



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWS-SHEET

13th April, 2020

Hello Again

This is Easter Week when we live in the reassuring knowledge that "He is risen indeed". As John has been emphasising in the last few weeks, it is the presence of the victorious Lord Jesus with us and in us in these uncertain days that is our blessed hope.

Believing is Seeing

It is not insignificant that the next episode in the series in John's Gospel due on Easter Sunday was the raising of Lazarus – the seventh sign marking the climax of Jesus' ministry. And, like the other signs, it was intended that "you might believe".

He is seen at the graveside with Martha and the other mourners grieving because death has taken its inevitable course - ultimate devastation because of sin. In this situation Jesus is "deeply moved" that sin exists but, different from the others, He sees resurrection not just as restoration of the old but the achievement of the new – if only they believed.

As Martha and the others are caught up in the reality of the present, Jesus reminds her that He is the resurrection and that if she believed she would see the glory of God in what was about to happen. The key lesson is: believe. So, we should turn our eyes from the immediate and appreciate the One standing beside us and believe that He is the One who brings – not restoration, but - resurrection and new life. In response to that belief His Voice will breathe new life to God's glory.

People in Need of Prayer

Please pray for George Cowan.

Apparently, Margaret fell the other evening and hurt herself badly yet, thankfully, no bones were broken.

Remember George as he has to cope with this added pressure in his care for Margaret. He says: "*We can look upwards for God's help and blessing as we read in Psalm 73: 26 – My flesh and my heart faileth but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever*".

Isabel Nicol has moved in with her sister to provide 24/7 care as the Hospice cannot accommodate her yet.

News of Inga McKendry is that she is having to come home from Mexico because of underlying health issues and the situation out there. She will be in self-isolation in Dalkeith for two weeks.

Gordon Thomson and his colleagues in the Faith Mission are finding that opportunities are seriously curtailed.

Terry McCutcheon's Hope for Glasgow has suffered a severe setback with the sudden death of one of the key converts. (Spring Newsletter available at: terry@hopeforglasgow.org)

Resources online

There are various helpful resources available online to help with personal well-being and for use with others. Revelation Media are making Pilgrim's Progress available (info@revelationmedia.com)

Ligonier Ministries are also providing devotional material free of charge. Download the Ligonier app for more details.

Cancellation Casualties

All of **Scripture Union's** summer activities are cancelled including Lendrick Muir and Gowanbank where our own Gordon Craig has spent several weeks over the years cooking for these events.

It looks very much as if it won't be possible to run our **Holiday Club** on the theme of Pirates and Parables this year.

And the **Getting to Know Your Bible** series is postponed for the time being. Maybe it will appear in another form someday!

*He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose*

Finally,

Last week I spoke with a minister who used the phrase "be careful what you wish for". I asked what he meant and he reminded me of a conversation we had months ago when he said, "I wish life could be paused". Now that life is paused it's driving him crazy! Isn't it good to know that the circumstances we live in are not the result of misplaced wishes but providences over which God has complete control? We can't look into the future and know what is best for us, but we can look to GOD and know He desires the best for us. So whether this isolation is proving to be a struggle or a joy, may it be blessed to your soul as you learn more of God's love for you.

John Macleod

Thinking of Others

It appears that the strict measures imposed by the Governments are being effective in restraining the spread of the virus. That is a tribute to an excellent NHS and the committed work of so many people in key situations. And the public's cooperation. But, what about those countries and situations where there is inadequate or even no such provision: underdeveloped countries and places like refugee camps and the like where social distancing is totally impractical.

Virtual Prayer Meeting

As the period of isolation is prolonging we have decided to have a Prayer Meeting by Zoom. Once you have the Zoom App or website on your phone or computer you will be able to join the prayer meeting on Tuesday nights at 8pm, using the following information. Meeting ID: 939 350 900 Password: 016413 or <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/939350900?pwd=VGRaSHdmYVdpTUcwN0ozRlZOOFZLQT09>