

Report on Virtual Belgian Camp (19-21 August 2021)



Since the beginning of the first UK lockdown in March 2020, contact has been maintained between the UK and the small Church of God in Antwerp by regular Sunday afternoon Bible study sessions using Skype. In addition, following the International Women's Day of Prayer calendar, the ladies have 'met' monthly to share Bible verses and to pray. These have been precious times, strengthening the bonds of fellowship around God's word. Our disappointments can indeed be God's appointments!

We were disappointed that for a second year running we were unable to visit Belgium for a real camp. However, using our enhanced experience of the use of internet technology we were able to plan a virtual programme that included morning prayer meetings (using Zoom) and a range of daily activities to which 'campers' were invited to contribute via the **Gemeente Gods te Antwerpen** Facebook group page.

Our theme was "**Wind, Water, Fire**" which spoke to us powerfully of the Voice of God, the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. For each evening there was a singing session recorded by **Mike Oxley** and a talk on the different elements of the theme from **Brian Johnston**. These resources are available on the **Gemeente Gods te Antwerpen** Facebook group page if you wish to join us.

It has always been a feature of the Belgian camp that it has attracted visitors from around the world, as well as from every Church district in the UK. They 'checked in' again this year - from Australia, Canada, India, even Myanmar. It was a joyful experience and we are greatly encouraged.

As we negotiate the complications of the continuing pandemic and different travel arrangements post- Brexit, we look forward to the 'real' possibility of seeing each other again soon. If the Lord has not returned for us in the meantime, we will be celebrating the 25th Belgian camp in 2022.

Brian and Rosemary Johnston; Mike Oxley; Pauline Renfrew

Hope

In Heb. 11:1 we are told that "**Faith is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen.**" This Scripture came to mind after the disappointment of the England team losing in a penalty shootout and was very evident from the reaction of the players, manager, crowd and media. Everyone was confident that the England team would win - they had built their hopes on it - but alas they lost and there were feelings of devastation, unbelief and numbness. Hopes were dashed.

It made me think of the hope that we have which can never be taken away from us.

Rom. 15:4 tells us that 'What is written in the Scriptures is to give us encouragement and hope as we wait for our Lord's return. The hope we have as believers is an anchor for the soul, it's sure and steadfast and enters within the veil where Jesus is' (Heb.

6:19) and what is there is eternal. We can trust God's promises and find absolute assurance and security in Christ.

Rom. 15:13 is a lovely verse which, in the NASB, says: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." The NLT puts it this way: 'I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit'.

That's a wonderful promise isn't it, that we can be filled with joy and peace through this hope?

It made me appreciate the hope we have through Jesus. I wasn't affected by the team losing because I hadn't built my hope in them winning, and I felt great peace and joy knowing the hope we have is eternal. One can only

feel sorry when the following morning the news portrayed thousands whose hopes had gone - there was nothing to look forward to, no build-up.

There is a lovely hymn in the Gospel songbook, number 159:

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

It was as if the ground had been taken away from under the feet of the spectators, they had nothing to stand on. The chorus of that hymn says:

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

Praise our God for the hope we have, the anchor for the soul and the solid rock on which we stand.

Sue and Gilbert Grierson



Liverpool Holiday Club



With our outreach activities into the community on hold for 18 months and with no Summer Camp again, we began to wonder if there was any way we could run a Holiday Club for local children. David Woods agreed to be part of this and a team was set up to organise it. A big banner outside our Church building, flyers to existing children and their families and leaflets put through doors locally was how we got the message out.

Holiday Club ran for five days from 10 am to 1 pm from July 26 to 30. We had 15 children, most of whom came each day. Some were already known to us from Little Fishes and Wednesday Youth Club, but we met the children from three new families too.

Our title 'Let's Go' introduced the children to the story of the freeing of the Israelite slaves from Egypt, their experiences through the Red Sea and at Sinai and how they were looked after in the journey to the Promised Land. Elsie Sands drew 4 very large pictures representing the story that went on the wall and we had bunting and decoration to give atmosphere.

The children heard the Bible story each day from David Woods, watched video clips, and were introduced to some new songs. Hayley Woods and Helen Midda helped them learn the memory verse in both English and Sign Language. They made suitcases, baked bread and performed on musical instruments they made from bits and pieces. They decorated cupcakes to become sheep and painted rocks.

We acted out the story too. John Pilkington was Pharaoh – always saying 'No'! The children were lambs, fleeing Israelites and manna gatherers! They learned to trust by having to follow instructions while blindfolded, avoiding the many obstacles in their way.

Each morning the activities stopped for a break – fruit, biscuits and a drink. Then we had fun playing games before the morning was rounded off with a quiz.

On the last morning, we invited family members to join us for the final session and 11 adults came along to hear the children singing, saying and signing their memory verse and receiving a Bible to take away and read. We hope the new families will join us when activities, hopefully, recommence this autumn.

Elsie Tugwell and Genevieve worked hard at organising the whole event and producing props and ideas. We appreciated David and Hayley coming over each day and we worked together as a team.

We kept the Church informed daily with an update and were very conscious of the interest and prayer support from the whole Church. It was good to be active again after 18 months of lockdown.

David Webster



Vacation Bible Course

The months of August and early September were quite hectic as we began our annual Vacation Bible Course (VBC) in Surulere and Igbeti, Oyo State. The programme this year was different though. We had planned for an elaborate attendance but the spread of Covid-19 created fear in the hearts of parents and many of them did not allow their wards to attend. However, we still had a wonderful time with those who came, looking at the theme "Come And See". We looked at Jesus Christ as a child, as a friend, as a leader, as a labourer, and as a Saviour. Thereafter, the children were taken to the VBC camp in Akarakumo, Badagry.

Similarly, we had VBC for the first time in Igbeti Assembly, looking at the same subjects. It was good to report that the programme was well attended. We hope this will serve as a springboard for other programs in Igbeti in the months ahead.

It was great to have the Disciples Teaching Week (DTC) this year. Our theme was "Kingdom Service for Kingdom Reward". Glory to God for His enabling grace in all these works.

Gbenga Fagbenle



God loves you!



Michael was propping himself up on the street furniture behind one of the market stalls on East Street – the same street where Charlie Chaplin was born into poverty and hardship in 1889. I offered him one of the leaflets entitled “**Nobody is not loved**” and told him “**God loves you**”. He raised himself and said to me sadly “Nobody loves me. I have done so many wrong things. You have no idea”. My reply was “**God does** love you. **That is exactly why Jesus came to this earth to die instead of all of us, to take away all of our sins**”. I asked his name and promised to pray for him. He said he would pray for me. A brief conversation revealed a deep sense of guilt and hopelessness.

In the same street, a group of three women were chatting over their shopping trolleys. They were not so young anymore, hardened by life’s experiences which I could only guess at, but when I offered one of them the same leaflet and told her that the message was “**God loves you**” her face lit up, the lines disappeared as she smiled, and she told me “**I know he does**”.

A lonely figure of a man was sweeping up the leaves on the large council housing estate which is already partly demolished, with the rest scheduled for the next phase of redevelopment. Along the walkways linking the flats, there were still a few residents among the boarded-up apartments. The sign “**Nobody is not loved**” is on the end wall of the youth centre, now also closed, at the base of this long tower block.

Another day, on another estate, I was posting the leaflets through doors, and weighing up whether or not to post through those letterboxes which had “**No junk mail**” stickers on them. The Gospel message is **not junk**, rather it is a matter of **life and death for all eternity**. As I approached one door with that sticker, it opened, and a middle-aged woman came out. I offered her the leaflet, which she accepted, and told her that **God loved her**. She had **nothing to say**. I moved on, and she may have put the leaflet in the bin behind me, but I prayed that those simple words would ring in her ears.

God promises that “**My word that goes out from my mouth ...will not return to me empty**” (Isa. 55:11). Paul’s question was “**How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?**” (Rom. 10:14)

The leaflet “**Nobody is not loved**” is available from Hayes Press in the new A6 format. A pack of 100 including delivery is only £6.53 (£4.95 + £1.58 postage)

Buy your pack here:

<https://www.hayespress.org/product/nobody-is-not-loved>

Pauline Renfrew; Jo Johnston



For Prayer Ministering Brethren

(October and onwards)

Gbenga Fagbenle

Hopefully, I shall be with the Assemblies in Igbede and Ojo during the month of October (D.V.). Please continue to pray for all His people.

Brian Johnson

I’m busy recording a 3 month supply of radio programmes, with an attendant transcript book.

I’m also commissioning for the 2022 Needed Truth, God willing. In addition, I’m engaged with local duties, monitoring of overseas areas, and committee work.

Craig Jones

Since the last update I’ve had monthly Zoom connections with the Melbourne saints in June, August and September, and then throughout September weekly Wednesday evening Zoom

ministry with the saints in Kingston, Jamaica. Locally, I’m hoping to resume monthly visits to Mount Forest again and we are also taking the first steps towards resuming the weekly “Growing Disciples” adult Bible class in Hamilton, commencing in October, Lord willing. Thankful for these first steps towards recovering some semblance of ‘normal service’!

Geralde Magasura

I’m continuing outreach work in Malabog and Alon. I will be speaking at a conference in Longanapan, and like Paul, who teaches in all churches what he taught in one church, I plan to visit Bullucan, New Dalaguete, Pantukan, Banaybanay, and Nabunturan to feed the flock from the topic we had at the conference.

Laurence Onyokoko

I will be with the Assemblies at Aviara and Ibedeni in October, God willing. I will also work with the Church in Okorikpehre as it resumes meetings at its study centre in Okorekpo.

David Woods

Life and service continue much as it has done for the last 18 months, but there are some tentative plans to restart community-focused activities in Manchester in October (Toddler Group, Computer Advice Centre, Charity Café). I’m happy to be able to help, in person, with Liverpool’s Wednesday Club for kids once per month too. I’m also thankful for continued Zoom interactions with Churches across the world.



Diamond Anniversary in Kirkintilloch

We are delighted to celebrate the 60 years marriage of Jean and Willie Johnston. They were married on 1 July 1961 in Macduff and celebrated their diamond anniversary on Saturday 26 June with family and a few close friends. Jean and Willie first took up residence in Ayrshire, then moved to Macduff, and finally to Cumbernauld where Willie was Clerk of Works for Cumbernauld Development Corporation. They were numbered with the saints in Coatbridge, and when Coatbridge ceased they moved to Kirkintilloch where Willie is an overseer and they are both appreciated. Willie and Jean have three sons, Granville, Rodney and Sean, with Granville and Rodney being in the Kirkintilloch Assembly. We wish them continued blessing in the Lord.

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged" (Deut: 31. 8).

Billy Bell; Tony Smith

Diamond Wedding Celebrations



Frank and Sylvia Gutteridge celebrated 60 years together on 29 July with a barbecue at the Wood's in Lutterworth. It was a very happy occasion with the Lord's blessing.

John Martin

Diamond Wedding Celebrations



Dave and Kath Horne (Liverpool) celebrated 60 years married on 19 August with a card from the Queen, visits from Church friends and meals out with family. Dave and Kath have been a blessing to the Church in Liverpool over many years.

Dave Webster

VICTORIA ASSEMBLY FALL CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday, October
16 via Zoom

Time: 11 am to 1 pm
(Pacific Time); 7 pm to 9
pm (UK time)

Speakers: David King, Phil
Brennan and Andy McIlree

For an invitation to join
please email
mgh1159ta@gmail.com

Phil Williamson



New Birth

Welcome to Camille Rose Lewis, born on 2 July at 7:54 pm, weighing 7lb 1oz. Camille is a second daughter to Geraint and Sarah (Aberkenfig) and sister to Esmé.

Steve Peers; Tony Jones

90th Birthday Celebration in Kirkintilloch



Our dear sister Jean Whitelaw celebrated her 90th birthday on 24 August, with her husband Willie, son Graham, daughter Aileen and her grandchildren. Jean is one of the founder members of the Church of God in Kirkintilloch. She is a great help at Tea Meetings and the Coffee Corner displaying her aptitude for home baking. She is of a quiet disposition but very able when speaking to neighbours and patrons of the Coffee Corner. Due to legal restrictions, the Assembly were unable to take an active part in the celebrations which would have been a joy to all. We wish Jean and her family good health and happiness and God's blessing in the days and years ahead in His will. "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deut. 31:8)

Billy Bell; Tony Smith

Whose brother was an aviation pioneer who successfully sued the Wright brothers?
 Whose ship sank in sight of the new Statue of Liberty?
 Which assembly met at number 40 1/2 above a stable?
 Which assembly's baptistry doubled as a crockery cupboard?
 Who threw her husband's gun down the toilet after he tried to prevent her attending the Remembrance?
 Which two saints were married to Benjamin Franklin?
 Who failed to turn up for their own baptism, and why?

Which teen survived the sinking of the Lusitania and lived until she was 92?
 Who got in trouble for singing the Grand Old Duke of York?

Who was sent to Barwash prison, and why?
 Who was saved after his wife's appeal from her deathbed?
 Who passed away shortly after being gored by a bull?
 Who fought in Queen Victoria's army?
 Who, or what, was Brantford's 'Moxted Brigade'?

Which overseer's father was a noted Scottish poet?
 Who married Everett L. Blankenship?
 What did George Prasher Senior do in San Francisco?
 How did 5 Mexicans have a miraculous escape?



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The PDF version is available here: <https://www.etsy.com/ca/listing/1025951149>

Alternatively, contact Martin via jones.martinp@gmail.com and any of the formats can be supplied to you!

Martin Jones; Chris Sutton

At home with the Lord – Eva Long, Crowborough, England



Eva Long passed peacefully into the Lord's presence on Monday 28 June. Eva would have reached the magnificent age of 100 in August this year, outliving all her siblings including her late sisters Elsie (Toms) and Grace (Dodge) who will be known to some. Michael and Sylvia Elliott were with her daughter Fran when her mother died in the Tunbridge Wells Pilgrims' Friend Society Home where her quiet and contented manner of life was noted by many.

Born at Abertridwr, Caerphilly, South Wales on 24 August 1921, she was saved as a young girl and at 12 she was baptised and added to the Church of God in Abertridwr. On its subsequent closure, she was transferred to the Church in Mountain Ash. She left school at 14 to care for her poorly mother, then she served in the Women's Land Army from 1940. She was 43 when she married Ted Long and their daughter Frances (Fran Parker) was born 3 years later. In her quiet, unassuming manner she acknowledged and honoured the Lord in all her ways through her 99 years. Her simple testimony statement when she entered the Pilgrim's home in Tunbridge Wells at the age of 83 was, "I am so thankful that the Lord saved me and has been my strength and stay all these years", quoting the hymn, "How I praise thee precious Saviour, that thy love laid hold of me!" and sharing her favourite verse - Isaiah 41:10.

A short funeral service was held with family and friends present at the graveside at Bedwas near Caerphilly, South Wales. Michael Elliott of Crowborough spoke of Eva's life, applying Psalm 23 to give a heart-warming picture of the confidence in, and enjoyment of, the Lord's love and care that Eva knew and that she longed for her family, friends and colleagues to experience too. Michael reminded us that Eva is now in the Lord's presence, and pointed us forward to His return when the perishable body we had laid to rest will be raised imperishable, and those left alive but mortal at His coming will be clothed with immortality (1 Corinthians 15:52-55) and so we will be with the Lord forever. The anticipation of that joyful meeting in the air with the Lord Himself was read loud and clear from 1 Thessalonians 4 - comforting words indeed to the grieving believer!

Please pray that all the family will know that comfort, having so recently mourned the home-call of their other granny, Marion Parker, only last year.

Graham Smith; David Parker

Romford Conference
Saturday 13th November

'Masked but not Silenced'
Maintaining a Witness during the Pandemic

First hand accounts from Myanmar, The Philippines' East Africa

Log in to Romford's Virtual Conference on Zoom on Saturday 13th November

To register to attend email guyseiliott@gmail.com

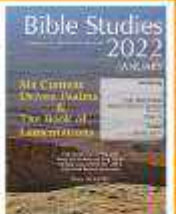
Bible Studies
Looking ahead to 2022

Are you interested in going deeper in the Word of God?
 • Face the challenge of writing about
Six Context Driven Psalms
 &
The Book of Lamentations

Some themes

- Our relationship with God in times of trials
- Nathan the prophet's visit, and David's response
- How life's experiences shaped David's knowledge of God
- From affliction to faith in Psalm 102
- Afflictions of prophet and city in the Book of Lamentations
- The gold become dim and God's anger against Jerusalem

Anyone requiring a copy of the Syllabus for 2022, please email: rhullarton@btinternet.com



At home with the Lord – Robert Samuel Milligan, formerly Knocknacloy, N. Ireland



Croobe in the Mourne Mountains.

"Dungannon Death Shocks Community" - These were the headlines of the local newspaper upon reporting the unexpected death of our brother Robert Milligan. So well known by many in the local community as a market gardener as well as his many other talents, Robert's absence is already being felt by many.

Born on 2 February 1943 Robert was saved at an early age and was baptised and added to the Church of God in Knocknacloy in March 1957, just after his 14th birthday, and continued in the Assembly until his home call on 24 July. As a market gardener he was dedicated to his work and, apart from his local deliveries, Robert never travelled far due to the responsibility of planting and harvesting his crops.

At times he was a man of few words, and yet at other times he had a lot to say with a lot of knowledge on many subjects due to being widely read and always listening to Radio 4 but never having owned a TV.

He was well known for his talent at playing the tin whistle and other wind instruments, and many have since testified to having been visited by Robert during a time of bereavement and expressing his sympathy by playing a lament in honour of the deceased. He also had a very deep knowledge of Irish/Celtic culture. On the front of his Order of Service there is a photo of him playing a tune on his flute after climbing Slieve

Due to social distancing regulations we could only accommodate about 40 people, mostly family, in the main hall but the message spoken by Ken Drain from Belfast was relayed over loudspeakers so that the many mourners seated outside in a gazebo were able to hear a clear Gospel challenge, along with those who were standing at the roadside. A fitting tribute was also paid by Robert's daughter Amanda to her Dad. A fitting word of comfort and Gospel appeal was given by Gilbert Grierson at the graveside. Prayer is requested for his son Stephen and daughter Amanda and their respective families.

Gilbert Grierson; John Watts

At home with the Lord – Mary (May) Fotheringham, Glasgow, Scotland



Our much-loved sister, Miss Mary (May) Fotheringham, was called home to glory on 22 July at 92 years, after some months of care in Glenlivet Nursing Home, and latterly in hospital where care-home staff, nursing staff and doctors earned the gratitude of family and friends.

May was a daughter of John and Ina Fotheringham of Partick, Glasgow, with our late sister Winifred and brother Alan, of Kilmarnock Assembly. She also was in the Church in Hamilton, when the family removed for a short spell to East Kilbride. Many recall their hospitality, as after a meeting friends would be invited for supper and sing hymns, which May accompanied on the piano. She attended Commercial College and her skills were put to good use in recording conference ministry and preparing scripts for Sunday School or Bible Class to contribute at end of session 'treats'. May was baptised and added to the Church in 1943 and was a very sociable character.

May was a regular distributor of Gospel leaflets and was one of the group who gathered to read Scripture and sing hymns at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and then give patients leaflets, with some conversation and Gospel challenge where appropriate. May's career was mainly in Rottenrow Hospital doing clerical work for many years. There she developed her interest in people and their health. She was delighted to follow the

progress of her nephews Graham and Alistair, and her niece Gwen.

In the service at Mosspark Baptist Church, E. Archibald also spoke of May's belief that those who have put their trust in Christ Jesus have eternal life, that physical death can never take away. She was baptised by immersion and found fulfilment in the Fellowship of the Churches of God. What David wrote in Psalm 23, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord to length of days", was certainly true of May. Her fortitude and kindness in the face of many changes in the world around her was an example to us all.

At the graveside, A. Osborne spoke also of how May was often seen in the Partick and Cardonald communities, known for her friendly greeting, kindness, and witness. He spoke from John 14 of the place prepared for those who believe and from Luke 24 and 1 Corinthians 15 that Jesus has risen and that Mary was first to see the risen Lord. Now May is with Him forever. She fulfilled the commission of Matthew 28 in telling out the Saviour's love. Please pray for the family, Alan and Margaret, Graham, Gwen, and Ali and Gillian, that they may have comfort from the Lord in their recent loss.

E. Archibald, M. Archibald, A. Osborne

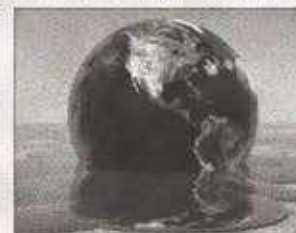
Good News

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR A

WORLD IN CRISIS

South East Sister's Study Day

Sources have confirmed that the South East Sister's Study Day will start at 10am at Hayes Hall. We hope to run this as an 'in-person event', but will make part of the day available on 'Zoom' for anyone who cannot attend in-person.



cog.hayes@gmail.com

Saturday 16th October 2021

Please RSVP by email no later than 2nd October 2021 and let us know if you will join us in-person or virtually by Zoom.

If you will be attending in-person please do let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

At home with the Lord – Fred Marks, Brantford, Ontario



“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favour rather than silver and gold.” (Prov. 22:1)

Frederick (Fred) Marks was born in Hamilton, Ontario on 18 July 1930. He was called home from Brantford, Ontario by his Lord on 28 April, aged 91 years. Fred had a good name; he loved his Lord and loved the family that he and his “bride” Isabel raised - Leslie-Ann, Rick, Karen and Dan, and their extended families.

After graduating from university, Fred found himself in the lumber (timber) business, going on to form his own company that he ran successfully until he eventually sold it and retired. His dealings and connections with many people throughout Ontario and beyond often allowed him to witness to them when he could about his Lord and Saviour, and of course his reputation as a man of uprightness and integrity encouraged others to listen.

Fred was a man who found ways to encourage and support others, known and unknown alike. Many can attest to receiving a short note

from Fred containing a word of encouragement at just the right time! Upon seeing Fred’s obituary in the local newspaper online, one mother wrote a comment to relay how some 20 years ago the newspaper had reported a story of her son’s bike being stolen and how Fred had sent a letter of encouragement to the young lad, a stranger - a touching letter his mother has kept to this day! Fred was always keen to use what he had to help others.

He loved a good story and enjoyed a good game of golf. In his book “What Do You See” Fred took everyday life occurrences and drew spiritual lessons from them. It seems fitting to leave the last words to Fred, who recounted a lesson entitled “Hope and Fear” as that was all most golfers brought to the golf course - hope and fear.

“The 17th hole on our golf course is a straight par three requiring a 150-yard shot over a fairly large pond. For the average golfer, a tee shot at this distance is no great challenge. But the presence of water plays tricks in the mind and having played the hole many times myself I can tell you that the psychological challenges are significant. More than once I’ve stood over the ball on this tee and said to myself, “Fred, old friend, I sure do hope you make a good shot here”. Only to have old Fred reply, “I hope I do too but to be frank there’s quite a wind blowing, and I’m afraid it’s going to pose a problem for us”. The minute a golfer’s confidence has challenged, he’s in trouble and it’s rare for him to hit a good shot with that mindset. One thing I’m sure of is that there’s not a member in our club who’s not hit a ball into the water from this tee. It is a matter of hope and fear.

When it comes to golf, we can smile at these frailties. But what is really serious and sad is that’s the way that many people lead their entire lives. They sure do hope their circumstances will improve but they have plenty of fears about the reality of this happening. And if you’re able to speak seriously with them, they’ll tell you all they do is hope they’ll get to heaven when they die but they’ve got no real assurance that they will. That answer indicates an underlying fear.

I’ll never be able to hit a golf ball the way professionals do, and I’m resigned to that fact; I’ll have to keep on playing golf with my two partners hope and fear. But I am happy to say that I’ve placed my trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and He now is my hope so I no longer need to live in fear. Thank You, Jesus, for dying for me!”

Trevor Shaw; Dave Neely

At home with the Lord – Cath Rankin, Wishaw, Scotland



Our sister Cath was called home to glory on 17 June. She had a long life and although she never married was a lover of children and young people. Her 94 years were marked by care and concern for family relatives and those within the Fellowship.

Cath was born and brought up in a rural part of Lanarkshire with her four sisters and was in Crossford Assembly before moving to Wishaw in February 1978. She was a hard worker and a sister of a quiet disposition who studied the Scriptures, making sure of the hope she had within her. She had a ready smile and was always pleased to be included in things about Assembly life. In her days at work she cared for boys and girls who had no one to care physically for them, and to her latter end some kept in contact with her. Among her personal belongings, her two nieces found an address book. Within it were reminders of those for whom she once cared as they moved on in life.

At the funeral service held in a local undertaker’s rest home, in keeping with Scotland’s Covid regulations, Leonard Ross (Aberdeen) spoke of Cath’s family life and the care she had for her nephews and nieces and their children. She was a real ‘Christian’ who spoke in a quiet, yet congenial manner. She was loved by all who knew her. Those gathered listened to two hymns that had been sung at her sister’s funeral service fourteen years previously and they told their message.

The hymns were ‘Face to Face with Christ my Saviour’ and ‘When my Lifework is Ended and I Cross the Swelling Tide’.

At the interment Alex Brown spoke of Cath living in at least six houses that were really ‘homes’, but like the popular hymn says, “This world is not my home, I’m just a passing through”. He mentioned her lady-like appearance even when she was in a home for the elderly. She, like the Apostle Paul, had learned the secret of contentment. He said that we would greatly miss Cath’s ready smile. Those who remain are not over sorrowful, as for Cath her new home is very much better. So another generation comes to an end. As the concluding hymn was played those standing around began to sing the hymn ‘There’s a Land That is Fairer Than Day.

Colin H Brooks; James Brindle; Alex Brown

Special focus

Northern Ireland Church Activity in 2021

With the Covid pandemic continuing to restrict us in our day-to-day activities, family, work and Church lives, we are thankful that God has enabled us to have the Remembrance in Belfast and Armagh since Easter Sunday. Despite the requirement for social distancing, wearing of face masks and strict adherence to sanitising, hygiene and ventilation requirements, this has been such a blessing to us all in our District.

All the other spiritual exercises so important to the building up of saints, i.e. prayer, ministry and Bible study have been carried out using Zoom and we have continued to have a healthy and regular attendance at these events, not just from our District but from different parts of the Fellowship as time zones suit.

Our Lord's Day ministry has been mainly delivered by local brothers but we have also enjoyed invited speakers from other Churches. We have had a month off from Zoom in July and just two meetings planned for August (1 and 15) to accommodate the saints during the summer holiday period. Mid-week we have had our precious District prayer times, and for several weeks we had rich and encouraging ministry before our prayers from invited ministering brothers.



In February and March Phil Brennan had a series of talks entitled most appropriately 'How to respond when the wheels come off': lessons from Genesis, Jeremiah, Daniel and Nehemiah. David Woods brought us precious teaching during May from some of the 'Psalms of the Sons of Korah' (45 - 48). Andy McIlree followed in June with 'Promises in Proverbs'.

We are so thankful to our brothers for bringing us such uplifting ministry in these times of increased isolation and reduced in-person fellowship.

We held our Women's Study Day on 15 May via Zoom with Phil and Celia Brennan as our guests. Our theme was 'Delighting in God', one of the key verses being Psa. 37:4: "Take delight in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart." Phil gave us enriching ministry in his two talks, focusing first on 'The happiness of God' and concluding our study by looking at 'The happiness of resting in God.' Our group study centred on 'The happiness of serving God.' We wanted to explore how we could move from merely doing things out of a sense of duty to the place where our service becomes a joy and delight. Phil had asked us to share our thoughts on how delighting in God affects every area of our lives.

We want to thank Phil for opening our minds to appreciate these precious truths and we would recommend listening to the recordings of his talks to gain a deeper insight into what we experienced. It was a joy to welcome sisters from other Districts in England and Scotland to share our special day. Thank you, Phil, for feeding our souls so satisfyingly.



On Saturday 19 June we had a Zoom Fellowship Day when David Woods was our guest speaker with the joyful subject of 'A Call to Praise - Psalm 135'. In his opening ministry, David spoke to us of 'Praising the God who redeems His people for His glory' and after a time of hymn 'singing' we went into our breakout rooms to discuss Psalm 135 using David's prepared questions which led us through a most interesting and productive study of the text. We learned of God's names, His attributes and characteristics, His servants, the place of His Name, that there is only one true and living God, and we were solemnly reminded of the dangers of idolatry. In his closing talk, David then lifted our thoughts to 'Praising the God who gives His people a glorious heritage.'

We were delighted to 'connect' with several brothers and sisters from other UK Districts. We thank David for leading us in such a glorious contemplation: "Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him! (Ps.147:1)

The District ministry using Zoom has been recorded and if any would like to listen to them the links can be obtained from Ian Lockhart (ian.n.lockhart@outlook.com).

Lindsay and Joy Woods; Ian Lockhart; Claire Andrews

Notice Board

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

October

- 04 Northern Ireland Armagh Conference
- 23 Northern Ireland Fellowship Day

Text for the Month

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice!

Philippians 4:4 (NIV)

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