



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

21st June, 2021

Sunday Sermon: John 21: 1 - 17

Taking this morning's service, Jim Gourley reminded us of the significance of the records in the four Gospels where Jesus had life-enhancing encounters with individuals like Nicodemus or the Woman at the Well. However, in the passage under consideration the encounter was between Jesus and Peter.

Peter's relationship with Jesus had begun way back on the shores of Galilee with the call to leave the fishing and come and follow his master. Since then he had developed a close relationship and become one of the "inner three" of Peter, James and John who shared some of the most moving episodes in Jesus' life.

But now, after the death of Jesus, Peter is back in Galilee, in his old job, and back to the old ways; possibly dejected through recalling that, at a critical moment, he had denied his Lord three times. He had failed.

With that, Jesus appeared to the disciples and instructed them to "*cast their nets on the right side*" with good effect. That was followed by a more personal challenge to Peter himself: "*Do you love Me more than these?*" Peter responded positively with a heartfelt confession realising that Jesus was forgiving him at the point of his need. That was followed by a commission to "*Feed my sheep*".

We, too, can have a life-transforming encounter with Jesus who challenges us to seek his forgiveness, confess him, love him, and be committed to him and the furtherance of his kingdom. So, let Him enter in, today.

Bible Study

This Thursday will be the last of the Zoom Bible Studies for this session as we conclude our look at Leviticus in chapters 23 – 27. The next series will follow, DV, in September looking at the book of Numbers and making our way through Deuteronomy to Joshua. It may be that one or two 'keeping-in-touch' sessions will be arranged for odd Thursdays during July and August.

Allander Fun Day

As announced last week, two 'Family Fun Day' mornings are being arranged for Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd July from 10 30 until noon. The intention is to keep contact with those children and their parents who have been denied the opportunity to attend church activities during the pandemic. The events will be conducted by Brian Lowrie and Jenny Haggerty and their colleagues in the MAD (Make a Difference) ministries. Help will be appreciated so, if you are able to offer help of any kind, please let John or Jim Gourley know.



On Thursday evening, July 1st, at 7pm Brian will be here to organise and set up for the fun days and also to have time for prayer. It would be good if as many

helpers as possible can be there for any briefing, preparation and prayer.

A flyer and covering letter has been sent out to all the homes we have contact with.

Prayer Requests

It is good to be reminded again of many in the Fellowship –and beyond – who need prayer in these days. Recently, we have heard that both Jack Adair and Bailey are suffering from Covid-19 symptoms and David Jack is seriously troubled with severe pain from his hip. Others we name from time to time are: Joyce Kyle, Anna Gardner, Christine and Jack Harvey, Ian Baird, David and Morag Wilson, Iain Carmichael, Elsie McIntyre, George and Margaret Cowan, Mary Linton, Mary Atwell, Nkem, and Inga McKendry (who hopes to be able to come ‘home’ and visit us this summer).

Camps etc

The pandemic has seriously affected the potential of residential camps but Groups are finding ways of providing alternatives. Scripture Union is offering Day Camps at their Centres and Faith Mission are offering ‘virtual camps’ in July. The work in Romania has been quite hampered with the suspension of the annual camps, and

volunteer helpers from here, but activities are ongoing despite the handicap.

Encouragement from Burkina Faso

This report came from the President of the WEC Churches covering their annual Easter conferences “This year there was great enthusiasm and some excellent messages around the theme ‘I will build my Church’. An unbelievable four thousand people attended the Bouroum conference (this included children). Many sat in the sun and water was in short supply”.

What would Jack Robertson, one of the early pioneer missionaries, say if he was alive today? He used to come home on leave totally discouraged. There was little fruit in those early days. But he planted some mango trees in that village and said that, sometime, one day in the future, believers would gather in large numbers under those trees.

FM Convention

The Faith Mission Convention will be held from 27th June to 2nd July at 10 30am and 7 30pm each day from Monday to Friday. It will again be online and can be accessed through the Faith Mission YouTube channel.

Finally,

When the Covid19 Pandemic appeared in the UK in March 2020 most, if not all of us, thought it would go away in a few months and life would get back to normal: but that was far from the truth.

We are now being told that the virus has become endemic and is here to stay; vaccines will help to control it and reduce the severity of symptoms in those who contract it, but there is still no cure. The Bible tells us that sin is endemic and affects us all. *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*. Romans 3:23. In John 3:16, we read those well-known words *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”*. How good it is to know that we have been saved from the penalty of our sin and can look forward to a new life in Heaven with our Lord and Saviour.

Ian Baird