

faith@work

the magazine of glenrothes baptist church



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WHAT'S
THE
POINT?



april 2014



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THE PASTOR'S PAGES



MARRIAGE—WHAT'S THE POINT?

Over the past few years, our church has had quite a few couples pairing off, getting engaged, and getting married. Some are marrying, settling, and establishing families here, others moving away to settle in strange lands (like America!), and others are waiting in the wings. On the opposite end of the age spectrum, our church family has recently experienced the joy of older members celebrating many years of faithful marriage together. The month of March was particularly busy with two weddings—those of Alasdair & Jan (Crooks) Stenhouse and Andrew & Rebecca (Marshall) Beveridge—attended by many of you.

In preparation for a wedding, Brittany and I spend many weeks unpacking the biblical realities of basic questions: ‘why do you want to be married?’, ‘where do you believe marriage comes from?’, and, ‘what is the whole point of marriage anyway?’ I wanted to take the time here to elaborate on this topic for the wider church, because marriage is an amazing gift of God—not just for those being married, but for the whole world. You might be reading this and think marriage has nothing to do with you. You may be single, divorced, widowed, or even a teenager and not care about it in the least. But this is for all of you.

Marriage is far more than just a love story between a man and woman—it is a picture of a real and living relationship between God and his one true love: sinners like you and me. There is much we could say about marriage. I encourage you to study God’s account of where marriage comes from in the first two chapters of the Bible (*Gen. 1–2*). This is absolutely foundational to the institution of marriage. However in the following pages, I want to specifically target one particular passage that builds upon the Genesis passage. The Apostle Paul talks about marriage in Ephesians 5:21–33, and in verses 31–32 reveals for the first time an amazing mystery of the whole point and purpose of marriage—that *it is all about Jesus*.

‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’. This mystery is

profound and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church (*Eph. 5:31-32*).

All men and women who enter into the bonds of marriage are a picture of Jesus Christ and his bride the church (*2 Cor. 11:2, Rev. 21:1-2, Eph. 5:31-32*). Under God's common grace, every marriage—no matter how messed up—has a point and purpose that God intends for it. Marriage is a real life motion picture shouting Jesus' name. God has given marriage as a gift to the world to display his glory and speak his gospel to all of the world. The purpose and goal of marriage, therefore, is to 'glorify God'— that is, to live in this covenant with him and your spouse in such a way that it puts on display the realities of how Jesus lives in relation to his Father and his bride.

As Jesus empowers us to live out the gospel in marriage, we find our greatest joy, freedom, peace, and purpose in marriage not by seeking to 'get' from the marriage what we selfishly desire, but by seeking to display the covenant love of Jesus and his church.

Following are six basic applications of this mind-blowing reality that you probably 'know' but the implications of which in daily life you might not have thought about in depth.

1. *Marriage is a RELATIONSHIP between a husband and his wife.*

Marriage is supposed to be the closest possible human relationship this side of heaven. The bond between a husband and wife is described as a 'one flesh' union in Scripture (*Gen. 2*). The two literally become one in every way—emotionally, physically, practically, etc. The two who were separate now take on one identity. The relationship aspect is obvious in wedding vows usually taken: words like 'to have and to hold from this day forward', 'to love and cherish' are quite different from 'to put up with' or 'to tolerate'.

In the same way, God's purpose is to have this type of relationship with sinners like you and me! He longs not just to accept us and begrudgingly live with us, but to be our all in all. He died and rose again not only to legally acquit us as our judge, but to be united to us as a husband is to his wife! God longs for you and me to know him truly and deeply, even as we are truly known by him. And we *can* know God through Jesus. Just as a husband and wife have the closest human relationship on earth, so too our closest relationship (even closer than with a spouse) is to be with Jesus.

Is this the type of relationship you have with Christ? Is this the type of relationship you currently display in your marriage?

Maybe in your marriage covenant you find that your love has grown cold in your devotion to your Lord. Maybe you find the affection and closeness in your marriage affected in the same way. In Revelation 2:1–7, Jesus lovingly corrects the church of Ephesus whose love for the Lord had grown cold. Give it a read and think about it in regard to your devotion to Christ as well as to your husband or wife. Humbly draw near to God through Christ and he will draw near to you. Christ will empower you to do all you can to humbly draw near to your husband or wife as well, and to glorify him in your relationship

2. *Marriage is a COVENANT relationship between a husband and wife.*

When I sign up to get a mobile phone, I enter a contract. If I abide by the terms of the contract and pay my bills, then I get my phone service. If the service provider gives me good mobile service, then I will keep paying my bills. Simple. This ‘contract’ is a conditional relationship between me and the phone company. Sadly, this is how many marriages function.

God’s relationship with his people doesn’t work this way. He doesn’t have this type of ‘contractual’ relationship with those who believe in him. God establishes an unconditional ‘covenant’ relationship with sinful people who are saved not by holding up their end of the bargain, but by *his* work and *his* will alone. He glorifies himself by displaying his own love for us in this—while we were still sinners Christ died for us (*Rom. 5:8*).

Marriage is meant to reflect this type of relationship. Selfishly, we make demands of each other and have the attitude of, ‘If you do this, I’ll leave you’, or make others feel as though our love must be earned. Because of Jesus, however, we can refuse to have this ‘you scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours’ relationship. This falls short of displaying the glory of God. Christians who treat anyone this way aren’t displaying the gospel. This isn’t the way God treated us, and this isn’t the way that we should live toward others. This is not to say, however, that God intends for one party to simply take abuse while the other dominates. Sin must be dealt with by God’s means, but through it all both parties are called to love and respect the other and to forego their own wills and wants for the good of the other.

Do you view your relationship with God as a contractual one, or a covenantal one? Do you live displaying this type of covenant relationship with your husband/wife, or do you only give if you receive first?

Pray that God would give you a heart (whether you are married or not) to display a covenantal love toward others.

3. *Marriage is a covenant of LOVE between a husband and his wife.*

If marriage is known for anything, it is known for love. However, God's definition of 'agape' love is far different than the newest romantic comedy. According to Hollywood, love is something you can fall into or fall out of—and something you just feel. When some couples promise, 'for better or for worse, for richer, or for poorer, in sickness and in health' what a lot of them sadly mean is, 'when I feel like it and when I have the emotional butterflies in my stomach for you.' This type of 'love' is more like lust or infatuation.

God has a different definition for love. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (*John 3:16*). Jesus displayed his love in this way—not that he felt so warmly toward people, but that he tangibly and decisively loved his enemies. He laid down his life for sinners who nailed him cruelly to a tree (*Rom. 5:8*) This is not to say that marital love is devoid of any emotion—on the contrary! However, true love doesn't stop when the other doesn't deserve it or when we don't feel like it. In fact, true love is only proved precisely when we *don't* feel like it. Read about this type of love in 1 Corinthians 13.



This type of love is impossible to have on our own. We need to know Jesus and walk with him first. It is only when we know this covenant love from God, that we can extend this love toward others. God's Holy Spirit empowers Christians to have and share this love with others (*Gal. 5:22ff*). This is the love God desires for us to know and experience, and for our marriages to be built upon.

Do you know this love of God yourself (married or not)? Has the gospel of Jesus changed the way you love others? Do you give this type of love? How is this type of love on display in your relationships?

4. *Marriage is a covenant of FORGIVENESS between a sinning husband and a sinning wife.*

Love wouldn't be love if it didn't forgive. God's greatest demonstration of love toward us was to die on the cross specifically for the purpose of forgiving our sins (*1 Cor. 15:1-5*). All marriages and all relationships will have problems. We live in a fallen and sinful world and are our own worst enemies. This side of heaven, even the most godly of couples need to daily (and sometimes minute-ly) practice the habit of forgiving each other.

God doesn't treat us as our sins deserve. He definitely doesn't *ignore* our sin, as he is just. Neither does he *attack* us for our sin, as he is longsuffering. He pays for sin's penalty to reconcile us to himself. He graciously extends forgiveness to us. Then, when we accept his forgiveness, he chooses to remember our sins no more. He wipes our slates clean and gives us the infinite righteousness of Christ. He casts them as far as the east is from the west—as deep as the ocean floor. In Christ, we are forgiven and free! He doesn't keep a record of our wrongs or bring them up every time we fall again. In life—and especially marriage—we are commanded to forgive 'as God in Christ has forgiven you' (*Eph. 4:32*).

Have you experienced Christ's forgiveness for your sins? Is there any unforgiveness or grudge you are holding toward others? How quick are you to extend forgiveness in your own relationships? Does your marriage display this type of forgiveness?

5. *Marriage is a covenant of FAITHFULNESS between a husband and his wife.*

Everyone knows that marriage is meant to be forever. People who get married don't plan to separate, get divorced, or for sin to creep in and destroy their marriage. Most couples vow something along the lines of, 'I will forsake all others and be faithful to you for as long as we both shall live.' The reason for this is because God has pledged his unending and unfailing faithful love to his bride in all eternity. Jesus will never leave us, and never forsake us (*Heb. 13:5*)!

Perhaps you are reading this and have felt the pain and heartache of sin's effect on a broken marriage and family. Perhaps you are living with this right now. You are not alone. The Lord weeps with you and knows your pain. He has felt many times the pain of the unfaithfulness of his bride. He knows too well the abuse, neglect, and suffering that sin causes. He knows what it is to love those who reject him in return. These are all sins for which Christ died. And he has not left you. He is near to all those who call to him. Wherever you are, and in whatever context you find yourself, when we trust Christ, God will make a beautiful masterpiece from our mess. God will cause *all* things to work together for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose (*Rom. 8:28*). Anyone who trusts in the Lord will never be put to shame (*Rom. 10:11*).

Not one human marriage this side of Genesis 3 has always, at all times, in heart, thought, word, and deed, remained constantly faithful to husband or wife fully in the way that Christ has to his bride. Not one man has

always loved, honoured and treasured, nurtured, and cared for his wife as Christ has the church. Not one wife has respected, followed, honoured, loved and built up her husband the way that the church is commanded to towards Christ. We all fall short. But our hope isn't in ourselves. Our hope is in Christ and his faithfulness. His covenant faithfulness is what we trust in; it is what we experience through a relationship with him, and it is what we seek to display in the lifelong marriage covenant on this earth.

Marriage is supposed to be forever because God's faithfulness to his bride is for all eternity. He will never leave us. He will never forsake us. We will be with him for eternity. God is most glorified in marriages that best experience and display what God's marriage to his bride is like. This brings us to the final point.

6. Marriage is a temporary SHADOW of the greater substance to come.

Marriage is amazing. After my Lord, my wife is the most amazing gift from God to me. She definitely got the raw end of the deal! Brittany and I are in our 13th year, and God continues to bring us both much joy as well as much trying sanctification through our covenant together. I pray that God gifts us many more exciting decades of adventure together. But no matter how amazing the joys of marriage are (and there are *many!*), they will all one day pale in comparison to the reality to come. One day, the shadow that is marriage will give way to the substance which is Jesus' lasting and faithful relationship with his bride, the church, forever. You can read about the details of this in Revelation 21–22.

So enjoy marriage with all your heart. Seek to honour and glorify God with it in every way, for this is where the greatest joy in the covenant together is found. Never give up! There is always hope in Christ. Keep Christ at the centre of marriage because without him you cannot have peace, love, or life as he intends. Be 'all-in' and give your all.

Encourage and pray for those who are struggling in their relationship of marriage.

However, know that one day this role-playing will end and give way to something greater to come. The coming of Jesus is something that we should long for and expect even more than the most excited bride for her wedding day. 'He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."' Let us be those who say, 'Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!' (*Rev. 22:20*).

Jacob Brothers

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

14–18 April 2014

7:15 – 7:45 pm

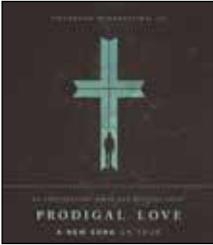
Jesus' Walk with Peter

Each evening of Holy Week, Glenrothes Baptist Church would like to invite you to a short devotional meditation which will focus on the Lord Jesus Christ, his passion, and its meaning. This year our theme is a study of Jesus and his walk with the Apostle Peter. Some of the mediations will be led by Home Bible Fellowship groups.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Monday 14	PETER'S CALLING Led by Stenton HBF.
Tuesday 15	PETER'S COMMITMENT Led by Forester's Lodge HBF.
Wednesday 16	PETER'S CONFESSION Led by David Belton
Thursday 17	PETER'S CONVICTION [including Communion] Led by Tanshall HBF.
Friday 18	PETER'S COMEBACK Led by John Belton

Each service lasts for approximately half-an-hour. There will be a celebration of the Lord's Supper on the Thursday evening.

'A NEW SONG' — TOUR 2014



Matthew Marshall reports on the 2014 tour of 'A New Song Romania' — PRODIGAL LOVE. But before he does, we must thank 'A New Song' for the wonderful meal and programme they shared with the Church on Friday 21 March in the Victoria Hall, Coaltown of Balgonie. If you weren't there, you missed a treat!

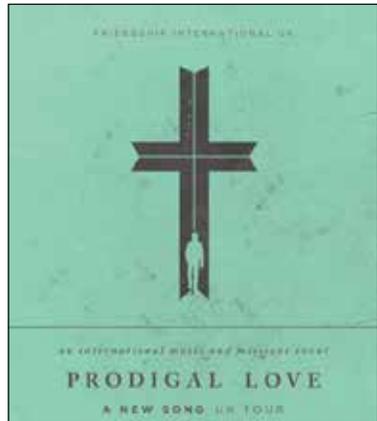


Friendship International has been running music tours for about fourteen years. I have been travelling with them and leading the tours now for almost nine years. The vision behind them is really very simple. We want to use the groups we travel with in Romania doing music evangelism to challenge and encourage the church in Europe and the USA. Our first priority on tour is that the music and message we use reach people and connect with them in a real and meaningful way. We then want to network with churches and people to partner with us in the work the Lord has called us to in Romania. Finally, of course, we want to see God provide for our work through the offerings and gifts people make as they have the opportunity to.

Touring has evolved over the years however, and as we have focused over the past five or six years on the UK, I have felt an increased desire to see the ‘church’ in the UK strengthened, challenged/rebuked and impassioned for the work of the great commission. As you will know if you have visited other churches in the UK, there is an unfortunate trend of churches quarter-filled with ‘lukewarm’ believers at best. This is the reason so many churches that were once strongholds for the gospel are now top Indian restaurants. It saddens my heart when we travel and come across a church that, as we describe it, ‘just doesn’t get it’. They don’t get the gospel and they don’t get grace and that’s the reason they never talk about repentance or evangelism—it’s all a very religious affair.

This however brings us to the past tour I led with *A New Song Romania* in March 2014. These tours begin their planning stages at least nine months before we set off. The amount of effort that goes into just the booking stage is quite staggering, and if I’m honest almost puts me off doing the tour before we even start. On this tour though, the booking stage went fairly well, and before long I ended up with a nice schedule of seventeen concerts.

The other aspect of preparing for the tour is of course the team and music. On this front however, this tour has to have been one of the most challenging yet! I began praying over where the Lord was leading me with the theme months ago, and the parable of the prodigal son and ‘Prodigal Love’ was decided on not long after. It fits well into our underlying passion to see the ‘church’ come into a deeper relationship with Jesus rather than a deeper religiousness in behaviour.



The team and music however were a different matter. If I tell the truth, the music and five members of the team were added to the tour within four days of leaving for the UK! That means that the team not only got to know each other on the drive across Europe but also spent the whole time learning twelve new songs to a high standard! That just goes to show the work of the Lord in bringing this tour together.

On any tour, our prayer is always that the Lord would work through our programme and speak into peoples lives as he ministers to them. On this tour however, there was a particularly heightened passion for this. Given the very obvious spiritual warfare at play during the run-up to the tour, we were very aware of our need for the Lord in this battle. He had called us to this place and these concerts, and we needed him to honour our faithfulness in stepping forward in it, and to do an amazing thing before us for his glory. So we began this tour literally two or three times a day stopping as a team to pray. Our prayer was always that when we would stand on stage and sing or speak, that people would not see us or a performance, but that they would literally and tangibly sense God’s presence and see Jesus in us.



‘A New Song’ in the Church, Sunday 23 March
Left to right: Christina, Benny, Tabita, Sarah, Salomea, Adi & Casian

You know what? That was a consistent theme throughout the tour in the responses we received after the concerts—people always remarked on seeing the joy of the Lord on our faces while we were on stage; people always came and gave testimony to us about how they had met with God during the programme, and how he had spoken to them about a situation or sin in their life—the most incredible stories of God at work, too many to write in this article, but be encouraged that the Lord was moving and working and we were honoured to be in the front row watching.

The first half of the tour went exceptionally well, in all aspects of our vision for touring, as mentioned earlier. We had several venues that were new to us, or—should I say?—we were new to them. They were sweet times of seeing people thoroughly enjoying the music, but also responding to the theme and message they had not necessarily been expecting to hear. In one of those new churches we even saw five people give their lives to the Lord during the evening. How encouraging!

However, as we headed north, we began to visit more of those churches that are very stagnant as far as passion and joy for knowing the Lord are concerned. There were three churches in a row that actually asked that we cut out the gospel message part and just do good music. One church leader actually said ‘if people want to hear a sermon they can come on a Sunday morning’.

You can liken the atmosphere within the team at that stage to being like a line on a graph arching higher and higher, reaching the top of a curve, and then all of a sudden just tailing off and beginning to free-fall. Looking back, it was probably a combination of things, from fatigue, long journeys and of course those churches that ‘just don’t get it’. I brought devotions during that time on 2 Thessalonians 2:13–16, which talks about standing firm in the teachings that you have been given and allowing the God who gives eternal encouragement to strengthen you. It was a weak point in the tour for us as a team, but the same God Paul speaks about here did give us strength and encouragement. You know the most amazing thing?—Those concerts saw probably the most clear displays of God at work through us than any others. It just goes to show that in our weakness, God is shown strong.

This past tour has been an outstanding success for the kingdom. The Lord clearly displayed himself through our travelling and meeting. Our prayer now—and *please pray together with us*—is that those who heard his call and were ministered to by him as we performed, will continue to remember that God is not interested in their religion, but interested in their relationship with him. And just like the father in the parable, our Heavenly Father is waiting to run out and embrace any sinner who is ready to come ‘home’ to him with a humble heart of repentance.

Matthew Marshall

FROM THE TREASURER



As agreed at the EGM in January we needed to increase our giving to **£1754 per week** to cover the expenses of the Church, including the repair of the lift and the heating system.

So this is just to update everyone as to where we are with giving at the moment.

Month	Average weekly offering (£)
January '14	1627.23
February	1647.37
March	1650.53
BUDGET	£1754 per week

Tax returns received from the Gift Aided offerings for October to December amounted to £2998. We also received £365 from Gift Aided gifts for the Marshalls.

Anniversary Thanksgiving Offering 2014

As you can see we are still well below budget; however, we are still looking to replace the heating system this year if possible. Again, as agreed at the EGM, we are using the Anniversary Thanksgiving Offering to go towards this cost. Please take the opportunity to give to this using Gift Aid if possible, by completing the form in the donation envelope.

Update on Easyfundraising

In the last issue of *faith@work* there was an article about how you could raise money for the Church by making online purchases through easyfundraising.com. Thankyou to all those who took advantage of this! We have now received our second cheque from them, and as of 6 April the total contributions allocated for the Church on the site amounted to £85.81.

Helen Clarkson

WHAT'S UP WITH THE CHURCH KIDS?

About six years ago John Lamond asked me to take over his position as leader of the Sunday school. We had been part of the Church for a few years and I had been involved with Sunday school for a bit. We had not long found out we were expecting our first child, Emily. I distinctly remember thinking ‘How can I possibly say yes? How can I possibly do this job?’ But a stronger thought always fought back, ‘How can I possibly *not* do this? How can I possibly pass up on this opportunity?’



I had had several experiences in Christian children’s work at camps and in Charlotte Chapel Children’s Church whilst I was a student, but never had the overall responsibility fall on my shoulders! I remember feeling overwhelmed by the task and completely incapable. It has certainly been a learning curve over the past six years and one thing is for sure, I still feel completely overwhelmed and incapable of the task and yet the same thought fights each time, ‘How can I possibly not do this?’ God has been faithful and provided me with what I need and has also been patient as I make mistakes and find my way. There will always be learning to be done I’m sure.

I remember the first kids I taught in Sunday school, most of whom are teenagers now. I had the oldest group of all boys! I knew what I needed to teach them—the gospel and the Bible and God’s purpose for their lives. But how could I enter their world? It all seemed so alien. However, the Bible was and is just as relevant and alive as when it was first written. The situation in the Sunday school has not changed over the past six years. The Bible is still as active and relevant, and the world the kids are in today can still seem so unknown to us as their teachers.

One thing I have come to realise is how much these kids belong to us as the Church; whether they are our actual children or grandchildren,

nephews or nieces, they belong to us all as the family of Christ and we are responsible for them. The kids have a mix of backgrounds, some from Christian families and others not. One thing that I feel they all have in common is that every day, from all different sources, they are bombarded with information and lies about life—what they should be like, look like, what they should want or not want, what they should think or not think. They are like sponges, soaking up the world around them. The challenge we face is how do we counteract this with God’s truth from the Bible? How can we teach them on Sunday something that will make a difference to them on Monday? They need something that works! We know God and the truths found in his Word bring life and are what works and what the kids need. We are therefore always striving to communicate and teach these truths in a fun, relevant and memorable way.



One of the biggest changes we have made in the last year is the material we use—‘The Gospel Project for Kids’ curriculum. Now material is simply material. It is not the Bible and most

material I have ever used will have both excellent and poor aspects to it, and this material is no different from any other in that respect. One of its main attractions is that it teaches the Bible in a chronological order over three to four years and then returns to the beginning and teaches



it again at a deeper level. So most of the kids will have covered it twice, perhaps three times in their entire time in Sunday school, learning different lessons at deeper levels from the same Bible content. In every lesson we cover how the passage points us to Jesus and learn how it all

fits into God's overall plan which is continuing in us today.

One other change that we hope to begin over this year is to organise different 'get togethers' for the kids, as a chance for us as leaders to spend time getting to know them. These will take various forms such as a games afternoon in the summer holidays or a movie/quiz evening, and are simply a chance to spend quality time with the kids and them with each other. Therefore, hopefully, by knowing them better we will be more effective and influential in teaching them.

However good and effective our Sunday school is I still feel that *the main influence on the kids is what goes on in their home, family environment*. That's a challenge for us at the moment, to seek God on how we can best reach out and serve the families that the children belong to, whether part of the Church or not. How can the Sunday school play its part in building up the family and sharing God's Word with them?

In every aspect of this ministry we need to rely on prayer and God's plan for us and the kids in his church. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers and ask that you continue to commit all the leaders and especially the kids and their families to the Lord in prayer.

Joanna Thomson

Atonement effected

The New Testament does not put forward a theory of atonement, but there are several indications of the principle on which atonement is effected. Thus sacrifice must be offered—not the sacrifice of animals, which cannot avail for men (*Heb.* 10:4), but the perfect sacrifice of Christ (*Heb.* 9:26; 10:5–10). Christ paid sin's due penalty (*Rom.* 3:25–26; 6:23; *Gal.* 3:13). He redeemed us (*Eph.* 1:7), paying the price that sets us free (*1 Cor.* 6:20; *Gal.* 5:1). He made a new covenant (*Heb.* 9:15). He won the victory (*1 Cor.* 15:55–57). He effected the propitiation that turns away the wrath of God (*Rom.* 3:25), made the reconciliation that turns enemies into friends (*Eph.* 2:16). His love and his patient endurance of suffering set an example (*1 Pet.* 2:21); we are to take up our cross (*Luke* 9:23). Salvation is many-sided. But however it is viewed, Christ has taken our place, doing for us what we could not do for ourselves. Our part is simply to respond in repentance, faith, and selfless living.

LEON MORRIS (1914–2006)

KATIE STEVENS, FAITH MISSION

On Sunday 16 March 2014, Katie Stevens of the Faith Mission was introduced to us during the morning service. Katie is working on placement in the area as part of her third year studies at the Faith Mission Bible College in Edinburgh. Here is her testimony.



A few years ago, before I became a Christian in fact, if I'd have been asked to label my life up until that point, to give it a title that summed up the total of all I'd achieved, I would have given it this: a life far less than ordinary. I grew up in a Christian home, with Christian parents, living a life that seemed to many very ordinary.

But what to me seemed like such a ordinary existence became *extraordinary* when Jesus stepped in; when God picked a desperate

sinner from a desperate situation, it was nothing less than a miracle, and my life became far from 'less than ordinary', but fulfilling, peaceful. He is the one who transformed a lifeless sinner like me into a beholder of true peace. Nothing of me but all of him.

I grew up in a Christian home in the south east of England in a town called Colchester, so I am an Essex girl. My parents had three children—me first and then my younger sister and younger brother.

As a child I was the mischief-maker; if there was trouble you could be sure I was at the heart of it. And to be quite honest I loved it. I loved not fitting the mould; I loved being the naughty child.

But deep down, the problem was not that I desired to be the bad child, the misbehaver; it was that I looked at my parents and I saw something different in them. They told me about this God, how they had a personal relationship with him, and how he desired one with me. But I couldn't get my head around it, no matter how much I tried; however much I pretended I couldn't experience what they seemed to have. And by the age of eleven, I had decided that God was for my family, but he just wasn't for me.

By the Christmas of that year my

family began to crumble. My mum developed severe migraines, and I watched as she became weaker and weaker. On many occasions she was rushed to hospital and I watched my dad's terrified looks as my mum became a shadow of herself. We were still children, so my parents had agreed not to tell us what was happening. But I overheard a conversation between my dad and nan about how they had found a shadow on my mum's brain; they suspected it to be a brain tumour and if it was she wouldn't see the next year.

Days later I watched my mum taken into hospital in the middle of the night by an ambulance. And in total despair I called out to this God I'd been told about. I remember it clearly—I said, 'God, if you're real, please show me you are because I don't know how to cope with this. People say you give help, people say you give strength, and I could really do with that now.' As the weeks passed, every time mum went to hospital I called out to God; every time mum struggled I called out to him. And now I look back I see God was taking up a daily part in my everyday life.

One day I remember asking my mum if what I heard was true and she said, yes, but you know that God will get us through. For me that was the first real time someone had specifically

introduced me and pointed me to God.

After a few months the results were in, and the doctors found that after a small operation and tablets my mum would be fine. I can't explain the joy that comes when you realise that someone you love so much will not be leaving.

A few months later I was now twelve and was still in awe of this God that people said had held my family together and had given me such peace in a storm. But I still didn't know him.



As I sat at a Faith Mission camp that summer in a little tin meeting room, a Faith Mission student was telling their testimony and how they would one day be a full-time missionary. They said that being churchy or a good person or having Christian parents didn't make you a Christian; the only thing that would save you is a personal faith and acceptance of Jesus Christ. I had been in those meetings for three years before this one, but God had now readied my heart to hear and accept the gospel. In that very meeting

I gave my heart to God. And at the same time as that student spoke about being a missionary I felt God say in the quiet of my own heart, 'you'll do that'.

I returned home and not only told my parents I'd been saved but that I was to be a missionary. They smiled, slightly taken aback, and said maybe one day. I started off on fire for God, the God who had held my family together over the past few months, the God who had answered my prayer to reveal himself to me.

But that September I started secondary school. I hadn't yet grasped the concept of grace and that it is in God's strength not ours we can serve him. Every time I messed up and I knew about it, I'd take it really hard. I was trying to be a 'Christian' in my own strength. And when I met the wrong crowd at school I was tired of trying—I fell head first into all the wrong things, and became a Sunday Christian. I would be up to all sorts in the week but on a Sunday I had my face on.

With every year that passed I grew further and further from God. Anything and everything that I wanted to do I did. I wanted to hang out with the wrong group, so I did. I wanted to go to every party I could go to, so I did. I wanted to drink, to date guys and do everything my friends were doing, so I did. So what? I thought at the time, if

the Bible said otherwise, I was young; I wanted to have fun.

My poor parents must have been worried sick! Every time I messed up there they were waiting to help me back up.

When I was about fifteen, my life away from God had taken me to places I shouldn't have been and into things I shouldn't have been involved in. At the lowest point, when God was just a distant memory, when time with him never happened, and when it looked to everyone else that I was not God's, I took myself to a place I shouldn't have been and because of that something pretty terrible happened.

This was rock bottom for me. While in such a dark place I see now that God was beginning to draw me back to himself. By this time my life was a total mess; I was struggling with an eating disorder.

It all came to a head when to my shame I told my parents I was done with God and I wasn't going to church any more.

My mum hatched a plan and at sixteen sent me with a group led by Stephen Walker to a Faith Mission camp at the Faith Mission Bible College in Edinburgh. I was convinced I'd skip all the 'God stuff' and have a great week of sight-seeing.

How wrong I was! God had other plans. On the Wednesday, the first

night of meetings, I'd been dragged along to hear Michael Otts, a former Faith Mission student. He spoke on how if you didn't know God it was clear you were destined for one place and that was not heaven. After the meeting I spoke to Michael and he said to me, 'I believe this is your crossroads. You can either turn and be with God and or walk away forever.'

I knew what I wanted to do, so I went back to my freezing tent, got down into my sleeping bag and prayed, 'Lord, forgive me, and please give me assurance that I'm yours.' There were no big bangs or fireworks, but for the first time I knew I was saved. I didn't have to do it in my strength because God gave me his.

The next day I walked the Faith Mission Bible College halls and again in the quiet of my own heart I remembered the call God had given me at twelve. When I left to go home, I promised God I would return to FMBC if he would just show me when.

By this time I was at Sixth Form College, studying A-levels. I'd already nearly completed one year and I was pretty settled. I was about to do my first year exams and, after all, people would think I was mad if I up and left college for Bible College so close to finishing.

But the week of my exams began, and I believe it only takes one moment

to change the direction of your whole life. While cooking I slipped and had an accident—and in a moment I lost the movement in my right hand. I was rushed to hospital and as I lay in the hospital bed I began to pray, 'God, what is your plan in all this? I'll never write again; I'll never be able to play guitar again or do photography, or any of the things that I love.'

The doctor came to visit me and said he didn't think I'd ever get the movement back again, but I was lucky how I didn't die—someone was surely looking out for me. I knew I wasn't lucky, and I knew that it wasn't just anyone looking out for me, but the creator of the whole world, God. And I left a few days later with the biggest smile on my face.

I returned home. I had to leave college, and started intense physiotherapy. But in this God gave me time—time to read his Word and find out his will for my life. I began to read my Bible more and more. And on one sleepless night I was reading Luke 9:62, where it says that no man having put his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God. In that I moment I knew God was asking me to step out and go to Bible College.

I remember I couldn't contain my excitement, and I ran in to my mum, who was asleep at the time, and I showed her the passage. Very

graciously, she smiled and said, ‘Yes, I know that verse. What about it?’ ‘But you don’t understand,’ I told her, ‘this is what I’ve been waiting six years for! God is calling me to Bible College.’ She wrapped me up in this big hug and said, ‘Now, you have to go.’

By the 10th of September, 2011, at eighteen, against the doctor’s words, most of the movement had returned to my hand and I was on the train to the Faith Mission Bible College.

I don’t understand everything we go through. I don’t know what you’ve gone through in your life. But I can assure you that whatever it is, there stands a Saviour with arms open wide—calling YOU to himself. A compassionate Saviour who will understand everything you’re going through, and who one day, if you believe in him, will take you home and wipe every tear from your eyes.

I’ve just started my third year. And those of you who are good at maths will have already worked out that makes me a few months short of twenty-one. So much has happened in my time at College—it’s been hard, it’s been great—but through it all God has been so very faithful.

God doesn’t promise that the minute you believe all your cares, all your struggles will be over. Since trusting, I have had to work through a lot of hurts and pains caused in the

time I was away from God. But God is faithful; God keeps his promises. And I know that as I believe and as I look to Jesus the lover my soul, he will in time bind all wounds and take me home.

If you’re walking with God today, be encouraged! He is a great God and worthy of everything. I want to challenge you—what are you doing for God, with God? How are you serving him? Life is too short to live a life less than ordinary; it’s too short to do the minimal amount for him.

If you don’t know God, why not? Life is too short to live unfulfilled, striving for the next best thing. I ask you to do one thing: ask God to reveal himself to you, because my story is a testimony to God doing just that.

I am but a young Essex girl, from a small Christian home, from a place many of you have probably never heard of. But God has given me peace in him, fulfilment in him, and total assurance I’m his. It’s not just available to me; it’s available to each and every one of you.

So it leaves me one last question to ask. Do you have the true fulfilling peace found in Jesus? Because when time is gone that really is all that matters.

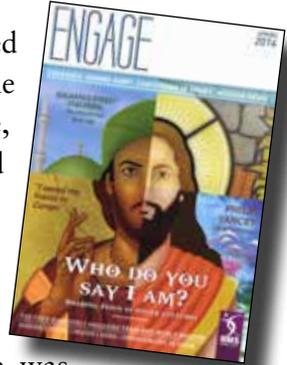
Katie Stevens

BMS WORLD MISSION



Janet Milnes is the new BMS Birthday Scheme Secretary

The other week I received my copy of *Engage*, the BMS missionary magazine, and was pleasantly surprised to find an article about the Birthday Scheme, as I had just agreed to be our Church Secretary for this. The article was written by Joy Ransom, who had been a missionary, and who Bob had invited to speak in the Church when he was Missionary Secretary.



The Birthday Scheme is a good way to give to BMS. You receive a birthday card, with an envelope for a donation to help those in need, such as providing medical treatment. I have cards with more information, so please do ask me for one.

If you are interested in mission, why not order *Engage*, which you receive free quarterly, and which will keep you up-to-date with the work of BMS?

Recently, at the Women's Fellowship, we had a visit from Mrs Russell of BMS, telling us about a visit she and her husband Ken had made to the Guinebor II hospital in Chad. The following article was in correspondence I received subsequently—very encouraging.



Guinebor II — ward rounds

Guinebor II Hospital, Chad

There are really encouraging signs of patient numbers increasing, balancing the books, and people being pointed to faith in Christ.

Two exciting ventures are afoot. The first is that the waiting area is being painted with a number of murals depicting both evangelistic images and public health messages. The second relates to the maternal health centre. As patient numbers rise, demand has far outstripped the space required to deliver (literally), and we have just agreed plans for the construction of a new maternal health centre.



The Hotchkins

Pray for Andrea Hotchkin and Malc White, in particular, as we take these projects forward.

Andrea and Mark Hotchkin are both surgeons who previously worked for ten years with BMS in Guinea, West Africa. They then completed six years work in the NHS during which Mark pursued further specialist training in

emergency medicine and Andrea in obstetrics and gynaecology.

They moved to N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, in 2010, where they bring good news to the poor by working in a new hospital and sharing the experience of life in Jesus. The French language and mainly Muslim culture are similar to their previous experience.



Guinebor II – maternity unit

However there will be many differences such as the hot and arid climate and the need to learn Arabic as the principal language for everyday use.

Their children, Ruth (15) and Rebecca (13), attend a French-speaking high school in the middle of the city to which they travel each day.

Janet Milnes

Birthday Scheme Secretary

A INVITATION FROM GIRLS' BRIGADE

Coming soon to a theatre near you —
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT.

The Girls' Brigade have taken 'Joseph' as their theme for this year, and for their badge work they have decided to put on a performance of *Joseph*. This has involved a lot of hard work by the girls and leaders, and we greatly appreciate your support with it.

The church family have always supported us and we pray that this will continue as we approach the performance dates. We would value your prayers and encouragement for the girls and leaders at this time. We would of course urge you to buy tickets for the show!! There will be some interesting sights that you may never see again!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the show.

Jane Grant



Friday 9 May: 7.30pm | Saturday 10 May: 2.30pm & 7.30pm.

Rothes Halls, Glenrothes

TICKETS: Adults £5, Children £4 (available from Rothes Halls)

A LETTER FROM WALES

We are now in our 14th year in the work of The Faith Mission here in the Principality of Wales. We look back over this time with thankfulness to God for his faithfulness towards us as a family.



Miriam continues her studies at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, where she gained a first class honours degree in Occupational Therapy and is now studying for a Ph.D. Miriam is a member at Charlotte Baptist Chapel where she is involved with children's work and also work amongst the students.

Daniel celebrates his 21st birthday in August. He hopes to make a second visit to Moldova in the summer with UFM on a short mission trip. By that time he will have completed his apprenticeship as an electrician. Daniel keeps himself busy with his responsibilities as a deacon in Newtown Evangelical Church, youth work and also as a first aider with St. John's Ambulance.

Elizabeth continues to be engaged with the weekly ladies meeting in the church, after school children's club, mother and toddlers group and a monthly coffee and cake outreach morning.

Paul has responsibility as an elder in Newtown Evangelical Church for a home group, preaching appointments within the church, the 'Learn to Lead' course, and pastoral visitation. He also has a number of Sunday preaching appointments throughout Wales in some of the smaller churches and chapels. He also accepts invitations to take



Newtown Evangelical Church

mid-week meetings in some of these small fellowships.

During our time in Wales Paul has served on the Keswick in Wales Council. The Convention itself takes place in Llandrindod Wells during the final week of July.

Both Paul and Elizabeth had the privilege of spending a week in Ireland during the month of January 2014 where Paul was involved in six meetings.

As a church (Newtown Evangelical Church) we were privileged to recently have had a visit from Sir Robin Oake, retired Chief Constable of the Isle of Man, whose son Stephen was tragically murdered in Manchester in 2001. Through his testimony Sir Robin Oake spoke powerfully on how he forgave his son's killer and also gave a very clear presentation of the gospel. It gladdened our hearts to see a number of unconverted people present at the meeting.

We are grateful to the Lord for each and every opportunity to present Christ to those yet unconverted and to bring encouragement to the Lord's people.

To those who faithfully remember us at the throne of grace we say a very sincere word of thanks. We are also grateful for the practical support we regularly receive from Glenrothes Baptist Church.

May the Lord continue to richly bless you as a fellowship.

Yours sincerely in the Lord.

Paul and Elizabeth Crowe

SUMMER FUN / SUMMER SERVICE



Scripture Union Scotland has a long history of summer camps, missions and holiday clubs designed to tell children and young people the good news of Jesus and to encourage and disciple young believers. This year is no different and there is a full range of SU camps taking place for those between the ages of 10 and 18 all over Scotland. The camps are action packed with many different activities and opportunities to make new friends. Central to all of the holidays is Bible teaching and small group time encouraging young people to engage with the Bible and to explore the relevance of Jesus Christ. You can get more details about this from the brochure found on the table on the landing, or go to the website at www.suholidays.org.uk.



Whiting Bay, Arran

Also this summer SU Scotland will be running over 30 missions and holiday clubs across the country, many using the 'FIT FOR A KING' material. I will once again be leading the team for the beach mission



Team members and appreciative 'audience' at Whiting Bay. Recognise anyone?

at Whiting Bay on the Isle of Arran and we are looking forward to working with many of the young people we have met in previous years. At the moment I am in full recruitment mode as I need to have a team in place for the mission *by the end of May*—so if you'd like to find out a wee bit more about joining the team I'd love to have a chat with you. The dates for the mission this year are the 19th of July to the 2nd of August.

Some specific prayer points relating to the Whiting Bay mission are as follows:

- The house that the team have used before for accommodation is up for sale. If it sells before the mission, I have been unable to come up with a backup plan so far.
- We have always enjoyed going to Whiting Bay as a family, but this year might be slightly more tricky with a small baby. Please pray for the practicalities of this!
- Please pray for a great team to come together to run the mission this summer.



If you'd like any further information on any of these things please do chat to me or drop me an email: gavin.thomson@suscotland.org.uk

Gavin Thomson

HOLIDAY CLUB 2014

As the country gears up for the Commonwealth Games we are beginning to get organised for this year's Holiday Club. As usual the Holiday Club is in the first week of the school holidays—Monday 30th June to Friday 4th of July and runs from 10am to 12 noon. Scripture Union Scotland has produced its own material this year on the theme of the Commonwealth Games which we are going to be using. The church hall will be turned into an events stadium for the week and as the Queen and Commonwealth nations assemble in Glasgow for their 2014 games, we will be bringing the children an event that points us all to Jesus Christ called 'Fit for a King'.



The holiday club will include a drama entitled 'Party at the Palace', 'Auntie Jessie' from Aberdeen will be visiting each day for a wee aerobics session, and the stories will focus on the parables of Jesus. Challenges will take place each day as teams compete against each other to win medals.

Can You Help?

At the moment we are putting together a team to serve in different capacities over this week. We need people willing to work with the children each day and also to prepare and serve snacks. We also are going to be holding various fundraising events to be able to finance the fish supper night which takes place at the end of the week. Please support and pray for the lead-up to the Holiday Club, and if you are interested in helping please speak to either Steve or Denise.

Steve & Denise Rodgers

SRC 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Saturday 10 May, 2014, Hamilton College, Hamilton ML3 0AY

Registration 9.15am. Conference times: 10.00am – 3.30pm

As always, for those who appreciate fine biblical preaching, we recommend this Conference. And there's an excellent bookstall!

2014 Speakers



Dr Sinclair B. Ferguson has been a minister of the gospel since 1971, having served in his native Scotland, and in the USA. He now lives in Scotland with his wife Dorothy, and continues to devote his time to preaching, teaching and writing. He is Professor of Systematic Theology at Redeemer Seminary, Dallas, Texas, and a member of the preaching team at St Peter's Free Church, Dundee.

Rev David Carmichael is Chairman of the conference and is a founding member of the SRC. He has exercised a much respected and influential ministry at Abbeygreen Church of Scotland, Lesmahagow since 1982, and is widely recognised as an evangelical leader in Scotland.



Conference Fees

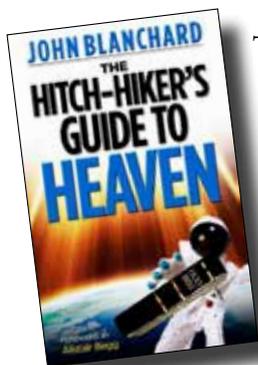
Adults—£5 | Students—£4 | 17's and under—free

It isn't necessary to book in advance. Tea and coffee are provided at no extra cost, but delegates should bring a packed lunch.

More information can be found at the Conference website—

www.scottishreformedconference.org

IN THE LIBRARY



THE HITCH-HIKER'S GUIDE TO HEAVEN

by *John Blanchard*

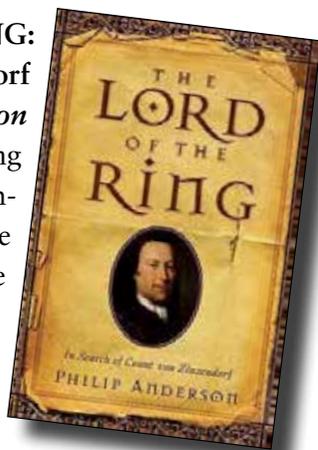
John Blanchard's particular strengths in his mission of serving and encouraging believers lie in the area of apologetics. This new publication of his goes a long way to clearly present the claims of Christ on the lives of seekers, with conviction and clarity. A useful new tool for lending to friends.

THE LORD OF THE RING:

In Search of Count von Zinzendorf

by *Phil Anderson*

Despite the enigmatic title, we have a revealing account of the prayer-focussed life of this 18th-century Saxon aristocrat. Would you have known exactly what the Moravians were about? No? Me neither! Instead of frittering away their years at Wittenburg University in trivial and indulgent pursuits, the Count and his band of high-born fellow students vowed to 'pray without ceasing' for their lost world and its sinful and troubled humankind. Some time later a 24/7 vigil of prayer was organised which lasted a full century!

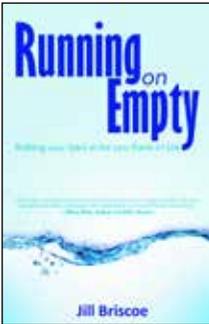


Zinzendorf had both encouragers and critics in equal measure all his life, yet his buoyant faith in Christ and his redemptive work at the cross seldom failed him.

One of the outstanding memorials to his life-work was in the establishment of his (the first?) Christian commune at Herrnhut, Saxony, and this testimony of Christians living and working together in godliness was so impressive that the example rippled out through Europe and even as far as the Americas. The remarkable faith and endurance under severe persecution of the Moravian Christians enter

the narrative around this point, since constant believing prayer was also their guiding star along with sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Furthermore many single young men were impressed by the Holy Spirit to take the gospel to those who had never heard it before—and the first seeds of foreign missions were sown: from the Inuits of Greenland to the oppressed slaves stolen from Africa and working in the Caribbean plantations. Imagine the fury of the white owners losing hours of work from their slaves to attend religious meetings! And John Wesley appears in the story about now, though he didn't agree 100 percent with our fine Count on all points of procedure!

If this account sounds a bit dry, it is spiced up somewhat by the light aircraft piloted by and carrying Phil Anderson and friend by hops and skips across Europe, to arrive at their goal of the restored Herrnhut Village with its many mementoes and museum. This journey fills alternate chapters—quite a novel approach—and has made a touching read. (How long would *we* keep up a 24/7 prayer chain??)



RUNNING ON EMPTY

by *Jill Briscoe*

There's a snag with this book—it's not on the library shelves (yet)! Jill Briscoe, valued Christian writer and broadcaster along with husband Stuart and son Pete, front 'Telling the Truth' on Premier Christian Radio, channel 725. Jill has dipped into the material in *Running on Empty* during the PCR talks.

Anyone keen to have a personal copy of *Running on Empty* is asked to send a modest donation to Telling the Truth by phoning 0800 653 4120. Premier also provide—free to listeners—one or more copies of their new, small magazine *Voice of Hope*—articles, 30-days' readings and commentary, and programme schedules for Premier Christian Radio.

Irene Belton

P.S. Book donations for the library welcomed, also CDs/DVDs, but please, unless outstanding Christian classics, none older than 1980!

‘ABIDE WITH ME’

Dr Donald Roworth (the Editor’s cousin) contributes a series on ‘Favourite Hymns’ to the Cathedral News of Peel Cathedral on the Isle of Man, where he lives. We thank him for permission to publish in faith@work as well.

*‘Abide with us, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent’
(Luke 24:29)*

Someone said to me recently: ‘it doesn’t matter what the words of a hymn are, provided the tune is known. The congregation won’t take any notice of the words, anyway’. That set me wondering whether there are hymns whose tune is nothing special but whose words resonate in our minds. It seems to me that ‘Abide with me’ is one such.

It is certainly a popular hymn, being a favourite choice for funerals and of course for the FA Wembley Cup Final! It is regularly included in the British Legion annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, and memorably was sung at Ground Zero in New York in the aftermath of the disaster at the World Trade Center. At first it seems to convey mawkish sentimentality, but so do many other long-forgotten Victorian hymns—so why should this one be a favourite?

It was written by Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847), who was born in Scotland, educated in Ireland, and after serving as a curate in several places, finally settled in Lower Brixham as perpetual curate where his life was dragged down by tuberculosis. His last sermon was preached in September 1847, the day before he set sail for Italy where he died that November. He had penned this hymn as a young man, in response to the death of an old friend, but before he left for Italy gave the verses to a relative who ensured they were published posthumously in the first edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1861).



A tune was needed, so the music editor of the hymn-book, William Henry Monk (1823–1889), was asked to write one, and he composed ‘Eventide’ which ever since has been inseparable from Lyte’s verses. It was said that Monk wrote the tune in ten minutes immediately following the meeting of the compilers, while a piano lesson was going on in the same room! This may be apocryphal, but perhaps explains the musically rather weak nature of the tune and harmonies; it is only really memorable because of the words it is associated with.

So what of the words? When I was a young Christian, I remember being much stirred by the story of the walk to Emmaus that inspired this hymn. Two of the disciples were walking away from Jerusalem, disconsolate about the crucifixion, when they were joined by a stranger. I could imagine their joy, after they had invited him to stay with them for the night, in discovering that he was the newly-risen Jesus! As a teenager who had recently invited him into my life, it meant a great deal to me that Jesus had journeyed with them, and later gave us all the promise ‘I am with you always, even unto the end of the world’ (*Matt.* 28:20).

In our modern world, when all around there seems to be so much upheaval and uncertainty, the constancy of the presence of Christ who will abide in our lives if we so allow him, can provide the point of stability we need. The universal yearning for certainty that this satisfies perhaps explains why this is a favourite hymn because of the meaning in its words.

Henry Lyte wrote several other verses to ‘Abide with me’ that do not appear in our hymn-books. One goes:

*Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word;
But as thou dwell’st with thy disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient, free.
Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.*

The archaic language makes this rather opaque, but the meaning is clear: to fully receive the benefits of the presence of Christ in our lives, he must be a permanent resident, not a temporary visitor from time to time when we find it convenient.

Don Roworth

LOOKING BACK / LOOKING FORWARD

Every year we have to submit a Trustees' Report (the 'Trustees' of the Church are the elected office-bearers—the Elders and Deacons) to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). This includes the Accounts and Financial Report—those for 2012/13 are still being prepared by our accountants, and will be available for the Annual General Meeting (to be arranged!). Here are some extracts from the 'non-financial' sections of the report. Some of this is inevitably 'historical', but it is also encouraging to look back and see what God has been doing amongst us. There is also information here about 'Future Plans'—some of which are coming to fruition. It should be noted that this is a public document—not available on OSCR's website, but it can be requested by anyone.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 September 2013

Significant highlights, events and developments:-

Ministry of the Word

The theme verse for 2013 was '*I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you*' (Psalm 119:11).

There was an emphasis through the pulpit ministry on reading, studying, memorising and meditating on the Scriptures. Sunday evenings were taken up with overviews of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, taken—as far as possible—in chronological order (of writing). This series was completed by the end of 2013. In the mornings, the expository series on the book of Joshua, begun in 2012, was completed in May 2013.

As planned, the Pastor and his family returned to the U.S.A. in May/June 2013 for a home visit, and pulpit supply was used to cover a five-week period. Several men 'new' to the Church gave excellent ministry over this time. From summer 2013, the morning ministry concentrated on studies in the book of Philippians, to link in with the Home Bible Fellowships (see below).

The Church was much blessed by the visit of Rev Jeremy Walker of Maidenbower Baptist Church, Crawley, W. Sussex, who preached at the 57th Anniversary services in April 2013, with messages from 1 Samuel 2 and Ephesians 1.

Home Bible Fellowships

Home Bible Fellowships (HBFs) were developed and expanded throughout the year to provide an integrated focus within the Church for community and individual discipleship and outreach. HBFs meet every second week, and there is at least one HBF in a different area of the town on each day of that week. From September 2013, there has been a greater integration of the studies with the morning pulpit ministry, with the ‘Discipleship Explored’ course from Philippians being followed. This will continue into the beginning of 2014.

Baptisms

Six baptismal services were held between December 2012 and August 2013, at which nine people witnessed to their faith and new life in Christ. Eight of these were subsequently received into membership of the Church.

Scottish Baptist College Placement

At the start of 2013, William Butchart, a member of Leslie Baptist Church in training for the ministry at the Scottish Baptist College, spent five weeks ‘shadowing’ the Pastor as part of the third year of his course.

The Grain Game

Two visits were made—in January and June 2013—to Cairo, Egypt, by Elder John Belton, in connection with ‘The Grain Game’ children’s ministry (based in Alabama).

‘Journey of Faith’

With the imminent demolition of the old Auchmuty High School, on 21 June 2013 the Church celebrated the ‘journey of faith’ taken from its early days meeting in the school’s Music Room, via the premises in Ninian Quadrant—now St Luke’s Episcopal Church—to its present location in Church Street. All four pastors of the Church were present on an occasion which strengthened relationships with those involved in the community.

‘Space Academy’

Once again a holiday club for primary-school-aged children was run in the first week of the summer holidays (July 2013)—this time on a ‘space’ theme. Between 45 and 50 children came each day, studying the story of Daniel. On the Friday evening, over 150 children, friends, and family were present for the now traditional ‘fish supper’—and a great opportunity to present the gospel.

Romania

For ten days in July/August 2013, a team of seven ladies visited Sistarovat, Romania, to assist the Marshalls with ministry amongst people with special needs. A week was spent teaching forty children with a mixture of disabilities (and their carers) at Friendship Camp. As previously, money raised through the Youth Fellowship Sponsored Walk (on the Rob Roy Way in April 2013, based at the Atholl Centre, Pitlochry) was used to subsidise the attendance of Romanian youngsters from mainly poor and disadvantaged backgrounds. At the weekends, visits were made to Mochrea Psychiatric Hospital and to Cuvesdia, meeting with twenty-five young adults (orphans) with special needs.

Future Plans:-

In addition to maintaining the existing ministries:

- The Home Bible Fellowship groups will complete the ‘Discipleship Explored’ course early in 2014, and will continue to study material based upon the Sunday morning expository ministry. They will seek to develop existing, and make new relationships within their respective communities, and foster discipleship and outreach, becoming missional communities for care and accountability.
- Further *Christianity Explored* courses in the Christian faith will be run as opportunity arises.
- The Pastor will continue his work towards an MA in Missiology (Baptist Theology of Missions) with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, having taken up his studies again in August 2013. This work is being carried out through internet lectures, writing, and assignments online.
- In connection with his degree studies, the Pastor will continue the ‘Boot Camp’ discipleship course for men, begun in September 2013. This aims to explore exactly what it means to be a Christ-like man of God, at home, in the church, and in the world, by developing spiritual disciplines for life, and encouraging accountability within the group.
- The Elders will seek to improve communication within the leadership and between the leaders and the rest of the congregation.
- The new Church website — www.glenrothesbaptistchurch.org.uk — will continue to be developed (launched on 27 October 2013).

PICTURE QUIZ!



In what way(s) is this Edinburgh tram like a Christian?

There will be a prize for the best answer received by the end of May.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME

Forgive me

For my sins

For straying off your righteous path

Forgive me

For my ignorance

I do not wish to feel a spiritual wrath

Forgive me

For my stubbornness

For thinking I can walk in my own strength alone

Forgive me

And know how much I love you

Your light shone for me to find my way home

Marlyn Lee Murphy

Congratulations to
Craig & Rae Barrowman,
who have just celebrated
their *Golden Wedding*.
They were married in
Penilee Parish Church,
Glasgow, 20 March, 1964.



GLENROTHES BAPTIST CHURCH, CHURCH STREET, GLENROTHES KY7 5ND
"to glorify God through worship and witness"

Sunday worship at 11:00 am and 6:15 pm.

Pastor: Rev Jacob Brothers
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*Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue of faith@work.
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FRONT COVER: Starting married life in March —
Bottom: Alasdair & Jan Stenhouse (8th); Top: Andy & Rebecca Beveridge (29th)

www.glenrothesbaptistchurch.org.uk