

# THE DOOR

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

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES:  
NEWS/SPRING 2018

## FROM THE EDITOR

Again there are some new names and old names in this edition. John Perritt will be a new name to some of you but he is an established writer through The Gospel Coalition and Desiring God, as well as having written a book for Christian Focus Publications: *What Would Judas Do?* His article for *The Door* is on the three I's of Scripture: Inspiration; Inerrancy and Infallibility. Two names in this edition are fond memories from our past. There is an obituary on William Byers as well as a short thought by the late Derick Bingham, who was once the teaching pastor of Christchurch Belfast.

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## THE THREE I'S OF SCRIPTURE BY JOHN PERRITT

Everyone enjoys a good story. Some make us laugh, others cry, and some scare us to death. There's something about scary stories that grab our attention. Whether it's in our living room or gathered around a campfire, those stories suck us in and move us in deep ways.

Most of us have heard stories that freak us out. Stories that maybe involve supernatural things that are hard to explain. While people think differently about those types of stories, something you can be sure of is the fact that the Bible is a supernatural book.

That's right, the Bible not only contains stories of things that are hard to explain. Things that involve demonic powers. Things that can terrify us. But, the Bible, in its entirety is a supernatural book. In short, the Bible on your bookshelf possesses a power and this makes it unlike any other book. Let's look at three 'I-words' that drive this point home.

### THE BREATH OF GOD

One important truth about the Bible is that it is inspired. What does that mean? Let's read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 to find out: "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

When you hear someone say that the Bible is inspired, it means that God wrote it. Yes, approximately forty people wrote the Bible, but we would say they were under the inspiration of God, the Holy Spirit, when they wrote it. Therefore, there was really one Author of Scripture.

"We can say that God is the author of the Bible because of the Christian doctrine of inspiration. This doctrine teaches that the human authors of the Bible were inspired by God the Holy Spirit to write exactly the words that God intended them to write." Therefore, when we read the Bible, we must be confident that these are the very words of God.

## GOD'S WORDS ARE PERFECT

One truth that's closely related to the Bible being inspired is that it is also the second I-word, inerrant. Since God wrote the Bible and God is perfect, his words are also perfect or without error, which is what inerrant means.

Listen to how Kevin DeYoung explains inerrancy: "Inerrancy means the word of God always stands over us and we never stand over the word of God. When we reject inerrancy we put ourselves in judgment over God's Word. We claim the right to determine which parts of God's revelation can be trusted and which cannot. When we deny the complete trustworthiness of the Scriptures . . . then we are forced to accept one of two conclusions: either Scripture is not all from God, or God is not always dependable."

The third 'I-word' that goes right along with this is infallibility. When we say the Bible is infallible, we mean it is not false. The Bible is sure and true. This should be obvious since the Bible is inspired and inerrant.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

One time a seminary professor of mine was teaching an important point about the Bible. He wasn't talking to any specific student in our class, but he said, "Who cares what you think?" The class laughed, but the professor didn't. He explained that he wasn't trying to be offensive or hurtful, but he went on, "Seriously, who cares what you think. What does the Word of God have to say about it?"

What he was teaching us was that the Bible is our ultimate authority. What I mean by the Bible being our authority is that the Bible gets to tell us what to do. It doesn't matter what we think about certain subjects, we need to see what the Bible teaches us about them. While the Bible doesn't specifically talk about movies or iPhone, for example, it gives wisdom we can apply to every single topic because it's inspired, inerrant, and infallible.

JOHN PERRITT is the Resource Coordinator for Reformed Youth Ministries at [rymonline.org](http://rymonline.org). He also blogs on film and theology at [reelthinking.us](http://reelthinking.us) and has published articles for The Gospel Coalition and Desiring God. He and his wife, Ashleigh, have five children.



## WILLIAM MCANGUS BYERS BY CALUM MACINNES

**I**n Dundee, Scotland, 8th August, 1933, Richard and Margaret Byers, were blessed with the birth of a baby boy, to whom they gave the name, William McAngus Byers. Already blessed with a daughter, Nan, William better known as Bill, developed a close relationship with his older sister which they maintained throughout Bill's life. They had the blessing and privilege of growing up in a happy Christian home. When Bill was aged two, the family moved to Burnbrae in central Perthshire. Bill attended Morrisons Academy in Crieff, and stayed there until he left at age fifteen. It was during these years that Bill, with his sister and other friends, got to know well the country roads of central Perthshire as they cycled about to their hearts' content. Such names as Auchterarder, famous in Scottish church history, became familiar places to the young adventurers. During these years Bill acquired his knowledge of the geography and history of that area which he could refer to with ease in later years. He was well read, and could recall anecdotal information from the area without difficulty. The family moved north to Inverness, and Bill started his apprenticeship as a joiner. National service was still compulsory, so Bill was "called-up" to do two years in the Royal Air Force. He was enlisted as a trainee flight mechanic. Having completed his two years service, he returned to his previous occupation in joinery. He moved to live in Skye, where he became a Clerk of Works in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. During this time in Skye, he lived in the Dunvegan side of the island, and attending church in Vatten and Glendale, he developed a strong friendship with Rev John Colquhoun, and many others. Bill's gifts, both in leading the praise, in prayer, and in preaching, meant that he was an asset to any congregation. He was, therefore, called on many times to take a leading part in the public worship.

It was during this time in Skye that Bill was asked to be Best-man at the

wedding of his close friend, Samuel Grant to Sheena Ross from Dingwall, and the Bride's sister, Marion, was the Bridesmaid. It was there that Bill met Marion for the first time and then in 1966, that Best-man married that Bridesmaid! Bill and Marion set up their first marital home in Skye. There they were blessed with the arrival of children, first Edward, then Margaret (Maggie), and then Richard. It was to be part of Bill's painful experience that after many years of marriage, Marion passed away, followed by Edward, the oldest of the children, a year after. Bill, no doubt, deeply grieved, was given grace to endure, and his trust in God carried him through the difficult time.

Bill was promoted to be a Master of Works, and the family moved south to Ayrshire. For Bill, that was also an area full of historical interest, significant as Covenanter country. The family, after some time, moved back to Skye and set up home in Portree. There the children attended school, and the family were greatly blessed under the ministry of Rev Fraser MacDonald, with whom they developed a mutually strong friendship. The family's next move, with Bill's work, saw them back to Inverness. There Bill and Marion lived, just outside the town, and the children, now young adults, had left home in pursuit of their own occupations. Bill and Marion retired, and moved up to live in Easter Ross, in the community from which Bill's mother had come. In each of these places they were very much involved in the life of the church family to which they belonged. After some time there, they moved to South Queensferry to be closer to their children and grandchildren. It was there that both Bill and Marion lived out their last days here on earth.

Bill had many interests, such as reading and music. He liked to read the history of Scotland and had a good power of recall to illustrate a point in conversation or in preaching. He was a good singer, so was often asked to lead the praise in public worship and taught a singing class in Skye. He was, for a number of years, a member of the Christian Male Voice Choir and enjoyed the company of his fellow choir members. Bill became a Church Elder and proved himself competent in the administration of Church Courts in which, for a time, he served as Clerk, and as Moderator of Assembly.

Bill's convictions of the Truth of Scripture and his earnestness of spirit shone brightly when he preached the Word. He studied the passages well, and spoke clearly, directly and with a personal appeal. These combined to convey a sense of the importance of the message and of the urgency with which it was to be received by the hearers. He seemed to preach as if his own heart had been

gripped by the truths he was holding out to the hearers. He preached a sermon around the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, in John, chapter 11. No one who has heard the preaching of that message, as Jesus interacted with Mary and Martha, can ever after say that they were never challenged by the grace and power of the Lord Jesus. Listen to Bill's own words in that sermon,

"We sometimes have the idea that if we had lived in those days, we would have found it easy to believe in Jesus. But, 'NO'. It took something outside of Martha to bring her to say to Jesus, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God. So it is still the same today. You need something outside of yourself to work conviction in your mind and heart. The call of the Gospel is not from a worm of the dust like me, but from the Master himself. So, in verse 29, when Mary heard that Jesus had come, she arose quickly and went to him. Are you like that, or are you as hard-hearted as ever? I think that I hear the ladies say that the Bible call does not apply to them, but it does. There were ladies serving Jesus, there were ladies at the Cross of Calvary, and it was ladies who were first at the tomb on Resurrection morning. The ladies are often the praying people of the congregation."

On another occasion, while preaching, he recalled a very powerful experience he had had. It concerned his Aunt Dolly (Mrs MacKenzie, Deebank) and her passing away to Heaven. He had, many times, enjoyed sweet fellowship with her, and some years after her passing, he felt somewhat heavy in his spirit. It was the anniversary of her death, and he reflected on the good times they had had together, but that was now over. Just as he floundered in heavy thoughts about the days gone by, this thought from the Bible came to his mind and heart – "The day of death is better than the day of birth". With that, his whole way of thinking was turned upside-down. He said, "I thought of her and found myself rejoicing in the joy she had as she left this world behind and entered to be with the Lord."

We will conclude this survey of Bill's life, and of God's grace to him, with a quote from his sermon on Noah's Ark and the shutting of the door. As he referred to God's own description of the sinfulness of the generation, Bill said, "Sin is a little word, but what a solemn experience for us to be convicted of our own sin. Do not go away without getting Christ, because the door may be shut and you be still on the outside." Bill was earnest and urgent, practical and personal in his preaching. He now rests from his labours, but his work follows him here on earth. He passed away on 3rd November, 2017. On the evening before his passing away, Bill was visited by Rev and Mrs John Ross. Together they had



Bill and Marion Byers - fondly remembered by family and friends

a time of worship, with the reading of Scripture and prayer, after which John sang the last verse of Psalm 23, which has these memorable words, "Goodness and mercy all my life, shall surely follow me; and in God's house for evermore, my dwelling place shall be." Bill joined in the praise, clearly remembering every word. The funeral service was held in Tain, and his mortal remains were laid to rest beside those of Marion, his wife, in Balintore cemetery, both awaiting the Resurrection of the just.

We express our sincere sympathy to the family circle, Edward's widow, Samantha, to Maggie and Steve, to Richard and Gillian, to the grandchildren, Richard, Sarah, Iona and Robert, and also to Bill's sister, Nan. Our prayer for them is that the God of mercy and of grace, who so blessed Bill, will also bless them with his favour in the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The memory of the just is blessed" (Proverbs 10:7)

# PEOPLE IN RECOVERY BY ANN MACRAE

For the last ten years or so I have been working with people who are dependent on drugs. The NHS in Scotland still employs doctors and nurses in mental health and addiction services to care for this group of people in conjunction with GPs. In England many of these NHS services have now been tendered out to private companies and organisations and standards of care are more variable.

The people I see in my clinic are a very varied group of individuals. In general their lives have disintegrated due to drug use. Although they have been stabilised before they reach my clinic, many are still using drugs – usually heroin. They may neglect themselves and those around them. They often don't turn up for appointments on time or on the right day. Many of them don't know anyone who doesn't use drugs. They are often in relationships with others who use substances regularly. Many have physical health problems. If they are injecting drug users they may have picked up blood borne viruses, for example Hepatitis C, or they have circulatory problems. Many have respiratory illnesses due to long-term heavy smoking. Most have mental health problems. Most have suffered significant trauma throughout their lives – neglect, abuse, violence, deprivation and family breakdown. If they had goals for their lives ("what do you want to be when you grow up?"), these have often been forgotten. Established routines for daily life are frequently non-



existent. Many are in temporary or unsuitable accommodation. Paying bills and budgeting are poorly developed skills. Many are dealing with criminal charges or are on community payback orders. And many of them have children. Some care for their children incredibly well, but some are not prioritising their children's needs, and some have lost the care of their children to foster carers or other state provision.

Given the level of disintegration I've described, what can be done to help? I was trained as a doctor, not a housing officer or a debt advisor or a social worker. My first duty is to assess the physical and mental health needs of the people I see. Then I try to help with some of the other issues, often calling on the expertise of appropriately trained colleagues. I see most people every 2-4 weeks, usually for at least half an hour. Methadone gets a bad press but there is global evidence of its effectiveness in reducing crime, reducing intravenous drug use and reducing drug deaths. I prescribe a lot of Methadone. And mostly I listen to what people have to say about their everyday lives and try to advise them wisely. I've had to learn to remain genuinely kind, compassionate and patient when my natural inclination is towards frustration and a judgemental attitude.

Many people do stabilise. About half of the people I see are in employment. Some are eventually discharged. But many will stay in our clinics for many years, only gradually recovering their relationships and their social networks, regaining stable accommodation, reducing offending behaviours and learning to occupy their time more effectively.

Few show a desire for spiritual solutions to their problems. Dependent drug use stifles creativity, motivation, inner peace



and joy but the people I see are often blind to this. Many still go on seeking relief from anxiety, guilt, fear and shame through drug use.

I love 1 Corinthians 6:11. Paul speaks to the Corinthian church with all its problems and describes the sins that had prevented them from inheriting God's kingdom. And then he says "And that is what some of you were..." There were people in the church in Corinth who had messed up their marriages, who had swindled in business, who had worshipped idols, and there were people who had had addictions. But they were washed, they were sanctified, they were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God. They had been spiritually transformed. And their patterns of behaviour had changed.

1 Peter 2 could have been written for a group of people in recovery from dependent drug use. "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good". If someone who is drug dependent experiences a craving for their preferred drug they will often stop at nothing to get hold of that drug. Peter says that as Christians we are to crave pure spiritual milk that will bring us to spiritual maturity. We've already tasted that God is good. Why wouldn't we want more of Him? That won't come naturally to us so we need to ask Him to replace our old desires of being satisfied with what's not good for us. And later he says "Abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul" (1 Peter 1:11). Many of the people I see keep "dabbling" with their preferred drug. We can't keep "dabbling" with sinful desires. We need the help of God's Spirit to help us to make new deliberate choices daily.

In recent years addiction services throughout Scotland have been encouraged to adopt the concept of Recovery as their mission statement. People who

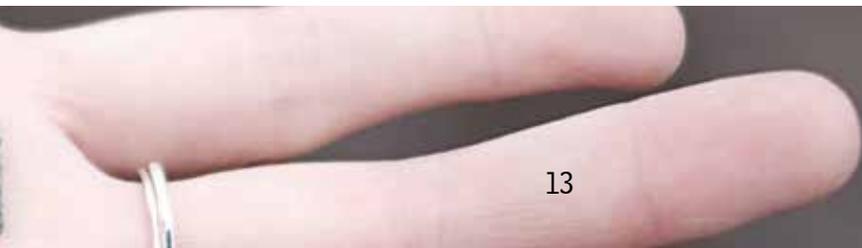


were addicted often describe themselves as being "in recovery". The Scottish Government supports this agenda. As clinicians we are encouraged to engender hope. We are to help people believe that recovery is possible.

The themes of recovery, restoration and hope also go right the way through 1 Peter 1 & 2. "In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you..." (1 Peter 1:3-4). "With minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming"(1 Peter 1:13). "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1 Peter 2:9-10).

So I can aim to provide the best medical care I can for people's physical and mental wellbeing. But I can also pray that the people I see will be spiritually restored so that they will crave the pure spiritual milk of the gospel, abstain from sinful desires and live with the hope of complete restoration. This is the spiritual recovery that we all need.

**ANN MACRAE:** Ann is originally from the Black Isle in Scotland and is immensely grateful to God to have been married to Angus for almost twenty-five years. They have three grown up children. She is a Specialty Doctor for NHS Highland Drug & Alcohol Recovery Service.





## THE WHITE ROSE

BY CATHERINE MACKENZIE

**I** was reading an article about one of my heroines when I stopped and thought for a moment – this girl died the year my father was born. That’s just one reason that I’m writing about her just now... the other reasons are that Sophie Scholl died for what she believed in and she was just 21 years old, a German student, anti-Nazi political activist and from a committed Christian family.

She and her brother Hans were students at the university of Munich and founding members of a student-led resistance movement against the Nazi regime called ‘The White Rose’.

They produced pamphlets and left them in public places such as mailboxes and around the university in order to draw people’s attention to the brutalities of Hitler. Sophie and her brother and the other members of ‘The White Rose’ were guilty of high treason. The punishment for that was death. They all knew the risks. But they fought with their words even though it meant risking their necks.

Hans and Sophie often quoted Scripture in their publications and believed that Christians needed to stand against injustice. Too many had already stepped back in fear. ‘How can we expect righteousness to prevail,’ Sophie pointed out, ‘when there is hardly anyone willing to give himself up individually for a righteous cause?’ The thought of the future and what they would say if

asked, 'What did you do about it?' kept the members of 'The White Rose' from taking the easy route, the safe option.

Which is why we see Hans and Sophie on 18 February, 1943 in the university foyer with a suitcase of pamphlets. The film *The Final Days* – a German film with English subtitles – shows this scene in a particularly dramatic way. Atmospheric music and the sound of a ticking clock raise the tension as the two siblings rush through the corridors leaving piles of leaflets at every corner. They have just enough time to get away when Sophie decides to leave one last batch of pamphlets on the third floor... just then the lecture hall doors open. Sophie pushes the papers over the edge and they flutter dramatically into the courtyard below. Were it not for that last minute decision, perhaps they would have escaped... but they did not ... they were arrested immediately.

Four days of interrogation later, Sophie, Hans and another member of The White Rose were taken before the German People's court. They were pronounced guilty by Hitler's Hangman, Roland Friesler, and immediately transferred to Stalheim Prison to be executed by guillotine later that day.

Unusually they were allowed one last visit with their parents. An emotional reunion that ended with words of encouragement. Their father told them he was proud of them. Sophie's mother reminded her to trust in Jesus. Sophie replied, 'And you too.'

In the face of death these two young people had a great impact on the people around them. Guards recalled at a later date their bravery and deep faith in God.

Before she left for her execution, Sophie looked out of her cell window and expressed, "It is such a fine sunny day and I have to go - but what does my death matter, if through us people are awakened and stirred into action."

Sophie was executed first and her brother afterwards. Hans cried out, 'Long live freedom!' Sophie's last words are reported as being, 'God you are my refuge into eternity.'



*For further reading I recommend -The Gospel Coalition website's article: 75 Years Ago Today – The Incredible Story of Hans and Sophie Scholl by Sara Barratt*

## SEVEN SCRIPTURES FOR HUSBANDS AND WIVES

1. Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female. Matthew 19:4
2. Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Colossians 3:18-19
3. For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. Isaiah 54:5
4. With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:2-3
5. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12
6. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate. Mark 10:9
7. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8



## SEVEN SCRIPTURES CONNECTED TO PRAYER

1. Abram went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, ... There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. Genesis 12:8
2. The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him.... Exodus 15:2
3. The Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to Him. Deuteronomy 4:7
4. Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9
5. Because they cried out to him during the battle, He answered their prayers, because they trusted in Him. I Chronicles 5:20
6. If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. II Chronicles 7:14
7. Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of Yours? II Chronicles 1:10



# THE KEY TO KNOWING GOD

Taken from: The Disciplines of the Christian Life by Eric Liddell

**A** disciple is one who knows God personally, and who learns from Jesus Christ, who most perfectly revealed God. One word stands out from all others as the key to knowing God, to having His peace and assurance in your heart; it is obedience.

Obedience in God's will is the secret of spiritual knowledge and insight. It is not willingness to know, but willingness to do (obey) God's will that brings enlightenment and certainty regarding spiritual truth.

'If any man will do (obey) his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself' (John 7.17.)

Here are some questions to ask yourself. If I know something to be true, am I prepared to follow it even though it is contrary to what I want, to what I have previously said or held to be true? Will I follow it even if it means loss of face, owning that I was wrong? Will I follow if it means being laughed at by friend or foe, if it means personal financial loss or some kind of hardship.

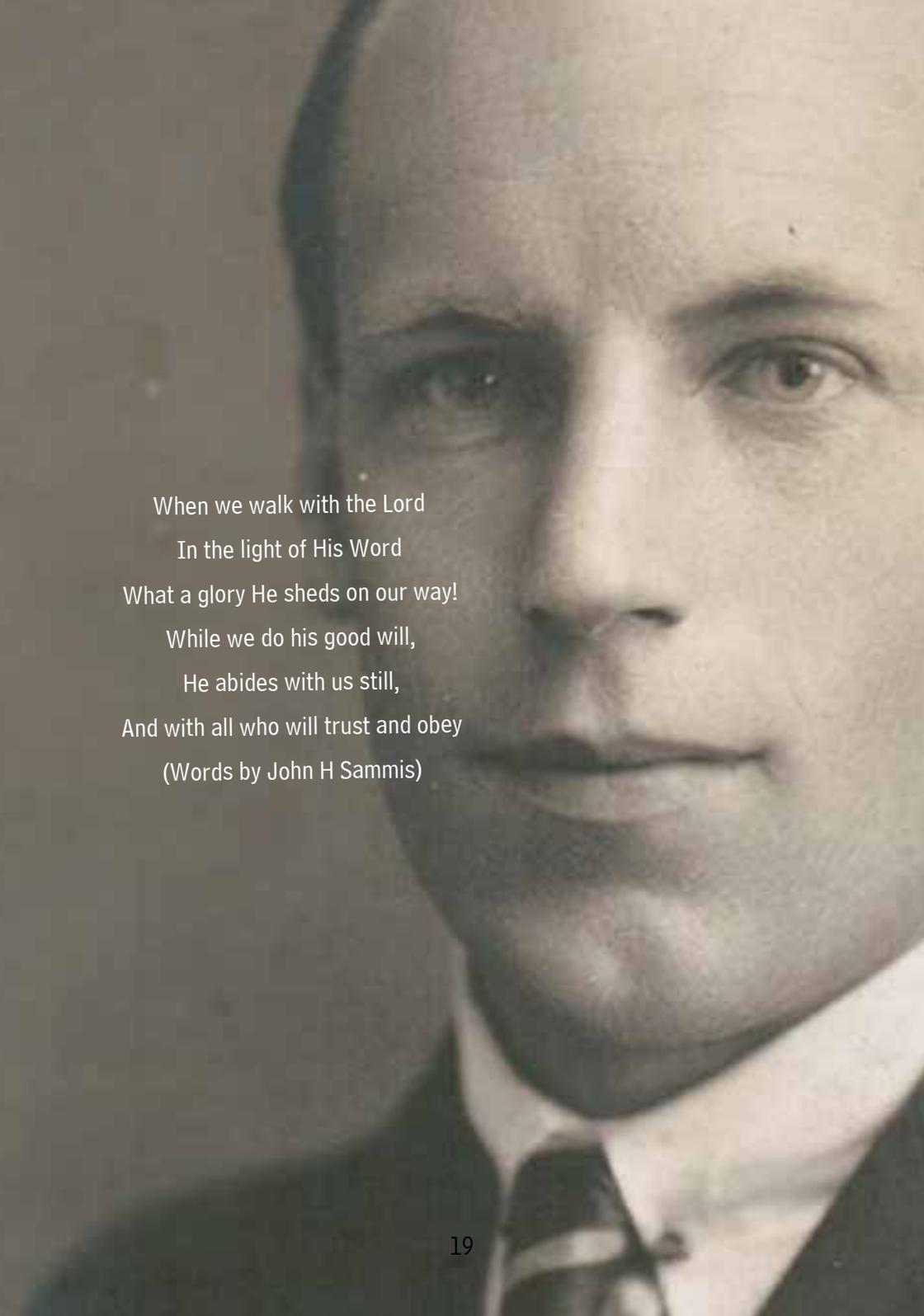
Following truth leads to God, for truth is of God.

Obedience is the secret of being conscious that God guides you personally, If in the quiet of your heart you feel something should be done, stop and consider whether it is in line with the character and teaching of Jesus. If so, obey that impulse to do it. And in doing so you will find it was God guiding you.

Every Christian should live a God-guided life. If you are not guided by God, you will be guided by someone or something else. The Christian who hasn't the sense of guidance in his life is missing something vital.

To obey God's will was like food to Jesus, refreshing his mind, body, and spirit. 'My meat is to do the will of him that sent me' (John 4.34). We can all have the same experience if we make God's will the dominant purpose in our lives.

Take obedience with you into your time of prayer and meditation, for you will know as much of God, as you are willing to put into practice. There is a great deal of truth in the hymn "Trust and obey".



When we walk with the Lord  
In the light of His Word  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do his good will,  
He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey  
(Words by John H Sammis)

## THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE

This last month has seen several meetings held throughout Scotland called Families Under Fire. These were run under the auspices of The Christian Institute. The meeting held in Inverness on the 12th of February focussed on the difficulties for Bible believing Christians who wish to bring their families up accordingly.

The Christian Institute is a registered charity which seeks to promote the Christian faith in the UK. They campaign for Christian truth and help Christians influence the world they live in through: Strategic briefings based on careful research; Conferences, recordings and books; Comment in the media; Influencing public policy; Assisting individuals facing discrimination because of their faith.

Here are some of what the Christian Institute believes: Governments exist to restrain evil; Marriage is sacred; Parents have a God-given authority over their children; Religious freedom must be preserved; Life is sacred from conception

During the meeting the Christian Institute highlighted the obvious LGBT propaganda that is being forced on children through schools and the media, sometimes without their parents' knowledge. "It is vital that we seek to protect the autonomy of the family ... We must speak and act with wisdom and courage to combat such overreach."

Contact Details: [www.christian.org.uk](http://www.christian.org.uk) email: [info@christian.org.uk](mailto:info@christian.org.uk)

## THE PRESAL TRUST

The Preshal Trust was launched in November 2002 and is a registered charity based in Govan. This is an area of economic and social deprivation with high unemployment, low educational attainment, poor health and serious poverty levels. Their objective is to provide support and to deliver a range of services to socially excluded people and families living in the Govan area of Glasgow.

'Preshal' is the Gaelic for precious - and this is one of the key values that describes the care and support given to all people who access these services. The project supports a range of clients of all ages who have addiction problems, mental health issues, disabilities, ex-offenders, prisoners and their families, infants, children, young people, parents and carers and anyone affected by social exclusion and isolation.

The Preshal Trust was born out of a vision by May Nicholson to reach people in Glasgow who had no hope and no future just like May's life had been. May started the project by asking a local minister for the use of his church hall. She brought a kettle and a toaster in from the house and gave out tea and toast to the homeless, people with addictions and to those who were socially excluded. The project offered various diversionary activities including arts and crafts, cooking, line dancing, computing and literacy.

After a year in the church hall it was felt that it was time to seek out their own premises. For a while they rented a building until after a few years the property was put on the open market. The project had no savings and needed a deposit of £50,000 in order to secure the premises.

Through prayer (and May making a few phone-calls) they managed to secure the £50,000 deposit and for the first time had a building to call their own.

Over the next two years Preshal raised the money to pay the remaining balance and the project continued to expand and grow so much so that after a few years it became apparent that they needed a fit for purpose building.

This has made an amazing difference to all the activities that are on offer and expand on what the charity can provide.

They now have cooking classes in an amazing new training kitchen and a quiet room where literacy classes can be conducted in peace and quiet. Twelve years on Preshal are employing 13 staff and since moving to their new building the project is going from strength to strength.

Let's just end with some words from May Nicholson herself, "God gave me a vision because 'without a vision people are perishing'. Preshal Trust is all about love. Anyone who visits us the first thing they say is that they sense the love and get a great welcome. The Bible tells us 'love your neighbour as yourself' and the greatest joy for me is seeing families who are broken and faced terrible burdens finding hope, finding peace and finding the greatest of gifts, love, and having new lives. Preshal has seen many changed lives."

Contact Details: [www.preshaltrust.org.uk](http://www.preshaltrust.org.uk) Email: [info@preshaltrust.org.uk](mailto:info@preshaltrust.org.uk)





# SIT DOWN WITH SPURGEON

## LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN

- You are no lover of Christ if you do not love his children. As soon as ever the heart is given to the master of the house it is given to the children of the house. Love Christ and you will soon love all that love him.
- I am told that Christians do not love each other. I am very sorry if that be true, but I rather doubt it, for I suspect that those who do not love each other are not Christians.
- Now no man is a Christian who does not love Christians. He, who, being in the church, is yet not of its heart and soul, is but an intruder in the family.
- Christians, you are to love one another, not because of the gain which you get from one another, but rather because of the good you can do to one another.

## LOVE FOR GOD

- Love to God will help a man to persevere in service when otherwise he would have given up his work.
- Nothing gives Christ greater delight than the love of His people.
- Your Lord is very jealous of your love, O believer. Did He choose you? He cannot bear that you should choose another.
- I once knew a good woman who was the subject of many doubts, and when I got to the bottom of her doubt, it was this: she knew she loved Christ, but she was afraid he did not love her. "Oh!" I said, "that is a doubt that will never trouble me; never, by any possibility, because I am sure of this, that the heart is so corrupt, naturally, that love to God never did get there without God's putting it there." You may

rest quite certain, that if you love God, it is a fruit, and not a root.

- You cannot love a thing without becoming something like it, in proportion to the force of love; and just in proportion as you love Jesus you must get like him.
- Perhaps, they who love the Master best are the very people who will be the most likely to have such a high opinion of the love which he deserves, that they will often chide themselves that they do not love him at all, when they see how little their love is compared with that perfection of affection which he deserves.
- I cannot bear it—that we should love Jesus little. It seems to me horrible. Not to have your heart all on fire for Christ—this is execrable! Let us love him to the utmost. Let us ask him to give us larger hearts, and to fire them with the flame that is his own, that we may love him to the utmost possibilities of affection.

#### LOVE AND MARRIAGE

- How careful ought young people to be in the choosing of their partners in life! When two horses pull together how smoothly the chariot runs; but if one horse draws one way and the other pulls in the opposite direction, what trouble there is sure to be.
- When men and women are about to be married how much of life then trembles in the balances! Upon the choice of a partner in life the fashion of that life may depend. Whether self or Christ, the world or God, shall be the master-motive of the household, may be decided by the finger which wears the plain gold ring.

Taken from: [www.spurgeon.us](http://www.spurgeon.us)



## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING - RETOLD

**I**n the morning I wake up and wash my face. I ask God to cleanse me from my sin. I put on my clothes. I ask God to clothe me with his righteousness. Then I tie the laces on my black leather boots. I ask God to watch over me and show me the right way to go.

I sit to eat my breakfast of oatmeal porridge. I thank God for the good food.

I drink my milk. I ask God to give me spiritual food and to teach me about him. When the floor is dirty I clean it with the mop. I thank God for giving me a clean heart. Coal needs to be put on the fire. I thank God for his warm love to me.

The curtains need opened and the sunlight comes in. I thank God for the light of his Word and how he shows me what he is like.

The flowerbed needs weeding. I take a trowel and a rake and make sure all the weeds are pulled out. I ask God to forgive my sins and to help me please him in everything I do.

The brass gets polished and the mantelpiece too. When I clean the mirror I can see my face in the reflection. I ask God to make me just like Jesus so that I can reflect his glory and show others how wonderful he is.

In the afternoon I help the nurse to look after the little children. I ask God to make me like a little child. I ask him to help me to trust him completely.

When the evening meal is served I stir the soup and keep an eye on the vegetables. I won't eat until much later. I feel very hungry. I ask God to make me hungry for his word, the Bible, just as I am hungry for my supper.

The soup tastes good and I eat an apple too. It's delicious. I remember that God is good and that everything he made is good and I thank him for it.

When the evening comes I tidy the books and toys away. I thank God for helping me do my job today and for being with me always.

CATHERINE MACKENZIE: A writer and editor from Inverness, Scotland. She has written several Christian biographies for young people.



## COOKS CORNER

### FRUITY HUNGARIAN GOULASH

Feeds 6 Time to cook: Approximately 1 hour 50 minutes

Ingredients: Lean braising or topside steak; Oil; Onions; Garlic; Paprika; Chopped tomatoes with herbs; Beef stock; Green peppers; Soured cream or crème fraîche ; Grated orange zest; Fresh parsley

Make...

1. Heat 50ml (2tbsp) oil in a large pan or heatproof casserole dish.
2. Add 900g (2lb) lean braising or topside steak, cubed and fry for 8-10 minutes, stirring occasionally until browned.
3. Add 2 medium onions, peeled and sliced, 2 garlic cloves, peeled and finely chopped and 15ml (1tbsp) paprika to the pan and cook for a further 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Add one can, approx. 400g of chopped tomatoes with herbs and 150ml ( $\frac{1}{4}$ pt) hot beef stock, bring to the boil, reduce the heat, cover and simmer for 1½ hours.
5. Add 2 green peppers, deseeded and sliced. Season and continue to cook for a further 20-30 minutes.

Just before serving, partly stir in 60ml (4tbsp) soured cream or crème fraîche and garnish with the grated zest of 1 orange and a small handful of freshly chopped parsley.

Eat and enjoy...

# MILKY BAR CHEESECAKE

This recipe was sent in from Clark Walls of the Inverness congregation. It comes with a warning, "Caution: it's very yummy and moreish!"

## INGREDIENTS

For the biscuit base: 200g digestive biscuits; 100g melted butter

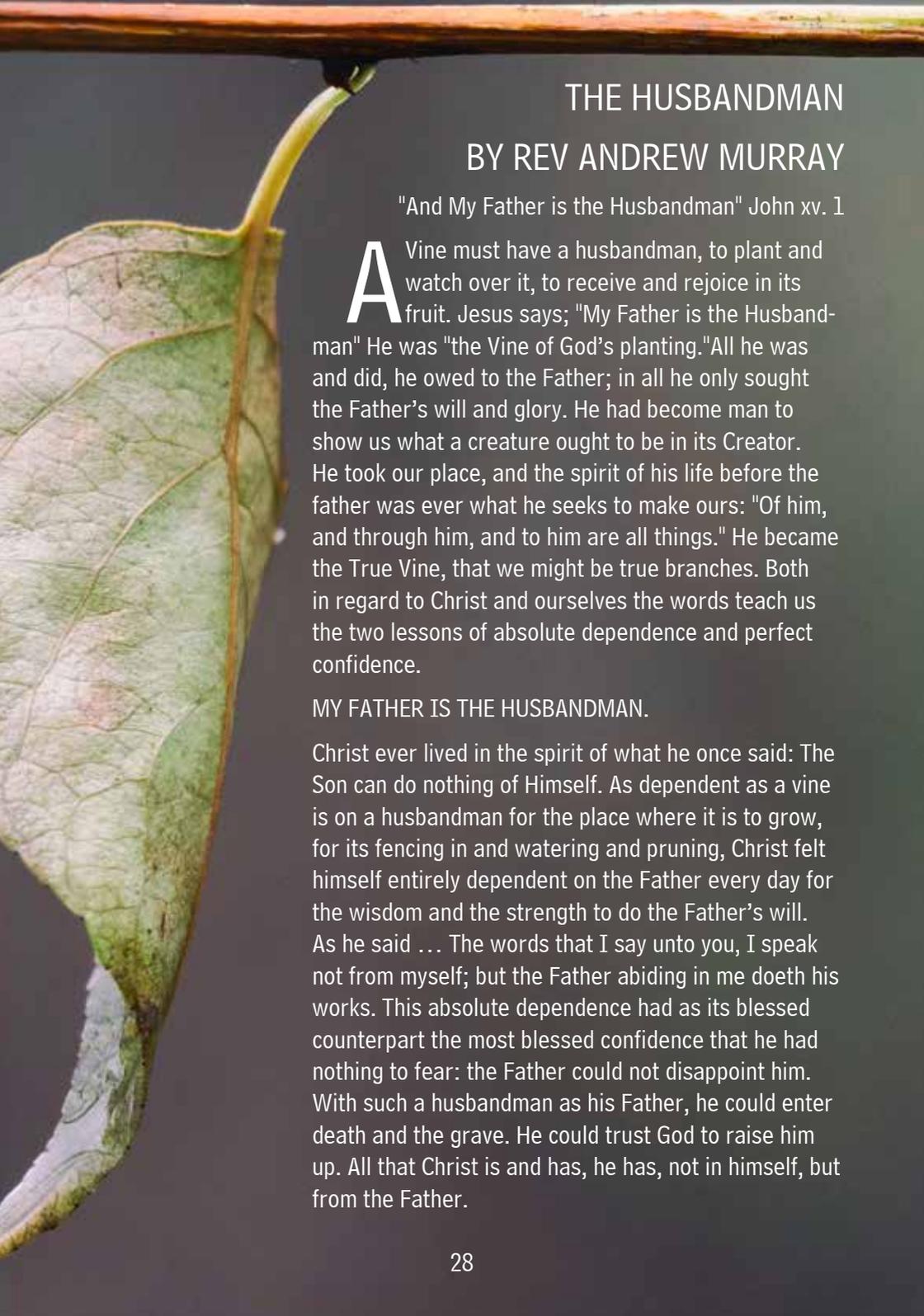
For the Cheesecake: 600g full-fat cream cheese; 50g icing or castor sugar; 1tsp vanilla extract; 250g Milky bar (or any white chocolate); 200ml double cream; extra white chocolate to decorate

## INSTRUCTIONS

**FOR THE BISCUIT BASE:** Line one springform tin (23cm) with a circle of grease-proof paper. Blitz or bash the biscuits into crumbs with a food processor or with a bag and rolling pin. Should be a coarse crumb consistency. Meanwhile melt the butter in a small saucepan over a low heat or in the microwave. Once melted add the butter to the biscuit crumbs and mix together. Tip the mixture into your springform tin and press it down into a neat, flat circle. Pop this in the fridge for at least 30 minutes to firm up while you prepare the cheesecake mix.

## CHEESECAKE MIX

Place your cream cheese, sugar and vanilla into a large bowl and beat together until smooth. Gently melt your milky bar chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a simmering pan of water, or in the microwave in 30 second bursts. Allow to cool slightly. Add the cooked melted milky bar to the cheesecake mixture and stir together. Whip the 200ml of cream until it forms stiff peaks and then fold it gently into the cheese mixture until combined. Remove your tin from the fridge and top your biscuit base with the cheesecake mixture. Smooth it out as neatly as you can. Decorate the top with some chunks or slithers of milky bar chocolate – or you can melt it and drizzle it over. Whatever you like. Pop the cheesecake in the fridge for at least 2 hours until it firms up. Slice it up and enjoy!



## THE HUSBANDMAN

BY REV ANDREW MURRAY

"And My Father is the Husbandman" John xv. 1

**A** Vine must have a husbandman, to plant and watch over it, to receive and rejoice in its fruit. Jesus says; "My Father is the Husbandman" He was "the Vine of God's planting." All he was and did, he owed to the Father; in all he only sought the Father's will and glory. He had become man to show us what a creature ought to be in its Creator. He took our place, and the spirit of his life before the father was ever what he seeks to make ours: "Of him, and through him, and to him are all things." He became the True Vine, that we might be true branches. Both in regard to Christ and ourselves the words teach us the two lessons of absolute dependence and perfect confidence.

### MY FATHER IS THE HUSBANDMAN.

Christ ever lived in the spirit of what he once said: The Son can do nothing of Himself. As dependent as a vine is on a husbandman for the place where it is to grow, for its fencing in and watering and pruning, Christ felt himself entirely dependent on the Father every day for the wisdom and the strength to do the Father's will. As he said ... The words that I say unto you, I speak not from myself; but the Father abiding in me doeth his works. This absolute dependence had as its blessed counterpart the most blessed confidence that he had nothing to fear: the Father could not disappoint him. With such a husbandman as his Father, he could enter death and the grave. He could trust God to raise him up. All that Christ is and has, he has, not in himself, but from the Father.

## MY FATHER IS THE HUSBANDMAN

That is as blessedly true for us as for Christ. Christ is about to teach his disciples about their being branches. Before he ever uses the word or speaks at all of abiding in him or bearing fruit, he turns their eyes heavenward to the Father watching over them, and working all in them. At the very root of all Christian life lies the thought that God is to do all, that our one work is to give and leave ourselves in his hands, in the confession of utter helplessness and dependence, in the assured confidence that he gives all we need. The great lack of the Christian life is that, even where we trust Christ, we leave God out of the count. Christ came to bring us to God. Christ lived the life of a man exactly as we have to live it. Christ the Vine points to God the Husbandman. As he trusted God, let us trust God, that everything we ought to be and have, as those who belong to the Vine, will be given us from above.

Isaiah said: "A vineyard of red wine; I the Lord do keep it, I will water it every moment; lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day." Ere we begin to think of fruit or branches, let us have our heart filled with the faith; as glorious as the vine is the Husbandman. As high and holy as is our calling, so mighty and loving is the God who will work it all. As surely as the Husbandman made the Vine what it was to be, will he make each branch what it is to be. Our Father is our Husbandman, the Surety for our growth and fruit.

*Blessed Father! We are thy husbandry. Oh that thou mayest have honour of the work of thy hands. O my Father I desire to open my heart to the joy of this wondrous truth: My Father is the Husbandman. Teach me to know and trust thee, and to see that the same deep interest with which thou caredst for and delightedst in the Vine, extends to every branch, to me too.*

ANDREW MURRAY: The Reverend Andrew Murray was a South African writer, teacher and Christian pastor. Murray considered missions to be "the chief end of the church".

# Could One Person Change the World?

By Derick Bingham

I was invited to speak at the Scottish Storytelling Centre on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. Through its partnership with the Scottish Storytelling Forum, the Centre supports a national network of storytellers. It is involved in outreach projects with local authorities, environmental agencies, community centres and libraries, engaging with all age groups and diverse cultures of modern Scotland and providing opportunities for the socially and educationally excluded to take part in community-based, inclusive cultural experiences.

As the flagship of the network, the Centre strives to reinforce Scotland's vigorous contribution to a world-wide revival of interest in storytelling and story telling traditions.

The Centre highlights the fact that 'Storytelling happens when the story is told live, without print or technology.' I had none and found myself facing an overflowing crowd of children from four Edinburgh schools with many of them sitting around my feet on the stage. There is no audience in the world that let's you know how you are doing like an audience of children. My story was about the freedom fighter himself, William Wilberforce.

I traced Wilberforce's life through his childhood to University where he wasted a lot of precious time. I spoke of the influence of the Rev. John Newton upon Wilberforce's life when he approached him for advice as a young MP. I spoke of his desire to trust and follow Jesus Christ and how he became the conscience of the nation in his formidable and horrendously despised campaign to abolish slavery. The children listened closely as I told them that the United Nations now tells us that there is more slavery in our world than in Wilberforce's day. I encouraged them with the fact that maybe one of them could get involved one day in helping to rid the world of slavery.

The story ended and I went upstairs to engage with the children. They crowded me and one little girl stuck her head through the crowd. 'I have two questions', she said. 'One: Could a woman have been a 'Wilberforce' - could she have done as good a job? Two: Could one person change the world?'

My, the things children ask! Could a woman have done what Wilberforce did? Certainly. Can one person change the world? I would say 'One person cannot change the world but you can change the world for one person.' The world can then be changed one person at a time!

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

1 Peter 2:16



