

We pray for our friends in



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

27th September, 2021

Sunday Sermon: Colossians 3: 16

The 'text' at last Sunday evening's Bible-Study-focused service was *"Thy Word have I hid in my heart"*. That was followed yesterday with Paul's exhortation to the Colossians to *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly"*.

Colosse was one of a group of churches set in a cosmopolitan valley. The effect of that environment was compromise which weakened their faith as it did in neighbouring Laodicea. It made them prone to accept false alternatives and begin to doubt fundamental truths.

It was against this background that Paul reminded them that Christ was the full embodiment of God himself and that, having trusted in that Christ, they were lacking nothing in the potential of their Christian experience.

But they did need to make an effort. Telling them to *'seek those things from above'* he encouraged them to take practical steps to ensure that they benefitted from Christ living in them.

Each word in that exhortation is significant. By saying **Let** they were to actively allow it to **dwell** in their hearts. It wasn't to be a passing thought but something more permanent residing **in you**, influencing, affecting and almost controlling their life and conduct. It would not be sufficient to simply refer to a few Scripture verses but to think Biblically: to think as God does. And that can only come about as we read the whole of the Bible and let it permeate all of our very being. That's the importance of **richly**.

Hashtag

Good numbers – though varying in personnel each week – attend the Toddler Time with great enthusiasm. Drop-In is going well but still seeking to establish itself. Hashtag has been quite encouraging as it started up this session. Despite the hiatus caused by the pandemic, a number of children have come back and have enthusiastically responded to the activities and the teaching. Simon and Hannah Snodgrass have been a real help providing structured activities and excellent teaching. And all the other helpers are appreciated too.

Bible Study

Having launched into Numbers last Thursday we now go on to look at Chapters 5 – 9 in this account of the mobilisation of the children of Israel and its lessons for us in today's church. Thursday at 7 30pm on Zoom.

Harvest

Our Harvest Thanksgiving service will take place this Sunday, 3rd October at 10.30am. The cause which we will be supporting is Blythswood Care and you can do this in two ways.

(1) Through the annual Shoe Box appeal. Leaflets to enable you to do this are available now at the church entrance or from Jim Gourley. Please bring your box to the church by Sunday 31st October.

(2) By making a cash donation through the Missionary of the Month cause in the offering box at the back of the church or direct to Ian Baird.

Translation Challenge

Sue Huggins shared this piece to illustrate the challenge of translation.

This nugget of Scripture encapsulates the Gospel message:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

Yet the shocking fact is that of the 7360 living languages in the world today, fewer than half have this essential truth in their mother tongue. That means that over 3000 languages have yet to hear of God's amazing love for them.

This gargantuan need motivates us to press on with the task of Bible translation, the Church's assignment to make God's love known to all people.

Thank you for your part in helping one minority language in southern Mexico to have access to God's Word.

SGA Ladies Rally

The Ladies Rally of the Slavic Gospel Association will be held in the Tron Church, Bath St, on Saturday, 2nd October at 10am. All Ladies welcome in this, the Mission's 75th year.

Finally,

Both our sons now have dogs. Recently Andy got a new puppy and in the conversation the phrase – a man's best friend – came up.

Thinking about what to write for this week it came to my mind about who is our best friend.

Honesty is one of the important pillars of friendship. Without it we can't have a lasting friendship especially with God. This challenged me to ask: What is my friendship with God?

It all starts with our hearts. Do I have a pure, honest, heart? Am I sincere and kind? Being friends with God is a commitment that should come from the heart, wanting to read his word and get to know him more daily in my life.

Proverbs 22:- 11 says: One who loves a pure heart, who speaks with grace, will have the King for a friend. Amazing! We can have the best friend we could have in our lives – the Kings of Kings. No wonder we sing: *"What a Friend we have in Jesus"*

Jim Flett

Faith Mission Prayer meeting

The next FM Prayer meeting will be held on Monday, 4th October at 7 30pm on Zoom.

Prayer

We encourage participation in prayer at our various gatherings: Tuesdays at 8pm both at the church and concurrently on Zoom, and Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9 00 to 9 30am on Zoom.

Not having mentioned many individual names for a few issues we offer the following (incomplete) list of those with various individual needs - both health and circumstantial - as a reminder.

Ian Baird, Liz Baxter, Iain and Irene Carmichael, George and Margaret Cowan, Margaret Craig, Jack and Christine Harvey, David Jack, Ann Jones, Joyce Kyle, Andrew Macleod, Morag and David Wilson,

Street Connect.

The AGM of Street Connect will be held on Wednesday 6th October from 1 -2.30pm online. For joining instructions please ask Jim Gourley.