



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 27th November, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Philippians 1: 1 - 21

Yesterday's morning service was taken by Chris Greenhaugh representing Open Doors, serving the persecuted church.

Tracing its origins to Brother Andrew, who was trained at the WEC College in Glasgow and became known as God's Smuggler because of his 'audacious' ventures secreting Bibles through what was then the Iron Curtain. Its fall in the late 80's, however, did not end oppression against Christians so that Open Doors now works, along with other agencies, seeking to support some of the 360 million known persecuted Christians worldwide.

Its goal is to provide a reassuring and supportive "presence" to any going through difficult times, whether that be outright 'smash' persecution or the 'squeeze' variety: both hard to bear.

Basing his comments on Paul's message to the Philippians in chapter 1 he reminded us that Paul, who himself was being persecuted, was grateful for their partnership with him in all his hardship. He recognised their resilience in the face of suffering and encouraged them to be emboldened as they face situations.

That is a message that applies to us in Scotland today: **Stand in the G A P**. That can be done by

Giving: financial and resource support

Action: through offering training and support, political advocacy, letter writing, aspects of caring, etc.

Praying: Regularly remembering the needs of the persecuted church in our private and, especially our corporate, praying.

This Week

Normal activities - Toddlers, Prayer, Café, Hashtag / Youth Challenge continue this week including the last Bible Study for this session on Thursday night at 7 30pm when there will be a chance to share blessings from the chapters in Proverbs studied so far. In addition, the FM Rally will take place on Friday evening at 7 30pm and will be followed by Rejuvenate on Saturday at 8pm.

Mission of the Month

Release International has been our Mission of the Month for November.

Next month we will focus on SAT-7, an enterprising mission which beams programmes by satellite across the Middle East.

Church AGM

The annual church general meeting will be held on Thursday 7th December. This is an occasion when reports will be presented covering the various aspects of the church's activity including, Ministries, Finance, Pastoral and Property. It is also an opportunity to reflect on our stewardship and involvement as a Christian witness here in Milngavie and beyond.

Papers setting out the agenda and the financial statement for 2022 - 2023 are available at the back of the church.

It is open to members and others who are faithful attenders and participants. Maybe this is the time to consider making that definite commitment of recognised and dedicated membership?

Ladies Meeting

Earlier that day, Thursday 7th December, the Ladies will meet for their third monthly meeting and Christmas gathering. Following the tradition of past years, this will be preceded by a lunch. So, please meet at 1 pm for that event which will be followed by the meeting itself at 2 pm, and finish at 3 15pm. Please let Janice know if you plan to be there for the lunch so that proper preparation can be made. .

People and Prayer

As well as our many people on the prayer lists facing health and situational challenges we remember the many who contribute so much to the work of the church, often unseen but not un-noticed, looking after the grounds, cleaning the premises, preparing rooms, providing cups of tea, arranging flowers, looking after the audio visual, etc, etc. Also, pray for Jack Adair and Baillie's wedding today and Jim Gourley preaching at Milngavie UF church on Sunday morning.

Faith Mission Allander Rally

This weekend is what has become known as the Faith Mission weekend.

The monthly Rally will take place in the Back Hall on Friday December 1st with Gordon as the speaker and supported by testimony, song, refreshments and warm fellowship.

Then on Saturday at 8 pm the young folk will meet for Rejuvenate and their fellowship time with the traditional Irn Bru / Bacon Roll feast!-

Joint FM and CEF Prayer Union

The monthly Missionary Support meeting for Faith Mission and CEF will be held on the second Monday in December, not the first as normal, – i.e. Monday, 11th - at 7 30 pm in Jim and Allyson Flett's home (20 Craighead Drive, Mains Estate, Milngavie, G62 7SD).

Alastair Begg

Alastair Begg's 40 years' ministry at Parkside Church in Cleveland, Ohio, has been marked by some interesting interviews available on YouTube. Two interesting ones can be accessed on: <https://youtu.be/-bcxS4S1GF8?si=Ob07ITD1feNB59GK> or <https://youtu.be/4w5ukoecvN4?si=h5Obtl-xUwaibHT->

Finally

Recently I mentioned the letter I received from East Dunbartonshire Council, cancelling a parking charge I had received. The joy of this letter is obviously still with me hence the desire to share the story again. I usually pay for parking via the App on my phone and on this occasion I did so, as normal, as I went into the church building. Meanwhile, a Warden must have arrived and slapped a ticket on my 'un-ticketed' car. However, when I compared the ticket with the parking I had purchased, it was at the exact same time; and when this evidence was submitted to EDC, the charge was rescinded.

I truly love the thought that it was at the exact time the law was punishing me, that the price was paid. That applies to our redemption for, "*At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*" (Romans 5 v 6)

John Macleod

