whom we have good relations. Last week-end Maryhill Evangelical celebrated their 127th Anniversary going back to the days when they were a Railway Mission up to the present where they reach out

effectively to children in the area.

Neighbouring churches, like St Paul's and St Luke's, are facing uncertainty with C of S reorganisation plans introducing uncomfortable changes. St Paul's are without a permanent minister since Fergus Buchanan retired and Ramsay Shields at St Luke's has recently undergone serious surgery. The UF church continues its range of activities both within the church and the community.

Advance dates

Dates for this summer's conventions. The Faith Mission Edinburgh Convention will be held from Sunday, 2nd to Friday 7th July. Keswick will be on for three weeks in July: 15th – 21st; 22nd to 28th; 29th to 4th August. The theme will be 'Human'

Inga

Continue to remember Inga's translation and training work in Oaxaca.

SGA 17 February

This month's Slavic Gospel Association local prayer meeting will be held on Friday 17th February at 7 30pm in Margaret Russell's Home. (Venue to be confirmed)

Finally,

I have been frustrated recently by two Government departments not doing what they said they would. Firstly around 25th Nov. I telephoned for a Form which was promised to be posted in 48 hours, I'm still waiting! I have however obtained one by another route. The second issue, I was promised a resolution on 15th Dec. with a letter going out the same day, and you've guessed it I'm still waiting. I have since telephoned again and have been promised a resolution which I await in some doubt.

Isn't it good to know that God keeps his promises and that we can rely on Him fully?

2 Peter 1 v3-4 NIV, says:

*His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and **precious promises**, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

Ian Baird