



FEATURED THIS MONTH:

Phil Coulson / Gareth Edwards / Dan Gillies / Jack Hay / Gordon McCracken /
Craig Munro / Graeme Paterson / Graeme Smith / Andrew Williamson

'A man is what he is on his knees, and no more.'

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

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IN AWE AND WITH WONDER

1 In awe and with wonder, my thoughts rest on thee,
Who transcends all thinking yet thought upon me.
My mind cannot fathom my heart overflows;
why Jesus should save me, my God only knows.

2 While dwelling on Calvary, I ponder the cost,
to save my poor soul from eternity lost.
No life could impress Him, His grace to impart,
the motive to save me, came out of God's heart.

3 From unending oceans of infinite love,
flow rivers of mercy that pour from above.
Swept up by those waters, engulfed with God's peace,
in life giving fountains, that never shall cease.

4 We bathe in the rays, of His glorious grace;
that shine from the smile of His beautiful face.
Wrapped up in the splendour which beams from above;
we bask in the warmth of unquenchable love.

5 The word of His promise will calm and assure;
the grip of Divine hands will keep us secure.
For none can be parted from God and His grace,
while held in the arms of eternal embrace.

- Gordon McCracken (*with permission*)

■ PHIL COULSON (Forres)

Some aspects of my work have been limited as a result of a fall in May that left me with a double fracture of my left arm. Thankfully, as always, the Lord showed His own care in that I was given surgery very swiftly to repair the bones, and by the end of June the bones and the surgery wound had healed very well. We were blessed to be able to enjoy our annual family holiday on Scotland's west coast in July, and daily kayaking with the grandchildren proved to be good physio for the arm. On the final night of our holiday, however, a small movement to pull on a slipper resulted in a tendon snapping and my left thumb immediately adopting a strange angle. It transpired that the tendon had been chafing on the metalwork used to fix the bones, and it had eventually snapped. Again, remarkably, I was able to have restorative surgery at the end of August, in which the surgeon transferred one of the tendons

of the index finger across to the thumb. Intensive physio will be needed to train the brain to recognise the changeover but, God willing, full use of the thumb should be restored over time. Unfortunately, an aggressive infection set in which necessitated a three-day stay in hospital at the beginning of September, and which is not yet subdued. I am due to return to ARI tomorrow (6 September) with the expectation of being admitted again for further investigation and possible surgery.

A consequence of the ongoing problem with my arm is that I thought it wise to cancel my planned visit to Peterhead for the assembly's conference weekend, not least because the size and shape of the cast on my arm prevents me from wearing a shirt and jacket! Another limitation is that my already dismal keyboard skills are now woefully reduced to one-finger work while I rest my left arm on the desk. The preparation of each issue of *Believer's Magazine* consequently takes longer than usual, so, on a few counts, I am unable to twiddle my thumbs.

Prayer would be valued for work we are seeking to do in the area of Arisaig and Mallaig on the west coast. We are in contact with a number of believers there who meet occasionally in one of their homes for mutual encouragement, Bible reading and prayer. Arrangements for a series of gospel meetings had to be shelved because of the Covid restrictions but, God willing, it will soon be possible for fresh plans to be made. There is also a company of Christians on Skye who have no denominational affiliations, and they desire a deeper understanding of the Word. Using audio and video ministry, as well as by occasional personal visits, we hope to see growth in these saints and, eventually, their gathering in local assembly fellowship, if the Lord will.

Planned visits to the US and Canada this month were cancelled a few weeks ago because of travel restrictions, but I hope to be fit for meetings in October at Coventry, Bromborough and Liverpool, God willing.

■ GARETH EDWARDS (Perth)

We've now had 15 weeks of our Sunday lunchtime outreach, "Good News in the Garden". Over that time, we've had more than 40 different 'outsiders' along to hear the gospel, including quite a number of completely new contacts. The format has worked very well and there's excellent attention to the gospel each week.

Numbers at both of our soup kitchens have taken a while to pick up and are still not quite what they were pre-covid, but on average 20-30 people are still hearing the gospel through them each week at the moment. The men's football outreach will draw to a close for another year soon, and although the numbers haven't been as good as previous years, we've still had an average of about 14 lads each week listening to the gospel. Our Friday evening Youth Café has been a little more encouraging in the last couple of weeks after a fairly slow start earlier in the summer, with 20 or so kids coming to the trailer and engaging with us. Earlier in the month we organised a kids' fun day in the garden of the hall and were encouraged to see around 90 children and 50 or so adults along to it. Again, it is just a 'steppingstone' in trying to build meaningful connections with families in the area to give us a platform for the gospel.

The online work continues, and I've also had a few gospel signs put up at our local football park and some nearby car washes in the past month as another means of displaying the word of God. Thanks again for your prayers.

■ DAN GILLIES (Luthermuir)

I am presently tracting in the village of Inverbervie resulting in some opportunities to present the gospel.

God willing, I commence gospel meetings on 26th September for two weeks in Glenluce in fellowship with the assembly there. Following that on Friday 15th October, our son-in-law, Paul Thomas and I commence a gospel series for two weeks in Cheddar, Somerset using a local community hall. This will be our third series in recent years in Cheddar and have been encouraged in the past with a few unsaved attending. We are looking to God for help and blessing and trust that the rising numbers of Covid cases will not lead to further restrictions.

We continue to preach the word through video recorded messages as well as helping in a telephone ministry organised by the Trent Vale assembly in Stoke-on-Trent.

■ JACK HAY (Perth)

Mention was made in the last report of the restart of the drive-in meetings with Craig Munro in Lochore Meadows Country Park. Attendances have been good, and we had the joy of hearing one lady tell of having been saved. She had attended from day 1 of last season's meetings. It was encouraging too to hear of a young woman who was saved last year being baptized on Lord's Day.

The drive-ins were interrupted for two weeks of tent meetings in Craig's garden. We wondered if people would come "indoors" with Covid still around, but we were able to account for over 80 "outsiders" who attended over the short series. Some of these came for the first time to the restart at The Meadows yesterday. The tent series was preceded by a mail shot to 75000 homes in Fife under the Scotland Needs the Gospel banner.

In mid-June we had three nights of drive-ins right on the shoreline south of Glenluce. Again, this was preceded by a mail shot to many homes in Dumfries and Galloway and the response to that was very encouraging. It is an area where there are few believers, and it was thought that each evening unbelievers outnumbered believers. Contacts were made and Craig and believers in the district are following these up.

Zoom meetings are now greatly reduced although we had to conduct the Highland Outreach Week (Culloden assembly) online. With social distancing, the hall would not accommodate the usual numbers. Interest for ministry in the morning and gospel in the evening was encouraging and it is all posted on their website. One place where I still minister to at least twice a month is Colombo Sri Lanka where the Delta variant is still rampant, and another complete lockdown has been ordered. Around 70 young folks have participated in another written quiz that I set them based on 2 Timothy.

God willing Craig and I will be in Larne next weekend for the annual Bible Reading Conference and glad we are to be back at "live" meetings. Prayer is always greatly appreciated.

■ GORDON MCCRACKEN (Perth)

Following is an update on my current medical condition after my first surgery and treatment for stage three bowel cancer. My recovery from treatment is going well. The last two weeks

of the treatment were very rough with horrendous nausea and pain, but the Lord gave the strength to make it to the hospital each day. It is now four weeks since the end of treatment and the nausea stopped about two weeks ago, and I only get occasional pain now. Still easily tired but managing without an afternoon sleep most days. God willing, I have an MRI and CT scan on Friday 10th Sep then I have a meeting with my oncologist on the 28th to discuss the results and plan when my next surgery will be and possible further chemo. Thank you to those who have kept in touch with cards and messages of encouragement and to all who have upheld us as a family before the throne of grace during this difficult time. Psalm 100 v 5 - For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

■ CRAIG MUNRO (Glencraig)

From May till July, we had drive-in meetings on Sundays in Lochore Meadows with good interest. In late May we had the joy of receiving into fellowship a man who was baptised last year in a tank outside; he is a remarkable case of God's grace. In June, Jack Hay and I were also able to have a few drive-in meetings in a beach car park between Glenluce and Port William. The assemblies in Glenluce and Newton Stewart fully supported them and despite the rural location many unsaved attended, outnumbering the believers. A number have asked for bibles, visits and booklets and few have made their way to the Glenluce and Newton Stewart Gospel Halls. Please keep praying for Dumfries and Galloway and the assemblies there.

In August, we were able to help the Culloden assembly for their Highland Outreach Week on evangelism. On this occasion, due to covid, the sessions were all on zoom. We were also involved in gospel tent meetings with our local assembly held in our garden in August for 2 weeks in a large tent. Our dear brother Jack Hay was preaching alongside us. There has been excellent interest from locals and people reached via the mail drop from further afield – over 80 who have no background at all came to hear the gospel. Some unsaved have only been along once but a smaller number were coming regularly. We pray that the seed sown will result in fruit and we look to the Lord, praying that we may hear good news of salvation. So far, we know of no one getting saved. We leave it with Him.

We have returned to the drive-in gospel service in our local park which will continue till the end of September. Many hundreds in the park also hear the word of God during the drive-in, especially on sunny days when they come to the park for a picnic. In May, a lady was saved who has been attending the drive-in meetings. Her name is Jane and she started to attend the drive-in meetings last year after receiving a flyer and seeing a poster for the meetings just after she asked God to speak to her. She was a Mormon but has seen through the error of Mormonism and has grasped the truths concerning Christ. She felt God could not forgive her for proselytising for a false prophet, but she learned that the work of Christ at Calvary was sufficient for her. Please remember her in prayer. She is attending all the meetings.

For prayer:

- **Dick**, who was saved last year in the drive- in meeting, is very sick and will not be long in this world. Please remember his daughter **Betsy** who shows real interest.
- **Fraser, Sandra, Betty, Tony, Jean, Liam, Lynn, Craig** who are all attending the drive-in meetings regularly and were coming to the tent meetings, often with family and friends.
- Over 110000 tracts have gone out in Dumfriesshire and in Fife in June and August. Please pray for the seed sown.

We were also able to be at the Larne Bible Readings and were encouraged at the first major conference for some time. We are currently in a short series of gospel meetings in Newtownards and would appreciate the prayers of God's people for blessing.

GRAEME PATERSON (Plains)

Firstly, we had a month of Saturday and Sundays at Lanark Market; these were a good introduction, and we had a few who were unknown to us. One lady has been keeping in contact with me since.

We then had a week at Hamilton College car park. I visit the school regularly and they have been very accommodating in granting access to their grounds. These meetings were great with good support and many strangers. Some evenings we had over 40 vehicles in attendance.

Thereafter, we moved to Greenside Garden Center, just off the M8 motorway outside Chapelhall. This was a wonderful location, and we had a tremendous interest. Over the week we had in excess of 60 unbelievers present! The Lord gave help in the peaching and we look to him to bless.

Blair Martin and I also held further drive-in meetings at Polkemmet Country Park just outside Whitburn. The council granted access each Sunday in August for these meetings. The first week it was pouring with rain. However, we had over 30 cars present, and one couple actually walked in the rain to the meeting! Each week we had over 30 vehicles and again some local unbelievers attended. We look to the Lord to bless and we plan to return in September and October DV.

Locally the work keeps going on. We have a local couple who are saved and baptized and are very interested in fellowship. This is a big change as they have been Church of Scotland for many years. We restarted our gospel meetings in June, and I advertised 20 spaces for locals to book. Amazingly 14 spaces were booked on the first day. For a few their first exposure to the gospel was online during the lockdown; God's word knows no bounds! During the month we had 18-20 unbelievers present. Thankfully we can now invite everyone with social distancing being removed.

'Mothers and toddlers' recommenced in the local park June/July and returned in the hall this week. Our Sunday night bible class will also return in September and bible study weekends are planned. We are also running an outreach day to try and give some teaching on evangelism then head out for some practical gospel work, ending the day with a drive-in meeting. God willing, we will also have a camp weekend at Faskally House early October. Many teenagers have signed up for this already.

We were able to get back into some local schools for classroom talks this month and have also been able to host some of these talks in our hall in Plains. It's a sign of the times when the children get excited walking to the Gospel Hall for a school trip! However, this allows us to speak live to the children. We have been able to book in over 30 schools for September and as restrictions in schools ease, we are hopeful of more dates.

■ GRAEME SMITH (Inverurie)

We are excited that once again this year the Lord opened the way for 261 Primary 7 pupils in our local area to receive a copy of the Bible in an easy-to-read format. For 10 years now He has been faithful both in providing the Bibles and in opening doors. We rejoice that the Lord answered our prayers when a school who had not recently accepted the Bibles requested around 64 copies this year! Please pray with us that the Lord will speak clearly through His eternal word.

Last term I shared some parables of Jesus with the staff and pupils in some local schools. This has been such a blessing to me as the schools have slowly started to allow visitors back to the playground, but not inside the school buildings. Please pray that the wonderful words of the Lord Jesus Himself will spring up to eternal life.

The new Christians who were studying the book of Daniel with me have been greatly encouraged by their studies and are now ready to study some "fundamentals of the faith". Please pray that our hearts will be warmed to the Saviour as we study these amazing truths. I recently met with a new Christian for a weekly one to one bible study. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will enable me to present the word of God clearly and that he will become more like Christ and strengthened in his faith as we progress through John's Gospel.

I recently met up with a young man from a Christian home who is not yet saved. He still has many questions about God and the validity of the Bible. Please pray that the word of God will speak for itself and that I will clearly point him to the Lord Jesus as Saviour. Please pray that each week he will come to understand and accept the truth of who Jesus really is and how to trust Him for Salvation.

■ ANDREW WILLIAMSON (Inverness)

It has been encouraging to be out on the street with the coffee and tract stall on an almost weekly basis. This basic level of hospitality encourages some to stop, and Michael Wilkie and I have had a lot of excellent conversations.

During the Highland Outreach Week, we had brothers Craig Munro and Jack Hay for helpful ministry, and we were able to get out on the street with the stand for five days in a row.

Online work continues as I'm creating a 'Journey through John' bible studies for those who receive our Good News Highland distribution of John's gospels. Each study is just about 5 minutes long, and I take the next small section of the Gospel. I'm just editing study 16-20 for upload this week. The editing work takes time, however, we do it trusting that if the resource is available it will be used in God's will and time. This is put up on YouTube and Facebook.

We have been interacting with a number of very broken people, some broken in body, but a lot with broken minds often as a result of personal sin or the sins of others. It is a privilege to point people to the Lord. Please remember Molly; she suffers very badly with her mental health. After contacting us, she started to come to the 4pm Gospel Meeting and takes the place of being a believer in Christ. Please pray that she will be assured and helped in her mind at this time. Also remember Neena, she is an ex-soldier we met a week or so ago. She was staying away from London, as her ex-partner has threatened to kill her. She took literature

and seemed soft towards the gospel. Remember Roman, the brother to the local Imam, who came to discuss theology with us. He stayed right until the end of the day speaking to us.

I'm hoping to have a gospel bible study with some interested people beginning later in September, please pray for this work.

Lindsey is hoping to shortly recommence the toddler work from the hall, after a few delays. Please continue to pray for Isaac, Hannah and Hope as they grow up and are challenged by the gospel.



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