



FEATURED THIS MONTH:

Joe Baxter / Gareth Edwards / Dan Gillies / Jack Hay / Gordon McCracken / Craig Munro / Graeme Paterson / Alan Smith / Graeme Smith / Andrew Williamson

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

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

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***"I say unto you, though he will not rise and give him, because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth."* Luke 11:8**

What a picture the Lord Jesus gives us in relation to prayer. The word 'importunity' has the idea of being shameless and persistent in the things that we ask for. In other words, we should be fervent in the prayers that we offer. James reminds us that, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Does 'fervent' describe your prayers? As we look to the end of another year, may we endeavour to persist in passionate prayer about issues and people that we care about and in doing so, to keep on asking, seeking, and knocking shamelessly until the door is opened unto us.

■ JOE BAXTER (Livingston)

I'm feeling better these last five days with new pills from the cardiac doctor, but tomorrow I'm at the haematology clinic to see if I'm needing blood again. Isabel had a scan on her hip yesterday so awaiting results; she is in dreadful pain with it.

■ GARETH EDWARDS (Perth)

The 'Good News in the Garden' outreach we ran over the summer months is now continuing inside, with a crowd of ten to sixteen 'outsiders' attending each week. Many of them have settled down to attend regularly and some who are not saved are showing a good interest.

Our soup kitchen work continues on Mondays and Wednesdays, but our football group and youth café outreaches have now finished up for the winter months. We have just started a short bible study course in the Hall for three Tuesday evenings, entitled "Christmas Unwrapped" – on the first evening we had fourteen along, including some who had never been to the Hall before. I've also recently been holding a weekly bible study with one of the men who professed salvation and was baptised a few years ago having been contacted through the soup kitchen work.

The autumn distribution of our community magazine, 'The Signpost', bore some fruit with a local lady getting in touch and subsequently starting to attend the soup kitchen and taking her kids to our October holiday club. I also reconnected with another man I had visited years ago, and he has since been to the Hall on a few Sundays.

In the lead up to Christmas we'll be distributing calendars and magazines to 3,000 local homes, plus a further 1,500 homes in the nearby village of Bridge of Earn. I've been recording a series of interview style videos to publish online in the lead up to Christmas, and anticipate holding an outdoor carol service in Perth (and possibly Bridge of Earn too). Your prayers are greatly valued for these efforts! Last Sunday lunchtime we started a new outreach called "Good News in the Garden". Tables and chairs were set out in the garden area of the Hall, tea and coffee was served, and a couple of short messages were shared. We had a good turnout, and hope to continue this on a weekly basis.

Next week we hope to relaunch our “Youth Café” in the local park using my trailer. This brought us into contact with lots of local kids a couple of years ago, and so we are hoping it will do the same again and give us opportunity to share a short gospel message with them each week.

I am still producing a monthly DVD for one of the care homes we visit, and we are continuing with a weekly gospel video on Facebook and YouTube as these seem to have been well received.

Thanks, as always, for your interest and prayers.

■ DAN GILLIES (Luthermuir)

During September/October I had two weeks of gospel meetings with the assembly at Glenluce, Dumfries and Galloway. We were greatly encouraged to have unsaved in each evening as well as believers from neighbouring assemblies who came to support. It was encouraging too to have believers who are not in assembly fellowship attending regularly. Around eight of them continue to attend the weekly gospel meeting. I was well received in the door- to-door visitation and opportunities were given to present the gospel. One or two of these contacts came to the meetings. One lady who has lived next door to the gospel hall for years came in two or three nights; the first time, apart from a funeral, she had been in the hall. The assembly are keen for a further series in the gospel next spring (D.V.).

The rest of October our son-in-law Paul Thomas and I had gospel meetings in the village of Cheddar, using the local community hall. Some saints travelled a distance, some nightly to support the meetings. We were encouraged to see unsaved present each night. Reception on the doors wasn't so good, especially the first week, however many tracts and booklets were passed on. One lady requested a bible study with Rebecca and Paul, which they now have each week. They also take her each Lord's Day to the gospel meeting in Bristol. Do pray for Kelly's salvation.

At the end of December, God willing, I will be in Manchester for their New Year Conference followed by a few night's ministry with the Prestwich Road assembly.

■ JACK HAY (Perth)

Since last writing, Craig Munro and I helped in the few days of the Larne conference at the end of August along with D. Gilliland and S Gillfillan. They had it well organised with a view to keeping everyone safe and the attendances were excellent, with good participation in the Bible Readings. Everyone was so pleased to be back to that type of large gathering again. We also helped with a Zoom Bible Reading weekend for Applewood Heights in the greater Toronto area. In reality it was more of a panel discussion with the involvement of two Canadian preachers and ourselves, but we covered the Colossian epistle and it seemed to be appreciated.

The drive-in meetings at Lochore Meadows concluded at the end of September and even yet we are hearing of people who attended, in the sense of coming to the park and sitting within earshot. The lady who professed earlier in the season has now been received by the Glencraig assembly. We bless God for every encouragement He gives.

I was responsible for the Yorkshire Bible Study week at the end of October, and again, saints were just so pleased to be able to gather. Because of COVID, numbers were capped at fifty, but the Bible Readings were lively with as many as eighteen brethren taking part some mornings.

Last Monday, a weekly gospel meeting commenced in the Gospel Hall in Kirkcaldy and a handful of outsiders were present. God willing this will continue till Christmas although I will

miss a couple of Mondays with previous commitments at Wick and Manchester, God willing. A mailshot of the Kirkcaldy area preceded the meetings.

God willing we hope to have a Christmas Eve Gospel Meeting in Comrie and hope that no re-introduction of restrictions will hinder this. We normally get round the village with invitations for it, so prayer is valued for all this. Many thanks to those who support us at the Throne. A secular magazine that covers the whole Crieff/Comrie area is carrying a gospel message from me in the December issue.

■ **GORDON MCCRACKEN** (Perth)

Since my last update I have had surgery to remove the cancerous tumour and most of my left colon. The surgery went as well as could have been expected. Recovery has been slow but there has been progress over the past few weeks. The pathology results have been positive, but I am due to have more scans/test and meetings with the medics to determine the next steps in my treatment. We as a family are extremely grateful to all our brothers and sisters in Christ who have brought us before the throne of grace, especially during this ongoing trial.

■ **CRAIG MUNRO** (Glencraig)

We had two weeks of gospel meetings in Newtownards in September and enjoyed our time preaching in a former hotel, organised by the James Street assembly. It was lovely to speak at two baptisms and see the reception of two young people. We pray that they will grow and mature under the influence of the assembly and rise to be pillars in God's assembly. It was also an encouragement to see so many sinners and people from the denominations attending.

After returning home, God called to heaven two of our brethren. One (Drew), a former neighbour of ours, was saved about five years ago from a very difficult background and was in assembly fellowship. The other (Dick) was saved a year ago in the drive-in meetings at Lochore Meadows. He had not been in a gospel meeting for forty years but has blazed like a torch ever since his salvation. In both cases they were the only one in their family circle who was saved. Their funerals were large, and we preached to many unsaved in these two funerals. Please pray that the wider families may come to Christ. In visiting both families all they could speak about was the change in their fathers' lives since they were saved. Some are now attending the regular gospel meeting. Praise be to God.

The drive-in gospel meetings with our brother Jack Hay continued in our local country park until the end of September. These meetings had been running since last summer (when permitted) and were well attended with many unsaved present. Many hundreds in the park heard the word of God during the drive-in, especially on sunny days when they came for a picnic. A large camper van park was just behind a few trees where we preached, and local neighbours told us they could hear it in their gardens in the village. A lady who was saved in May after attending the drive-in meetings was baptised in late October along with another young man. The hall was packed with sinners. It was a lovely night, and we look to the Lord for the results following. Both have now come into fellowship. An older teenage girl was received into fellowship in Hospital Hill assembly, Dunfermline recently who professed at the drive-in last year. The pastoral work with new converts and a few others who have been on the road a little longer continues and we would appreciate prayer for this vital work.

Conferences and Saturday night meetings have started to recommence these past months, and we were enabled to speak at conferences in Larne, Bicester, Perth, and Saturday night meetings at Glenraig and in Kirkwall in Orkney. It is a joy to see God's people gathering together again around the Word. The Gorgie Bible teaching weekend in early November also buoyed our spirits with the large number of saints, particularly young people, who gathered for the four sessions on assembly truth. One young man asked for baptism afterwards. We have also been able to help some of the assemblies around us in Fife. We also continue to preach in India and Sri Lanka each month by zoom as they are still in a lock down situation.

The Present Truth is expanding into a number of language areas and the new web site www.truthdefended.com is proving to be a very useful asset to the work. It is still being developed and we are currently building an FAQ section.

The work of Scotland Needs the Gospel continues. Over 110,000 tracts have gone out in Dumfriesshire and in Fife in June and August. A further 34,000 tracts were posted in Kirkcaldy in November as Jack and I started some gospel meetings in the town. Please pray for the seed sown and the meetings in Hebron Hall, Kirkcaldy on Monday nights. We have started door to door work again as well and would appreciate prayer.

■ GRAEME PATERSON (Plains)

In October we held our first camp event since summer 2019! Seventy teenagers came along for the night to Faskally house, and we had three bible teaching sessions with them. Their enthusiasm was great, and it was simply wonderful to see everyone together once again.

Thereafter I visited Newton Stewart for a week of meetings in a portable hall with Craig Mackie. These were in the garden of some local saints. Over twenty children attended the holiday club, and we had a good interest each evening in the gospel. Some young men in their thirties attended. They are married to believers but have not made professions. God willing, we will return with access into the schools, and we plan further meetings.

I also returned to Wick for the first time in two years. While the schools here don't allow visitors, yet we had over thirty children to the meetings, and we also held teenager meetings each night. There was a great interest, and the youngsters were delighted to get back to some sort of normality.

We have just had a very encouraging few days with our bible study weekend. There was a great number of young believers present and their interest was evident. We look to the Lord to bless the teaching given. We ended the weekend with Samuel's baptism. Along with the regular unbelievers who attend our weekly meetings we had about twenty-five villagers along with schoolteachers present. In the past year our assembly have had the privilege of receiving three teenagers and two adults into fellowship along with two baptisms. We rejoice that the Lord still moves during a Pandemic!

The work continues to build this month.

God willing, we have a heavy few weeks of school visits with over twenty-eight classes and ten assemblies in the next four weeks before all the Christmas outreach events commence!

We're planning a Christmas food bag distribution, Carol singing and tracts at Glasgow Fort, School Christmas service in our hall where we have a promise from the Head of Education and

some local councilors to attend, Bible Club/Village Christmas service, Airdrie town Centre Christmas outreach with trailer and finally Christmas Eve service!

One exciting outreach will be at Greenside Garden Centre. We have had a few drive- in meetings here and had many attending. The owner has just agreed to allow us use of the restaurant on 18th Dec for a Christmas outreach meeting. We have invited school choirs to come along and will be serving refreshments along with two gospel messages.

It is quite remarkable to think of thousands of children and adults who will hear of our wonderful Saviour this Christmas and our prayer is they will accept Him.

Once again, we appreciate your support and prayers and trust you will be blessed in your generosity as you seek to labour for the Lord.

1 Tim 4:10, ***For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.***

■ ALAN SMITH (Kirkmuirhill)

Throughout the summer months I was able to continue with tract distribution, often with valued help from brother John McCulloch. I worked mainly in Coltness, Gowkthrapple and Broomhouse and the Lord gave many opportunities to present the Saviour to people who had little or no knowledge of the gospel. It has been encouraging that, from the tract distribution, there has been a few hundred visits to my blog, 'obey the gospel' where there are both videoed and written gospel messages.

At the end of July, the assembly in Carnlough had the usual week of open- air meetings at the harbour, and I gave help in the preaching of the gospel. The weather was most favourable, and many people were gathered around the harbour and the surrounding area nightly. How good to remember that 'the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth'. Eternity alone will reveal the fruit of all evangelical witness, there being an accurate count on the shore, John 21:11.

Since early September until the time of writing (25 November), I have been in western Canada. These months have been busy with ministry in more than ten different assemblies, and I shared in the conference meetings in Edmonton and Saskatoon. These conference meetings were held in compliance with the current restrictions and, therefore, were much smaller than usual. There is a genuine interest in the ministry of the word and the Lord has given me the needed help over these months. As with the gospel, we remember that through the word, by the Spirit, God is still at work in His people.

Please continue to give me a place in your prayers, for without divine guidance and power, nothing of any value can be accomplished.

■ GRAEME SMITH (Inverurie)

We rejoice that there have been opportunities for the good seed to be sown in our local area. We have been enjoying our small group bible studies with many heart- warming truths being appreciated for the first time by the participants.

The one-to-one bible study in John's Gospel is proving fruitful and it is so encouraging to see spiritual progress being made. We are rejoicing that the participant has requested baptism and would appreciate your prayers for him as he gives his testimony to God's saving grace.

I have had some long discussions about the Bible and its authenticity with a young man who attended our local children's meetings and secondary school SU group. Please pray that he will come to know his sinful condition and trust the Lord for salvation.

I recently had the privilege of distributing gospel leaflets to young people in the street from the local secondary school. Some of them recognised me from primary school and remembered some of the Bible Alive stories! It was wonderful to be able to communicate the glorious gospel in the subsequent conversations.

There was a great opportunity to engage in conversations with passers-by as we offered hand warmers and hot chocolate at a local winter event held near to Inverurie Gospel Hall. The local saints also distributed invitations to the forthcoming Nativity Service at which I will present the gospel (D.V.). This has been well attended by unbelievers in the past and we look to the Lord to send lost souls to hear the gospel.

We rejoice that our local Bible Explorers children's meeting has recommenced, and the schools are opening again which will allow me to present the word of God once again. We will shortly begin gospel calendar distribution in our local area. Please pray that the word of God will lead souls to the Lord.

■ **ANDREW WILLIAMSON** (Inverness)

We are hoping to have the locally designed Bible Calendars ready again for this year. A number of the believers are involved in this production. We decided to focus on friends and contacts mainly last year. We found that there was encouragement through conversations and eventual fruit. One sister's initial calendar and conversation led to a bible study with a colleague, and ultimately an assurance of salvation.

We have just finished running a Wednesday evening informal Christianity Explored course. It was encouraging to see a few people who had never been in before. One girl (L) approached me to say that she was interested in Christianity, but she didn't know if she could come because she identified as LGBT. I was glad to re-assure her that she was welcome to come and listen to the gospel. She has shown a hunger to know the truth. We hope this leads to her salvation. On one occasion she brought her partner with her, and it was a privilege to be involved as different believers poured the gospel into their ears.

We decided, along with the couple of Carol Services at Christmas, to have a short course on the coming of Christ - Unpacking Christmas. Please pray for God's blessing on this little course. It is just three Wednesday nights in December. We trust that the clear gospel in the workbook and discussions, and the short gospel presentation in the middle will result in blessing.

Our town coffee tract stand work was hit by the weather recently, however, the Lord over-ruled very obviously on one occasion. As we went into a coffee shop to see if the rain would clear. Zac dropped into the shop also. This led to a great opportunity over tea and coffee in a coffee shop to set out the gospel with Zac, who joined us for about forty-five minutes. (Zac takes the place of being transgender).

In other things we continue with our Home Bible Study, we are moving through Daniel, and teaching commitments in Culloden and elsewhere.

Please continue to pray for Lindsey, who is seeing a number of new mums to the toddler group, and who continues to be focused on the upbringing of the children. Please pray for the little ones as well.



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