

The Mountain Top Experience (Luke 9:27-36)

The Lord Jesus made a remarkable statement to His disciples when He said that some of them would not taste death until they would see the Kingdom of God; how was this experience going to be realised? They did not know, but the Lord Himself knew. Eight days later the Lord gave them this wonderful mountain top experience, generally known as the Mount of Transfiguration.

It is interesting to note who was present at this all-important gathering. The Lord took with Him three of His disciples, Peter, James and John, and went up onto the mountain where Moses and Elijah appeared. It is remarkable to note what they were discussing. Their focus was on things that were about to be accomplished at Jerusalem concerning the Lord Himself. It was no coincidence that here were two of God's servants from a past day, men who had carried God's message down the centuries of time. On the other hand we have Peter, James and John who would carry God's message down the centuries to come.

God had said to His people Israel, "Remember the Law of Moses." This embodied the instructions God gave them and it remained in place until Jesus came. John tells us in his Gospel, "The law was given by Moses but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." He was the source of grace and truth, Moses was only a reflection of it. God wrought mighty works in the land of Egypt through Moses - the rod in his hand became known as the rod of God. Elijah, God's prophet, was sent to bring back His people from sin and departure, and he received strength and power from God to do this. He was able to raise the dead, and during his lifetime there was a divine working of miraculous activity. Uniquely, God removed him from this scene and he did not see death.

The disciples would, after Christ's death and resurrection, carry the message of redeeming grace into the centuries ahead. The message which came directly from God on that memorable occasion was "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him." Matthew tells us that when the voice ceased they saw no one but Jesus only. May this be our vision too until He comes for us and we see Him in glory.

Lewis Milligan (Armagh)

Outreach and Church Planting – International Perspectives : SE England District Event 6 March 2021

Although restricted by the current Covid 19 lockdown in England, the wonders of technology enabled us to expand our horizons beyond national borders, linking us up with Craig Jones in Canada and Fred Ntido in Nigeria for our first District Event of 2021. We are very grateful to our two brothers for giving us an insight into the challenges and opportunities for reaching out with the Gospel in very different cultural contexts, and inspiring us in our own outreach efforts.



Craig led us via the experience of the early Churches in Acts to consider how the enthusiasm of individuals was crucial to their expansion – a sense of infectiousness in the witness of the early disciples. This reflected the willingness of these mostly nameless people to uproot themselves (often because of persecution), so they were 'scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria' (Acts 8:1). Craig drew a modern parallel with the most recently-planted Assembly in Canada in a town

to which a number of saints had moved, commuting into the cities for work and to the existing Assemblies there. Others felt the Lord drawing them to this small community and were willing to relocate. A local children's work was started and it became evident that the Lord was leading towards the planting of a Church in the town; this took place in 2010. A distinctive feature of this Assembly is that all meetings take place in saints' homes, which they have found in this 'small town Canada' context to be helpful and welcoming to many local people. The Church has doubled in numbers in the past decade, and a thriving youth work with a daily club in school holidays has been crucial to this expansion, attracting several new contacts. Craig also referred to a longer-established city Church which ran a Christianity Explored course to which local people were invited. There was an appetite for further teaching and local saints committed themselves to meeting this demand with structured 'growing disciples' courses; these continue, mainly focused on older people in the community. The meetings are informal, with opportunity for discussion, refreshments and a social time, and several have been added to the Assembly over the last decade. Craig highlighted from these examples saints' willingness to be flexible and responsive - even in terms of transferring from other Assemblies to create the nucleus of a new Church; the viability in certain contexts of the house church model; and the key roles played by youth work and personal invitation. He reminded us not to be discouraged – not every soul was won, even by the Lord; salvation is a sovereign work of the Spirit and our responsibility is to take every opportunity afforded to us.



Fred's presentation focused on Africa, a continent which still experiences great privation, poverty and poor infrastructure. However, the light of the Gospel burns brightly across the continent and people generally are open and receptive to it, particularly those who are materially poor – Fred noted the Messianic imperative to preach the good news to the poor (Isa. 61:1) and the fact that even Jesus acknowledged many followed Him because their stomachs were filled. It's a cause for rejoicing that

there are now Churches of God in 7 African countries and there are other Christian groups who are asking for more information and teaching – the harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few (Mt. 9:37). The African Churches employ a variety of strategies to encourage growth, such as door to door contact, open air crusades, the Vacation Bible Courses for children (these have proved very effective), YPMs and

Continued on page 4 ...



Fellowship in Montevista (New Dalaguete company), Philippines

When every day is a roller coaster ride for us, the ride took an extra and unexpected turn when Covid happened last year. Everyone was affected, so was every Church activity, but we were so glad that finally we were given the chance to do the things we used to do before the pandemic happened. On 3 April, at the Church of God in Montevista, Davao de Oro, Philippines (New Dalaguete Company), a local Church fellowship gathering was successfully held. Everyone who attended the gathering was happy, blessed, praising the goodness of God, and sharing the glory of the Lord with the saints from other local Churches in the Philippines. Every smile on the photo says it all.

The fellowship gathering was planned and conducted, based on wanting to encourage everyone overwhelmed by these life-shattering times, and of course with the hope of seeing them face to face again. The word of God was the highlight of the program and was delivered by our three brothers Rolando Cariaga, Ronald Lobreza (Montevista) and Geralde Mag-usara (Davao). The messages were all connected and revolved around Heb. 12:1-2 with a theme "Fixing our eyes on Jesus" in His faith, His endurance, and His commitment to complete His mission amidst the various trials He faced.

The first preacher was Rolando Cariaga, who mentioned that behind the bitterness of life we have the Lord ready to help, despite our trials and difficulties. If we have faith like a mustard seed, we can move the hill - though not literally but figuratively, as it refers to our problems. Even though we face a bundle of problems, with the help of the Lord a sweet outcome will happen as a result of our faith.

Ronald Lobreza mentioned that in order to fix our eyes on Jesus there must be endurance. We cannot endure if we have something that hinders our running. So, to lighten our load let us lay aside every weight and sin, and as we go along we have Jesus to fight with us over every obstacle.

Geralde Mag-usara paid close attention to the word 'fixing' which means being focused on Jesus unreservedly. Serving God is like a competition where we are all joined in one race, running to reach the finish line, but it cannot be achieved without a coach to guide us. Our Lord Jesus had His Father who guided Him as a coach to finish His mission on the cross, to save believing humanity from the penalty of sin. He listened and obeyed the voice of His Father from heaven as His coach, until the completion of His mission (Isa. 50:4-5; Luke 22:42; John 19:30). As Christians we must also be looking forward to reaching the finish line, and to finish we also have to listen and obey the voice of our Father in heaven. Additionally, there are 3 things we have to obey:

1.) We have to serve according to our conviction, meaning we have to serve God fully convinced in the truth we have received. We should be like the three certain Jews in Daniel 3 (Meshach, Shadrach and Abed-nego), who strongly disregarded the order of Nebuchadnezzar to worship his man-made gods. Even when they were threatened with death, these three Jews were strongly committed not to serve other gods. They fully believed that there is only one God, the God of heaven who is right and who alone is worthy to be served.

2.) Guarding the Faith (2 Tim 4:7)

This faith is different from the word faith in Eph. 2:8 because it refers to "the Faith" as in Jude v3 (doctrinal teaching from the apostle's instruction, in other words the body of beliefs). Our brother emphasised that we have to keep the faith and not to be carried away with every wind of doctrine by the trickery of men and by craftiness in deceitful scheming (1 Tim. 1:14).

3. Run to win (1 Cor. 9: 24-26)

Like Paul we should run with certainty to win. We won't able to win the prize unless we compete according to the rules, which is the Lord's instructions as taught by the apostles (2 Tim. 2:5).

Jhonrou Sarsale; Rossinie Cariaga

The Evangel

At the recent Fellowship Outreach Committee Annual General Meeting, the topic of the challenges of mobility in preaching the word in the north of Malawi came up. Getting anywhere by the local bus service can take many hours because the driver aims to maximise his income by only leaving each stop when the bus is virtually full! It was agreed that it would be good to purchase a suitably rugged 4x4 vehicle, which would save many hours and increase flexibility. A figure of £5,000 was agreed for the 2021 budget and, remarkably, a few days later a donor who had no inkling of this proposed new investment was led to supply that exact sum!

The story has some interesting parallels with an important part of the history of the Churches of God. In 1930, brethren out to the early work in Nigeria lamented that their ability to do outreach was being hampered by the time needed to navigate rivers via a small boat powered by a hired hand with a stick. One boatman was Job – well named because it's reported he required Job's patience to do his slow job when there was no wind! It took 15 hours to get to Akarakumo, which usually ruled out the possibility of going further. In fact, on one occasion villagers on the river bank implored the missionaries to stop and visit, but they simply couldn't spare the time. In the end, they wished they had stopped, because they eventually ran out of time to reach their intended destination and had to turn back. It was this episode that may well have triggered an appeal back to the UK for a faster mode of transport.

A boat was found that seemed suitable after testing on Loch Lomond, with a price-tag of £140 (equivalent to £9,600 in today's terms). The appeal had come when the UK was in the middle of the Great Depression, when unemployment in some areas was 70% and between 2.5 and 3.0 million were unemployed across the country. Nevertheless, £50 had already been pledged by a donor before an appeal was made for the remaining £90. However, before James McDonald of Glasgow left for Lagos on 16 January 1931 by the steamer "Apapa", he was offered a cheaper boat. After consultation with the treasurers, he bought "a suitable vessel of shallow draught, having full accommodation for four persons." The price was only £45 (perhaps after canny negotiations from the Scot!) which with spares, freightage, etc., brought the total cost to about £90.

By then, another donation of £30 had come in, with both gifts apparently "quite unexpectedly from the Giver of all good." Brethren in Glasgow Assembly were very helpful in testing the vessel on Loch Lomond and overhauling it, while brethren in Liverpool kindly supervised the transfer from rail to steamer. The boat, a cabin cruiser, was given the name 'Evangel'; it left Liverpool the Saturday before McDonald on the cargo cruiser "Egba" - the journey took almost a month, arriving in the first week of February 1921. The way would now open for brethren to revisit other places such as Agbara, Oto, Ajanikin, etc.

McDonald's main reason for going to Lagos was to oversee the erection of a hall there. He was greatly cheered and encouraged by seeing so many friends on the landing stage from Liverpool, Birkenhead, Southport, Matlock and Derby Assemblies and all bade him God-speed in this service. John Dorricott reports how a brother remarked to him, "Is it not wonderful to see the deep interest throughout the Assemblies in the work of the Lord in Nigeria?" John replied, "The work is of God, and it should be one of our greatest joys to be sharers in this service."

The Nigerian Committee soon received a letter from the field: "*We thought it well to delay writing until the arrival of our beloved brother James McDonald with the boat. We have now seen the boat, and consider that you are getting excellent value for your money. It will be of inestimable service to us in visiting villages on the creeks, more especially those places known to us and to you, such as Akara Kumo, and Agbara. Both are in very great need of constant visiting, and the Motor Boat will save very many precious hours in the accomplishment of this purpose.*" ERNEST WESTLAKE, E. B. BEYIOKUALASE.

Of course, we know now that many more Churches of God were planted in Nigeria from this point on, and although we don't have a picture of it in action we imagine the Evangel was used by the Lord to help achieve this. We can pray for a similar harvest to come from this new investment in Africa, again financed by an unexpected gift, almost exactly 90 years later to the day!

Martin Jones; Chris Sutton

For Prayer Ministering Brethren

(May and onwards)

Gbenga Fagbenle

I am currently working in my home Assembly, Surulere, and this will continue until the end of April when I hope to be with the Assembly in Owerri, Eastern Nigeria, during May, God willing. Currently in Surulere Assembly, we are looking at rebuilding our outreach structures in order to make us more effective in the years ahead. We will value the prayers of saints in this aspect of work.

Brian Johnston

Current duties include early Needed Truth preparation; Search For Truth scripting; regular guidance to Malawi & Philippines; Leigh & Antwerp weekly ministry; and some district and wider duties.

Geralde Magasura

I will be working with Jimmy in Bollukan, involved in organising a fellowship time to be held in Liguyon, and teaching mainly young people from Bollukan, Kaligutan and Longanapan.

Laurence Onyokoko

I plan to serve the Lord in Owerri, Aviara and Warri.

David Woods

Continuing restrictions on travel mean that most work is done via online Bible Study sessions with various groups and online talks to a number of Churches. It's also been a time for increased levels of committee work. I'm thankful for more time 'filling the tanks' through prayer and study (1 Tim 4:15-16; 2 Tim 2:15).



The "Egba"



... Continued from front page

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Outreach and Church Planting – International Perspectives : SE England District Event 6 March 2021

use of social media. New Churches are often planted as a result of individuals moving within their own countries for employment and reaching out to their friends and neighbours – it's culturally acceptable for people to visit homes for this purpose. Assemblies can become so large that the decision is taken to split them into more manageable companies. Some saints with a Muslim background have come into Fellowship in the past, and consideration is being given to reaching out to more people in predominantly Muslim areas. Asked for guidance about how we should pray for Africa, Fred explained the main challenges experienced by the Churches. Managing expectations is a key issue as many charismatic Christian groups promise health and wealth and a 'better' Christian experience, which is particularly attractive to young people; however, a handful of saints with a Pentecostal background have been added to the Churches. Another is the shortage of younger Gospel workers (at present there are only 3) with the commitment and energy to travel long and gruelling distances to address the demand for teaching, particularly in countries not yet reached by the Fellowship such as Rwanda, Zambia and South Africa. Fred asked for prayer for the security of lives and property in countries where murders and kidnappings for ransom are a frequent occurrence and where people's basic needs are often not provided for by governments or which (as in East Africa) are afflicted by natural disasters or conflict. The lack of basic health and transport infrastructure has been made worse by the Covid pandemic, and the equitable distribution of vaccines is another matter for prayer.

Judging by the question and answer sessions at the end of each presentation, Craig and Fred sparked great interest in the work in these two very different areas of the world as well as stimulating ideas and focus for prayer. Thank you both again.

SE England District Events Committee

Additions in Abuja

We are happy to report the goodness of the Lord to us in the first quarter of the year 2021. Four disciples were baptised and added to the Assembly in the month of March. We had a number of visitors also to support the work. They were Godwin Ariwodo, a Gospel worker, and two Lord's Servants, Gbenga Fagbenle and Anthony Nemi.

We continue to request prayers for us in our work amongst the Muslim community. Our God is able.

Tunde Okunola; Victor Adebayo; Mark Imoukhuede

LIVERPOOL ON-LINE MINISTRY EVENT



Saturday 8 May 2021

Starting at 2pm

With hymn singing and a break

Ministry from:

Lawrence Onyokoko

Kevin Jones

Roy Dickson

This will take place on the Zoom platform. Zoom lag-on will be given nearer the time or contact Graham Schleyer for details
(gkschleyer@gmail.com or 07921763460)



Birthday Celebrations

Our dear brother Eddie Prescott celebrated his 90th birthday on 28 February with his family, on Zoom due to the legal restrictions caused by Covid 19. Eddie was resident in Glasgow with his dear wife Sadie from marriage after returning from Canada, and was numbered with the Govan Assembly. He was responsible for arranging the speakers to attend visits at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Sadie and he, on retirement, moved to Kirkintilloch to be near his daughter, Hilda, and their family. It has been a joy for us and we appreciate Eddie in Kirkintilloch. We would have loved to celebrate with Eddie. We wish him good health and happiness, and God's blessing in all the days and years ahead in His will.

William Bell; William Whitelaw



Ruby Wedding Anniversary



God is faithful. We wish to thank the saints for all the prayers on our behalf. God is good.

Mark and Irene Imoukhuede

New baptism & addition, and a mass wedding (Kaligutan) in the Philippines in March 2021



2 in Davao

Virgilio Masangkay (Malabog) – second person from left

Mike Perez (Uraya)

5 in Kaligutan

From L-R: Janice Dela Cruz & Adrian Inte

From L-R (front row): Mary Rose Cantero, Rachel Mabido, & Jenelyn Obang

2 in Lingig

Louise Jane Sumipo

Rommel Peñas



From left to right: Gerald & Mary Rose Cotao; Arnel & Anlene Bontulan; Jessie & Princess Mabido; Raymond & Julian Tague

Jimmy Dagansina, Gerald Mag-usara



The Midlands District Conference, planned for 2 October in Stoke, has unfortunately been cancelled.

At home with the Lord – David Adams, Stoke on Trent, England



Our dear brother David Adams passed peacefully into his Saviour's presence on 21 February, aged 87 years. He had suffered failing health for several years, but until this prevented him during his last year he was exemplary in attending all Assembly gatherings as well as being committed in practical ways.

David had endured much sorrow in his life. Firstly, with the homecall of his dear wife Margaret (Jones) in 1983 after she had lain in a coma in hospital for 13 months, during which time David visited her twice daily. His son Graham was called home in 1994, followed by the homecall of his own brother John in 1998. His last remaining sibling, Mary, was called home in 2018, followed by his youngest daughter Gill last December. Throughout all these trials, David remained steadfast, trusting in his Lord, thinking of the needs of others rather than his own.

David and his siblings were the children of a godly couple in the Assembly, Frank and Lilian Adams, who brought them up to know the Lord Jesus as their Saviour and to follow Him through baptism and addition. David's consistent faithful life as a humble disciple came to manifest itself in many ways when, for example, he and his wife befriended refugees and psychiatric patients. Indeed, they excelled in showing hospitality. For many years their home had an ever open door, especially for young people, where "Dave" and "Marg", as they were known, showed much kindness. Often as many as 10 young brothers and sisters would gather around their piano on

a Lord's Day evening, singing hymns before enjoying a lovely supper. In fact this "open door" kindness continued after Marg had been called home, particularly when his six children, sorrowing over the loss of their dear mum, found comfort and friendship in the company of their friends who enjoyed Dave's continued hospitality.

David's diligence in little things was exemplified by his ensuring that the top Gospel hymn book stacked on the table was open at the first hymn for the benefit of a late comer.

It is quite ironic that for a man who was outstanding in his support for many funerals near and far over the years, only 30 people could support his own due to the Covid pandemic. At the service Phil Brennan gave many practical examples of David's sacrificial thoughtfulness for others – he would drive 50 miles to help someone rather than do something for himself - and Phil went on to explain that these good works came about because David had first trusted his Saviour's work on the cross. Phil concluded by stressing the Bible way for all - get right with God first, then do good works.

Please pray for David's family - Ruth & Dave, Lynne with Beccy, Caitlin & Connell, Derek, and Ken and Anne.

Malc Bootherstone; Alan Sands

At home with the Lord – Elizabeth (Betty) Meikle, Hamilton, Canada



After a difficult year of health challenges, our dearly loved sister Betty Meikle passed away at the age of 83 on the morning of 3 November 2020, surrounded by family and aware of their love.

Affectionately known as "Aunt Betty" to so many in the Assembly, steadfast care and concern for those around her was a hallmark of her life. When good health allowed her, she would often find her way to people's homes to bring a card or a blessing of some kind, or to share in a cup of tea and conversation. Those conversations often turned to her faith in her Lord, and how imperative it is that we continue to trust Him.

At a young age, she was lovingly adopted by the late James and Susan Philp. As her family journeyed to Canada in 1956, prior health conditions meant she had to remain in Scotland for two more years before she was finally able to join them in Brantford, Ontario. Mother to John and Susan, Grandma to Scott, Dylan, Lindsay, Alex, Erin and Sarah, great-grandmother to Evalynn, and sister to David, Jessie and Sandra, she spent most of her years in either the Dundas or Hamilton Assemblies, with regular visits to the Yukon to visit John and his boys. She treasured her time with her grandchildren and would proudly show off pictures to anyone she could, and recount stories of her times with them.

"Faithful servant" would be an appropriate description for Betty. Always engaged in local Assembly activities, encouraging younger ones and soaking in precious thoughts from Scripture, Betty was a constant fixture in the Assembly. Betty was faithfully

involved in youth work, often in the kitchen. For many, many years she was a regular at Mount Forest Camp, and more recently was our snack provider for Kidz Klub on Saturday mornings at the Hamilton Hall. Even as her health deteriorated, she made every effort to be involved in some way. She loved to serve God and share His love with the children at these events.

While Covid-19 restrictions limited the gatherings, a small memorial service with about 30 people was able to reflect on the touching life and many stories that seemed to always follow Betty. The family shared their tributes to their Mom and Grandma, sister Sandra spoke on behalf of the siblings, and Bruce Archibald brought a message from the story of Tabitha and her witness as a disciple of Jesus. At the graveside her nephew Andrew Dorricott spoke about Betty's real story, a story of someone who so clearly knew her need for a Saviour and who clung to Him each day. It is a story that we can all share if we turn to Jesus.

Betty struggled with many health complications over the last several years yet continued to show a remarkable resilience time and again, leaving doctors scratching their heads. She was a living testimony to the strength and grace of God. She will be dearly missed in the Assembly, District, and by her family and friends. Prayer is requested for the family to be comforted in knowing that she is finally face to face with the One to whom she clung during her whole life.

Andrew Dorricott; Edwin Brindle; Jonathan Thomas

At home with the Lord – John Peddie, Greenock, Scotland



Our brother John Peddie was called home on 11 March. He would have been 87 on 24 May if he had been spared, having been born in 1933 at Ilford, Essex, the year Hitler came to power. His older sisters were Audrey and Pat, who are also now at home with the Lord. When John was six war broke out and the family was evacuated to South Wales for their safety, as were many others. He was left-handed but a teacher was determined to make him use his right hand, resulting in stress which caused him to develop a life-long speech impediment, making communication difficult.

Due to family circumstances John was later sent to live in Edinburgh with his grandfather Rutherford, who it is claimed was a direct descendant of Samuel Rutherford, a valiant warrior for the faith of the Gospel in the 17th Century and who was associated with a much loved hymn, 'The sands of time are sinking.'

John had a photographic memory which stood him in good stead at college when suspected of cheating in an exam. To the astonishment of the examiners, when challenged he was able to replicate his answer word for word! He worked with the Post Office until back problems forced him to retire, but he started his working life in a bakery. He spent his spare time writing Gospel messages and using available cash to spread the word, especially to Jews for whom he had an enduring concern. Writing became an outlet for his burden for souls, and readers of Bible Studies will be familiar with his signature. Indeed, during a stay in hospital and without his laptop, he drafted his final contribution shortly before he died.

John came into the Fellowship in Edinburgh when he was 15, spent time in Glasgow and Paisley Assemblies and was with us in Greenock for six years. He regularly made his way by bus from Largs each Lord's Day when able before lockdown, and still appeared in Zoom meetings right to the end. He was a faithful, unassuming and generous man who had a big heart for others, for Bible distribution, for persecuted believers, and especially for Israel which he often visited. He had written a book about that troubled part of the world in 1985 entitled 'Whose Land?'

At the burial service it was pointed out that, although the Lord will reward John for his diligent service, our confidence that he is now with Christ is based on the Lord's work for us all at the cross. At the graveside the family heard about the Christian's hope, to be 'absent from the body and at home with the Lord', and of another day when the dead in Christ will be raised. John Black (evangelist) and Donnie Black took the services.

John had everything organised for his passing, including hymns (although we couldn't sing them due to restrictions). They reflect his faith for his family to ponder, 'God be with you till we meet again', 'How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds' and 'Till He come'. He often spoke about our Lord's return, and would have loved to experience it; however the Lord willed it otherwise and took him home ahead of that wonderful event.

Do please pray for his family - Morag, Heather, Brian and Cameron - and their families, to share our hope of another day. The Assembly is the poorer for his passing.

Gordon McKay; John Black

At home with the Lord – Emily Hope, Glasgow, Scotland

Alan and Debbie Hope and their daughter Nicola, and also Alex and Margaret, Alan's father and mother, have been given many flowers by friends and neighbours and school and student friends, as also by many in the Fellowship over the past year and again more recently. They wish to convey the thanks and appreciation of the whole family including Debbie's dear parents, Doug and Pam Kinghorne and the rest of the family in Australia, for flowers, cards, phone calls, practical help and messages of support that have been a strength to them over the year. Although Emily had not yet committed to the Fellowship, she grew up among us and was well known and loved by all for her musical talent and bright personality. Please pray on, as many of you have done, for the close and wider family, each and every one, that their courage will be sustained, and for their faith to be strong.

Eric Archibald; Alex Osborne

Sharing the Gospel

The long winter outreach sabbatical came to an end at a good time, Good Friday! There's always someone to meet. A well known neighbour, Lees, stopped to chat. He believes in something outside of ourselves, but sees that in aliens and god as the 'Great Architect of the Universe'. It's all a bit beyond me but I tried to direct him to 'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth' (Acts 17:24).

Our next door neighbour stopped to say hello - his wife has just been released from hospital. A couple who live across the road from where I stood said their dog had been standing at the gate listening to the hymns; hopefully them too. The next day in Aberdeen brought a number of encounters with passers by. A man across the road gave the thumbs up and later came over. He said he believes but has a serious drink problem. His name was Wayne. He looked homeless. Another man passed and said, 'Praise the Lord'. A lady took a Bible from our table, Michelle chatted with Edna for a good while. She believes but is unsure.

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions —it is by grace you have been saved (Eph. 2:4,5).

Robert Wood

Special focus

FOC Spring 2021 Update



FOC's Spring 2021 Update has recently been distributed to Assemblies in digital form (a full version and a print locally/at-home version) - under the present circumstances we reckon that this is the most efficient and effective way of getting this information out to all. As you read through this newsletter you will no doubt be greatly encouraged by what the Lord continues to do through the Churches of God across the world, despite the global pandemic, as we reach out with the whole Gospel of the blessed God.

You can also use the QR code to view the flipbook version directly - simply point any camera on a smartphone at it to trigger the weblink.

Martin Jones; David Woods



Notice Board

We are aware that due to COVID-19, events are cancelled; however some may happen via online methods.

May

- 08 East Scotland Study Day for brothers
- 15 Northern Ireland Women's Study Day (Rosspark)
- 22 Northern Ireland Camp Recruitment

Midlands Fellowship Day

The Midlands Fellowship Day, scheduled for 8 May on the Fellowship Calendar, has sadly had to be cancelled.

John Bowler

Text for the Month

Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. Luke 9:23-24 (NIV - UK)

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