

Dear brother in Christ,

Please pass on to the saints at Barrhead our very sincere thanks for their very kind gift. Mary and I receive it gratefully as from the Lord -- He is no man's debtor. We are humbled by your thoughtfulness towards us.

We thank God that by His grace we are both well, although we don't have the same energy to do what we used to do!!

We continue to serve the Lord almost exclusively in our local area and are thrilled that, by one means or another, many hear the Gospel each week. We still have around 30 listening to the Gospel each week at the food banks and normally a few at our Family Service on Sundays. We have a food bank every Thursday in Auchinleck and every Friday in Muirkirk. We are grateful for the support of a few local believers in this work which takes up a lot of time.

The local assembly writes and prints its own Gospel Magazine, called "Hope", which we distribute in Auchinleck, Ochiltree, Muirkirk and a small part of Cumnock. I have just finished writing and editing this quarter's magazine and the manuscript is off to the printers and hopefully will be with us later this week. We distribute 3200 each quarter.

Seth contacted us after receiving the Spring Edition. His mother is a believer and goes to an evangelical church in Leeds. She has been praying for many years for him and his family to be saved. The night before he received the magazine, he had phoned his mother and told her he felt it was time for him to seek God. The next day the magazine came through his door, and he contacted me. He and his family have attended several meetings since then and just over two weeks ago he trusted Christ as his Saviour. We are praying for the salvation of Natasha his partner. They have two young children.

Roddy has been on a Sunday several times recently. His mother, whose funeral service I took many years ago, was a believer. He started receiving a weekly food parcel from us during lockdown and when the food bank reopened in the hall he started coming along. He is there virtually every week and always listens well to the message. On leaving the hall on a past he said he thinks about getting saved every day. Tom, another contact from the food bank, was present recently for the first time. He has a Roman Catholic background but very open to the Gospel. Gillian came to the food bank for the first time recently and has since come on a couple of Sundays.

Nathanael, one of our grandsons, was baptised along with his girlfriend, Ashley, recently. She made a profession of faith a few months. Most of her family were at the baptism as were some of her and Nathanael's friends. Our hall was packed. She had written her testimony which was read out during the baptism service and which was very moving. Her baptism was exactly a year to the day she first entered our hall. She said that, one day a friend asked her what she had been doing at the weekend and she replied that she had been at church. A conversation ensued and Ashley started explaining the Gospel to her, as she did so she realised she was explaining it with belief and conviction and suddenly realised, "Hey I believe this, I am a Christian, I am saved."

Contact with a number of local addicts continues – please pray particularly for Sandra, Paul, Jason, Derek, Ernie, Skye, Tracey, Colin, Billy and Robert. Sandra is sadly in a real mess at the moment. Billy was diagnosed with cancer just last week -- he has heard the Gospel for years. Sadly, a number of our contacts have died recently. Some of these guys are dicing with death daily!!

Derek got out of prison a few weeks ago and was really trying to walk on right paths. He showed signs of spiritual desires and came to a number of meetings. However, all his family and "friends" are in addiction, so it was really difficult for him. He got his own house recently which enabled him, or should have enabled him, to make a break with the girlfriend he was staying with. She is still in addiction and is of no help to him at all unless God takes dealings in her life also. Sadly two weeks ago he got arrested again and is on remand in HMP Bowhouse. I wrote to him and received a letter back this morning. In it he said that we were the only people in the world that cares for him. At the bottom of the letter he wrote, "God save me." Hopefully he will be out of prison soon.

During the last two weeks of April, Craig Mackie (New Cumnock) and myself, held Gospel Meetings in the Community Hub in Muirkirk. Over the years I have built up a lot of contacts there and we were praying that the Lord would move some to come along. A number did, but not as many as we would have liked. Tricia, Andy, Susanne, Keith, Julie and Derek came with varying degrees of regularity. We were also encouraged by several Christians from Muirkirk coming very regularly -- as in almost every night. The Gospel was preached, Christ was presented, and we look to the Lord to save.

During the first weekend in May Mary and I joined a group of Indian believers from the North East of England for a weekend retreat near Consett. I had three teaching sessions over the weekend and felt that the Lord gave help and seemed to be working in people's hearts. Mary and I were with them at the same time last year but this year the number of attendees was almost double. There were early morning prayer meetings each morning as well as a series of teaching sessions throughout the weekend. It was quite humbling. The theme for the weekend was "Alive in Christ."

The prayers of the Lord's people are appreciated, and needed, as we continue to serve Him in the community here in Auchinleck and in Muirkirk.

Thanks again to the assembly in Barrhead for their fellowship -- labourers together with God.

Yours in Christ, our Life and Hope,

**IAN & MARY**