



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

#### Sunday Sermon: 1 Peter 2: 18 - 25

Concluding this series from 1 Peter 2 on how to live as Christians in an environment of hardship this week's section focused on Christ's example of Godly living. It highlights the need to radiate hope to the lost and to live life as a testimony to God's grace.

That means that **Mission is in the mundane**. The sphere of witness is not involvement in major projects or Christian ventures but in the ordinary contexts of day by day life: as employees, husbands, parents, neighbours, etc. Faith makes ordinary life holy as we live life motivated by keeping our eyes on the glory of God.

That is motivated by looking at the **example of Christ's own experience** in being God incarnate and willingly undertaking the task of being our Redeemer. As Jesus Christ He suffered, becoming obedient unto death *even death on a cross*. Jesus suffered for us. He faced unjust suffering and yet, he trusted in God, enduring meekly all that sin-bearing and '*contradiction of sinners*' meant for him.

Through his suffering and vindication by the resurrection he **empowers us to live** as he lived - with an infusion of new power and the application of redemptive healing because of a dynamic consciousness of God.

#### Prayer for Ukraine

The Slavic Gospel Association are convening a Zoom Prayer Time for the situation in Ukraine on Monday at 7 30. Details from [www.sga.org.uk](http://www.sga.org.uk)

#### Baptism

What a blessed scene last Sunday (20<sup>th</sup> February, too late to appear in last week's Newsletter) when we were privileged to witness the dedication of young Shu Yu Yu and the baptism of her parents, MinQin Yu and Hai Yong Yu. They are members of the Chinese church which meets at Allander under the pastoral oversight of Jing.

Theirs was the latest in a series of baptisms over recent years, nearly all of which have been of Chinese believers.

What about Allander? Is there anyone of us enjoying the welcome, warmth, and ministry of the church who has yet to take that step of faith and answer positively the three questions put to MinQin and Hai Yong, which were: (1) *Do you repent of your sin and intend to follow Christ?* (2) *Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?* And (3) *Will you seek to live within the fellowship of His church and to serve Him?* Or any one of us who can, but has not yet taken the step of public confession.

Maybe now is the time to think seriously about these matters? If so, why not seek out John Macleod or one of the Elders to discuss the matter further.

#### Faith Mission Rally

The next local bi-monthly Faith Mission Rally will be held at Allander this Friday at 7 30pm when the speaker will be Joe McNeilly, former Superintendent of the FM in Scotland, and the music provided by John McCartney..

## FM Prayer Union

The monthly Prayer Union will be held on Zoom on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, again at 7 30pm. Access details are: Meeting ID: 799 3927 7532; Passcode: 9k5YtF

## Bible Study

In view of the crisis in Ukraine, last Thursday's Bible Study was suspended to allow for a time of concentrated prayer for that desperate situation. That means that this Thursday we will be considering a miscellany of chapters in Deuteronomy 19 – 26 which outline some of the distinctive behaviours expected of the people of God in the Promised Land. Next week we will look at some NT teaching on similar issues.

## Sunday's Services

Both services on Sunday will be conducted by Sam Gordon whose Mission, Truth for Today, we have been supporting over this past month.

## Mission of the Month

The sum of £500 was raised in January for A Passion for Life for which the following acknowledgement was received.

*"We are writing to acknowledge receipt of your gift of £500 towards A Passion for Life, and to say a heartfelt thank you for the expression of your Gospel partnership with us. Generous contributions have enabled, under the guidance of a*

*representative Steering Group, the development of resources which are already being used by churches across the UK and Ireland and which will, we trust, be useful to the church for years to come."*

## His Word in My Hands

Cornhill are offering a Day of Bible-handling skills for everyone on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March from 9 30am to 4pm at the Tron Church, Bath Street, Glasgow.

## Christian Institute

A video testimony is available on the CI website reflecting on the Robertson Trust's dismissal of their CEO, Kenneth Ferguson on religious grounds and its overturn by the courts.

## Lenten Series

St Paul's is holding a series of half-hour Lenten services each Saturday morning at 9 am starting on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

## Communion

For the month of March, Communion will be held in the evenings of 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and in the morning of Sundays 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Pray for:

George Cowan, Simon and Hannah Snodgrass and Edith, Jim Gourley due for a routine check-up and Janice Allan due for a knee operation this week.

## Finally,

Once again we look on at what is happening in our world, and especially at what is happening with Russia and Ukraine. When things are out of hand and we have no control of the situation, what do we do? Do we pray? Does it draw us closer to God? Do we exercise faith?

God does not want our relationship with him purely crisis related. He wants us to know we can pray to him and carry all our burdens to him at any time. He is a God of hope and healing. For today's world may we all pour our hearts out to him and find his peace in our lives. May we as God's people not let the fear of what's happening around us paralyse our faith? (Psalm 24)

Jim Flett