



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

28th June, 2021

Questions and Assurances: John 14: 5-14

Resuming the series in John's Gospel, John's sermon today focused on the Questions and Assurances found in this passage.

Jesus, having already told his disciples that he was physically departing from them and going to the Father, found considerable anxiety among them, resulting in serious questions.

The first, spoken by Thomas, was *a question from a perplexed ignorance*. Where was Jesus going and how could they know the way. As in the rest of Scripture, a direct answer is not forthcoming, but Jesus gives an assurance *through a personal revelation* that he is the (only – and the complete) Way, Truth and Life.

That question is followed by Philip who, in confused insecurity, asks: *Show us the Father*. Although they have been with Jesus for a long time they were not totally sure or fully convinced. Jesus' assurance to them was to remind them of *the consistency of Divine activity*. That response is the assurance that they need to trust in the Person of Christ manifested in the divine activity that characterised his ministry among them. Jesus is the complete revelation of God whose essence is seen in all the miracles he performed by the power of God. What is more, through their faith in Him they – and we - can maintain that revelation through personal witness that Jesus is the only way and that the same power can be exercised by his followers, to His glory.

Congratulations

Our congratulations to George & Margaret Cowan who, on Wednesday past, reached the wonderful milestone of having been married for 70 years – their Platinum Anniversary.

We send our love to George and Margaret and will continue to remember them in our prayers.

Allander Fun Day

Our 'experimental' Family Fun Day(s) will be held this Friday and Saturday (2nd and 3rd July) from 10 30 to 12 noon each day at the church. The event will be run by Brian Lowrie and colleagues from MAD Ministries, with help from our own volunteers. Any offer of help is appreciated.

By way of preparation, Brian will be here in the church at 7 pm on Thursday July 1st to provide briefing as to what will be happening, and to set up the rooms for the activities. It is hoped that as many volunteers as possible will be able to meet then to help and join in prayer for the venture.

FM Convention

A reminder that the annual Faith Mission Convention in Edinburgh is on this week with the 10 30am and 7 30 pm sessions being made available on YouTube through the Faith Mission YouTube channel.

Programme and speaker details on www.faithmission.org

Faith Mission Prayer Union

Next Monday, being the first in the month, is when the local FM Prayer Union Zoom meeting is due. Access details: Meeting ID: 761 5194 1410; Passcode: jxn1vj.

Mission of the Month

While we have been supporting The Christian Institute throughout June, our Mission for July will be MAD (Make a Difference) Ministries led by Brian Lowrie which works with churches in Children's Evangelism and also in schools, contributing to RE lessons and supporting Christian witness.

Future Arrangements

In a letter sent out to members and adherents, the Elders outline the provisional arrangements for meetings and activities over the next few months. Emphasising the church's priorities as: Prayer, Bible Study, Worship and Community involvement, regular Prayer Meetings (currently on Zoom) will continue on Tuesdays at 8 pm, and on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9 to 9 30am. The Bible Studies will have a Zoom occasional meeting on 15th July and another on 19th August before resuming regularly in September. Two worship services will be held each Sunday in the church at 10 30am and 6 30pm; while a range of other activities will emerge

during the summer and autumn. These include:

Sunday 27th June Restart of Sunday School; and the Fun Days on 2nd and 3rd July.

Later in the autumn there will be a Drop-In Café in the church on Wednesdays from 10 30am to 12 30pm, starting on Wednesday 1st September and #One2Seven will also commence at 6 30 pm on that day. Toddler Time will start up on Tuesday 7th September and the Ladies Meeting on Thursday 7th October, DV.

Prayer:

Prayer is encouraged for all these projected activities that they may be positively instrumental in furthering the purposes of God among and through us as *"the church which is his body"* and not merely be a return to the familiar. Equally, as a fellowship we pray for each other that the *"help that comes from God"* may be experienced by individuals (like David Jack who is enduring much pain), and others in their special circumstances.

Water

Another acrostic from Margaret Stewart:

Waiting for Him to return
Asking Him to answer our prayers;
Thanking Jesus for everything;
Expecting Him to answer;
Rejoicing in His so-good salvation.

Finally,

It may be a sign of getting older, but I'm discovering that in preparation for a trip away, I always have a moment (or two!) before I leave when I question if the trip is worth all the hassle in getting ready for it! The trip always is and in the enjoyment of it you forget how challenging the preparation was. Life itself is a preparation for our ultimate journey into eternity. Living for God with all its challenges can sometimes make us think, "is it worth it?", but the promise of God is such and the testimony of Scripture so clear that we can be certain that on the day we see our God, all the difficulties of living for him will have disappeared and we will know that preparing for eternity was truly worth it.

John Macleod