



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

15<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2020

#### Hello

In the current crisis there is increasing talk of – and a looking forward to – the easing of restrictions. It was Elijah's servant who saw a cloud *"the size of a man's hand"* promising rain after famine and drought. That is a key issue for us. We are all looking forward to some release. But, what are we looking for? Same old? Or a 'new normal'? Perplexed though he was, Habakkuk was told, *"Look ... for I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe even if you were told"*. It won't happen automatically. It will require cooperation and commitment on our part. The OT story shows how the nation simply drifted back to their old apostate ways. Let's make sure that through this crisis we *"seek the Lord while He may be found"* and not *"spend money on that which is not bread"*. God is redemptive but the just will (only) live by faith: our trust in God's ability. So, like Habakkuk, let's take our stand on the watchtower and discern what God is saying and what He wants us to be doing, both now and when release comes.

Allander Church Newsletter 956 5866

#### The Unchanging Truth

This Sunday's sermon, the second on the Book of Habakkuk, was preached against a background of a turbulent week where the continuing apprehension about Covid 19 and its adverse effects was exacerbated by the worldwide outbreak of protests and violence. If there was reason to fear before, then that has been intensified greatly. It is in that context that Habakkuk's message becomes very pertinent.

Fretting over the question of where is God in all this, Habakkuk is led to look and see what God is already doing – and will do – among the nations, leading to an important principle: that God Almighty is deliberately at work in human history.

Strange though these actions may seem, it leads to a second principle: Truth doesn't

change. God is still God. He is from everlasting to everlasting. The circumstances of life do not change God. He is over all, a fact demonstrated at the Cross where Jesus faced sin's chief weapon – death - and triumphed.

What should Habakkuk do? He takes his stand to watch it all unfolding even though he does not fully understand. He takes it to God and 'leaves it there'. Although still perplexed, his fear is gradually being changed to faith.

And what should that mean for us? Suggesting practical steps to learn from this transition, John quoted James Montgomery Boyce, outlining some steps: detach yourself from the problem; take it to God – and leave it with Him; expect God to answer, and be persistent. He will answer the heartfelt: "How long?"

## Money Matters

Once again, we would like to give you a gentle reminder that, although there are no worship services being held in the church, regular giving is still required to meet the ongoing maintenance of the church building and manse, as well as our continuing financial commitments to others. During the past month substantial payments have been paid to Alexander Sloan for auditing the church accounts and to CCLI for our copyright licence, with the result that the balance in the church accounts continues to reduce.

Just as Moses encouraged the nation of Israel to *'Give freely without begrudging it, and the Lord God will bless you in everything you do'* (Deuteronomy 15:10) we would encourage you to consider doing the same.

Those not giving by monthly Bank Standing Orders may give by Direct Bank transfer while cash or cheque may be given or sent to the Treasurer. The details you may need are as follows:

Allander Evangelical Church 2019; Bank of Scotland; Sort Code 80 22 60; Account number 19484160.

Treasurer - David Jack, 62 Mosshead Road, Bearsden, GLASGOW G61 3HA Tel 0141 570 1236.

## Wayside Pulpit

The church Notice Board proclaims clearly: Faith not Fear – a timely message to passers-by.

## Lessons from Lockdown

Copies of the booklet summarising John's ministry over the lockdown period are available by request, either in electronic or paper form.

## People

A card has been received from Isabel Nicol in which she expresses her, and that of her family's, thanks for Prayers, Phone Calls, Letters and Cards received following the death of her sister Christine.

It's also good to see John back.

And pray for others at this time.

## Finally

*"Because of Prayer"*

*The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective (James 5v16). John Knox prayed and the results caused Queen Mary to say she feared his prayers more than all the armies of Scotland. John Wesley prayed and revival came to England. Jonathan Edwards prayed and revival spread through the American colonies. History has been changed time after time because of prayer. History could be changed again if people and churches went on their knees in believing prayer.*

*We are in many ways living in bleak times and the world scorns God. He can still work through the prayers of his people. Pray today for revival in our nation and around the world.*

*Jim Gourley*