



FEATURED THIS MONTH: A Baijal / J Baxter / P Coulson / G Edwards / D Gillies / J Hay / C Munro / G Paterson / G Smith / A Williamson

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

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

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■ ALASDAIR BAIJAL (Glencraig)

So far in 2023 I have visited various assemblies for ministry including Rathmines, Growell, Bicester, Prestwich, Holburn, Newry, Tayport, Mayfield, and Dunmullan.

In February I visited assemblies in South Africa. There is much to discourage the saints, between social problems, political unrest, and problems with basic infrastructure. Pray that the Lord will give the saints the encouragement they need to continue with zeal in the work of the Lord.

In March I was at Gorgie for a series of gospel meetings, sharing with local brethren. There was very good interest with the saints working hard at bringing unbelievers. Some people had never attended a gospel meeting before, in particular two muslim individuals.

In May I covered the dates Jack Hay wasn't available during a series of gospel meetings he was having with Craig Munro at New Stevenston. I also made an unplanned visit to South Africa following the sudden death of a friend and brother, Deanian, only 35 years old. He leaves a young wife, Nicole, and a 1year old boy. I was asked to speak at the funeral which was attended by over 400 people, many of them unbelievers, including Deanian's unsaved twin brother Damian.

In June, Craig Munro and I were with the assembly at Wick for a series of gospel meetings in a tent. In total over 120 outsiders attended across the series. Many of these people were unbelievers. The assembly is encouraged but we are still hoping for news of souls being saved. A number of others who came are continuing to attend the regular gospel meeting.



In Glencraig we have been blessed with various baptisms, including our oldest son, Alexander. Some have also been received into fellowship. We have been continuing with our weekly drive-in gospel meeting at Lochore Meadows Country Park throughout the summer with good interest from the community. Craig Munro, Jack Hay and myself are currently engaged in a series in a tent locally. We have been received into many homes during visitation and have been pleased to see unbelievers attending. We look expectantly to the Lord for blessing.

Looking forward, God willing, in September Craig Munro and I plan to go to Port William, Wigtownshire for a series of gospel meetings in a Portable Hall. God willing, I will visit South Africa on my return. "Brethren pray for us" (2 Thess 3:1).



■ JOE AND ISABEL BAXTER (Livingston)

Please remember Joe and Isabel in prayer. Joe continues to receive blood transfusions and platelets each week, while Isabel is waiting for a gallbladder operation.

■ PHIL COULSON (Forres)

Opportunity to travel as widely or frequently as I did prior to the pandemic has been limited by the Homecall of two of our active brethren and a sister during that time. The assembly has since been further depleted by another of our sisters being called Home, and another moving away to a different area. The Forres assembly now has 13 saints in fellowship plus two sisters who are in full-time residential care, but only three regularly active brethren, one of whom is 97 years old.

Notwithstanding the current situation, I was able to fulfil a commitment, 'rolled over' a couple of times during the Covid period, to attend the conferences in the Canadian prairies in June, and I am expected at the Hampton, Iowa, assembly conference at the beginning of September, God willing. Meetings in Coventry and Bracknell have been arranged for October and November respectively, and I am expected at the Yorkshire Bible Readings at the end of October, DV.

My involvement with the *Believer's Magazine* continues but, God willing, arrangements are being made for me to hand over responsibility to a new Editor in time for the start of 2024. The need to stay more at home, combined with the expected release of a considerable amount of time each month by handing over the BM, should allow me to ramp up the provision of recorded ministry to help the Lord's people in the Asian countries in particular. The provision of weekly Bible classes, supported by podcasts and e-books, is the eventual aim, God willing. Although the work will feel very different from personally visiting the countries where the Lord has allowed me to serve over many years, the recorded ministry will reach a wider audience and, hopefully, include more countries, than is possible by personal travel.

In the goodness of the Lord, Rachel and I will soon celebrate 50 years of married life and, in all that time, I have never been at home as much as I am now. Please remember, therefore, to give her a special place in your prayers!

■ GARETH EDWARDS (Perth)

Over the summer months I've been involved in organising gospel outreach in St Andrews and Dundee alongside Graeme Paterson. In St Andrews we were particularly encouraged by the interest and enthusiasm of the young people on the team this year. As well as the town itself, a number of surrounding villages were covered with literature and non-believers



attended our lunchtime talks, tours and kid's club over the course of the week. In Dundee, in conjunction with the assembly in Lochee, we distributed literature to around 3,000 local homes and assisted in a couple of evangelistic events over the weekend. It was good to see one man coming into the Hall for the first time and to hear of a few requesting Bibles.

Back at home there has been an increase in numbers attending our two weekly soup kitchens and these, along with our weekly football outreach, continue to provide good opportunities for the gospel. Our monthly community lunch was well attended again in August, as was a recent Family Fun Day for local children and parents. Our weekly Sunday evening outreach in Scone continues to encourage with a crowd of 15-20 locals coming along with an interest each week. Your prayers are appreciated for all these activities, and others that I'm involved in.

■ **DAN GILLIES** (Luthermuir)

During the last two weeks of June, Aaron Colgan and I had tent meetings with the Kirkconnel assembly. Saints supported well and most nights unsaved were present. Door to door visitation again provided opportunities to speak to some on spiritual matters.

Most of July and August I have been tracting over on the coast and speaking to people as opportunity arose. The past few Tuesday evenings I have been giving some ministry from the book of Revelation in the local assembly. Tomorrow, (24th August), I am due to join the assembly at Craigie Hill, Larne for their annual conference and bible readings.

On Monday 11th September our son-in-law, Paul Thomas, and I commence two weeks of gospel meetings in the town hall in Axbridge, Somerset, where Paul and Rebecca live. We are doing a leaflet drop of the area in and around Axbridge using the Post Office, so a few thousand homes will receive the tract/invitation. Prayer is valued that we might see the hand of God working in salvation again in this village.

During October I have two series of ministry meetings, one in Prestwich Road assembly, Manchester, and the other with the Fletcher Road assembly, Stoke-on-Trent. Also, I will be in Kirkmuirhill for a Saturday night meeting with the assembly there.

The last week in November and first in December we return to Shetland to visit the west of the island with calendars and tracts in fellowship with the Selivoe assembly. We shall be visiting the other assemblies for ministry.

All these arrangements are all subject to the will of God and we value very much the prayers of the saints.

■ **JACK HAY** (Perth)

In March, Craig Munro and I had some gospel meetings in Linwood with reasonably good numbers of local people attending. The same was true of a series in New Stevenston in May. Because of a longstanding commitment to be in Uxbridge, I missed some of the evenings at New Stevenston and Alasdair Baijal very kindly stood in as Craig's preaching partner. The three of us have just commenced in the tent in Craig's back garden. At the point of writing there are only three nights in, and at this stage we haven't seen as many as would normally attend the tent meetings. A scaled-down drive-in meeting at Lochore Meadows continues on the Lord's Days during the tent series.

I have had involvement in some annual events, most of which proved encouraging with good attendances and interest, Vancouver Easter Conference, Ayrshire Bible Readings (with Craig), Lurgan Bible Readings, and Bushmills Bible Readings. An encouragement at Vancouver was the fact that a Chinese lady professed at the conference gospel meeting.

Between these other events it has been a privilege to minister in Johnstown, Clonroot, Uxbridge and Luthermuir (Bible Study Weekend).

God willing, I will have an involvement in the Larne Bible Readings and then in the early part of September will visit Sri Lanka accompanied by Paul McCauley. This will be Paul's first visit and I'll be clocking up visit 28. Prayer is valued for this and every other activity.

■ CRAIG MUNRO (Glencraig)

Locally, there has been much to thank God for these past couple of months. I took a funeral at the end of May of a neighbour. She did not come to the meetings much at all and the Lord knows where she stands. The family (all unsaved) asked me to preach on Psalm 23! We would appreciate your prayers for the Word spoken. A young man from Kirkcaldy aged 19, long prayed for and who has attended many of our meetings, phoned me to tell me that he had got saved in his own home. He was baptised in Glencraig in early May and is now in fellowship. Another lady from Lochgelly was received into fellowship in Glencraig in mid-May. She was actually saved in 1973 in Hospital Hill through the preaching of George Reid but married an unsaved man and never made much progress. She was baptized a few years ago after a series of meetings I had in Dunfermline, Hospital Hill. How good is the God we adore! It is great to see progress and restoration and to see the seed of God's Word still working with her. The seed will not return unto Him void. Another two young people have recently been baptised and another young man has come into fellowship. On a Sunday night in late May, after a baptism meeting, a girl from a very troubled background told us that she had trusted the Saviour. She is exhibiting true signs of a genuine change in her life. Please keep Carmen in prayer. Finally, a lady from Kirkcaldy, who was an ex-Major in the Salvation Army, has been attending our meetings in Kirkcaldy and Glencraig for some time has been received into fellowship having seen the truth of God's assembly. We are experiencing His hand with us, and it is causing us to worship but also to be on our knees for preservation. The Evil One 'goeth about as a roaring lion', but we take encouragement that 'greater is He that is in you....'. To God be all the glory. Pray that all these people will go on for God.

In early **May** we were at the Ayr bible readings in **Glenburn** with our brother Jack Hay. The Lord's presence was a reality, and we were both encouraged with excellent support each day. The subjects of the Olivet discourse and the Upper Room were helpful, and it did my soul good to go through these sections once again. We pray that this week will prove to be helpful in the maintenance of assembly testimony in Ayrshire and the encouragement of the saints. We then had three weeks with the assembly in **New Stevenston** in gospel meetings. There was definitely a sense that the Lord was working each night. The regularity of the unsaved attending and the obvious interest was most unusual. It was a pleasure to see the support from neighbouring assemblies with full halls, and the prayer meetings were special and a real treat to be part of. The Lord gave us fair weather for tracting and good open-air meetings each night. I can hardly think of one night when we did not see people clearly listening to the message on the street. We know that the Spirit of the Lord will continue striving with the unsaved and we long to hear of blessing in the gospel.

Throughout June we were in a gospel tent in **Wick** with Alasdair Baijal. The tent was pitched in an excellent location by the river in the centre of the town. The weather was tremendous for tracting and so conducive for preaching and I have rarely seen so many attending the gospel meetings. The sheer number of souls to preach to was so encouraging as were the conversations we had with people in the denominations on assembly truth. Sometimes up to 50 from the town of Wick were in on a particular night. We thank God for all of this as well as the opportunity to speak to all of S5 and S6 in Wick High School for forty-five minutes. We also

pray for the Word of God that has gone out into 23,000 homes in Highland and Caithness. The Word of God is not bound. We leave all the results with Him. To God be all the glory.

We have been responsible for aspects of teaching at the Belfast Easter conferences, bible teaching weekends in **Bury St Edmunds**, and **Ballymoney**, a week of ministry meetings in **Portrush** and **Sheildhill**, as well as trying to be a help to other assemblies on Lord's Days and mid-week ministry meetings, for example, **Avoch**, **Treorchy**, and **Whitehouse**.

Alasdair, Jack and I are currently preaching in the tent in our garden throughout August and into early September (DV). Over 70 'locals' have come in over the first two weeks, some for the very first time. Over 70,000 tracts have been distributed in central Fife via Scotland Needs the Gospel. Please pray for the 'seed' and keep us in prayer.

Our daughter Rhona had a baby in August and so Hannah and I thank God for His goodness in keeping Rhona safe and giving us a little grandson, Osian.

■ GRAEME PATERSON (Plains)

We are currently holding two weeks of drive-in gospel meetings in my area of Scotland. This week we were in the car park of a local garden centre each night and so far, the meetings have been very well attended. On Monday we had about 20 unbelievers and some have returned each night.

Next week we move to a country park near Whitburn. Again, we will hold a week of drive-in meetings. This is a great location as people are coming and going all the time, so many will hear the gospel. We also had a series of children's meetings in this park at the beginning of the holidays and had 50 children attend, so we have some contacts to call on!

Thereafter I commence a fortnight of children's and gospel meetings in the town of Lanark. The assembly is very small and appreciate the help. We will also be taking the trailer to the town centre to advertise the meetings.

As a family we will be moving to the Orkney Islands in October/November. The past few years we have been frequently working in the areas of Caithness, Orkney and Shetland. We feel the Lord has opened the door to relocate there and base our work for Him there. Once again, your prayerful support would be appreciated.

Edinburgh went very well with 40,000 bags going out in 4 days! we have had good feedback from those who have received them. Some handed the bag back and kept the John's gospel! Please keep on praying for the work and the scriptures as they go out to thousands. I even spotted bags on the ferry to Orkney and got chatting to a lady from New Zealand who was delighted with her bag!

Before that we were in St Andrews for the week of summer outreach. Things went very well. We have had a team of around 25 (mainly younger believers) and have had a full week of activity. Each day we began with prayer and a thought for the day then headed out with flyers and tracts. We managed to cover St Andrews, Leuchars, St Monans and all the outlying villages. We then had lunchtime gospel talks and had people in each day. In the afternoon we had a gospel tour around the reformation sites and a children's bible club on the beach. Again, we had good numbers attending both. We ended each night with a bible study then prayer.

I also had a great week in Shetland for the week of summer outreach. Unfortunately, they were unable to have a camp this year but organised a fun week based in Sound Gospel Hall. The week went very well with 90 children per day attending. We had two meetings each day with a leader/helper bible teaching session in the evenings. Please pray for the children, most of them have no background.

Prior to that we had our senior camp week at Faskally which went very well. The youngsters were very attentive and seemed to really engage in the meetings. There are a couple who are burdened about baptism and fellowship. We also had a few who came for the first time and one girl who isn't allowed to attend any kid's work in her area yet was allowed to come to camp!

Over the next few weeks, we have a variety of summer outreach planned:

1 - Two weeks of drive-in gospel meetings in a local garden centre then country park.

2 - Gospel and kids' meetings in Lanark area

3- School work locally and further afield

It is wonderful to have so many opportunities to preach the word and we ask that you pray for these varied outreaches.

■ **GRAEME SMITH** (Inverurie)

We rejoice that once again this year many schools were pleased to accept Bibles for any P7 pupils who wanted one before they moved on. It was a great encouragement to see many parents carrying the Bibles in the streets as they returned home after the presentation! Please pray that the Word of God will be opened and read and that the Holy Spirit will use it to convict of sin and of the need of our glorious Saviour.

We were very encouraged by the many children who attended the Inverurie Holiday Bible Club during the holidays and it was a privilege to share the message of Salvation with them. Please pray that the children will respond to the wonderful love of the Saviour.

We recently had a great encouragement with a young man, Nathan Fenwick who was saved as a boy at the North East Christian Youth Camp at Faskally. He continued attending the SU group at Dyce Academy and was baptised in his teens at Inverurie Gospel Hall. During the summer holidays I had the privilege of officiating at Nathan and Kara Fenwick's wedding. Please pray that they may go on to serve the Lord and be a blessing to others.

We would appreciate prayer as we recommence the school visits and Scripture Unions in our local schools. Prayer is especially requested for the creation of the timetable which will run for the whole year God willing.

■ **ANDREW WILLIAMSON** (Culloden)

We have just had our annual Highland Outreach Week in Culloden. It was really encouraging to have the help of some from different places and the week went well, with a number of challenging conversations. Andy Mullan gave timely teaching and training in evangelism.

Please remember Taylor, a young man, who was brought by Gavin to listen to God's Word. He seemed remarkably changed since our last meeting about two months ago. He had been searching through the religions of the world and I had had an opportunity to point him towards Christ, and answer some of his questions. He arrived on the first evening of the outreach week, and seems to now profess faith in Christ. Time will tell how deep this is. He is very interested and came to the Bible teaching and evidently enjoyed it.

Also remember a number of contacts made in Inverness town centre and at the Black Isle Show. I will mention a few for prayer. Please remember an Indian family, with a Catholic background who came passed us in the street. They were really interested and took away much literature. They are staying with their daughter in Birmingham, where Andy lives and labours. It was clearly orchestrated of the Lord. They promised to contact Andy when he went back home

as he said that he could put them in touch with others from their community. Their daughter had taken the English name Dolly.

Louise from Lithuania came to our stall at the Black Isle Show; she was distressed but seeking to get 'back to God' – she had also had a Catholic upbringing that had confused her. Tomek, who came from a Catholic background, and also from eastern Europe, spoke directly to her about the gospel and her need of Christ. She seemed deeply affected and took away John's gospel and our contact details.

Wesley and his partner Carashan were from Elgin. They stayed around our stall chatting to many of us, and were open and friendly. It came out that they had a friend who had recently been converted and who was constantly speaking to them. I was able to build on this and explain to them why this friend seemed so concerned.

Finally, I will mention Hussain. Hussain is a Muslim from Bangladesh who works opposite the Culloden Hall. He came over just yesterday to say that he wishes to attend the church meetings! We were able to point to the Lord Jesus not just as a prophet, but as a Saviour. We had just had training on Friday from Andy on witnessing to Muslims, so God was at work.

I continue to be busy with local teaching, writing and discipling. In the next month or two I'll be back up in Shetland for a conference in late September, and then down to Holburn for a Bible teaching weekend, if the Lord wills.

Lindsey is setting up for the new home-education year, and the children are all developing well. We have much to be thankful for.

Lindsey joins me in thanking you for your prayerful interest.



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