



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 11th September, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Jonah 1: 1-17

Responding to welcoming comments, Simon wished to publicly thank the church fellowship for their prayers and support; and acknowledged the contribution of the team of volunteers in the vital children's work.

Looking at the story of Jonah, with the tentative title of *What does the world say to the church*, we see Jonah as the reluctant missionary.

Though commissioned to take God's message to hostile Nineveh, Jonah ran away and took a ship in the opposite direction, presumably afraid to go to an enemy nation and be favourably disposed to a people he disliked. While the story suggests it was evidence of God's grace and an example of God shaming Israel by reaching out to a foreign nation. But, Jonah disobeyed, ran away.

On the ship, thinking he was going "*away from the presence of the Lord*", he was obviously asleep while a storm was raging and the heathen sailors were more than conscious that this was a divine occurrence. They challenged Jonah. Slowly he realised what he was doing and volunteered that they should discard him overboard and not suffer further because of him and his disobedience.

Once that was done, the storm abated and Jonah was swallowed up by a God-provided "big fish" and subsequently fulfil the original mission.

For us it is a warning to obey the heavenly calling and to make sure that we call on the true God rather than an alternative.

Start Ups

Last week saw our outreach activities start up again. Two had got going the week before, with 41 children at Toddlers, which is currently not recruiting because of capacity. And, the Prayer meeting was well motivated with fervent prayer for the range of activities being taken up and evidence of answered prayer in individual lives. That burden of prayer was maintained on Tuesday both at the church and on Zoom. Twenty eight turned up at the Drop-In Café with both old and new faces. Hashtag got off to a good start with a dozen at the younger group and four older ones, with more to come next week. The Bible Study got going with participants reflecting on blessings they had experienced over the summer.

Looking ahead

This coming week will see the third of the Tuesday Prayer meetings focusing on our outreach activities. The morning Prayer Times from 9 to 9 30 on Zoom start up this Wednesday (13th) and will continue on Friday (15th) and regularly each week thereafter. The Bible Study starts Proverbs on Thursday looking at the first few verses in Chapter 1: 1 – 7.

Prayer

Give thanks for answered prayer with better news for Joan Gallagher. Then, along with praying for our regulars, special prayer is requested for: Mary Atwell who suffered a bad fall; Sue Huggins away home to South Dakota for medical treatment, leaving Inga on her own at Oaxaca for the next few months; Jim

Gourley and the Snodgrass family moving into their Lennoxtown home.

Prayer Diary

Please add the following names to the current edition: Nicola Christie (not Guthrie), Samantha Hastings, Richard Hill (Tuesday) and Catherine Oliver (Friday)

SGA Local Prayer Meetings

Local monthly SGA Prayer meetings, normally held on the third Friday evening, start up again this month. However, for September the date has been changed, for practical reasons, to Friday 22nd September at 7 30 pm. It will meet in Manuel and Ava's home. (Location details on request). Please come to hear about the work of SGA and pray for our brothers and sisters in Slavic nations.

SGA Ukraine Focus

There will be a national Zoom meeting next Monday, 18th September, at 7 30pm focusing on the work in Ukraine. It will feature three guests: Pastor Igor Bandura, VP of Ukraine Baptist Union, Pastor Sergei Sinni and Natalia Shevelova-Harkusha from the city of Kherson.

Some will have taken part in the previous presentation last Spring but, if it is your first time attending the meeting, you will need to register on the SGA website (office@sga.org.uk) for a link to be sent to you.

Helping Hands

The provision of refreshments over the summer with more time to chat has been much appreciated. Thank you to all concerned.

Such provision will continue, but the time could be enhanced if we tried to sit at different tables and mix more in order to get to know others better.

And, at the end, lend a hand in rearranging the furniture for the next meeting. Remember Jim Gourley's piece last week about 'Helping Hands'?

Mission of the Month

Hope for Glasgow is the mission we are supporting during September.

Worldview Conference

A West of Scotland Gospel Partnership Conference at the Tron Church on Saturday 7th October from 9 30am to 4 30pm, entitled 'War of the Worldviews' will consider how Christians and gospel churches can navigate the increasingly hostile culture in which we are called to mission. Places can be booked through this web link

<https://www.tron.church/conference>. Entry for the day is £10, which includes materials and refreshments, but not lunch.

Finally

Some weeks ago when we were having a family meal my 7 year old grandson, out of the blue, said "Grandpa, do you pray at the end of the day?" I said yes, and wondered what prompted the question, he informed me that in his school (a Roman Catholic Primary) they pray at the start of the day and also at the end. While we may not agree with a lot of their theology, it was encouraging to know that this practice continues.

I confess to being challenged about how I pray before going to sleep, to spend more time and have it less random and more specific. What's the saying? 'Out of the mouths of babes....'

Ian Baird