



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 15th May, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Romans 1: 1 - 6

The guest preacher yesterday morning was Fraser Allan (Sandy and Janice Allan's son) who based his message on the early verses of Romans, where Paul introduces himself to the Roman church and also helps us in the understanding of our own identity.

Introducing himself to this church which he had never visited, and whose members he had never met, he describes himself simply as *"Paul, servant of Jesus Christ"*. Elsewhere in his letters we get a glimpse of his considerable learning and status but, following his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, he is simply a Christian, dead to himself and totally dependent on Jesus living in him. *"I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me"*. In the same way our **identity** is only really established when we accept our own sinfulness, and Christ's atoning death for us on the Cross; and allow Him to live His life in us. That means that we are "born again" and become "new creatures".

Paul also, in these verses, indicated that being a servant not only defined his identity but also established his **purpose**. He was called of God to share that gospel - which he believed was the *"power of God unto salvation"* to both Jew and Gentile. It was something that he owed to Rome - and the world.

Proclaiming that gospel with conviction and confidence should also be our purpose too.

This week

This week's routine activity follows the normal pattern with Toddlers on Tuesday morning and the Café on Wednesday morning. Hashtag and Youth Challenge take place on Wednesday evening at 6 30pm and our weekly Zoom Bible Study - looking at Acts 22 - continues on Thursday evening at 7 30pm.

Friday is the showing of the Wycliffe Story on film at 7 30pm.

Sunday evening's service will be taken by Howel Jones.

Other activities will take place, including:

Gospel Concert

Inspirational Gospel Music, Scotland, have arranged Ernie Haase+ in a live concert on Thursday 18th May at 7 30pm in Freedom City Church Centre in Cumbernauld, G67 1QR. Tickets are available from Bill Anderson, 07909697573

Morning Star

The film - Morning Star - telling the story of John Wycliffe and his pioneering work in promoting the Reformation and making Scripture available for the ordinary person, will be screened at Allander this Friday. The showing will be at Allander this Friday, 19th May, at 7 30pm. Admission is free with a retiring offering at the door. Invitation cards are available for distribution.

Correction

George Cowan's phone in last week's Newsletter was missing one digit. The correct number is 07454537043

Holiday Club Planning

Preparation is well under way for this event due to take place each morning from Monday 10th to Friday 14th July.

The next planning meeting to progress arrangements will be held next Monday, 22nd May at 7 30pm. All help is welcome.

SGA Prayer

The next Slavic Gospel Association Prayer Meeting will be on Friday 26th May at 7 30 pm in Margaret Russell's home at 53 Roman Road, Bearsden, G61 2SG. The meeting has been postponed from this Friday because of a clash of dates with the Wycliffe film.

Mission of the Month

This month's Mission of the Month is Children for Christ in Romania. In their recent prayer letter they report on answers to prayer in the form of practical help they have received making their summer camp programme easier to run effectively.

People and Prayer

This week we include in our list of people needing prayer those recovering from surgery, falls or injuries, like: Janice Allan, Mary Clarke, Jean Malkin, Peter Stephenson, Joan and Terry Gallagher, Isla Morrison, Agnes Wilson, and others? Also those in Care Homes like: George Cowan, Elisabeth Gemmell, Jack Harvey, Joyce Kyle, Margaret Stewart, - and any others.

Inga is still recovering from Covid but able to teach a little. This is the last week of teaching and then – all that marking and moderating of assessments!

And people involved in activities like: our Elders; Margaret, Flora – and helpers - in Toddlers; Simon and Hannah with Hashtag, (and the 'volunteers' who attend); Carol and Brenda with Sunday School – and their 'helpers'; our audio visual team, Manuel and Ava; and those serving tea and coffee, offering transport and visiting. And so the list goes on. They all appreciate prayer.

Myanmar

Christians are facing persecution all over the world, much of it unreported by the media. Sometimes it is direct opposition against anything Christian, sometimes it is a matter of being caught up in the effects of political or other conflicts.

The situation in Myanmar is one of these where hundreds of orphans are vulnerable to crossfire between the government army and a rival one. They are also exposed to severe storms. The deliverances and protection they have experienced through answered prayer are remarkable. Mary Linton has regular updated reports which she would be willing to share with anyone interested.

Finally,

I recently completed a Mental Health Awareness training course through Sports Chaplaincy UK, which was very insightful regarding many of the issues that are increasing in our society. My only criticism of the course was that it did not delve into the spirituality of human beings and spoke of us as being creatures of mind and body only. It is one of the beauties of created humanity that in our being we represent a trinity of mind, body and soul, reflective of the God who made us in His image. To ignore the reality of spiritual struggles is tragic as there is great help to many a struggler, to know that the God who made us and saw us descend into brokenness is so loving that He has come to rescue, redeem and restore us.

John Macleod