



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

6th July, 2020

Hello

From Worry to Worship

Moving from chapter 2 of Habakkuk, with its declaration that *"the Lord is in his temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him"*, opens the way for 'from fear to faith' to become 'from worry to worship'.

Still perplexed, but now reflecting on what the experience is teaching him, Habakkuk turns from questioning and challenging to prayer, real prayer that is a connection of the committed heart to an almighty God, that turns from self to a realisation of who and what God is.

Habakkuk's prayer, focused as it is now on God, not the circumstances, has three main elements: humility, adoration and petition.

True prayer flows from a heart focused on God and humbly accepts one's own weaknesses. God is not at fault: the trouble is the prophet's prejudiced misconception of what the issue is. When he *'stands in awe'* he acknowledges who God is and recounts all the works of the Lord. That leads to a confident plea for God to *'revive your work in the midst of the years'*.

May we, through the experience of the revelation that comes from the Word of God, be similarly helped to move from 'fear to faith, and from 'worry to worship' through such praying.

Update from Inga

Inga writes about the many challenges of Bible translation:

At present the Mixtec team and I are working on revising the first Epistle of John. I have many verses of this letter memorised – they are key to our understanding of the message of Scripture. Take 1:9, for example: *'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.'* NIV

This verse wasn't too difficult to translate, although it is always interesting to see how Mixtec expresses these key ideas. 'Faithful' in this context is translated as 'God doesn't go back on His promises.'

That leads me to the other major challenges – how to conduct translation without face-to-face contact. We can use the internet and WhatsApp, although that presents its own challenges, especially in the rainy season when lightning strikes can put the electricity off. The team also lost electricity temporarily during the recent earthquake. We don't know when Sue will be able to make trips to the language community to check the translation. We value your prayers.

Inga, for Sue, Rodolfo and Mirsa in Oaxaca, Mexico

Prayer - For events

Gordon Thomson reports that over 6000 listened to the on-line mission the Faith he conducted with the Faith Mission last week. He says, *"Thanks for praying, we're thinking about holding another one."*

Remember the bold step of opening the church for private prayer on Sunday and Wednesdays afternoons from 2 – 4 pm. Pray that this will be a witness and an opportunity and that help will be given to ensure that all the required safeguards will be done effectively.

Please remember in prayer John Macleod who has been asked to speak at the evening service from Sandyford Henderson on 12th July and Townhead Church Newmilns on 19th July at 4pm.

And, Prayer for people

Here are some names of people who belong to our Church and need us to pray for them as they have varying needs: the people in Care Homes still not able to come out of their rooms: Joyce Kyle and Anne Wilson (Anne has deteriorated greatly and has stopped eating); people confined to their homes - Ian Carmichael, Margaret Craig, Mary Atwell; Morag Wilson suffering from nerve pain and needing strength to cope; Isabel Nicol, still

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Finally

In humility and anticipation we reflect on Habakkuk's response to his experiences: *"Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places".*

John Macleod

grieving; Nessie Duffus needing to know God's peace; those who are caring for others and need strength and patience; and others who are elderly and missing seeing people and not able to be on zoom or hear John's message on a Sunday.

### Blended Learning

The Covid 19 restrictions have introduced new terminology which could be helpful for us. One of these is *blended learning* – a combination of what is taught in school and what is interpreted and applied at home. For us, there have been definite lessons such as: deliberate delay, believe, mind-set, work-out, wait, response, faith not fear, etc, coming both from ministry and informal communication with sharing of verses, songs and so on. Schools use the term: *learning outcomes* for evidence that what has been taught has actually been learned and is seen in practice.

It would be a helpful exercise for us to examine ourselves and see what are the evidences – in what and how we do, think, regard, use our time and resources for, prioritise, etc – that show that we have 'passed' the course where God, in His sovereignty, uses the pandemic as a tangible learning experience.