



FEATURED THIS MONTH: Gareth Edwards / Dan Gillies / Jack Hay /
Craig Munro / Graeme Smith / Graeme Paterson

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

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

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■ GARETH EDWARDS (Perth)

In July I spoke at the Tayside Senior Camp at Faskally. It was encouraging to hear of some young folk subsequently being baptised. In August Graeme Paterson and I were joined by a large team of young folk to engage in various forms of evangelism in St Andrews. In mid-October I was at Faskally again to speak at the Young People's Weekend on the subject of Jonah.

Back home in Perth we continue to reach people with our regular online content, weekly soup kitchens, monthly community lunches, and quarterly community magazine distribution. We had another very well attended family fun day in August, and followed this up in October by taking a busload of local families to Faskally House for the day.

Recently I was invited into Perth Prison to be interviewed on their radio station. As a result, I am now recording some short "thought for the day" messages to be played on a regular basis. God willing, I hope to have some gospel outreach in a community hall in the village of Scone for 6 Sunday evenings in the lead up to Christmas. It's my intention to also hold a Christmas service in the community hall in Bridge of Earn, which has always drawn good numbers in the past, but hasn't been possible for the last couple of years due to Covid. I also intend to run an outdoor Christmas event in the car park of the gospel hall here in Perth, as it was very well attended last year.

■ DAN GILLIES (Luthermuir)

At the end of July and into August my son-in-law Paul Thomas and I had ten consecutive nights of gospel meetings in the village of Shipham, Somerset, using the local community hall. Although the nearest assembly was a number of miles away, around 30 to 40 gathered each evening, some believers traveling quite a distance. We were a little disappointed that only one unsaved person from Shipham attended but encouraged that each night unbelievers came or were brought from other places. Kelly from Axbridge, mentioned in the last issue of "Homematters", came almost every night. She still remains unsaved despite expressing the desire a few times over the past months to be saved. She continues to attend the gospel meeting in Bristol.

In mid-September I had an extended weekend of ministry meetings with the assembly in Warrington. A number of unbelievers were present at the gospel meeting, many of them related to a sister in the assembly.

During the last week of September and the first week in October I had gospel meetings in a portable hall in the village of Port William (Dumfries and Galloway). This was following on from our two brethren Jack and Craig in which they had seen good interest. Thankfully the interest continued with unbelievers attending, some regularly. What was also encouraging was the number of believers not in assembly fellowship who came, some nightly, and many

traveling a distance. Three of them have expressed a desire to attend the assembly gatherings at Glenluce.

Towards the end of November and into December we are returning to Shetland for two weeks visitation covering the west of the island with calendars and tracts, in fellowship with the Selivoe assembly. Gwen will be able to come with me. We usually visit mornings and afternoons and then most evenings have a meeting in one of the other assemblies.

Prayer is ever valued and needed.

■ JACK HAY (Perth)

In August, Craig Munro and I shared a gospel series in the tent in Cowdenbeath. Attendances were excellent with Fife believers supporting well, but more importantly, we had the presence of needy sinners. One woman never missed a night but sadly, the series ended with her still unsaved. Drive-ins at near-by Lochore Meadows continued till the end of August and I was able to help again this year. Still in Fife, the monthly follow-up meeting in Kirkcaldy always sees a few sinners listening to the gospel.

In August, the Perth assembly had a presence both at the Perth Show and the Tulloch Gala Day, and there were some interesting conversations.

At the end of August, David Gilliland and I shared a three-day conference at Pamber Heath. It was particularly encouraging to see excellent numbers of young believers gathered for the teaching.

In September Craig and I made a return visit to Port William in SW Scotland, using a portable hall. The previous year we had had three nights of drive-ins in the district, and a good number of contacts were made. Some of these attended the portable hall this time with others also. We only had two weeks of meetings, but our brother Dan Gillies went down and continued the series for another two weeks, so over the period, good numbers heard the gospel.

I have just returned from another visit to Sri Lanka accompanied by Eric Baijal jr. Despite the desperate economic and political situation, the believers seemed in good heart. The two weekends were spent in Colombo. A highlight of the first weekend was the presence of 175 unsaved people at the gospel meeting, most of them from an area where there is a thriving children's work on a Saturday morning (numbers have tripled since pre-covid days). On the second weekend we had a mini conference with around 240 attendees. During the week we visited the hill country with its tea and rubber plantations. In one plantation after risking life and limb to get to our destination we preached to five people! Meetings on the east coast were much more encouraging with 550 at an all-day conference. Pray for Sri Lanka.

We ask prayer for our daughter Elaine who is presently undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

■ CRAIG MUNRO (Glencraig)

In late July and into August, we had gospel meetings in a tent in Cowdenbeath with brother Jack Hay. The tent was filled each night with many unsaved with no background attending, and some came every night. A few simply came from receiving a gospel tract. One lady was very anxious and was desirous to be saved. We pray that we might hear of her salvation soon. One man did make a profession who had been attending the meetings. Bob, who had lost his wife, got saved just before her funeral (which I took). He had been attending meetings in the tent and the drive-in meetings as well. Early indications are very positive. Please keep him in prayer.

At the end of August, I shared with Alasdair Baijal in a week of meetings in Kirkcaldy dealing with very basic questions about, for example, assurance of salvation, and baptism, the Lord's coming, assembly truth etc. We had in mind a number of new believers, and people from denominations who are attending the monthly gospel meeting in Kirkcaldy. Large numbers responded from the town, and we certainly felt the Lord was speaking. We leave the results with him.

In September I had a week of ministry meetings in Banbridge on assembly principles where there was a very healthy interest in the Word. It was a most encouraging week. Jack Hay and I also had meetings for a fortnight in Port William (a very rural part of Galloway). We were very encouraged with the interest in the Word of God. Some people came simply from the tract and many unsaved were attending each night, some hardly missed a night. It has been remarkable to see so many coming in to hear the gospel and seeing sustained interest by contacts made at the drive-in last year. On the last Thursday (probably our biggest night) I counted 24 of the congregation in the little portable hall who were either not saved or not in fellowship. What potential for God. We pray for fruit. Our brother Dan Gillies continued the meetings for another fortnight with good interest which was most encouraging. Please pray for this part of Scotland as there are a number who are 'not far' from the kingdom and a number of believers that are 'unlearned'.

I also participated in the conference and had a week of ministry in Northampton (Spencer Bridge Road), followed by a report meeting at Bicester. The saints were very kind and the support from neighbouring assemblies was encouraging. We trust the word preached will have helped encourage the saints and support the testimony as we wait for the Lord to return.

I am currently in Northern Ireland, and I have preached at conferences in Lungs, Ballymcgarrick and a Saturday night meeting in Growell and a bible study weekend at Longford so far. I am also preaching in a large warehouse on the Armagh Road just outside Portadown at 'Chapmans' with our brother David Gilliland. These meetings are organised by the Clonroot assembly with the full support of Portadown. Large numbers of sinners are coming to hear the gospel. Many who are attending have no connection to the assembly at all. Just under 30 of the chapman staff have been in the meetings. We appreciate your prayers for fruit..

■ GRAEME SMITH (Inverurie)

We are so grateful that the Lord is opening up the local schools again for in-person visits. At present 11 schools have allowed me to recommence the infant/nursery class visits and some assemblies with the whole school present! Currently I am able to regularly visit around 1000 primary age pupils with the message of the Bible.

Since the start of term, I have been able to regularly visit Dyce Academy each week at lunch time to lead the secondary SU group. We have junior and senior clubs due to the staggering of lunches with Covid guidelines. The two groups (Tuesday & Friday) are very different with the junior ones (age 12-14 and mostly unsaved) becoming more aware of spiritual things and the importance of the Bible. We have had some really interesting spiritual questions and discussions so far!

The senior SU group (age 15-18) has 2 pupils with my daughter Jessica (15) and one other lad who has a fixation on religions of the world. He is eager to know more about Christianity and was asking questions about the exile of Judah to Babylon! He has researched this information himself from the internet. We are praying that he may understand that Christianity is different from all other religions and that Christ has already completed the saving work on Calvary and there is now nothing left to "do" but trust Him!

I have also had the opportunity to take some assembly ministry meetings over the past few months. It has been amazing to see God working again in the schools. I am praying that He will continue to lead me as there may be an opportunity on a Wednesday lunch time to start another secondary SU group in Inverurie Academy. I would appreciate your prayers for the Newmachar Bible Explorers club for primary age pupils, due to recommence after the October holidays; also, for one school that I have not heard back from after Covid.

■ GRAEME PATERSON (Plains)

For the last fortnight I have had an intense two weeks of both assemblies and class lessons in local schools. Please pray for this work as it is really a core gospel outreach and a wonderful way of getting the message of the gospel to many young people. Over 1000 young people have heard the gospel this week! Praise God for allowing such an outreach.

Class lessons are very popular. Just last week one school contacted me to arrange visits to four classes. Six sessions of one hour on each of the subjects of: Creation and Early Bible Life, Old Testament Characters, Miracles and Parables! We need to pray that the Lord will keep this door open.

Prior to this I was in Northern Ireland for ten days. Firstly, in Growell for bible teaching on Saturday then a week of children's meetings and school visits in Ahoghill. The meetings in Ahoghill went very well with over 70 children each night, then on Friday we had 80 children and 40 adults. It was wonderful to see so many attending.

This week I have been working with the assembly in Gorgie. We were able to hold a holiday bible club in a local community center very close to the gospel hall. Considering they have not had a children's work prior to this, the week went very well with over 30 children each day. The children were all of mixed race and some were hearing the gospel for the first time. Please pray for them and their parents, many of whom stayed for the whole meeting. The young saints will now be commencing a weekly children's work.

I would appreciate your prayers as I commence a fortnight of gospel meetings with Alasdair Baijal in Plains. We will be visiting local homes in the afternoon, and each morning I will have local school visits. In the past some teachers have attended and we are praying they will return.

Thereafter, I head to Wick and Orkney for school visits, children's and gospel meetings before the Christmas outreach begins, God willing.

Please pray for the work and especially those who have or will hear the message of the gospel.



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