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GOD'S WORD IS ABROAD (IN SCOTLAND)

Back in March we were on a short break in and around Glasgow.

Strolling down Sauchiehall Street we were interrupted from our reverie by an elderly gentleman who was handing out some leaflets.

As I'm sure we all know, being accosted on the street by someone trying to persuade us to join an organisation or sign up to some kind of charity is not unusual, and – for us at any rate – our first response was to walk on by.

But catching a most remarkable twinkle in the gentleman's eye we could do no other but to stop and chat.

And in a most gentle and gentlemanly manner he shared his leaflet – and his gospel story – with us.

As we went on our respective ways and we agreed to meet in Glory, what a great encouragement he was to us and, considering perhaps all those shoppers passing by on the other side, we were able to be of



encouragement to him.

God calls each of us into different situations and without doubt he knew his.

Matthew 25:21

... "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'..."

And if you're ever in that vicinity, look out for him – and pray for him and his ministry.

Cliff Darby (Griffydam Church)

FROM ENGLAND WITH LOVE!



In the early hours of the 29th April a team of seven from Mexborough made our way to Heathrow to catch our flight to Tirana, the capital of Albania. After months of planning and preparation we were finally on our way to work with Sparks Ministries in Shengjin and with a small church in nearby Lezhe, by the coast of the Adriatic Sea. Sparks Ministries, founded by a fellow student at Bible College almost 25 years ago, is involved in front line evangelism amongst children and in more recent years has extended its reach to youth and Afghan refugees who have settled in this part of Albania. The team were kept busy with three childrens' outreaches, a youth meeting, time spent with the junior leaders of Sparks, three ladies' meetings and mens' fellowship times. We also took the weekend meeting and Bible study at the Lezhe. Whilst there, it was good to be able to visit the new and larger building the Lezhe church are planning to buy over the next few months - it's three times the size of their current building, is central in the town and will enable them to minister effectively in the community with various outreach

"So, from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum (Albania), I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ" (Romans 15:19)

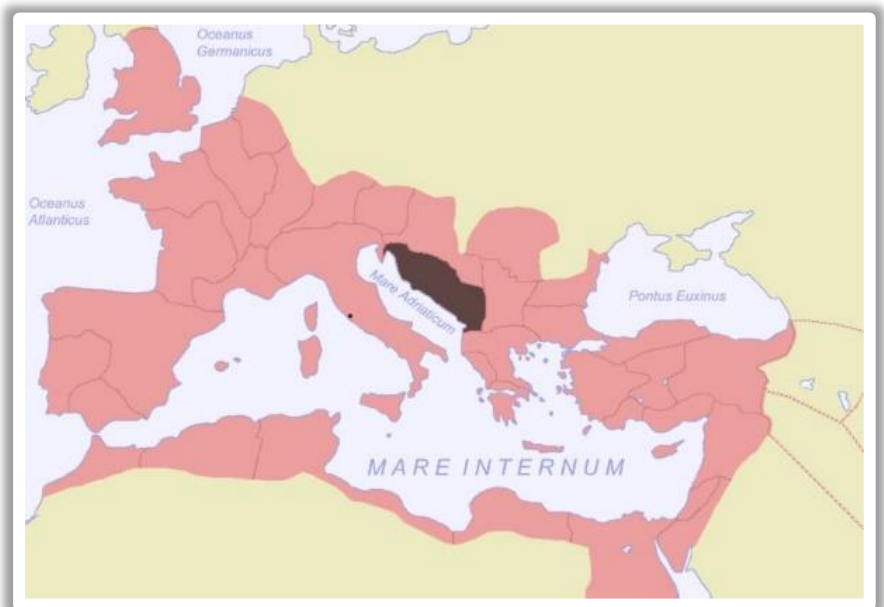
projects. On behalf of Mexborough Life Church we were able to give them a financial gift towards their new building.

Over the course of our 10-day mission, it was wonderful to see the team work so well together in unity and for individuals to leave their comfort zones at various times. Each member shared morning devotions, meaningful fellowship took place with our Albanian brothers and sisters, many seeds sown and some felt a desire to continue their missions' journey in the future. One member is hoping to return to the area in the summer to help with the Summer Children's

Camp that takes place each year. Others would like to go on mission again next year that MLCC is planning to organise.

After 30 years of leading short term missions, I have been reminded again that 'the fields are still white unto harvest'. We praise God for what He is doing around the world, but many more still need to hear the good news of Jesus. Prayerfully consider sending or taking a team on mission. Lives will be changed - not only those we go to but especially those who go.

*Steven Jenkins
Mexborough Life Church*



WRU CONFESSION OF FAITH

(to be continued)

4. **That God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and that He is truly God and truly Man, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Surely one of the best-known verses of Scripture is John 3:16 and I would encourage you to read it again – slowly and prayerfully. Now, read it again and make it personal – “for God so loved ME that He gave.....) This verse reminds us that God didn’t simply give us His Son, but His ONLY Son. What depth of love that simple statement shows – the depth of His love for me – and for you!

As if that wasn’t amazing enough, we go on to remind ourselves that this Saviour was born as a baby to a young girl who was still a virgin. Conception took place supernaturally through the medium of the Holy Spirit. The actual birth of Jesus was completely natural in every way – the true miracle took place nine months earlier at the time of conception – that was the amazing and miraculous part of the Christmas story.

We knew from the beginning that this baby was to be someone special – He was (is) completely human and yet completely divine – truly God and truly man. In order to

obtain our salvation, he had to be completely human so that our full humanity could be saved.

Forgiveness of our sin could not have taken place if He was not fully God. So, the combination of full humanity and full divinity was essential in order for our salvation to be made possible.

This baby became our Saviour and so often we refer to Him as “Jesus Christ our Lord” – and rightly so.

JESUS was the name given to Him at his birth (Mt 1:21) pointing us to the fact that He was to provide us with salvation. CHRIST means “anointed one” – again, foreshadowed in the nativity gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The title LORD speaks of His authority and our submission to it. When we become a Christian, that last title becomes personal – Jesus, Christ MY Lord.

It is said that “familiarity breeds contempt” and so we need to continually remind ourselves of this amazing truth from scripture – that He is MY Saviour and MY Lord.

Rev Colin Braithwaite



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

CONFERENCE

This is the 175th Anniversary of the Wesleyan Reform Union. We were reminded by George Phillips in the introductory comments in the handbook of our Conference of the extract of Scripture in the original 'Declaration of Principles' that has been our motto over the history of the Union, 'One is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren.'

As we gathered, we remembered the President, Rev. Michael Hedley and Lindsay in our prayers as they could not be with us due to his ill health. For the year 2024/25 George Phillips agreed to take on the role of President for which we are so thankful.

Women of Action – have been continuing their 'He Restores my Soul' series; their new teaching series is 'Solid Foundation.' Prayer is a vital part of the journey of the WA, with Prayer Meetings being held on Zoom and in person – all ladies are most welcome.

The trustees reported that the work in changing to a CIO continues, aiming for completion on 31st March 2025.

Home Missions and YPD (Young People's Department) – It is really encouraging to hear of churches baptising new believers and that the Gospel is being preached faithfully. This department wants to support your work wherever they can. The members of the Committee meet on Zoom and would love you to join them to pray and discuss how they can support the churches. Contact Andy Wilcock, the 'DOC' for details.

Treasurer's Report – Finances remain strong, although this is largely due to the sale of closed churches. However, this money is being put to good use and the Treasurer reported that since 2010, £1.9m has been made available to churches through grants.

Overseas Missions Department – Lindsay Hedley was thanked for her time as Secretary, Anne-



2024

Marie Wilcock is now the Team Coordinator. The 'Safe Haven' project to provide meals to children in Lebanon has come to an end; over the two years in excess of £11,200 was raised. The new project was launched – 'Hope for Children' in Latvia. Ian Sykes will be heading this up – look out for (or ask for) details in your church!

Ministers Provident Society – Celebrates its centenary this year in its present form. 100 years later, ministers and their widows / widowers are being cared for with a financial gift each quarter.

Equip to Serve (E 2 S) is the new name for the Local Preachers Fellowship. The reason is that they want to ensure that they are fulfilling their calling to encourage not only preachers but all church members in their ministry. With this in mind – keep Saturday 5th October free and join them at 'Bringing Community into Church' – look out for details.

Ministerial Committee reported that they are now in a position to accept students on the Theology

Course – highly recommended! Contact Alina at HQ for details.

CESA (Christian Ethics and Social Action) – their report ended in this way, 'Do you have a passion for seeing Christian values upheld in this country? If you do, then CESA needs you!' Interested in getting involved? Contact Alina at HQ who will point you in the right direction.

175th Anniversary – George Phillips brought a presentation on the Monday evening, 'What we were – What we're to be'. On Tuesday the speaker was Gavin Calver, CEO of Evangelical Alliance. He brought two inspiring and challenging talks, both of which are available on the Union website. Don't miss them!

On Tuesday evening, Conference met in smaller groups for workshops and discussion on growth and 'Let your faith shine.'

Conference 2025 – 9th – 11th June
.... Hope to see you there.

Rev Phil Hearson



LADY OF MANY TALENTS



Kathy Kinnard

since I was about ten or eleven years of age. I have three sisters and our Dad extended the lawn sufficiently for us to play on a full sized tennis court, along with him and Mum and visitors who came for a game. I have been captain of my club in Sleaford and have won many tournaments, the ones that have a special significance are those that I played with Hugh, my husband. Not many husband and wife pairings play together but we combined well. I still play at least twice a week at Sleaford, outdoors, and indoors at Grantham. This I do alongside my flower arranging, singing in Sleaford Choral Society and completing my duties at the Chapel at Dorrington. God has blessed me so many times when I have been taking part in what I call my hobbies and especially when I have been flower arranging in Churches, Chapels, even Lincoln Cathedral, and for events like Conference. This I do for His Glory.

Kathy Kinnard

CESA

Are you elated, disappointed or plain bored?

Rishi Sunak caught us all on the hop when he announced the Election Day to be on Thursday July 4th, 2024! The question is have you voted and are you pleased with the results?

The organisation "Care" lost no time in announcing their bespoke General Election website following confirmation of the date. The site - engaGE24 - is packed with resources to help Christians from all denominations to think, act and pray before they went out to vote.

Care's CEO, Ross Hendry said "There is a lot of apathy towards our politics and as Christians we are not immune to this, but we passionately believe that politics, at its best, is a

force for good. As Jesus's followers, we must continue to engage even if we feel discouraged. In so doing, we seek the good of our neighbours and bring the Bible's better story to bear on the culture around us... We engage knowing that whatever the outcome is, God is on the throne.

Our vision is to see politics renewed and lives transformed".

This helpful website also includes a prayer diary for forty days. This is the prayer for the days after the Election.

Sovereign God, we pray for our new Prime Minister as he appoints colleagues and other senior posts. Please equip them with foresight,



vision, wisdom and compassion for all people as they begin the demanding work of government. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Daphne Hodkinson

Women of Action



WA at Stoney Middleton

Saturday 8th June dawned with grey skies and drizzle making everything damp and dull but as we prepared the chapel at Stoney Middleton to receive our visitors the sun came out and continued to light up the day. As the sun **SHONE** outside, the **SON** filled the room with love.

Seventeen ladies gathered round tables and quickly began chatting, coffee was eventually served (sorry for the delay folks) and then Beth opened the worship with a little nostalgia for some – singing choruses from the Cliff College book.

Sandra began with a word of testimony, explaining how the Lord had called her to different places and different jobs leading her along the path He had laid out for her.

Then to her theme 'SOLID FOUNDATION', taken from the story from Matt 7:24 -27, part of the Sermon on the Mount. 'Everyone who hears these words and puts into practice is like a wise man who built his house upon the rock.'

Sixteen faces turned to her and remained wrapped in the words God had given to her to share with us. She reminded us that God was known as The Rock throughout the Old Testament and therefore Jesus is our rock. He handed the mantle to Peter and advised us to stand on the rock. Sandra packed the morning with instruction, challenge and an opportunity to confirm or reconfirm our faith, we had time to talk together in pairs to share concerns, experiences and prayers. What a blessing.

We ended the morning with a relaxed lunch giving more time for reflection. Several ladies took their lunch outside in the garden, in the sunshine. Thank you, Sandra for an inspiring morning.

For our part, we continued the discussion at our morning service the following day and again at our joint prayer meeting during the week. All the ladies were moved, inspired and challenged by the event. The only remaining question is, "when is the next one?"

Beth Ely




Guess who I saw!

Recently I was at the funeral of a friend when I spotted Hazel Thompson and her son Jeremy coming out of the building. Some of you will remember Hazel's husband, Ralph, who served in our ministry for many years.

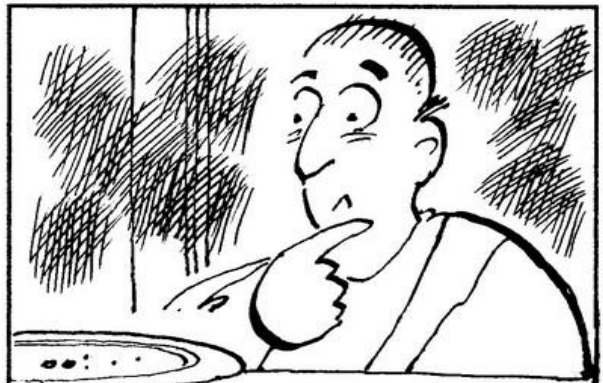
Hazel now lives in Birmingham to be near her son. She will soon be 89 and still takes every opportunity to speak about the Lord.

Every blessing,
Daphne Hodkinson

The Tale of The Friend at Midnight



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD RUN OUT OF BREAD...

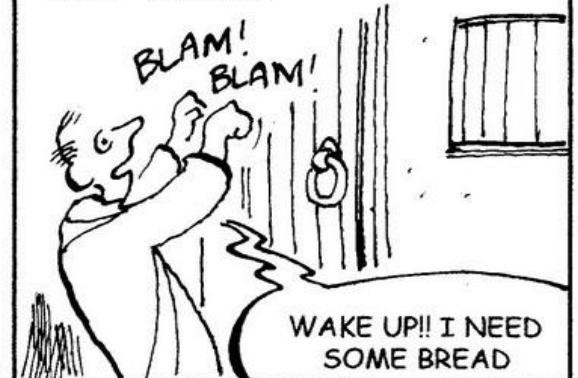


...AND HE NEEDED PLENTY AS A FRIEND WAS COMING TO STAY.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MIDNIGHT...



... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE DOOR - LOUDLY!



WAKE UP!! I NEED SOME BREAD

PLEASE WILL YOU LEND ME THREE LOAVES?



GO AWAY!! WE'RE ALL TRYING TO SLEEP!



OH GO ON... PLEASE I REALLY DO NEED SOME!

ALRIGHT THEN! BUT I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN KEPT ASKING'



'DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK TO GOD. HE LONGS TO HEAR OUR PRAYERS'.

