



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWS-SHEET

6th APRIL, 2020

Hello

As we enter our 5th week of Lockdown we rejoice that *"though sundered far, by faith we meet around one common Mercy Seat"*.

The story so far

The powerful ministry over three Sundays on the raising of Lazarus has shown that, within the context of a loving God, Jesus, while clearly showing deep feeling for the grief being experienced, deliberately delayed His response in order to encourage faith and belief so that they would come to appreciate the purpose of God in it all and see his glory.

So what?

Yesterday's sermon was concerned with the aftermath - an anti-climax and yet critical. Making several observations, John pointed out that miracles do not guarantee belief, but that belief is a personal commitment to trust. Those who don't believe are not neutral but become aggressively anti, fearing for their own 'freedom' and independence. Yet, in it all God is working out His own purpose of redeeming a people for himself.

And, so, being presented with what God is wanting to see accomplished in our situation, we are challenged with the need to "look for Jesus" and to believe. The secret of this final Sign in John's Gospel is the same as that in the first when Mary said: Whatever He says to you, DO IT.

Update on our Missionaries

Latest from Inga: *"The branch administration want me to leave as soon as possible, in case flights out of Oaxaca are cancelled. I have bought a ticket to fly to Edinburgh, leaving here on Friday (17th) morning, and getting there on Sunday morning. I will spend a night in Paris. I would value your prayers as I get ready to leave. May the Lord bless you, Inga.*

And from David and Jennifer McColl *"We have had a good first week and been able to rest well. Work has continued busy for me: I've managed to be productive from a distance. Our office in Bolivia is remaining shut until the end of April at least due to the lockdown being extended too. It has been nice to have nice weather the past week and get out for a brief walk. Jenn and the baby are doing well, she is meant to have another check up at the end of the month so trying to organize that at the moment"*.

From Ricky McAddock of Street Connect. *"Thanks for your prayers. Hope you had a great Easter weekend 😊. We are continuing to work our way through how we can best support people at this challenging time. Hoping to send out a video to all church contacts by the end of the week. Please pass on our regards to all at Allander Evangelical. God bless, Ricky"*

Virtual Prayer Meeting

Last Tuesday saw the first Zoom Prayer meeting from Allander with 28 people tuned in. It was so good to see folks again (Inga joined in from Mexico) and better to be able to pray for each other and all associated with Allander. It will be launched again next Tuesday at 8 pm, DV. Details are the same each week: Meeting ID: 939 350 900 Password: 016413 or <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/939350900?pwd=VGRaSHdmYVdpTUcwN0ozRIZOOFZLQT09>

Allyson and Jim Flett

Sadly, Allyson's close cousin in Buckie passed away last week after a long struggle with illness. Pray for Jim and Allyson, especially as the current restrictions will prevent attendance at the funeral and the traditional family grieving.

Christ in you: the hope of glory

Prayer for People

In addition to drawing attention to special needs for prayer at any specific times we remember our 'regulars' – those whose names appear each Sunday on the Bulletin – and others who are facing ongoing health issues, coping with challenging situations at home, coming to terms with bereavement, or facing personal battles. God knows each one and the details of their situations but it is our privilege to remind Him of them.

And, Inga is now home. PTL!

Delightful Discovery

Among the multitude of various items of every description on YouTube, Jim McKellar drew our attention to an album by his wife, Helen, and accompanied by himself on the organ, entitled Grace for Every Trial. Just enter Helen McKellar and that will lead you to the YouTube slot. A real comfort in these days.

Finally,

Another three weeks of self-isolation and social-distancing when, instead of being able to feel the comfort of a welcoming handshake or a heart-warming hug, many may feel the pain of loneliness. In 1 Kings 19:10 Elijah admitted to being lonely as he hid on Mount Horeb but God was with him and revealed himself to Elijah. David the psalmist admitted to being lonely and afflicted in Psalm 25:16 to 21 but realised that the Lord was the one in whom he had to hope. If, under the present circumstances, you feel lonely, the answer is to realise that God is with you in your loneliness. In Exodus 33:14 God promises Moses "My presence will go with you" and in Hebrews 13:5 and 6 God promises us that "I will never leave you never will I forsake you". May I therefore encourage you to remember, as the psalmist realised in Psalm 139:8, that, no matter what situation we find ourselves in or where we are, God is 'Jehovah Shammah – The Lord is there'.

David Jack