



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

13th July, 2020

Hello

With restrictions imposed during the Coronavirus pandemic being eased, there is the inevitable risk of complacency and lethargy setting in. The message from God to us in recent ministry has been to be more alert, to “stand on the tower”, to live by faith and to intercede. The mighty David, who had proven the power of God in his younger experience facing Goliath, slipped when constraints on his life eased and he became vulnerable. We, too, need to be constantly alert and positively active.

Faith for Fearful Times

For Habakkuk, the journey from fear to faith was a very real one as he came through perplexing times to realise that God has, and will, deliver His people. We, too, can learn from the principles that are enunciated in the account of his experience: that, when placed in God, faith is powerful.

Some of these principles are:

Fear is real. Feeling fearful is not failure. There is reason to be fearful with events happening and likely to happen. The key is what we do with that fear: how we respond.

Fear does not need to be fatal. Genuine fear has a paralysing effect; but rather than allow fear to cripple him Habakkuk puts his faith into action.

Faith faces the facts. It is aware of who God is and of what He has done and said He will do. The calamities which the prophet dreaded did happen. Things did become desperate, but true faith believes in a real, redemptive, God.

Faith finds help. It knows where and to whom to turn in such perplexity; and so

Faith finds the way in recognising that all else will fail but deliberate trust in the all-powerful God of the Bible gives a “*reason for the hope that is in you*”. That is a song worth singing.

More from Inga

Last week, Inga highlighted some of the challenges she faces with translation. Here are some more.

John’s Gospel often uses the terms ‘life’ and ‘death’ to refer to spiritual life and death. Chapter 3:14 “*We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death*”. (NIV) presented lots of challenges – just what does it mean to pass from death to life?

The Mixtec language can use the figure of being on a road, so for this verse we have it that people, instead of being on the road that leads to death, now are on the road that leads to life. Obviously, we need to check that other people not involved in the translation will understand this figure correctly.

I had the idea of revising the Epistles of John before tackling the Gospel of John, as many of the key concepts and figures in these brief epistles are found in the much longer Gospel. It is very helpful to wrestle with how to express these ideas in Mixtec in this shorter book before turning to the revision of John’s Gospel. So we press on.

We appreciate your prayer and support for us.

Inga and the team

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Congratulations

To Jennifer and David McColl on the birth of a baby son, William Matthew, on Tuesday 7th June.

Jim Gourley

As most of you were aware Jim was due to have surgery on 27th April for the removal of two recurrent bladder tumours. This was postponed until 23rd June due to Covid 19. Bladder cancer, which he previously had, has a very high rate of recurrence.

I always prayed that God knew the right time for surgery during Covid 19. It is amazing that there were no new tumours since first being discovered last November.

Last Monday Jim received a telephone call from Gartnavel Hospital to say that both tumours removed were non-cancerous. I can hardly believe it, but of course what a wonderful God we have who has answered all our prayers, Praise Him. Thank you. (Laraine)

Lockdown Benefits

I've been asked to share some benefits from reading through the Scriptures during lockdown.

In reading Isaiah again, so many well-known texts have refreshed my memory.

Yes the main message is of God's displeasure with his people, Judah. But, God goes on to

Finally

Critics of the Bible often point to books like Leviticus and question the laws contained there. Why does it matter what fabrics we wear or what foods we eat? Understanding these laws in their context we see God, guiding a community into wellbeing as He shapes them into doing right in every area of life. Rather than giving censorious pieces of legislation, we see a loving Creator concerned for the wellbeing of His people. Each week our Governments give guidance and bring out laws that will probably sound ludicrous to future generations: social distancing, wearing a mask to go shopping! Yet these rules are in place for our good.

If we believe the Government is looking out for us, how much more can we trust that everything in the Word of God is for our temporal and eternal good?

show that he has a love for his people: a covenant love, an everlasting love. He longs for them to return to himself with humble and contrite hearts (new 'mind-sets' as John has been reminding us recently).

The coming of our Lord is foretold in chapter 40 in the wonderful words made famous in an aria in Handel's *Messiah*.

As you leave the book the final message is not depressing. It is uplifting and reassuring. God is on the throne: he is in control. Praise the Lord! (Betty McKay)

More next week.

Open Church Building

The church has been open on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons over the past week to provide a space for private prayer, with a trickle of people making use of the opportunity. Now, it may open more fully on July 19th to allow communal gatherings with controlled attendance. Details to follow.

Community Magazine

After a lay-off over the lockdown period the local Community Magazine, which goes to every home in Milngavie and Bearsden, is now being published again. The July issue is already out this week and includes a brief feature on Allander.

John Macleod