

# APC NEWS

*The Magazine of the Associated Presbyterian Churches in Scotland*

**ISSUE No 142**

**JULY/AUGUST 2010**

---

*Mr Calum Nicholson from Skye, pictured below, has been a long standing supporter of our congregation in Skye. On behalf of the congregation he handed Mr Cattanach a handsome cheque. He celebrated his own 90th birthday the same week*



*See pages 13 and 14 inside*

**Subscriptions & Renewals  
for APC News**

The APC News is published 6 times per year, beginning with the January/February issue. The cost is **£10** per year including postage

**Note for Congregations**

Each congregation must contribute a minimum of **£180** per annum towards the APC News Fund as arranged with the treasurer Mr Donald M Fraser. This is to be considered as a donation towards the sustaining of the magazine.

Congregations can, if they so wish, charge for their own distribution of the magazine, or give them away free.

Cheques should be made out to 'APC News' and sent to the address below.

Please state if acknowledgement of donation is required.

**Mr D M Fraser,  
Publications Treasurer,  
'Stratharris',  
Daviot, by Inverness, IV2 5XQ  
Telephone 01463-772253**

**Email:  
donald@stratharris.freemove.co.uk**

Name.....

Address.....  
.....  
.....

Postcode.....

Tel No.....

Email.....

**Publication Details**

'The APC News' is published 6 times per year on the first weekend of the second month

January/February  
March/April  
May/June  
July/August  
September/October  
November/December

Copy deadline dates are the 1st day of the 1st month (eg for May/June magazine, last copy date, 1st May)

All the views expressed in this magazine are not necessary those of the editor or the denomination. The articles are meant to stimulate and provoke a serious study of Holy Scripture. All articles not attributed to an author are by the editor.

Articles can be sent by email (preferable), or on CD in Microsoft Word. Clearly printed manuscripts, double spaced in one column is also acceptable. Photographs can be sent by post or by e-mail in .jpeg format.

There is no copyright on any of the articles that do not bear the author's name, and such articles may therefore be reprinted, with or without credit. Other articles may require the permission of the authors.

*Editor:*  
Revd Donald C Macaskill  
238 Arbroath Road, Dundee DD4 7SB  
Tel 01382 451798  
macaskilldonald@googlemail.com

## EDITORIAL



# Our Role in Today's Society

**WHAT A HARD** master Satan is! He deceives people and then watches them suffer under his evil advice. Ever since Eve fell for his sophistry, her seed have been languishing under his deceitful misguidance.

The Apostle Paul knew this and said to the Corinthians *"I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ"* [2 Cor 11:3].

How wonderful that God came and rescued us from the deceits of Satan. Christ Jesus came into our sin-darkened world and brought life, liberty, help, promise and hope for the future. Jesus brought real hope and comfort to all those in trouble.

What a wonderful gift from God true hope is. The Apostle Peter spoke to Christians of a *"living hope"* which began with their being *"born again through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"* [1 Pet 1:3].

How awful false hope is. The Bible says that *"the hope of the*

*godless will perish"* [Job 8:13]. So many people today are believing a lie and are suffering because of false hope in what will never bring lasting peace and joy.

In recent days so many have lost loved ones as a result of killings and suicides. Suffering because of other people's beliefs about life and death - consequences of wrong thinking and wrong believing?

The relatives of the victims of the shootings in Cumbria and Rothbury and the parents of the four young men in Dundee who committed suicide, are all suffering greatly although completely innocent of the deaths.

Most people today, believe that everything will be all right 'on the other side'! No matter what kind of life was lived or what was believed, everything will be fine after death, is the conviction of most people in the UK today. What a lie from Satan.

Our generation is suffering because of the many changes that

have been made over the last 50 years regarding reality and the veracity of Holy Scripture. There are so many victims suffering because of the new stance on the freedom to live as we please. To have sex outside of marriage, to take drugs, to be self-centered, and to drink freely are all encouraged to enjoy - but there is a sad price to pay. Satan promises life is better if you are free to do all these things. The restrictions of past generations, says Satan, has stultified the potential for true happiness. What a lie.

Our nation is crying out because of the pain resulting from the freedom and license to do what we feel is right, regardless of God's law. But previous generations were far happier than our present generation. Researchers have found that the 1950s were a far happier generation than the 21st century generation.

To allow people to continue to think that the removal of the values and ideals and standards of a Christian nation is the way forward, would be tragic. There is enough evidence to prove this in the daily press. Not only the poor, but the rich, famous and successful are suffering because of the consequences of abandoning God's Word as the basis for truth, right living and justice.

That young men feel suicide is the best way forward is so sad. Sad for them and sad for those they leave behind.

How wonderful it is that there are many agencies who can help and give good advice regarding many of the things which trouble our generation. Every use should be made of them.

However, there is a fundamental omission in the basic assumption of many of these agencies. That assumption is that man is good by nature. At heart, they say, man is good but external pressures can bring the worst out of him. If man did not have evil conditions around him, he would always be good. Well that was not true in the garden of Eden where everything was perfect!

The Bible teaches us that man in his heart is evil and we must work on that basis - else all our counselling will come to nothing.

The Church has a great responsibility in this matter. If the Church fails to communicate true and real hope to society, it has failed in its mission. We as individual Christians must be Christ to our generation. He went about doing good to everyone He met.

Our role as Christians in society is clear - we have to be as Christ would be in our society. The gospel is good news. Our generation is needing good news - the good news of the gospel. Let us display the love of Christ in practical ways - not just in our theology, but in our daily lives let us demonstrate the reality and joy of living by faith in the Son of God, who gave Himself for us. □

# *News for Prayer and Praise*



## **CHARGES DROPPED**

The Crown Prosecution Service in mid-May dropped the charges against street preacher, Dale Mcalpine. Dale Mcalpine of Workington in Cumbria, was arrested on 20 April after a conversation with a police community support officer, in which he said that the Bible calls homosexual conduct a sin.. The arresting officer believed it was a crime to say this, but was mistaken. After firm intervention by Dale's lawyers, the case was dropped.

*The Christian Institute*

## **AFGHANISTAN: EXECUTION of CHRISTIANS?**

At the end of May, an Afghan parliament secretary called from the parliament floor for the public execution of Christian converts.

Abdul Sattar Khawasi, deputy secretary of the Afghan lower house in parliament, made the demand after seeing footage on May 30 of men being baptised and praying in Farsi. He said: 'Those Afghans who

in those video film should be executed in public. The house should order the attorney general and the NDS (intelligence agency) to arrest these Afghans and execute them'. Two aid organisations in Afghanistan, Norwegian Church Aid and US-based Church World Service, were suspended on May 31 after the footage was made public. According to Afghan law, proselytising is illegal and conversion from Islam is punishable by death. The organisations protested their innocence.

*Religion Today*

## **COUNCIL MEETING PRAYER**

Councils should continue to have the freedom to hold prayers at meetings, the Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said in May and the Mayor of London Boris Johnson said in June.

Their comments came as the National Secular Society (NSS) attempts to use the courts to block a council from continuing its century old tradition of prayer before meetings. While making clear he was

not commenting on a 'specific court case', Mr Pickles said: 'The new government recognises and respects the role that faith communities play in our society'. He also commented that he wanted to 'ensure' that councils continue to have the freedom to hold prayers.

The Mayor in June told Premier Christian Radio: 'Whatever they (councillors) may think about the existence or non-existence of God...they should focus briefly in a moment of prayer, which is a unique period of personal reflection. They should focus on what they are doing, the importance of what they are doing. Any attempts to ban it would be misguided.

Many councils across the country currently begin their meetings with prayer. However, Bideford Council in North Devon is facing a legal challenge from the NSS to its practice of praying before meetings.

*The Christian Institute*

### **EUROPE: RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN PAKISTAN**

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CWS) welcomed a resolution on freedom of religion in Pakistan, passed on May 20 by the European Parliament. The resolution came two weeks before the EU-Pakistan Summit in Brussels. While showing support for the Government of Pakistan's efforts to improve the situation for religious minorities, the

resolution calls for the review and amendment of the controversial blasphemy laws, expressing concern that they 'are often used to justify censorship, criminalisation, persecution and...the murder of members of political, racial and religious minorities'.

The resolution also calls upon the Council of the European Union to 'include the issue of religious tolerance in society in its counter-terrorism dialogue with Pakistan', describing it as being of central importance to the long-term fight against religious extremism'.

**CSW**

### **CCFON GROWTH PLANS**

Christian Concern for Our Nation (CCFON), is a Christian think-tank trying to get Christians more involved in national life and seeking to encourage Christians to 'speak up and be counted' regarding their faith and principles. They hope to employ two more staff which will help them to 'arouse the church' and equip Christians to speak with 'power and insight' to those in authority. They see the need not only to pray for but also to enable governments to legislate according to God's Word.

### **CHRISTIANITY SIDELINED**

An Ofsted report has revealed that schools in the UK are marginalising Christianity in a way that is potentially discriminatory. According to the weekend [Telegraph](#), [Independent](#)

and Sunday Times newspapers, the report found that 20% of all schools in the UK had sub-standard teaching of RE in lessons, while other schools were focussing too much on other religions at the expense of Christianity.

The school watchdog also found that Christian pupils were often being sidelined, while Bible stories were only repeated without any religious significance being attached to them. According to Ofsted, these figures are worse than they were three years ago, when the last survey was taken.

### **CHRISTIANS and POLITICS**

'Get Christians back into politics', the Revd Tim McGlynn said at the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing) General Assembly in May. In his keynote address to mark the 450th anniversary of the Scottish Reformation, he argued: 'The nation was changed, not simply by the preaching of Knox, but with the help and support of the Lords of the congregation...We need a generation of godly men and women who will bring the convictions of a biblical and Reformed faith back into the councils, institutions and parliament of the nation once again'.

### **INDIA:PRIVILEGE to SUFFER**

Several missionaries in training are testifying that it was a privilege to suffer for the sake of the gospel after they were attacked on May 9 on their

Bible college campus in Mumbai.

Seven students were seriously injured in the incident. They were preparing the evening meal when the attackers, armed with wooden sticks, iron rods and fluorescent light tubes, stormed on to the campus, beating them and vandalising the buildings.

'For a moment I was shocked about why this was happening to me' said Sunil Pattanayap. 'Then I understood that the time had come for me to glorify his name. It was my privilege to suffer for Christ and I am happy today because I can testify that God protected me and brought me safe from death to proclaim his word and stand as a living testimony for Christ with a strong faith'. The assailants are assumed to be anti-Christian extremists who live in the area surrounding the Bible college.

Hemanti Kashyap said:

'Through this situation I learned what the Bible means when it says 'Blessed are those who suffer for Christ...the opposition was the test of my faith to march forward and to share the gospel'.

Brijeshware Nayan said 'I came to serve the Lord. If we get scared of this opposition, then how can we learn to grow up in our faith?' Nayan said that three of the seven students injured are still in hospital.

Vice President for 'Gospel for Asia' said '...we also know that anywhere the gospel goes forth, there is a price to pay.'

**Gospel for Asia**

# Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners!

by Wayne Pearce

*“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” [1 Tim 1:15]*

**THE THEME OF** the above text is salvation for *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners* – even the chief of sinners. There is no-one too bad that they cannot be saved; there is no-one good enough that they do not need to be saved! The Bible makes clear that as the children of Adam we are all as an unclean thing. We must all acknowledge along with the psalmist: *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me”* [Psa 51:5]. Our own righteousness is but filthy rags in God’s sight. The Puritan Joseph Alleine rightly wrote ‘God finds nothing in man to turn His heart but enough to turn His stomach; He finds enough to provoke His loathing, but nothing to excite His love.’ Let us understand that man’s greatest problem is sin and its consequences. Most importantly let us recognise that there is only one antidote or remedy to the world-wide pandemic of sin and it is to be had through faith in Jesus Christ.

## **A trustworthy word**

This is a trustworthy word: *This is a faithful saying* It is the word of God:

it is not merely the word of Paul but instead it is the very word of the one, true and living God. This is the God-given word that is able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus [2Tim.3:15]. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. This is the way that God has chosen to save His people: *“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth”* [Js.1:18a]. The word in scripture points us to the Word incarnate *“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed* [Eph.1:13a]. Therefore we preach Jesus Christ, a crucified and risen Saviour. The word of God not only shows our grave need to be saved but it directs us and commands us to receive so great salvation by believing, receiving and resting in Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of sinners and Him alone for salvation *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* [Acts 4:12].

This faithful word is also

therefore an authoritative word. God has spoken. He is faithful to His word; He is as good as His word; His promise comes with a cast iron guarantee. God does not and cannot change His mind. His word says whoever believes shall not perish but have everlasting life. This is not my invention or opinion, neither is it the mere notion of any man. It is not a message manufactured by the church as some would have us believe but instead it is the authoritative and therefore trustworthy word of God. That is why the Apostle Paul can say: *“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God [2Cor. 5:20].* An ambassador does not speak his own thoughts and opinions but those of the sovereign he represents. The word that I share with you here is the word of the Sovereign LORD. I bring this message to you from the King of kings and Lord of lords. This is therefore a trustworthy saying: one you must trust for your life! It is no coincidence that the verse which lies at the very heart of the Bible says: *“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man”*[Psa 118:8]. Do not trust in yourself for salvation nor in your religious performances or good deeds. Do not trust in your fellow man to save you – he cannot. Do not place your trust in the church for the church can save no one. Instead you must trust in the Lord

Jesus Christ. He alone must either save you or He will be the One to condemn you on the great and fearful Day of Judgement.

### **You must believe**

You must believe this trustworthy saying. You must apply and appropriate it to yourself: it is *“worthy of all acceptance”*. We are here reminded of the uniqueness and exclusivity of Christ's gospel. There are not many ways to God, nor are there some ways to be reconciled to God but instead the Bible says there is only one way. And hence the apostle writes: *“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed [Gal.1:8].* We are saved only by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Salvation is not a mixture or combination of grace and law or faith and works. It is not a question of God and man cooperating in man's salvation but it is all of sovereign grace from start to finish. We must receive salvation as a gift: *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord [Rom.6:23].* However the thing about a gift is that you must receive it; you must accept it and use it. You must receive and rest upon the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. You are not passive in salvation for YOU must believe – believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. This moreover is not mere intellectual

assent for even the demons believe and tremble. Instead you must believe in your heart and confess Him with your mouth.

You must accept the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ today: *“Behold, now is the favourable time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* [2Cor.6:2b]. If you are not a Christian then let me assure you that it is no coincidence that you are reading this little article. God has brought you to this point and place that you might be reconciled to Him through faith in Jesus Christ. NOW is the time to be saved; now is the day of salvation. You cannot know for certain that you will have a tomorrow. Yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery; today is the day of salvation. Repent of your sins; ask God to forgive you for all your sins, past and present and believe on Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. Do not delay, act today. You need to learn the lesson taught by the Lord Jesus in the parable of the rich fool who said to himself: *“Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee”* [Lk.12:19-20]. Here is a man who got his priorities all wrong. Your great and grave need is to be saved; to know that you are heaven bought and heaven bound. You must be saved from your sins and the penalty of eternal condemnation in hell

which is where you are headed out of Jesus Christ.

### **The faithful saying**

Will you therefore heed the faithful saying: *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”*. Christ Jesus came: the Son of God condescended and stepped out of glory and entered into His state of humiliation for sinners – for those who were haters of God; who were separated from God on account of their sin; who were rebels and disobedient towards God. Christ thus came for the undeserving and unworthy. Note it was Christ who came. The Christ; God’s Messiah; His anointed Prophet, Priest and King as foretold and promised throughout the Old Testament Scriptures. He came in the fullness of time. His very name Jesus reminds us that salvation is all of grace – God’s riches at Christ’s expense. His name quite literally means God saves. His name was given Him of God and hence the angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph and said concerning Mary: *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins”* [Mt.1:21]. Jesus saves His people through His life, death and resurrection. He has saved every one of God’s elect by doing for them what they were wholly unable to do for themselves. He saves His people moreover from the curse of sin; from the guilt of sin; from the penalty or punishment of sin; and from the

power of sin. Hallelujah! What a Saviour.

He came into the world: a world that had rejected God; a world at enmity with God; a world in rebellion against the one, true and living God; a world which is rebelliously waving the black flag, like the anarchist, in God's face defiantly declaring its autonomy. And yet God so loved this world that He gave His only begotten Son! This was the will of the Father: *"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world"* [1Jn.4:14]. Note Christ Jesus specifically came to save sinners: He alone is Saviour, there is no other. We cannot save ourselves and yet we must be saved. Out of Christ you already stand condemned and under the wrath of God: *"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"* [Jn. 3:17-18]. The Lord Jesus' mission was a rescue mission – He came to seek and save the lost. And every one whom He came to save must be saved. He does not save hypothetically. He does not merely make salvation possible but instead He saves His people. He came to save sinners. The Bible makes clear that there is none righteous no not one

and that the wages of sin is death.

What is sin but lawlessness; transgression of God's Law – the moral Law which was written on man's heart at creation and then given at Sinai and encapsulated in the Ten Commandments. God's Law condemns us. There is none who can keep the Law perfectly. The Law shows us our sin. It directs us moreover to Jesus Christ as Saviour. Jesus Christ alone was without sin; He alone has fulfilled the Law in the stead of His people. And then He offered Himself up to God as the unblemished, spotless sacrifice of atonement for the sin of the world. Christ Jesus came to save the chief of sinners. Paul could confess that he was *"before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus"* [1Tim.1:13-14]. No matter who you are or what you have done there is salvation for you if you hear and heed the Good News. Though your sins be as crimson they shall be as white as snow if you sincerely repent and believe the Good News of salvation which is through faith in Jesus Christ: *"For he [God the Father] hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"* [2Cor.5:21]. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. □

# Presbytery and Congregational News



*The new premises of the Vancouver Congregation - see below*

## **VANCOUVER**

Our Vancouver congregation are delighted to announce that they have eventually found suitable premises for holding their services. Their pastor, Fletcher Matandika, sends us the following news.

“This new location is not too far from Olivet Baptist Church where we are currently meeting. It’s just a little further along Queens Avenue towards Sixth Street. The actual address is 203-204 Sixth Street, New Westminster, BC V3L 3A1, and is located at the corner of Queens Avenue and Sixth Street. It’s a very

good location – very central and easily accessible. The unit that we are renting is the middle one, where you have the glass on the left side of the door, if you are looking at the pictures (attached). It’s 518 sq. ft – has sufficient parking space for us – the location is very visible, and there is a lot of foot as well as vehicle traffic going by there all the time which is wonderful! We plan to put up some signs around the area to let people know that we are there.

“This is so exciting for us here and I pray that it is only the beginning of greater things that are

yet to come. Please pray that the Lord will pour out His Holy Spirit upon us and that He will richly bless the ministry of the Gospel here in New Westminster through our congregation as well as other congregations in the area who are faithfully proclaiming His Word. May the Lord bring a spirit of contrition and commitment to Him among us and through us to the honor, praise and glory of His Holy Name!

'Last Sunday, we had our first Communion here since my ordination and it was such a blessed time for us all. I truly praise the Lord for His many blessings that He is pouring upon us. We had a good turnout (the regular folks mostly) and we were blessed by the Lord! It was a great joy for me to be able to serve the congregation in this way on Christ's behalf! I look forward to many more times like that. But please be praying for us that there will be many added to our number by conversions – that sinners will be brought to true repentance, union and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ! That's my prayer always and I ask you to please join me and the congregation in praying for that!

### **SKYE CONGREGATIONS**

At the beginning of May the congregations of Portree and Dunvegan met to acknowledge the work of their newly retired minister

Revd A M Cattanach. In the unavoidable absence of Revd Calum MacInnes from Inverness, Revd D Ross McFarlane deputised preaching



*Revd Cattanach cutting the cake*

from Acts 20:17-38. His main points were, the characteristics of humility; the characteristics of a faithful ministry as centered on repentance and faith on Jesus Christ; and a word based ministry saturated with prayer

After the service tributes were paid to Revd Cattanach. The presentation of an Orbst Jewellery wall-plaque with artistic text from Isa 40:71 was made by Mrs Effie MacLeod, Waternish and a handsome cheque by Calum Nicholson, Penifiler was all made on behalf of the Portree and Dunvegan congregation.

Mr Cattanach thanked the people for their generosity and patience in bearing with him over the past 16 years and for their kindness for the tokens given.

Everyone was invited afterwards to a substantial buffet meal, including prawns and smoked

salmon at Budhmor Eventide Home, Portree. And before we finished our tea Mr Cattanach cut the retirement cake!

Yan van Woerden and Mr Donald MacCuish from Inverness were able to remind Mr Cattanach of several events in his history and life. Revd Ross McFarlane thanked all those who contributed to the success of the evening.

## EDINBURGH



To the onlooker, just another portable lectern. To us, fond evidence that a wide and surprising range of people can become supporters of the work we are endeavouring to do. We had planned to make or get a suitable lectern, but when? This one is ideal for our purposes, it collapses and stores away very neatly.

The donor of this lectern, five years previous to donating it, adamantly refused to accept a gospel tract. A multitude of reasons were given why he had no time for Christianity. Over the years, we have all gladly welcomed him to the shop, although taking care not to offer a

tract. Well, this pleasant mannered individual, very kindly and with great enthusiasm brought the lectern to the shop the other day and explained that when he was given it, he thought, I know somebody who can use this.

Pray that the day will come when he will give, not some possession, but himself to the Lord. Nothing would give us greater joy for him. With God all things are possible.

Many who are now followers of Christ, at one time imagined there were many reasons for not being a Christian, but came to see that all of heaven rightly says, there is not even one solitary reason.

The reasons he gave for refusing the tract were to do with “Christians” who at times fall into very worldly and very ungodly ways e.g. drunkenness, to name but one. Sadly, such do great discredit to the name of Christianity. Let us all take heed lest we also fall.

We were very encouraged and most grateful recently, when one of the helpers at Transformers offered to have all the children and volunteers to her house for a children’s outing. Since long, we had been hoping to have a day out for the children. We were never able to fit it in. The weight was largely taken from our shoulder, and an excellent number of children and helpers arrived, and our host did a truly amazing job. Glory to God.

As always, we warmly and

genuinely thank all who prayerfully and materially support this work in Edinburgh. Prayer is absolutely fundamental to the work of the gospel everywhere, please continue to pray.

Pray especially for those young and weak in the faith that they would continue and grow. Pray for those who have to go through exceptionally severe trials as they follow Christ. Pray for backsliders that they would be restored. Pray for those under the gospel but seemingly not coming to faith. Pray for those who have serious long term health problems. Pray that each believer here (including me) would get an increased zeal for the salvation of the lost and for living the Christian life.

Pray for those who, most alarmingly, seem to be fast on the road to renouncing the faith. Pray for those, who in spite of having a Christian parent or parents, are not prepared to take up the cross and follow Jesus, rather it almost seems to be one of the last things they would ever want to do. Pray that we would be shielded from Satan's cunning and ferocious attacks. Pray that a mighty wave of God the Spirit's awakening and reviving power would come to this small area of Edinburgh, as well as much further afield.

Give thanks for all who attend. Give thanks for those who do love the Lord. Give thanks for all who help the work. Give thanks that the

gospel is preached. Give thanks that people continue to be very welcoming. Give thanks that Satan has been restrained in measure. Give thanks for those who fear the Lord and give valuable time to come and speak to us. Give thanks for Gordon Murray, a young man from Lewis, who helps us with the preaching as well as with his attendance and much more. Give thanks for God's endless and numberless blessings.

*John Ross*

## **DUNDEE**

This month we want to appeal to all our readers regarding the spiritual strength of our congregation. As many of you know, we do not have our own Kirk Session - we have to depend on 'assessor' elders in order to properly fulfill our presbyterian functions.

We ask our readers to make it a matter of serious prayer that we, here in Dundee, would become strong in faith and in testimony and in service to God. While we have managed to purchase and pay off our church building we are dependent financially on other congregations.

But building a church is not about mortgages and bricks and mortar, but about **people** who have come to faith in Christ and have committed themselves to serve Christ. We are in great need of more committed Christians. □

## SKYE MANSE APPEAL

The Deacon's Court of the joint Portree & Dunvegan Congregation of the APC appeal to your generosity to help financially in the purchase of a suitable 4 bedroom house on Skye ( costs are in the region of £200,000 - £220,000) to become a manse for a prospective new minister.

At the most recent Presbytery Meeting in Portree it was unanimously decided to call Rev Dr Wayne Pearce, but suitable manse accommodation is needed. The present 2 bedroom manse in Portree is at present on the market for offers over £110,000, and £23,500 has yet to be paid on this building.

We would also humbly launch this appeal to congregations who may have surplus unused funds and would be willing to loan a substantial amount to cover our present difficulty. *"The earth belongs unto the Lord, and all that it contains"*. Any help whatsoever, would be most sincerely appreciated. *"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus"* [Phil 4:19]. Cheques, etc, can be made out to Skye A.P.C. , and addressed to the Congregational Treasurer, Mr M. Fawkes, 9 Fasach, Glendale, Skye, IV55 8WP

Thanking you, on behalf of the Deacons' Court Skye Congregation.

## APC CONFERENCE

### *Saturday 11 September 2010*

**KINGSVIEW CENTRE, INVERNESS**  
10.15am to 3pm

**Conference Theme: A Life Well-pleasing to God**

*Speaker:* Maurice Roberts

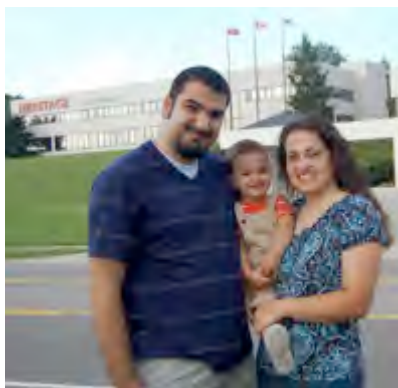
*Morning:* Justification and Works (James 2:24)

*Afternoon:* Sanctification and the Will of God (1Thes 4:3)

BRING A PACKED LUNCH – tea/ coffee etc will be provided

# Friends from Galatia

**John van Eyk** met Kerem Koç when he and his wife began worshipping in his former congregation in Cambridge, Canada. He thought it might be useful to introduce our readers to what is going on in Turkey, the place of God's evident blessing in times past. Kerem and Buse can be emailed at: [keremandbuse@gmail.com](mailto:keremandbuse@gmail.com)



## ***Please introduce yourself.***

My name is Kerem and I am from Ankara, Turkey (Galatia). I was born into a non-religious family and though I wasn't raised as a Muslim, like every Turk, I learned that "automatically every Turk is Muslim and should honour that". So, without my knowledge, I grew up with the culture and ethics of Muslims. My father was an army officer and after he retired we moved to Antalya (Acts 14:25).

I was an atheist all my life and never thought about God. I was an athlete and especially loved

mountain climbing. One day while I was climbing I fell down a cliff. I hurt myself and frostbite started in my fingers and I lost much of my climbing equipment. It was a hopeless 15 minutes for me. I couldn't walk and I was really scared. I prayed for the first time in my life though I don't remember what I said. I didn't hear any response from God but soon I felt strong again and believed I had enough power to get up and start to walk. I had a strong sense that I was not alone. Nothing was pushing me or helping me or warming me but there was something with me that gave me hope. After walking for hours I eventually arrived home. I got better in a couple of weeks and started to seek the presence who gave me hope, reading many books, especially the Quran and the New Testament as well as Buddhist, Bahai, and Jehovah Witnesses' material.

I had so many questions that I went to a Church in the city. I asked many questions and heard from a leader that a Jewish carpenter born

2000 years ago was the Saviour and was God. He was Holy and died for our sins! That was the most ridiculous thing I had ever heard. It was Monday when we had that conversation and by Thursday night I was in tears and confessing my sins and couldn't believe how sinful I was.

It was not long after that I trusted in Christ for my salvation. Eventually I started to work in the Church as an assistant to the Pastor. After 5 years I got married to my high school sweetheart Buse. After I had become a Christian Buse began to see a change in me. I started sharing with her what I believed. Buse was from a more strongly Muslim family and did not immediately believe. Our relationship ended and it was only later when a female missionary began to speak and study the Bible with Buse that she came to know the Lord. What a delightful answer to prayer that was!

A year after our marriage the Lord opened an amazing door for us and we went to Canada to study theology at Heritage College for 3 years. We worshipped at Riverside Presbyterian Church and learned a great deal there. It was in Canada that we received a little boy whom we named Josiah John.

Last summer we came back to Turkey and found a job for ourselves. Around five months ago we started a little church plant in Antalya and I

was ordained as a Minister of Christ in May 2010. There are around 15 people coming to our church regularly, some missionaries from overseas, and some Turks. We are the second Turkish speaking church in Antalya, a city of a million people.

### ***What is the religious makeup of Turkey?***

According to latest edition of *Operation World* there are 76 million people in Turkey. In a country that was once the scene of Paul's labours, 99.64% of Turks are Muslims and Turkey remains the largest unreached nation in the world with more than 70 million having never heard about Christ. The majority of people are traditionally Muslim, which means that they don't practice the Muslim faith. However, because of the idea that "every Turk is a Muslim" they don't question anything spiritually.

All other religious groups are really, really small in Turkey. There are total of 3000 to 4000 evangelical Christians and probably only 300 to 400 of them are Reformed believers.

### ***Turkey is a constitutionally secular country. Does that mean there is freedom for Christians to worship and proselytise?***

I think this is one of the hardest questions to answer. Turkey is a secular country though we do have a

religious affairs department in government. Interestingly, that department only supports Sunni Islam. Mosques and Imams receive their income from this department, but not Christian Pastors. So technically it is secular country but, practically, Islam is supported.

As Christians we praise the Lord we can preach the gospel legally. We can go to Church and worship. But obviously it is not easy to be Christian in Turkey. It is a challenge to find a job as a Christian and when you do, there is pressure put on you to lie or to cheat the government in taxes. My wife is a kindergarten teacher and knows English, but she is cleaning house. So it is hard in that sense.

But it can also be dangerous to

be a Christian. In the last 5 years 6-7 Christian Pastors have been killed. Actually the Pastor of the other evangelical Church in Antalya almost got killed around Christmas 2008. The police caught the man just a couple hours before he was going to shoot the Pastor. I work at the place we worship and my heart beat races when there is a knock on the door when I am not expecting anyone. My friend was killed in Malatya about 3 years ago in a similar kind of situation. But again we know that there are other brothers in more difficult situations and even if it is hard because of financial and safety concerns, it is still possible to preach gospel. We praise the Lord for that opportunity to preach the good news and take care of his flock. □

## Men Don't Like Church!

MEN IN BRITAIN would rather go to hospital, library or even follow their partners into a ladies clothing shop than go to church, a new survey reveals.

research conducted for *Sorted* magazine and Christian Vision for Men said that nearly 60% of 18 - 24 year old men do not consider themselves Christians - compared with just one in four of those aged 55 - 64, and one in six of those 65 or older.

Although most men have visited a church within the past two years, mainly for weddings and funerals, it's not a place in which they feel comfortable.

Two thirds said they felt uncomfortable being in a pew - compared with only one third who said they would feel the same in ladies' lingerie department. A massive 67% of men do not feel comfortable singing in church, although 80% sang in the shower.

# 10th Anniversary Festival of Praise

**HIGHLAND HARMONY SINGERS** will hold a Festival of Praise in the Free North Church, Inverness, on **Saturday, 4 September**, at 3.00pm, God willing, to mark the tenth anniversary of their formation.

The programme will include different Psalms sung to a variety of old and new tunes, two items of traditional Gaelic precenting and a Gospel message. The Praise will include, for example, Psalms such as 105, 85, 51 and 107, sung to the tunes Glasgow, Ebenezer, St Kilda, and Lochbroom.

A collection will be taken and will be shared between two Christian organisations – Alternatives (formerly Inverness Crisis Pregnancy Centre) and KatieKares. Alternatives is a charity run by Christian volunteers whose desire and aim, based on Proverbs 31:8, is to *“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves”* and they wish to extend this work in the future.

KatieKares, based at Drumdevan Cottage, Torbreck, Inverness, is a respite service for families of children with special needs and is run in their own home by Katie (née Campbell) and her husband Brian

Watson, who both now work full time looking after these children.

Katie and Brian foster one child full time and also take other fourteen children for respite – but not all at the same time!

Everyone will be welcome at this 10th Anniversary of Praise – and also at Highland Harmony Singers’ meetings and practices. These continue to be held on the last Saturday of each month (apart from December) in North Kessock; members travel from Wick, Ellon, Fort William, Skye, Kyle of Lochalsh and Gairloch and many areas in between, as well as from the Inverness area.

It is a great blessing and privilege to meet in the name of our Saviour and Redeemer to sing praise to Him and to share in Gospel fellowship.

“O come, let us sing to the Lord:

Come, let us ev’ry one  
A joyful noise make to the Rock  
Of our salvation.

Let us before his presence come

With praise and thankful voice;  
Let us sing psalms to him with grace,  
And make a joyful noise

[Psalm 95:1-2] □

# BOOK REVIEWS



## TIMELESS STORIES

by Catherine MacKenzie

Like me I'm sure you enjoy a good story. There's nothing more relaxing than sitting down with a cup of coffee, stretching back in your favourite chair and really getting into a gripping adventure or a warm hearted happy ending. If I was forced to choose, my favourite read would be biography. True life is always more fascinating and stranger than fiction. In fact people say that if you are writing a fiction book you have to make it more believable than fact. Such strange things happen to people in real life that if they happened to a character in a novel we would just laugh out loud at the silliness of it all. Well, I'm digressing a bit, but that's the reason I enjoy biography so much – you never know what's coming next whereas with fiction you can sometimes guess. So when I was given the opportunity to read *Timeless Stories* by Vance Christie I was really pleased but also slightly doubtful. Another Christian biography book – great. No problem! I knew the author's reputation of being a great writer, the characters in the book were great favourites of mine. I could almost smell my coffee brewing – relaxation on the way - but

I did wonder whether I would read anything new. Charles Spurgeon, Amy Carmichael, Corrie ten Boom, George Mueller, D L Moody, Billy Graham, Billy Sunday. I had read at least one biography on each of these individuals already. However, as soon as I picked up the book I could see by the contents page that it was going to be different.

*Timeless Stories* takes the lives of these seven well-known Christians and divides the incidents of their lives several different themes: Family, Service, Faith, Prayer, Witness, Forgiveness, Stewardship and Adversity. I've never seen Christian biography treated in this way before. It wasn't long before I found myself half way through the book and on my second dose of caffeine. What more can I say? This treasure trove of illustrations will capture your heart. They are stories of day-to-day living that reveal human frailty, emotion and the struggles common to us all. There are tales of love, family, broken hearts, regrets and survival as well as lessons of forgiveness, adversity, stewardship, prayer and service. If you, like me, are an avid biography reader, prepare to be surprised at what you will learn in this book – new stories as well as old will

enlighten you to the faith of these real Christians, and you will also see how God at work in them can be God at work in you. The same Lord who equipped, empowered and gave great success to those who went before us—despite their faults and inadequacies—will so work in the lives of Christians today and until the end of time.

**Publisher's Facts:**

Pages: 240

Trim: Large trade paperback

ISBN 13: 9781845505578

List Price: £8.99

Publisher: Christian Focus Publications

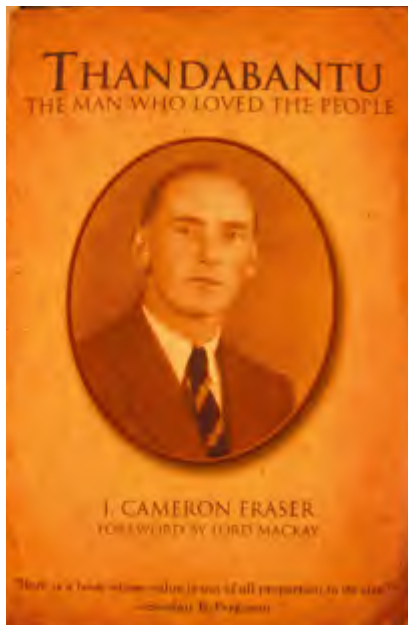


**THANDABANTU**

by the Editor

The older members of our congregations will remember James Fraser who served in the Mission field in Rhodesia, as Zimbabwe was then called. It is about a missionary's life and experience among the African people whom he loved.

This book is written by J Cameron Fraser, the son of the subject of the book and a contributor to our magazine, and who worshipped in our Dingwall congregation. Nostalgic pictures of people and places make this a most interesting and edifying book. Obtainable from [www.peterreynoldsbooks.com](http://www.peterreynoldsbooks.com) Telephone 01862 893236/893681 ISBN 155452480 70 pages £4.50



# Congregational Details

## DUNDEE

Revd Donald C Macaskill, BA  
238 Arbroath Road, Dundee DD4 7SB,  
Tel Home 01382 451798, Mobile 07792 545 243  
Email: macaskilldonald@googlemail.com  
www.apcdundee.org.uk Dens Road Church - 11  
Dens Road - 11am & 6.30pm, usually Wed 7pm  
(confirm on website). Treasurer: Mrs Isabella  
Scrimgeour, 7 Kintail Place, Broughty Ferry, Dundee  
DD5 3TA. Tel 01382 477 623 *Communions*: Last in  
March, June, September, December

## EDINBURGH

Revd John Ross, 6 Frogston Grove, Edinburgh, EH10  
7AG Tel 0131 466 6247 jrossapc@googlemail.com  
Sundays - Services at 11.30am and 5pm and Bible  
Study Wed 7.30pm at 47 Southhouse Broadway,  
EH17 8AS. All welcome

## FORT WILLIAM

Services held jointly with the Free Church,  
High Street, 11am & 6.30pm, Wednesday 7.30pm.  
Contact: Donald MacNicol, 14 Altour Road, Spean  
Bridge, Inverness-shire PH34 4EZ, Tel 01397 712405.

## HARRIS

Contact: Mr Finlay MacLennan, Tel 01859 550252.  
Seilabost School - 12 noon & 6pm  
Treasurer: Mr Finlay MacLennan, 3 Seilabost, Isle of  
Harris HS3 3HP Tel 01859 550252.  
*Communions*: As intimated.

## INVERNESS

Interim Moderator: Revd Donald C Macaskill,  
238 Arbroath Road, Dundee DD4 7SB,  
Tel Home 01382 451798,  
Email: macaskilldonald@googlemail.com  
Manse: 16 Drummond Road, Inverness IV2 4NB,  
Tel 01463 223983 Fax 01463 226939  
Kingsview Christian Centre, Balfafetack Road,  
11.30am & 6pm, Wed 7.30pm. Tel 01463 716843.  
Treasurer: Mr Kenneth Macdonald, 'Arnish', 16  
Drumdevan Place, Inverness IV2 4DQ,  
Tel 01463 231364. www.sermonaudio.com/kingsview  
*Communions*: Fourth in January, April, June,  
September

## KINLOCHBERVIE

Kinlochbervie: Day Care Centre, Main Street,  
11.30am; Treasurer: W D MacLeod, 114 Inshegra,  
Rhiconich, by Lairg IV27 4RH Tel 01971 521388.  
*Communion*: Third in August

## LAIRG & ROGART

Revd Dr Wayne Pearce,  
APC Manse, Saval Road, Lairg, IV27 4EH,  
Tel 01549 402176  
Email: wayne.pearce66@btinternet.com  
Lairg Church - 6pm, 1st, 3rd, 5th Weds 7pm;  
Rogart Church - 11.30am. 2nd, 4th Weds 7pm.  
Treasurer: Mrs Alison Mackenzie, Birchgrove, Bonar  
Bridge, Sutherland, IV24 3AR. Tel. 01863 766251.  
*Communions*: Lairg: First in June. Rogart: Third in  
September.

## LOCHCARRON

(Lochcarron-Lochalsh Congregation) Services held  
jointly with Free Church, 11am & 6pm, Wed 7.30pm,  
2nd & 3rd Lord's Day Kishorn 3pm. Treasurer: Mrs  
Alison Stewart, 13 Kirkton Gardens, Lochcarron IV54  
8UQ, Tel 01520 722239  
Email: ajs.kishorn@tesco.net

## LOCHINVER & STOER & DRUMBEG

Services held jointly with Free Church of Scotland  
Morning services alternating between Stoer Free  
Church & Drumbeg APC - 11am. Evening service  
Lochinver Free Church at 6pm. Contacts: Mrs E.  
MacKenzie, Church Road, Stoer, Sutherland, IV27  
4SE, Tel 01571 855279. Mrs I Macauley, Ard Na  
Mara, Stoer, Sutherland Tel 01571 855214

## OBAN

Revd Archibald McPhail, MA, MTh  
Fernhill, Polvinister Road, Oban PA34 5TN,  
Tel 01631 567076 Email:  
archibald.mcphail@virgin.net  
Campbell Street Church - 11am & 6.30pm, Wed  
7.30pm Treasurer: N Matheson, Carnish, Glenmore  
Road, Oban PA34 4PG, Tel 01631 566259  
*Communions*: First in May and November

## PLOCKTON & KYLE

(Lochcarron-Lochalsh congregation) Contact: Donald  
Stewart, 13 Kirkton Gardens, Lochcarron IV54 8UQ,  
Tel 01520 722239. Email: ajs.kishorn@tesco.net  
Plockton: No services at present

## POOLEWE

Services meantime Inverasdale 10.30am (with  
Sunday School); Aultbea 12 noon (with Sunday  
School); Poolewe 6pm Treasurer/Contact: K  
MacLean, Dunedin, 42 Strath, Gairloch IV21 2DB, Tel  
01445 712050. Email: kendunedin@aol.com  
*Communion*: As arranged locally

## SKYE

APC Manse, 20 Glamaig Place, Portree IV51 9PJ,  
Tel 01478 613258. Interim Moderator: Revd Malcolm  
MacInnes, 60 Balnakyle Road, Inverness IV2 4BS Tel  
01463 729603.

Portree APC Church, Staffin Road - 12 noon & 6.30pm,  
Thu fortnightly 3pm; C of S, Dunvegan - 12.15 & 5pm.  
Contact: Malcolm G Fawkes, 9a Fasach, Glendale, Isle  
of Skye IV55 9WR Tel 01470 511368.

*Communions:* Portree: third in March and September,  
Dunvegan: first in June

## STORNOWAY

Revd George I Macaskill, BA  
'The Glebe', Stoneyfield, Sandwick,  
Isle of Lewis, HS2 0AP,  
Tel 01851 703217, (Church 07733425498)  
Email: gimacaskill@googlemail.com  
72 Keith Street - 11am & 6.30pm, Thu 7.30pm.  
Treasurer: Mr W K Macleod, 3 Oliver's Brae, Stornoway  
HS1 2SS, Tel 01851 703796.  
Email: stybillmacleod@googlemail.com  
www.apcstornoway.com  
*Communions:* third in February, last in August

## TAIN & FEARN

Revd John van Eyk  
APC Manse, 2 Cameron Gardens, Tain IV19 1NT,  
Tel 01862 892199. Email: jvaneyk@gmail.com Tain  
Church, Upper King Street - 11.30am; Hilton Church  
10am, Wed 7.30pm. Joint evening services, 1st, 3rd,  
5th Lord's Day Hilton, 2nd, 4th in Tain. Treasurer:  
Roderick Mackenzie, Geanies House, Fearn, by Tain  
IV20 1TW, Tel 01862 871000.  
Email: roderick.mackenzie@geanies.org.uk  
www.sermonaudio.com/tainfearnapc

## WICK & STRATHY

Wick Church, Breadalbane Crescent - 11a.m, Strathy  
Church - 3pm Interim Moderator: Revd D Ross  
McFarlane, 01349 862420, drm@uwclub.net Treasurer:  
Wick: Mrs Mary Taylor, Dixonfield, Thurso, KW14 8YN  
Tel 01847 892005. Treasurer: Strathy: Mrs J Jappy, 113  
Strathy Point, by Thurso KW14 7RY, Tel 01641 541316.  
*Communions:* Wick: last in April, Strathy: second in  
September

## ABROAD

### VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Revd F Matandika, 405-425 Twelfth Street, New  
Westminster, BC, V3M 4H7, Canada.  
Tel 1-778-397-1568. Worshipping at 203-204 Sixth  
Street, corner of Queens Avenue and Sixth Street, New  
Westminster, BC, V3L 3A1. Lord's Day 1pm, and  
6.30pm, Prayer meeting Bi-weekly on Wed 7.30pm or  
as announced. Contact Hugh Fraser 604 526 0431  
www.apcva.ca

### CLERK of PRESBYTERY

Revd A N McPhail, MA. MTh,  
APC Manse, Polvinister Road, Oban PA34 5TN  
Tel 01631-567076  
Email: archibald.mcphail@virgin.net

### ASSISTANT CLERK

Revd G I Macaskill, BA  
'The Glebe', Stoneyfield, Sandwick,  
Isle of Lewis, HS2 0AP  
Tel 01851-703217  
Fax 01851 703775  
Email: gimacaskill@googlemail.com

### GENERAL TREASURER of PRESBYTERY

Mr R W M MacKenzie,  
APC General Treasurer  
Geanies House, Fearn, by Tain  
IV20 1TW Tel 01862 871450  
Email: roderick.mackenzie@geanies.org.uk

### PUBLICATIONS TREASURER

Mr D M Fraser,  
'Stratharris', Daviot,  
by Inverness, IV2 5XQ Tel 01463 772253  
Email: donald@stratharris.freemove.co.uk

### EDITOR of 'APC NEWS'

Revd Donald C Macaskill, BA  
238 Arbroath Road, Dundee DD4 7SB  
Tel 01382 451798  
Email: macaskilldonald@googlemail.com

*Our Scottish Charity No is:*

**SC 02313**

*APC website address is:*

**www.apchurches.org**