

THE DOOR

YET HE COMMANDED THE SKIES ABOVE
AND OPENED THE DOORS OF HEAVEN PSALM 78:23



ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES: NEWS/SPRING 2017

FROM THE EDITOR

It's not often that you have husbands and wives writing in the same magazine... but it seems that not only did we do that last quarter with Rod and Emma Mackenzie it has happened again with George and Isobel Macaskill. Look out for Isobel's article When God Says No, and George's thoughts on what books he would take with him to the proverbial Desert Island!

We are continuing with some of the regular features from previous issues such as John Ferguson's notes on The Apostle's Creed. Please feel free to contact the editor with any ideas for articles. Thanks to Donald Fraser for his contribution commemorating the Queen's Jubilee year of 2016.

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A MISSION OF MERCY

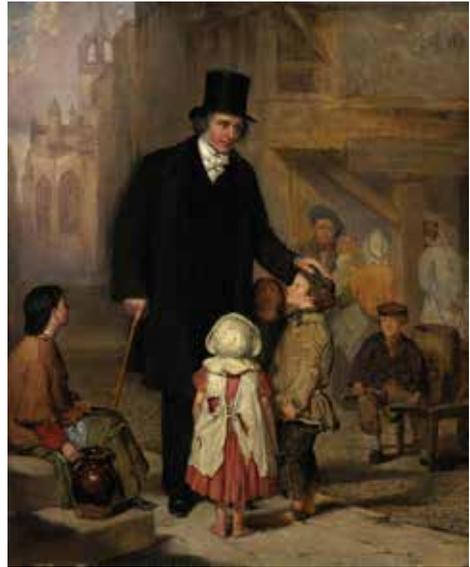
The Life and Legacy of Dr Thomas Guthrie (1803 – 1873)

by Andrew Murray

When Dr Thomas Guthrie was buried in the Grange Cemetery in Edinburgh on 28th February 1873 there had not been a funeral like it since that of Sir James Y Simpson, the Professor of Midwifery at Edinburgh University, who had died a few years earlier. The sun shone down on that black day as

Scotland said farewell to one of its best and most noble sons. A procession stretched for nearly a mile to Guthrie's house in Salisbury Road and it is estimated that around 30,000 lined the streets. The ecclesiastical and civic world were united in grief. The loss was felt across the known world at the time such was Guthrie's influence as a preacher, writer and social reformer.

Thomas Guthrie was born on July 12th 1803 in Brechin, Angus. The second youngest of thirteen children, Thomas was a lively boy who loved scrapping with his friends. 'Providence', as Guthrie used to say, 'is kind to fools and bairns.' It was certainly kind to him when he and his brother were playing with their uncle's gun and it discharged into the wall narrowly missing the young Thomas. By his own admission Guthrie was no great academic. He was sent when he was aged four to a tutor called Jamie Stewart who taught his pupils while he was weaving. The tutor was an elder in the Burgher Church (the Secession Church) and the young schoolboy was greatly impressed by his prayers. While Guthrie never really spoke in any detail of a conversion experience he talks warmly of his mother's spiritual influence (also a Seceder). As was the custom Guthrie was sent to university in Edinburgh at the tender age of twelve, to study literature and philosophy, followed by a further degree in theology. Another two years were spent studying anatomy and natural history, which started a life-long interest in medicine.



After several 'wilderness years' first travelling in Europe and then working in his father's bank, Guthrie was eventually called to Arbirlot in Angus in 1830. Now settled, and a man of means, Guthrie married Ann Burns the daughter of Rev James Burns of Brechin. A Parish of 1000 people, Arbirlot had almost 100 per cent attendance at the local Parish Church. Despite large attendances Guthrie found his congregation to be spiritually dead: 'He had thundered in their ears the terrors of Mount Sinai, he had sounded the Gospel trumpet with a blast loud enough to rouse the dead; he had implored, scolded and almost threatened them...but they went to sleep under his most fervent and heart stirring appeals'. One day he tried an anecdote and the effect was electric. This was a turning point in his ministry. His ministry was marked from then on by rich imagery. He cancelled his evening service and substituted for it a catechism class for young people. There were also signs of the emerging social reformer as Guthrie set up a library and savings bank in the manse.

After seven fruitful years of ministry in Arbirlot, Guthrie was called to Edinburgh where he assisted Rev Sym in the Old Greyfriars Parish Church. Ever the pioneer, Guthrie suggested a church plant in the parish, and St John's Parish Church in Victoria Street was opened in 1840. The great Thomas Chalmers had a vision to see two-hundred churches planted in the poorest areas of Scotland and the Cowgate in Edinburgh was an area of almost unimaginable squalor. Guthrie insisted to the Town Council that one third of the seats in St John's were given to the poor while another third were allocated at a nominal rent. Along with Chalmers, Guthrie applied the Parochial or Territorial system in his new parish: the gospel free to all, the Elders and Deacons visiting systematically and frequently, and a school open to rich and poor alike. After the Disruption of 1843 Guthrie's congregation built Free St John's (the current St Columba's Free Church in Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh). The architect, Thomas Hamilton, designed an ornate pulpit and an attractive sanctuary. As Guthrie said at the opening on 18th April 1845: 'there is no sin in beauty, and no holiness in ugliness' (Autobiography and Memoirs of Thomas Guthrie, 1896, Burnet and Isbister, London, p 512)

Guthrie's great venture for 'Ragged Children' was his lasting legacy. He published his first pamphlet in 1847 entitled 'A Plea for Ragged Schools', which Guthrie says 'fell like a spark amongst combustibles.' It was estimated that upward of 1000 children in Edinburgh were living as 'savages in the midst of civilisation, ignorant in the midst of knowledge and heathens in the midst of

Christianity.’ By 1847 the Edinburgh Original Ragged School had been set up on Castle Hill. Many thousands of ‘street Arabs’ were saved from a life of neglect and abuse as Guthrie became the ‘Apostle’ of the Ragged School Movement. This was closely allied to his great campaign against drunkenness and his leadership of the temperance movement.

While Guthrie is remembered as a great preacher and social reformer, he was also a prolific writer. After ‘A Plea for Ragged Schools’ (which actually had three editions (1847, 1849 and 1860) and are now available together)

Guthrie went on to write: ‘The City its Sins and Sorrows’ (1857), ‘The Gospel in Ezekiel’ (1956 – now back in print), ‘Discourses from Colossians’ (1858), ‘Speaking to the Heart’ (1862), ‘The Way of Life’ (1862), Man and the Gospel (1865), and ‘On the Parables’ (1866). From 1867 he published ‘The Sunday Magazine’ which had, at its height, a circulation of 100,000.

It is very hard to summarise Guthrie’s legacy. He was an evangelist, a preacher, a social reformer. He hated sectarian or party spirit, and loved all who loved Christ. As Dr Candlish said the week after Guthrie’s death: ‘To our own Church he was to the last loyal and loving. No one more so. But he grew, as I would desire to grow, more and more from year to year, in sympathy with all who love Jesus and hold the truth as it is in him.’

(The Life of Rev Thomas Guthrie, 1875, John S Marr and Sons, Glasgow, p 126).



BAKE IN – BISCUITS

These little biscuits have the potential of becoming a family favourite. Originally we got this recipe from Nan Fraser in the Inverness APC congregation. In our family we don't just call them Nig Nogs we call them - Auntie Nan's Nig Nogs.

AUNTIE NAN'S NIG NOGS

Ingredients: 3 oz plain flour
Half level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
3oz caster sugar
3oz rolled oats
3oz butter
1 tablespoon milk
1 tablespoon golden syrup

Method: Sift flour and bicarbonate of soda.
Stir in sugar and oats.
Warm butter, milk and syrup till melted but not bubbling.
Stir into dry ingredients.
Make into small balls and place well apart on a baking tray.
Flatten with a fork. Bake in oven at 300 degrees F. for 25 minutes.

ADVICE TO MY YOUNGER SELF

Catherine Macinnes

This "Advice for younger self" is from someone who was a teenager many years ago. What would I say to myself if by some extraordinary process I was back into my teenage years? I am a Christian believer and my source-book is the Bible which addresses every age of life - even "teenage years".

The question arises over purity and the apparent difficulty faced by many young people. Is there good advice available? Yes there is, you will find it in the Book of Psalms, Psalm 119v9. "How can a young (person) keep (his/her) way pure?. The answer is, "By guarding it according to God's word". The Psalm writer goes on to express a heart interest in God, and that is the key to 'purity'. In an age when boundaries are often obliterated, this is the effective way to a clean moral mind and life. Recently a young person told me that it was not until she began daily regular reading of God's Word that she came to a better understanding of salvation and the assurance that she was saved.

Another part of God's word that is full of direction for us is in Proverbs 3v6. It says "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your path". The reference is to having God in your life. What does it mean to "acknowledge Him"? In all your thoughts and decisions which shape your life you should always consider 'What would Jesus do?' (W.W.J.D). Our lives in school, college, or work place, often means that we meet up with other teenagers. Those people impact your life and you impact theirs. 'Peer pressure', as it is called, is a forceful thing, and, is to be expected. There are often conflicting views on life and boundaries in behaviour. There is pressure on to 'conform' to what others are doing, sometimes at the expense of advice from those who care the most for you. "What will my friends think of me?"



That is important, but it is not all-important. Of much more significance is the question "What does God think of me? Or (W.W.J.D?). This can be very difficult to handle, but it is not impossible! It is much more important that you do what is right before God, and have Him as your Friend. You may be the only witness to your peers to show that God matters to our lives.

In today's culture we are encouraged to look out for "self"I am to be number 1 to myself. Of course, we are to care for ourselves, but the best way to do that is to have Jesus first, then others and then yourself. The little word JOY will help you to remember the order of priority in you life. So it is J=Jesus first, O=others second, and Y= yourself last.

Lastly be thankful in all your circumstances. 1Thessalonians 5v18 says "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you". A hard time comes in your life and you might start to breed self-pity. You may be saying "Why me" in your mind. To prevent your mind being swamped with how hard life is, take pen and paper and list the things which in your life are good and thank God for them. It is God who gives you so much to enjoy. With God in your life, you will soon discover that the hard times pass and you will be left with the blessings that come from thanking God.



THE APOSTLES' CREED (PART 3)

The Apostles' Creed is one of the most important statements of faith in the church. It was written in the first four centuries A.D. and tells us what Christians believed in response to God's Word.

BY JOHN
FERGUSON

FROM THENCE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE QUICK AND THE DEAD. Jesus' first coming was not to judge the world, but rather to save (John 12:47). When he returns it will be for judgement. This is a dreadful thought to the world, but a glorious truth for a Christian. For one thing, it means there is justice. Jesus has been appointed by God to be the judge of the living ('the quick') and the dead (Acts 10:42). Jesus resurrection is a pledge, or assurance that God has done this (Acts 17:31). Christ is right to judge the living and dead because he is the master of life and death.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY GHOST;

The Apostles' Creed describes the church as holy. Yet the church is sinful. How can it be called holy? Noticing where this line appears in the Creed helps us to understand. It follows confession of faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the life and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Only then the creed speaks of the church as holy. The church is holy because Christ is holy. 'The holy one of God' became our substitute and our sin. His righteousness is imputed (attributed) to us. 'Abraham believed and it was counted to him as righteousness.' God credits all who turn to Christ by faith with Christ's holiness. Christian faith is itself a gift from the Lord. Faithful Christian living means living in step with the truth of the cross that Christ died for us. 'For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.' (Romans 8:13)



THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH

When we read 'I believe... the holy catholic church' what does 'catholic' mean? We need an explanation. 'Catholic' in this context doesn't refer to a particular denomination, but rather the whole communion of God's people across nations and ages. The church is one in Christ Jesus. There is one body (Ephesians 4:4) and all who faithfully profess Christ are part of that body. This means where there are divisions in the church we also must work for healing. While the reformers separated from the Roman Catholic Church, their desire was to be reunited in the future in the truth of the gospel. Likewise the church today in all its divisions should pursue unity where possible. Unity among Christians is a witness to the world. Jesus prayed, 'I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.' (John 17:20-21).

Next time: The Church Fellowship

QUEEN ELIZABETH II's MESSAGE TO THE NATION AND COMMONWEALTH 1957



That it is possible for some of you to see me today is just another example of the speed at which things are changing all around us. Because of these changes I am not surprised that many people feel lost and unable to decide what to hold on to and what to discard. How to take advantage of the new life without losing the best of the old.

But it is not the new inventions which are the difficulty. The trouble is caused by unthinking people

who carelessly throw away ageless ideals as if they were old and outworn machinery.

They would have religion thrown aside, morality in personal and public life made meaningless, honesty counted as foolishness and self-interest set up in place of self-restraint.

At this critical moment in our history we will certainly lose the trust and respect of the world if we just abandon those fundamental principles which guided the men and women who built the greatness of this country and Commonwealth.

Today we need a special kind of courage, not the kind needed in battle but a kind which makes us stand up for everything that we know is right, everything that is true and honest. We need the kind of courage that can withstand the subtle corruption of the cynics so that we can show the world that we are not afraid of the future.

It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult. That is why we can take a pride in the new Commonwealth we are building...

In each country I was welcomed as Head of the Commonwealth and as your representative. These nations are our friends largely because we have always tried to do our best to be honest and kindly and because we have tried to stand up for what we believe to be right.

I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else, I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations.

I believe in our qualities and in our strength, I believe that together we can set an example to the world which will encourage upright people everywhere.

I would like to read you a few lines from 'Pilgrim's Progress', because I am sure we can say with Mr Valiant for Truth, these words:

"Though with great difficulty I am got hither, yet now I do not repent me of all the trouble I have been at to arrive where I am. My sword I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage and my courage and skill to him that can get it. My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me that I have fought his battles who now will be my rewarder." I hope that 1958 may bring you God's blessing...'

Submitted by Donald Fraser, Inverness APC congregation

THE SERVANT QUEEN AND THE KING SHE SERVES

The country and Commonwealth celebrated HM The Queen's 90th birthday in 2016. People organised and participated in a wide range of events and activities. It was an amazing opportunity for churches to bring communities together to say thank you: to God for a faithful life well lived, and to The Queen for her unstinting service.

The Servant Queen and the King She Serves uses the Queen's own words to draw out the central role of her Christian faith and the Bible. Published by the Bible Society, HOPE and LICC this book is designed to be a gift and a conversation starter. Copies are available from Christian Publishing & Outreach (CPO) for a small charge. www.cpo.org.uk



The
Servant
Queen
and the King
she serves





WHEN GOD SAYS NO!

by Isobel Macaskill

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

This chapter of the Bible opens with Paul recounting an experience he had fourteen years previously of being caught up into Paradise (the presence of God) where he heard things no mortal man was allowed to reveal afterwards. Hard on the heels of this extraordinary blessing, he suffered greatly from a thorn in the flesh, figurative language for some physical affliction, in his body (it was not a spiritual experience).

The nature of this affliction is not specified in Scripture so that all Christians can have the empathy with Paul whatever their own ailments, and can take recourse to the same remedy. After all, if this can happen to the great Apostle Paul . . . We are not superman, but flesh and blood in a cursed world, in which we will experience things which will be a pain to us, and cause sleepless nights. Paul's ailment was recognised as from Satan, who was tormenting God's servant, as if he wanted to prove to us there is no reality to our faith or in the Christian's hope at death, etc.

The Bible tells us the thorn was given to Paul. These and similar trials for Christians do not happen by accident, but God designs them to mould us into the people he wants us to be. Paul discovered why he was being buffeted by Satan, it was to keep him from being too elated and proud of his experience in Paradise. As if God was telling Paul, "Your pride wants feeding but I, (God) will see to it that it will not be fed."

The thorn was not a punishment but a preventative and it got Paul praying. He pleaded with God to change his circumstances and remove this thorn in

his flesh. Answer from God? "NO!" As if God is saying: "This is part of My plan for you, Paul, My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." God was saying: "I am not going to change your circumstances but I am going to change you, Paul." Paul's reaction? "I am content, because when I am weak then I am strong" - how encouraging for us that God uses weak people! Where on earth would you get a politician or celebrity boasting in their weakness? Paul learnt that sometimes prayers are answered by crosses.

From self and pride I'll set you free

That you will find your all in Me.

We are challenged sometimes when God says "NO!" to our own prayers. Let's revisit Gethsemane where Jesus pleaded three times with this same God: "If there is any other way that sinners can be saved than by My going to the cross, show Me that way. But I desire nothing contrary to your will, Father." By the silence that followed this prayer, we know there was no other way for God to save sinners than for His well-beloved, only perfect Son to die as our substitute. Not once did Jesus complain that the price for His Bride was too much, just too costly. Although no believer will ever suffer as much as Jesus did, we know there are many believers today suffering persecution and hardship, and even death in foreign countries, and to a lesser extent in the UK for no other reason than that they love and obey our Lord Jesus. These Christians often accept a "NO!" answer from God. One of them said recently: "Do not pray for our deliverance, pray that we will remain faithful to Christ." It's our privilege to pray for such and not just three times.

Love so amazing, so Divine

Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Let us now look at two Old Testament saints to whom God said: "No!"

ABRAHAM is called in the Bible, "The Friend of God". In Genesis 17:16-18 God was telling Abraham that He would have another son besides Ishmael. Abraham believed God but wanted Ishmael to have a share in God's favour and covenant. But God said "No". "You shall have a son Isaac and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant and with his Seed after him". God graciously heard Abraham's plea for Ishmael and announced that he would be given rich material blessings from God. "But My covenant I will establish with Isaac."

KING DAVID is described in scripture as "a man after God's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14). Following an affair with Bathsheba, a son was born and became

very ill. Through the intervention of the Prophet Nathan, David acknowledged his sin and fasted and pleaded with God for the child's recovery. God said "No" and the baby died.

If God said "No" to His friend Abraham and His beloved King David, He is surely, at times, going to say "No" to us as individual Christians, notwithstanding the innumerable blessings He gives us daily. So how do we react when God says: "No" to our prayers? How should we respond? Perhaps we have prayed for a beloved pastor to be restored to usefulness in the church and God has said "No". Can we trust God even when He doesn't explain why? Are we able to say: "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight"?

APC YOUTH CAMP 2017

Venue: Kingsview Christian Centre

Dates: Sunday 6 August (4pm) - Friday 11 August

Core activities:

Bible studies
and talks, zip
lining, go kart-
ing, laser tag,
swimming, ice
skating and
games



Age: 11-17

Cost: £135

Contact Ross or Amy McFarlane on 01349 862420 or
email amymcfarlane15@gmail.com



PLANTING THE BULBS

by Carine Mackenzie

Bible Reading: Isaiah 55: 6-13; Deuteronomy 11: 18-19.

Memory Verse: Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119: 11

Have you ever planted bulbs in the garden? Each autumn I go to a garden centre to buy some bulbs. They do not look very beautiful, but beside each box of bulbs there is a picture of lovely colourful flowers. There is a marvellous choice of tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and many others.

At home I plant some of the bulbs in a tub at the back door, covering them with soil and giving them a good drink of water. If you were to come to my back door in November and look at the tub, you would not know that there was anything there at all. But I would know that the bulbs were there because I planted them. If you were to come back in the spring, I hope you would then see beautiful spring flowers.

You may sometimes wonder why you should bother to learn verses of the Bible. These Bible verses are like the bulbs – hidden away in your mind – perhaps nobody else knows that they are there. If that knowledge is fed by the "Sun of Righteousness" (that is the Lord Jesus) and by the rain or water of the Holy Spirit, what a difference everybody would see in your life. You would then be able to trust in the Lord Jesus to save you from your sins. The Word of God would be hidden in your mind and would blossom out in your life. People would see that you obey God. A person who obeys God has a beautiful life . . . just like a beautiful flower or blossom.

We recently met a man called Alec. He was brought up in a Christian home. When he grew up he moved to another part of the country and forgot about what his parents had taught him. As we talked with him we discovered that he knew a minister that we had also known.

"Mr M. used to come to our house often," Alec said. "He once asked me to learn a verse from the Psalms. But he never asked me to repeat it the next time he came back." That had been a bit of a disappointment to him.

"But can you still remember the verse?" he was asked.

"Oh yes, it has never left me."

Then Alec sang the verse to quite a large company of people. "Remember me, O Lord, with the favour which you have toward your people. Oh, visit me with your salvation." (Psalm 106: 4)

Other memories of sermons heard long ago came flooding back to him – the word that had been hidden away for years began to come back into his memory.

If you plant any bulbs in the autumn, watch out for them coming through the ground. Pray that God would bless His Word to you – even verses that you have already learned – that you would remember them in later years and that they would prove to be a blessing to your soul.

"So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55: 11)



BIBLE SEARCH

Fill in the missing words. The first letters will spell out one of the words in Alec's verse.

1. Now the parable is this: the _____ is the Word of God. Luke 8: 11
2. Put on the whole _____ of God . . . and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Ephesians 6: 11&17
3. Those who are planted in the house of the _____ shall flourish in the courts of our God. Psalm 92: 13
4. Look down from heaven and see and visit this _____.
Psalm 80: 14
5. Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause your _____ toward us to cease. Psalm 85: 4
6. He shall be like a _____ planted by the rivers of water, that bring forth its fruit in its season. Psalm 1: 3
7. God raised up for _____ a Saviour. Acts 13: 23
8. _____ my eyes that I may see wonderful things from your law.
Psalm 119: 18
9. I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the _____ of the Lord. Psalm 116: 17

Answer

THE MANNA HOUSE INVERNESS

The Manna House is a Christian run café/tea room that you will find on the banks of the River Ness. It was opened in 1990 and is intended to be a place where people can come in, sit down and have some light refreshment in a relaxing atmosphere. It is certainly a warm and comforting place that anyone can visit. Everyone who works as a volunteer in the Manna House is a committed practising Christian. We are from many different denominations and it has been wonderful over the years to see how God can use such a varied group and have them work so closely and lovingly together.

Manna was the food that God provided for the Children of Israel as they journeyed through the desert. And The Manna House wants its visitors to realise that God cares and wants us to come to know him.

The purpose of the tearoom is to be a place where folks can come into a relaxed and friendly environment where they will not be judged by how they look or behave. If someone went into a normal café and started to cry the chances are they would be looked at but ignored. Our aim at the Manna House is to be available to anyone in need regardless of their circumstances.

I remember one occasion when a lady came in for a cup of tea. She seemed quite distressed and after asking her if she was OK she started to tell the story of her husband's illness and eventual death. She had only that morning been to the undertakers to pay for the funeral and just needed someone to share with. This sort of thing has happened often and can be accompanied by requests for advice. It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with those in need and we have often had numerous requests from people for prayer.

Address: 48 Huntley Street, Inverness, IV3 5HR (Tel: 01463 710710)
(Submitted by Moira Munro, Inverness APC congregation)

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED - INVERNESS

Over the last few weeks literature has been distributed in the surrounding area of Kingsview, including an invitation to come to a Christianity Explored Course

during February and March. We had 14 folk at all meetings, some from outwith our church and one completely 'unchurched' person. There was a pleasant and warm atmosphere at all meetings and everyone was relaxed and felt encouraged. The course began by challenging the reality of life - did life and the solar system, and the complexities of the human body, all happen by chance, or was there a Creator? The course proceeded to deal with the Person of Jesus Christ. Who was He? Why did He come? What did He achieve? The whole of Mark's gospel was covered pausing to study in detail some of the important truths of the gospel. The most important of these was perhaps the resurrection of Jesus, the event of events. If there is no resurrection of Jesus, then there is no gospel to proclaim. Many questions were asked in the course text, but everyone was free to ask their own questions. Hopefully, the studies for the 'Away Day' material will be looked at after the Easter break.

Please do pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those around us at Kingsview. Please ask God to bring to the minds and memories of those at the course, the many truths which were discussed. There is a great need for a spiritual 'awakening' to take place regarding the reality of God, sin, and salvation through Jesus Christ, as there is a deadness in our communities towards the existence of God.

Literature is being prepared for distribution at Easter where we hope to have a Lunch with a short address on Easter Saturday.





SIT DOWN WITH SPURGEON

"You say, 'If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.' You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled."

"It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness."

"The way to do a great deal is to keep on doing a little. The way to do nothing at all is to be continually resolving that you will do everything."

"We have all things and abound; not because I have a good store of money in the bank, not because I have skill and wit with which to win my bread, but because the Lord is my shepherd."

"No faith is so precious as that which lives and triumphs through adversity. Tested faith brings experience. You would never have believed your own weakness had you not needed to pass through trials. And you would never have known God's strength had His strength not been needed to carry you through."

SINGLE AND SERVING

BY PAT ENNIS

The Apostle Paul presents four keys in Philippians 3:12-14 that provides a biblical mindset for the twenty-first century single—a genuine restlessness (Philippians 3:12), a solitary longing (Philippians 3:13), a wholehearted purpose (Philippians 3:12, 14), and a definite goal (Philippians 3:13, 14).

GENUINE RESTLESSNESS. Paul's genuine restlessness is a model for all singles. While he was satisfied with his Savior and his salvation, he was dissatisfied with his flesh. He was restless with his spiritual status because he was not all that he knew that he could or should be. The Christian life is to be exciting—and we should be excited about growing, regardless of our marital status or age. If one does not serve the Lord as a single when there is much more discretionary time it is highly unlikely that service will be a vital part of married life. Are you restless with your spiritual status?

SOLITARY LONGING. Paul's solitary longing helps us to eliminate the unnecessary from our lives. Our quest toward Christlikeness puts life into a single focus—Paul says, "this one thing I do." As singles we are to have only one goal—to serve God with our entire being (1 Corinthians 6:12). Our Lord Jesus serves as the ultimate role model for this solitary longing. "He did not finish all the urgent tasks in Palestine or all the things He would have liked to do, but He did finish the work God gave Him to do. The only alternative to frustration is to be sure that we are doing what God wants. Nothing substitutes for knowing that this day, this hour, in this place we are doing the will of the Father. Then



and only then can we think of all the other unfinished tasks with equanimity and leave them with God."¹ Are you focused on being solitary or a solitary longing to serve the Lord?

WHOLEHEARTED PURPOSE. Paul's wholehearted purpose helped him to focus on his determination to keep moving toward the goal. We will not succeed if we do not have a strong determination, but its source must be executed in the strength of the Holy Spirit, not simply our sheer determination (Philippians 4:13). As single Christians, are we mature enough to keep pursuing our "upward call" (Philippians 3:14) when it would be easier to quit?

DEFINITE GOAL. Paul had a definite goal, and he moved toward it with tenacity. Serving God with our entire being challenges us to refuse to dwell on what life might be in the future—whether it is a life of unrestricted service to our Lord or marriage. What we are today is what counts! Paul challenges us to refuse to drink from the cup of self-pity and to release past grudges and incidents of mistreatment—he forgot these and died climbing! Are you climbing the service mountain or choosing to languish at its base?

¹ Charles Hummel, *Tyranny Of The Urgent*, (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1967), 15.

If you wish to read more of this article it is available on line at www.everday-homemaker.com



DESERT ISLAND BOOKS - George Macaskill

I have been asked what books I would take with me to the proverbial desert island along with the Bible and John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. Being a retired minister, personally, I would choose Bunyan's *Holy War* before *Pilgrim's Progress*. *Pilgrim's Progress* has to do with the personal struggle Christians have in following Christ, while *The Holy War* focuses on the struggle that society and the church in general has in following Christ.

On a desert island, a retired minister has plenty time to reflect on his life and work including the mistakes he has made. I therefore name three additional books I wish I had read and studied earlier in my life.

Jesus the Man and His Message by Donald Bridge. I found this book to be the most profound and enlightening book I have ever read regarding the uniqueness of the Christian faith. It opened my eyes to the many 'assumptions' in Christianity which we take for granted. For example, in his Introduction he states: "Did you know that Jesus spoke more often about God's judgment than about his love? Would you have guessed that he talked about money as often as about God?" Very enlightening stuff!

Risking the Truth - a compilation of essays dealing with errors in the church. There are twenty contributors such as Mark Dever from the USA and Conrad Mbewe in Zambia with a foreword by the well-known Dr Sinclair Ferguson. Each essay reveals a frightening exposure of the subtle ways in which Satan invades our hearts and is able to promote heresy in the very church of God simply by giving the truth just a little twist.

The third book in my desert island library is by Dr Keith A Mathison who is professor of systematic theology at Reformation Bible College in Sanford, Florida. His concern is the prevalent naive mindset of many contemporary Christians that the church is an optional extra in the Christian religion. His book is entitled: *The Shape of Sola Scriptura*. He makes much of the distinction between 'Sola Scriptura' and 'Solo

Scriptura' which really means the difference between 'Scripture Alone and Scripture Only'. He traces the loss of interest in the church by today's Christians down to this very confusion. The book is also an excellent defence of the use of Creeds. Definitely a book that has changed my whole perspective on Christianity and if I had read it earlier I would not have made some of the mistakes I made.

JESUS THE MAN AND HIS MESSAGE

by Donald Bridge

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RISKING THE TRUTH

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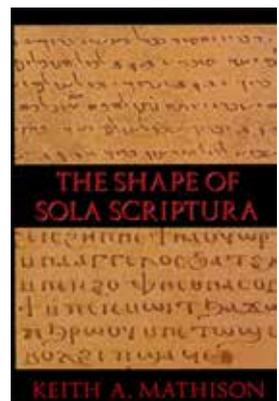
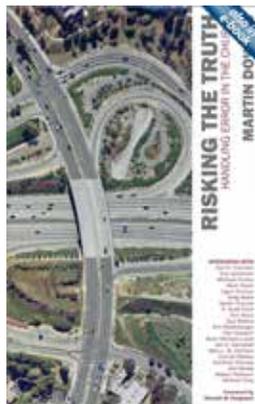
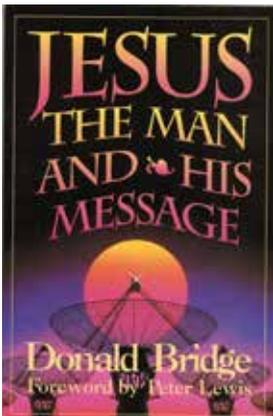
ISBN: 978-1-84550-284-3

THE SHAPE OF SOLA SCRIPTURA

by Keith A Mathison

Published by Canon Press, PO Box 8729, Moscow, ID 83843

ISBN: 1-885767-74-9



A WORD FROM THE WISE

Stories and anecdotes to illustrate Proverbs

PROV 15:29 - THE LORD IS FAR FROM THE WICKED BUT HE HEARS THE PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

Prayer is potent. The bleat of a lamb brings its mother to its side and milk to the udder. The young raven's cry affects the muscles of the parent bird, so that its own appetite does not hold it absent from the hungry infant bird - its wings bring it at once to fly to its young. So shall the cry of God's children not affect him?

PROVERBS 16:16 - HOW MUCH BETTER IS IT TO GET WISDOM THAN GOLD! AND TO GET UNDERSTANDING RATHER THAN SILVER.

The Bible like the gold mine is always yielding to the earnest student. The only difference is that we sometimes get more each time with God's Word and not less.

A lady won a prize of £10,000. She asked John Newton to congratulate her. "Madam," said he, "as for a friend under temptation, I will endeavour to pray for you."

PROVERBS 21:31 - SAFETY IS OF THE LORD

A clergyman was saved from a vessel burning at sea. And would often retell this story of his deliverance to those who would listen. One occasion he told the tale to Archbishop Whately who replied, "What a wonderful provision but I think I can cap it with an incident from my own experience. Not three months ago I sailed from Holyhead to Kingston, and, by God's mercy, the vessel never caught fire at all! Think on that, my friend!"





HELEN ROSEVEARE: MISSIONARY-WRITER

by Catherine Mackenzie

Helen Roseveare who passed into glory earlier this year could be described as a lot of things. A missionary for one. A doctor for another. And also a writer. That was the part of her life that I knew most about. She was a medical missionary in the Congo but God's life-time mission for Helen was extended beyond the clinic and beyond WEC by the printed page. This is what brought me into contact with her in the first place. So I would like to present you with a glimpse into this part of Helen Roseveare's life.

Writing and publishing were, certainly in the early Congo days, not central to her thoughts far less her plans. However, Helen's mission through the printed word became a key part of her service to God and to the church. You could refer to her books as 'paper missionaries'. And in fact these are even now, reaching out to generations that will outlive us all.

She wrote many books and articles so I have picked just four of her titles to reflect in some way her life with the pen.

Give Me this Mountain was first published in 1966, five years before I was born. In Helen's own words it's an honest unadorned story of her somewhat tempestuous life. But its main aim was not to tell a drama but to take the reader on the same journey Helen had been on – a journey towards one definite and glorious goal – the Lord Jesus Christ.

Followed in 1976 by *He Gave Us a Valley* we see the personal request of Helen's first book answered in a different but better way. This is so often the case with our prayers and our God. We ask for what we think are the 'great

things' – the mountains, the peaks, the glory – but God in his wisdom gives us the better portion – the valley and the shadow. We can mistakenly look at the valleys of our life in a negative way. However, as Helen was taught and indeed teaches us through her writings - they are an integral part of God's plan as he takes us to the next peak. He has other and greater journeys for us to travel.

This brings me to another of Helen's books – because as well as climbing the mountains and the valleys God sends us to the ditches. In 1973 Helen returned to the UK after 20 years of service in Africa. However, her missionary life was far from over. 2005 saw the publication of *Digging Ditches*. The famous wellington boots on the cover illustrate the hands-on nature that was Helen's service to God be it in the Congo, with the young women of GCU, caring for her mother, fundraising for her church or simply picking up a pen.

The writing didn't stop there as in 2011 a small book with a big voice was published – *Enough*. This pithy little title sums up so much of what I remember about Helen and the message of her life. Jesus was enough for her and is more than enough for her now. Helen's experience of Christ today is full and running over. There are no shortfalls or gaps. The ditches are dug and the water is gushing.

Her books teach us about the mountains, valleys and ditches of our lives and spiritual experiences. But most importantly they point us to Jesus – he is not only enough for us – in Helen's own words 'He is worthy.' I think those are the last words I heard Helen say as she was sitting in the sun lounge in a bright yellow cardigan. It was obvious that she was longing to be home with her Lord. And now she has received the Christian's great reward, 'Well done good and faithful servant.'

Earlier on I referred to the generations that will outlive us. The people who will read Helen's books long after her life and death – and I believe benefit from them. This is where you and I can be part of Helen's life and mission, part of God's work. Books are not just 'intellectual looking' decorations. They are there for you to buy, read and pass on. Think of them as paper missionaries. Put these into the hands and minds of the next generation. Get your family and your church reading again.

There are valleys and mountains to trek through – but there are also ditches to dig! Minds and hearts to fill with the truth of Jesus Christ. So I'll finish with a question Helen wrote towards the end of one of her books, 'Is the valley full of ditches yet?' No? Well then, let's get digging!



PSALM 78: 1-8

My people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.
Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.
They would not be like their ancestors—
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
whose hearts were not loyal to God,
whose spirits were not faithful to him.

THE FAMILY

A man ought to live so that everybody knows he is a Christian... and most of all, his family ought to know. *D L Moody*

More heroism has been displayed in the household and the closet, than on the most memorable battlefields in history. *Henry Ward Beecher*



If family religion were duly attended to and properly discharged, I think the preaching of the Word would not be the common instrument of conversion. *Richard Baxter*

If therefore our houses be houses of the Lord, we shall for that reason love home, reckoning our daily devotion the sweetest of our daily delights; and our family-worship the most valuable of our family-comforts... A church in the house will be a good legacy, nay, it will be a good inheritance, to be left to your children after you. *Matthew Henry*



Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. *Colossians 3:13*

My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. *Proverbs 6:20*



But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children. *Psalms 103:17*



PSALM 24:9

Lift up your heads,
O gates! And lift them up,
O ancient doors,
that the King of glory
may come in.