



FEATURED THIS MONTH: G Edwards / D Gillies / J Hawthorne / J Hay / C Munro / G Smith

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

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

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■ GARETH EDWARDS (Perth)

In August I led a team of 12 young folk, mainly from Perth, in our annual outreach week in St Andrews. Over the week we distributed literature into thousands of homes, held guided Gospel tours, Gospel talks, and group Bible studies. We had several Bible requests, and some wonderful opportunities to share the Gospel with people in the streets.

The two weekly soup kitchens are well attended at the moment with 40 to 50 people hearing the Gospel through them most weeks. Recently I attended the funeral of a man in his 40s who had come along with an interest in salvation in the past. As far as we know he never got saved. This, sadly, has become quite a frequent occurrence over the 7 or 8 years we've been running soup kitchens.

At the end of the school holidays we organised a Family Fun Day for the local community, which around 120 people attended. It was a good opportunity to meet lots of new people and to reconnect with old contacts too.

I've also been trying to get into Perth city centre for some street evangelism once a week recently - my simple approach is to stop people and ask them one quick question - *"If there is a Heaven, how can we get there?"* It has produced lots of good conversations, and given opportunities to share the Gospel and give out literature to people with an interest.

One or two outreaches are coming to an end soon and this will allow me the opportunity to invest some time and energy in other things, so please pray that the Lord will direct my thoughts in the coming weeks and months.

■ DAN GILLIES (Luthermuir)

During the first half of September one of our sons-in-law, Paul Thomas, and I had ten consecutive nights of gospel meetings in the town hall in Paul's hometown of Axbridge, Somerset, in fellowship with the assembly at Bedminster gospel hall. Apart from a couple of nights, we were encouraged to see local unsaved people under the sound of the gospel, and saints from the surrounding area supported well. Kelly who was saved two years ago was encouraged to see her daughter in on the last night. Pray also for Philip who came a few nights and seems not far from the kingdom. He has been reading through the scriptures in recent weeks. The door-to-door visitation gave opportunities to present the gospel.

God willing, I commence gospel meetings on Monday 23rd September in Port William, Dumfries and Galloway, in the portable hall. This will be the third consecutive year we have had gospel meetings there, and we usually see a few unsaved locals attending. We look to God to work in salvation. Brother Jack Hay and brother Craig Munro have faithfully worked with the portable hall, but were not free to share in the gospel this year.

During November/December we will be returning to Shetland for two weeks, visiting mornings and afternoons on the West with calendars and tracts in fellowship with the Selivoe assembly. Most evenings we shall have a meeting with the other three assemblies, all in the will of the Lord.

We value your continued prayer support.

■ JOEL HAWTHORNE (Gorgie)



Joel left employment in March and we were formally commended to the work of the Lord in Scotland and further afield by the assembly at Gorgie in May. The need in Edinburgh is vast. Much of our present work involves building up contacts, door-to-door evangelism and open-air preaching in the city centre. It has also been a joy for the assembly to recommence a children's work for the first time in over a decade.

In April, we visited the Western Cape of South Africa for a month of Bible teaching and Gospel outreach. We were encouraged by the interest of the believers in the Word of God and the different opportunities for sharing the Gospel.

After returning to Scotland, I was involved in fortnight long Gospel meetings in Logan, Ayrshire and Gorgie, Edinburgh. It was a privilege to share with Craig MacKie and Craig Munro respectively in these campaigns. In both series, we were encouraged by people

coming to hear the Good News. It was a great joy to hear of two individuals professing faith in Christ at the meetings in Gorgie. We have also been encouraged to hear that a man who attended the Gospel meetings in Logan had been baptised in July. He had been saved at home during Covid and the Logan meetings were the first time he had attended an in-person meeting.

In July, we were involved in the seniors' week of the Tayside Christian Youth Camp. It was a real encouragement to see around 70 teenagers listening to clear Gospel presentation and solid Bible teaching twice a day for five consecutive days. Following this, I was involved in a week long outreach in Lossiemouth, including door-to-door work and meetings in the town hall in the evening. Some locals came to every meeting and other good contacts were made.

During August and September, I had two children's meeting weeks in Northern Ireland, with the assemblies at Sandringham and Ahoghill. We were delighted that good numbers of boys and girls attended, along with many of their parents on the final night of the week. We were also involved in a week in Edinburgh distributing 'Gospel for Scotland' bags at the Edinburgh Festival, organised by Stephen Grant and Graeme Paterson. Around 30,000 bags were given out over the course of the week.

Recently, I had the privilege of visiting the assembly at Spencer Bridge Road, Northampton, for their annual Bible teaching weekend. where we considered the subject of 'Touching the Eternal'. I have just concluded a fortnight long Gospel series in Whitburn with Blair Martin.

Good numbers of local people attended and one man who had been saved previously received assurance of his deliverance in Christ.

Over the next while, I hope to have children's weeks at Mayfield and Gorgie, with the aim of raising the profile of these works in their local communities. These works have recommenced recently after a number of years where the assemblies were unable to have a children's outreach. I also have a number of Bible teaching commitments during this period, mostly in Scotland with one further visit to Northern Ireland.

■ JACK HAY (Perth)

In June I was involved in three weeks of tent meeting in Bicester in harness with Gene Higgins of USA. The start was slow but attendances increased with some showing interest. However, the series ended without any professions of faith although there were other encouragements.

It was good to revisit Wick for a week in August, and so good to see a gentleman who professed at Paul and Jonny's tent meetings in the Spring attending each evening.

Craig Munro and I were to go to Sri Lanka at the beginning of September but due to a bereavement Craig had to stay in the UK. At very short notice Eric Baijal was able to rearrange business commitments and accompany me which was greatly appreciated. This time the visit was somewhat curtailed because a presidential election had been called with the likelihood of unrest, violence, curfews etc. In light of that all our activities were confined to the Colombo area, which gave opportunity to cover a complete New Testament epistle with them.

I was privileged to be involved in the inaugural Edinburgh Bible Readings arranged by the Mayfield and Gorgie assemblies. Alan Summers and I had a Bible Reading each morning and then we both ministered in the evening. It was felt that for it to be the first in a venture like this the attendances were good, and indeed on the last evening the auditorium was packed. I think that we were all encouraged. In the good will of God there will be a repeat next year, so keep 8-12th September free and get your caravan site or AirBNB booked up!!!

This week I am in Peterhead for the few nights following the conference. That was shared with Paul McCauley and Elton Fairfield with a sense of the Lord's Presence and an encouraging interest both among young and old.

For your prayers, between now and the end of the month I have responsibility to help at our local conference in Perth with the few nights following, and then to be at Crosshouse for their weekend of meetings, all in the Lord's will. We value your prayers.

■ CRAIG MUNRO (Glenraig)

The month of May commenced at the Wallingford Conference with some extended ministry. We also had an extended weekend of ministry in Perth and a series of gospel meetings in Gorgie, Edinburgh with brother Joel Hawthorn. Two professed faith in those meetings and we hear good reports of the older sister going on well. The other one is a teenage girl who got the tract through the door and took two buses across the city to come to the meeting and professed faith. She then returned home to tell her parents! They were very anxious and stopped her coming back. She keeps in touch with the believers and is maintaining that she is saved. Please pray that they will soon relent and allow her back. Many others came to hear the Word of God. Some simply from the tract that was issued. I also preached on Wednesday nights in May with David Matthews in a community hall in Kirkcaldy with a number attending. I appreciated the local brethren subbing for me at Gorgie on these nights to free me up. A man in his thirties professed faith from a life of crime. To God be the praise. Robert is now attending the meetings in Glenraig and is showing good progress. Please pray for him as he overcomes an addiction to Cocaine.

We also had Gospel tent meetings in June in Leven with brother Simon Sherwin with good interest and quite a few unsaved attending. A number of backsliders also came to this meeting. One of them was received into fellowship in late July in the Leven assembly which caused great joy. Another backslider who came to those tent meetings after many years away now attends regularly at Glenraig. I met him at an airport and the circumstances that surrounded this 'meeting' can only be described as divine. He had just got a job in security in the airport, and I 'happened' to stand before him at the conveyor belt on the day he had prayed that he could contact me. It is a long story, but it is lovely to watch God at work in a life. The assembly in Leven were further encouraged in July when another young woman was saved there in early August. Praise be to God. She attends all the gatherings. Please keep them all in prayer.

In July our son Edward was also married and has settled with his new wife Jade in Ballingry. The same street as my late grandfather Keneth Munro. God is good. In July, it was a personal pleasure for us to be back leading the Bushmills Bible Readings for a fortnight. We have long standing connections with these meetings over many years and we were able to bring my mother back as well who used to come for years with my late father Gordon Munro. The warmth of the saints was sweet. The new venue, the exceptional crowds who gathered each night, the spirit that the brethren participated in, the teaching they gave on the life of Abraham all served to show that God was working amongst us. To Him be the glory. We trust the teaching will be of help to the many who gathered each night.

In August we had gospel meetings in a village called Scotlandwell with my cousin Alasdair Baijal. My brother Euan managed to secure the local Church of Scotland for the preaching which is most unusual. Euan also preached a few times. There was a good interest with many coming from the congregation of this Church and a number of others coming simply from the leaflet. It was good to tract the whole area as well. I believe that much more will come of this series. One man has settled to come to the weekly gospel meeting in Glenraig - along with his dog! Two men who we have been working with closely in recent times passed away suddenly in August in separate circumstances but both deaths involved drugs. It has been hard, and it reminds us of the power of the Devil to destroy lives. Thank God our Lord Jesus came to save lives.

We were in Wales and not in Sri Lanka in late August. Hannah's mum has been extremely ill and weak for some time. It has been an anxious and a difficult time. She passed away suddenly, however and it was a shock. It is not easy, but we have confidence that she is 'with Christ' which is far better. None of Hannah's family are saved and so we request prayer for the word spoken at her funeral. Thankfully brother Eric Baijal took my place serving along with brother Jack Hay at very short notice.

We were able to return and help at the Edinburgh bible Readings. Alan Summers and Jack Hay were leading these readings. A lovely spirit prevailed and there was much to encourage.

Scotland Needs The Gospel (our tract fund) has distributed over 150,000 tracts in May and June and a further 44000 tracts in late July with another 90,000 in September and October (DV). The mailing in September was designed to coincide with brother Dan Gillies meetings in Port William. Please pray for our brother. We hold onto the promise 'the entrance of thy word gives light'. The 'good seed' is being sown in Dumfriesshire, Edinburgh, Fife, Falkirk and Stirlingshire, and we know that 'it will accomplish that which God hath sent it'. 'The Word of God is not bound'. We value your prayers for watering this seed.

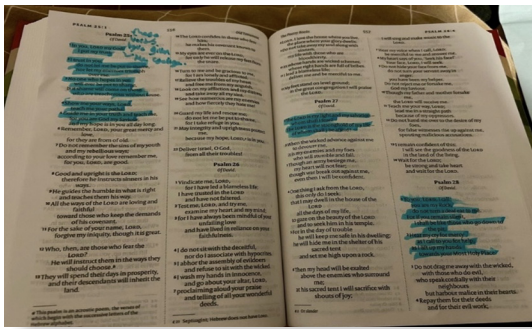
■ GRAEME SMITH (Inverurie)

I hope to encourage you in your prayers and in your work for the Lord with this update.

END OF TERM

We rejoice that Bibles were distributed once again in July to 125 of P7 pupils in local schools. We were sent a photo by one of the parents of a lad who received one and we were overjoyed

to see that he was not only reading it, but that it was giving him courage in the transition from Primary to Secondary school! He highlighted parts from Psalm 25, 26 and 27, part of which says,



"In You, Lord my God, I put my trust in You. No one who hopes in You will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause. Show me Your ways, Lord, teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Saviour."

Please pray that this young lad will be blessed spiritually as he has started attending the S.U. group at Inverurie Academy!

SUMMER

We are rejoicing that one young lad who attends the Newmachar Bible Explorers put His trust in the LORD JESUS for Salvation after being at the North-East Christian Youth Camp. His Granny who brings him every week to club was overjoyed! It is a privilege to be a link in the chain. Please pray that he will grow strong in his new-found faith.

Earlier in the summer we attended the local Meldrum Sports with some other Christians from Inverurie Gospel Hall and had some good conversations about spiritual matters with some of the passers by. Many people were interested in the literature on display and one teenage girl I spoke to left with a few Christian books to read. These are great opportunities to share the Gospel during the summer months.

I was also given the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus at Milltimber Community Centre on 3 afternoons with around 80 children each day. I focused on how He raised Jairus's 12-year-old daughter back to life, His death on the cross so we could have our sins forgiven if we believe on Him and His amazing resurrection and the significance this can have in our lives. During the presentations the children listened so well. You could have heard a pin drop! We are praying that many there may come to know the Lord as their Saviour.



SCHOOLS

Please pray for each of the 13 schools I visit each month (63 classes and 2 assemblies). There are potentially 2 new schools who would like visits, so your prayers for guidance in the logistics of this opportunity would be greatly appreciated. Continue to pray for doors to remain open and teachers, pupils and families lives to be changed. As well as these school visits, we are encouraged by increased attendance at the weekly lunchtime SU groups in Dyce and Inverurie Academy. Please continue to pray for these young people as we sit with open Bibles together on a Tuesday and Friday lunchtime, that God will open their hearts.

PERSONAL

Firstly, we are thankful that Fiona is starting to recover after a 5-month period of being unwell. Your prayers for her and for our family are greatly appreciated.

This summer I moved out of my previous office space. After 30 years of children and youth work, there was certainly some weeding out to be done! I will be moving my resources into the new premises in October D.V. The old office space was cold, damp and expensive to heat so although I am moving to smaller premises, it should be a more comfortable and economical space to work from. Pray again that as we work for the Lord, we will bring Him glory and honour and that we will see souls saved again this academic year.



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