



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

26<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

#### Lessons from Jonah: Alan Clark

Our visiting speaker today was Alan Clark, an elder in the Tron Church and Scottish Representative for the Slavic Gospel Association. He preached on the Book of Jonah and its lessons for us today.

The world Jonah was part of, like ours, is a godless one with the leadership of Israel and the Gentile world quite apostate. Yet, the book shows that God is interested in the ungodly. Chapter 1 shows three aspects of that concern.

In the first instance, **the Lord calls** by His Word which came to Jonah for a purpose that included both a warning against apostasy and the offer of a way of salvation. And we know that *"God who spoke to our fathers by the prophets has spoken to us by his Son.* God's word comes to us to share with the world.

Most of the chapter shows that **the Lord pursues** both Jonah, who was fleeing from the call of God and the mission to Nineveh, and also the sailors who happened to be manning the boat. Whatever our situation – rebellion, unbelief or ignorance – God diligently pursues with His offer of grace and salvation.

More than that, **the Lord appoints.** In this situation God appointed a storm to warn against running away and a 'great fish' to rescue Jonah. In our day he has made greater provision through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Through repentance for our sins and faith in that provision we can obtain that salvation and share it with others.

#### Keswick

This is Keswick Week 2. Various meetings are available online at [www.keswickministries.org/convention](http://www.keswickministries.org/convention) or on the Keswick YouTube stream. Covers a whole range of events from Bible Readings to Seminars to Evening Celebrations.

#### Lendrick Muir

*Gordon Craig writes:* Thanks for your prayer support. Camp went really well. We were blessed with great weather. We had all our meals outdoors. We were looking at the book of Mark with the miracles and their significance. The campers bonded well, and were receptive to the teaching.

#### Romania

Encouraging news from Romania is that the camps are going well. It seems that 23 children gave their hearts to the Lord last week. Another camp is due this week with 80% of the helpers being themselves ex-campers.

#### Services

Our visiting speaker this Sunday is Terry McCutcheon from Hope for Glasgow

#### FM Prayer meeting

Our monthly Faith Mission Prayer Gathering will again be on Zoom this coming Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 7 30 pm. Access details are: Meeting ID: 750 1918 6300; Passcode: Hn6NjT; Hyperlink: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75019186300?pwd=VjZGdWlGcFU1S1RqTXNOSDdOcG1iQT09> Or telephone.

## The Elders and Future Arrangements

The Elders express their appreciation for so much prayer on their behalf as they continue to consider practical steps for the way ahead. With our being in Level Zero, social distancing is now down to 1 metre, giving greater flexibility, and allowing restricted singing in the services.

Our regular activities, such as Mother and Toddlers, Hashtag, Ladies Meeting, will resume later in the year. Looking ahead, there is the prospect of a young couple from Child Evangelism Fellowship helping out with our children's work; and of the Faith Mission's Rejuvenate and Youth Rallies starting up in the autumn.

However, there is an anxiety that having *"not passed this way before"* we do not simply revert to *'business as usual'* and the complacency it generates, but to *'rise up and go'*, increasing our prayer, commitment, outreach and fellowship in more tangible ways, for *'where there is no vision, the people will perish'*.

That is a task the Lord has entrusted to his people. And, as recent ministry has emphasised, he not only gives the enabling through the work of the Holy Spirit but also the peace that passes all understanding. As the parable says of faithful servants, *"we have only done what was our duty"*.

## Prayer

We continue in prayer - as encouraged --in our regular prayer times, conscious of a whole range of needs. On the personnel front, we remember David Jack who is in hospital and undergoing further investigations. Also Mary Linton who fell and is receiving support from friends and relatives, yet still participating in our Zoom meetings and enjoying the Keswick sessions on YouTube. Donald MacLeod undergoes surgery this week at the QEUH. Jean Wilson lost her sister-in-law recently and Danny was called on to conduct the funeral. Donald Crosbie is experiencing considerable pain from osteoporosis. We also rejoice with Jack Adair who has found a legal post in Paisley after waiting a year since he qualified; and remember the Macleod family as Andrew sets off for the US on Wednesday; not forgetting Inga and Sue with their health needs and their complex translation work.

Our national situation - and that prevalent in the world - calls for prayer that, despite rampant godlessness, believers will be spared persecution, be encouraged in their stances and that secular leaders acknowledge God in the discharge of their responsibility.

## Finally,

The recent Euro 2020 competition was regarded to be a great success until, sadly, the football was overshadowed by issues of crowd behaviour and racism. It is astonishing that racism is still so prevalent in British society considering all that has been done in terms of education and legislation to eradicate it. Its continued existence is testimony to the Biblical revelation that people need transformation more than education when it comes to spiritual and moral matters. The church should be to the world a model of community without racism and so we are thankful that even in our own congregation there are many nations represented as we anticipate the eternal community of God's people, which John saw as *"a great multitude that no one could number, .... from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb"*. Revelation 7: 9.

John Macleod