

Musings from the Manse

Dear friends,

In the run up to the election I was very aware of the multiplying number of programmes and leaflets and hustings that were taking place in hopes that the political landscape of the country on June 8th would be more blue, red, yellow, orange, green or whatever from that day on. I think with the political parties moving this way and that to attract more and more of the electorate, it is becoming increasingly difficult to know which way to go when it comes to politics, but they are all very keen to offer guidance for our life choices.

Jesus Christ calls us to follow him as Lord, Saviour, Master and Friend. But how do we do that? What guidance do we get in order to live in a way that serves and honours him and impacts the landscape of our daily lives? There are 5 CS's that I'm going to look at over the next 5 newsletters.

The first way is by **Commanding Scripture** (the Bible). The first and foremost way God guides us is through the Scriptures. As Jesus went about his ministry it was always to the Bible he referred- when he was tempted (Matthew 4. 1-11), when he was teaching (Mathew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount), when he was tested (Matthew 22. 37- which is the greatest commandment). And when Peter and Paul preached it was the Bible they preached from (Acts 2, Acts 13 etc) and when they offered pastoral advice and guidance it was Scripture they referred to because 'all Scripture is God breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Tim 3. 16)

So, when we want to know God's guidance, let us firstly come to the Bible. Genesis to Revelation is 'all Scripture' and we read it for guidance because of its:

- *Inerrancy* (there are no mistakes in it),

- *Clarity* (it is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it),
- *Necessity* (it is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life and for knowing God's will), and
- *Sufficiency* (it contains all the words God intended his people to have and we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly and for obeying him faithfully).

If the Bible is God's primary means for guidance, then surely we should:

- Read it daily and systematically
- Share the Scriptures in word and action with friends, families and neighbours
- Pray for and practically support Bible translation and distribution work across the world (Wycliffe, Bible Societies, Gideons etc)
- Learn more about the work of bible translation and distribution

In the next Newsletter I will look at the next means of God's guidance-Compelling Spirit!

Your friend and Pastor

Colin

Rev Colin MacLeod

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Please remember the following people in your prayers –

Illnesses or Hospital

Miss Florence Williamson

Housebound

Mrs Anna Cameron

Mrs Margaret Grant

Mr Archie McArthur

Mrs Mary MacDonald

Mrs Effie MacIver

Mrs Christine MacRae

Residential Homes

Mrs Mary McCulloch – Aden House

Miss Betty MacRae – Ballifeary

Mrs Anna MacLeod – Ballifeary

Miss Nan MacDonald - Ballifeary

Mrs Joan Macleman – Fairfield Home

Mrs Margaret MacAulay - Highview

Mrs Joan Lamont - Highview

Mrs Dolly Campbell – Isobel Fraser Home

Mr Alasdair and Mrs Barbara Morrison, Isobel Fraser Home

Mrs Ishbel Graham - Kingsmills Home

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Robbie Finlay and Vikkie Woods who got engaged recently. We pray the Lord's blessing on their relationship together, that it would grow and be grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colin

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Dates for the Diary

June

Sunday 4 th	Colin taking FN services and Sandy taking MS service
Wednesday 7 th	Prayer round tables at 7.30pm in the hall
Friday 9 th	WfM Supper evening at 7pm in the hall
Sunday 11 th	Baptism service at 11am taken by Kenny Macleod (Dowanvale) and Colin taking the MS service and FN service in the evening Isobel Fraser service at 3pm
Tuesday 13 th	Congregational lunch and devotional in the hall from 12.30 to 2pm. All very welcome.
Saturday 17 th	Sunday school/family BBQ at Manse at 5pm
Sunday 18 th	Colin taking the FN morning service, Chris Macleod taking the MS service. Joint service in Greyfriars at 6pm with John Blanchard Cameron House service at 3pm
Sunday 25 th	Colin taking FN services and Sandy taking the MS service. The morning service will be a Family Service and the Sunday School Prize giving Congregational Fellowship at 8pm- Quiz
Wednesday 28 th	20 Schemes assessment visit to Madras Street
Thursday 29 th	Ian Polworth's retirement do in Free North hall at

July

Sunday 2 nd	Colin taking all 3 services
Tuesday 4 th	Congregational lunch and devotional in the hall from 12.30 to 2pm. All very welcome.
Wednesday 5 th	Prayer round tables at 7.30pm in the hall
Thursday 6 th	Office bearers' prayer meeting at 8am
Sunday 9 th	Colin taking all 3 services Isobel Fraser service at 3pm
Sunday 16 th	Sandy Finlay taking FN services and Ian Polworth taking MS service Cameron House service at 3pm
Sunday 23 rd	Innes Macsween taking all 3 services
Sunday 30 th	Ronnie Philips taking FN services and Martin Maclean taking MS service

Welcoming Visitors

It's that time of year again when we see an increased number of tourists from around the world and some will be hoping to have a look inside the church, others may come in to pray, and some will stay to join us in worship. Whether you are on door duty or just arriving at the same time as visitors, you can help to welcome them by directing them to the basic information sheets that are stored in the wall-mounted racks in the fellowship area. The information is available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Dutch. Thanks to the Florits we also have a Catalan version available.

At the back of the church we also have Scripture tracts which visitors are welcome to take if they choose. These are available in various languages and have been placed in alphabetical order from Arabic to Urdu! In recent years the main demand has been for French, Spanish and Italian. To help find the European languages more easily they are adjacent to cards with their national flag and John 3v16. Languages which are read from right to left (e.g. Arabic) will have the opening edge on the left-hand side. Further supplies of the most commonly required languages are at present stored in the small kitchen off the fellowship area. There are also church post cards which can be offered to visitors.

Effie Finlay

Reading and Recording the Free Church Record – volunteers needed

Each month two Free North people from a rota meet at the studios of HCVF Wells Street to read and record the Free Church Record for the visually impaired. The recordings are put on to memory sticks by Norman Kennedy and these are sent out nationally to anyone who would appreciate hearing an audio version of the magazine. In order to continue this service we do need more readers to add to our rota and Norman is also looking for someone to help with the recordings. The time involved is about two and a half hours on a Monday afternoon when required. If you would like to help or if you know of anyone who would like to make use of this facility please speak to Norman or Archie.

Home Groups

Just a reminder that we're taking a break for a couple of months from Home Groups, hoping to recommence again in August when we will begin looking at the series '*Fruitfulness on the Frontline (FOFL)*'. This is in line with our strategy proposal on *Discipleship* which is to encourage a missional mind set for the congregation through resources like this. *FOFL* is a DVD with discussion material offering a fresh, simple framework for discovering a rich variety of ways God may work in us and through us right where we are. The study is over eight sessions and explores six ways we can be fruitful for the Lord wherever we are. They are called the 6M's;

Modelling Godly Character

Making Good Work

Ministering Grace and Love

Moulding Culture

Mouthpiece for Truth and Justice

Messenger of the Gospel

So there's an introductory session and a closing session also. Leaders will meet on Tuesday 13th June at 7pm in the Manse to go through the course and be equipped to lead their home groups through the course commencing in August.

Colin

OTHER NEWS

Inverness Blythswood Support Group

Many thanks to all who came along to support the Ploughman's lunch held at Daviot Hall on 27 May where we enjoyed fellowship over soup, filled rolls and home baking. The sum of £2,300 was raised for the ongoing work of Blythswood both at home and overseas, through donations, the baking and bric-a-brac stalls and the auction.

Archie Fraser/Murina Anderson

HELPFUL THOUGHTS

The Bible Story

"In GENESIS the world was made; In EXODUS the march is told;
LEVITICUS contains the law; in NUMBERS are the tribes enrolled;
In DEUTERONOMY again, we're urged to keep God's law alone;
And these five Books of Moses make the oldest holy writing known.

Brave JOSHUA to Canaan leads; in JUDGES, oft the Jews rebel;
We read of David's name in RUTH and FIRST and SECOND SAMUEL.
In FIRST and SECOND KINGS we read how bad the Hebrew state became;
In FIRST and SECOND CHRONICLES another history of the same.
In EZRA captive Jews return and NEHEMIAH builds a wall;
Queen ESTHER saves her race from death;
These Books "Historical" we call.

In JOB we read of patient faith; the PSALMS are David's songs of praise;
The PROVERBS are to make us wise; ECCLESIASTES next portrays
Of fleeting earthly pleasures all,
The SONG of SOLOMON is love like Christ's,
Five Books "Devotional" we call.

ISAIAH tells of Christ to come, while JEREMIAH tells of woe,
And in his LAMENTATIONS mourns the Holy City's overthrow.
EZEKIEL speaks of mysteries, and DANIEL foretells of kings of old;
HOSEA over Israel grieves; in Joel blessings are foretold.
In AMOS too are Israel's woes, and OBADIAH'S sent to warn;
While JONAH shows that Christ should die, and MICAH where He should
be born.
In NAHUM Nineveh is seen, HABAKKUK tells of Chaldea's guilt;
In ZEPHANIAH are Judah's sins; in HAGGAI the Temple's built.
Then ZECHARIAH speaks of Christ; and MALACHI of John His sign;
The prophets number seventeen and all the Books are thirty - nine.

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE and JOHN tell what Christ did in every place;
The ACTS tell what the Apostles did and ROMANS how we're saved by
grace.

CORINTHIANS 1 and 2 instruct; GALATIANS show us faith alone
EPHESIANS, eternal love is seen and PHILIPPIANS God's grace shown.
COLOSSIANS tells us more of Christ; and THESSALONIANS of the end;
In TIMOTHY and TITUS both are rules for pastors to attend.
PHILEMON, Christian friendship shows; In HEBREWS is God's law made
plain

Epistles written for our gain.

JAMES shows that faith by works must live; and PETER urges
steadfastness;

While JOHN exhorts to Christian love, for those who have it, God will
bless.

JUDE reveals the end of man, and REVELATION tells of Heaven;
This ends the whole NEW TESTAMENT and all the BOOKS are twenty-
seven."