



From the Manse



Viewfield News

Sept
2016

Newsletter
of
Viewfield
Baptist
Church
Dunfermline

At the deacons meeting last night someone very insightfully observed that redeveloping and refurbishing the building had seemed unattainable for so many years, and now it is done, and this has raised expectations about what is possible with God. It set my mind thinking about mountains and faith. Jesus said “Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matt 17:20) Sometimes we sing “Ah Lord God, thou has made the heavens... nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing, nothing is too difficult for thee” but do we believe it? We need to see that in embarking on this project together we exercised faith in God that this was his purpose and that he would be faithful to his promises. Now God didn’t provide aside from the real generosity of his people, but that generosity was also exercised in faith, faith that God is in control of our personal circumstances and faith that what we were giving to was of him.

So, that mountain has been moved. We need to ask now, what next? What is the next mountain that we need to move together under God, from here to there? Leadership in the church is all about moving things from here to there. There is a really old story about a minister who wanted to move a piano from one side of the church to the other and he thought that if he did it a few inches each week no one would notice. Huge mistake! The key to change is not to hope people don’t notice, that you “get away with it” as it were, but to engage people in the process. And the first step to that is to recognise the need. If people can see that “there” is better than “here”, then a real barrier to change is overcome: “we like it here.” You may remember that the impetus for the redevelopment came out of a church survey that said that improving access was an important issue. Discontent with how things are combined

with a compelling vision of how things might be can be powerful motivators.

The apostle Paul wrote “if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love I am nothing.” (1 Cor 13:2) There is a difference, I believe, between “faith in” which is our fundamental trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour that brings us into a right relationship with our Father in heaven and “faith for”, or “a faith” – a gift of the Holy Spirit for something specific. Of course one is impossible without the other, the latter depends on the former, but it seems to me we can have faith in Jesus that brings forgiveness and cleansing and new life and yet have no real expectation about what he might want to do with us and through us. When Jesus talks about faith as small as a mustard seed and Paul speaks of a faith that can move mountains, they are speaking about an expectant spirit. This I believe is something that we should all seek to grow. We need to hear Paul’s other word too. However big our faith, however expectant our spirit, our motivation must always be love. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. (Jn 3:16) God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8) “Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends.” (Jn 15:13)

Michael

Marie Curie Helper Service FIFE

‘having a Marie Curie Helper volunteer is like having an extra friend in the family with the knowledge to help’

We know that little things can make a big difference. Marie Curie Helper volunteers can provide that difference, chatting over a cup of tea, helping people attend appointments, go shopping or just be there with a friendly ear. Helper volunteers are a vital part of the Marie Curie Fife service which helps provide support to enable people to be cared for at home. We provide support for families and people living with a terminal illness through companionship, practical and emotional support and respite for carers a few hours each week.

We provide two days training, travel expenses and have regular peer support meetings.

If you would like to find out more please call: 0800 304 7406 or go to mariecurie.org.uk/volunteering



Care and support
through terminal illness

Harvest Service @ Viewfield Sunday 2nd October 2016, 11am



An all age service during which we will thank God for all that he provides, and learn about and pray for refugees who don't have many of the things which we take for granted.

The service will include an opportunity to make a donation towards the BMS "Syria's Forgotten Families" appeal.

bmsworldmission.org/syriasfamilies

Baptist Missionary Society: registered as a charity in England and Wales (number 233782) and in Scotland (number SC037767)

Fellowship News

Michael and Val would like to thank the Viewfield Family for all the expressions of love, cards, flowers, prayers and support shown to them since May. 'It has been a time of challenge and of blessing as we have both had health issues – but we are grateful for the healing we have received and that through it all we have rejoiced with Helen and David in the birth of Leia and celebrated our Ruby Wedding Anniversary. The Lord is faithful.'

Also during the summer David & Marion Reid and Sandy & Mary McLean celebrated their Golden Weddings and in September Pete & Margaret Hutchison their Ruby Wedding - congratulations to them all.

The best kept secret!

That comment was one of many positive statements made following the Women's Fellowship Conference at St Andrews in August. This particular lady had never been to conference before and certainly is already planning to be there next year!

Over 120 ladies met together for Fellowship, Fun and Food – both Spiritual and Physical. The speaker for the weekend was Dr Jane Gallacher from Stirling Baptist Church and her theme was Transforming Prayer. Over three sessions she spoke on Listening Prayer, Prophetic Prayer and Healing Prayer. Prayer is much more than talking to God. It is important that we **listen** and hear God's voice and then share God's word with others to strengthen, encourage and comfort one another and **build up** the church. God's wisdom is needed to recognise His appointed time and to share with love. The Lord has given us and the church the gift of healing. Healing is in God's name, God's nature, our commission and in our calling. We have to listen in prayer to the Holy Spirit's guidance and act in faith and obedience to God's written and spoken words.

One feature of Conference is the Missionary Hour. Deb Benn had literally arrived from China the week before Conference and shared about the work she and her husband Doug had been called to following their son Josh had been on a BMS Action Team. They had both retired from teaching and went to Uganda to set up a Children's Department for the Baptist Union of Uganda to train teachers especially in a) how to plan a lesson, b) Safety and Health and c) Spiritual Matters and praying with children. Doug and Deb wrote a book of practical advice called Guide, Guard and Grow which has been used to train teachers all over Uganda. They moved within Uganda and trained pastors in Children's work. They spent 9 years in Uganda. Their final year of service was in China where they both taught English at a University called 'Yust' which means Founding Spirit. As it is not permitted to openly proclaim the gospel there, the motto was Loveism! On a plaque outside is written 'Love with all your heart - with all your life. Love everyone in need just as you love yourself!' A very generous gift was received from the Conference for the ongoing work of BMS.

Saturday Evening is traditionally the fun evening and there is much laughter – but behind it all is a serious message. Areas and groups arranged and 'performed' sketches around the theme of 'Adventures' or 'An Unexpected Journey'. Not quite up to West End standard yet but maybe next year!

The singing at St Andrews is something special and each session began with a time of praise led very sensitively by the in-house band. Sunday

morning dawned with a wonderful Communion Service led by Myra. This, as always, was a most moving experience made all the more precious by the hymns chosen. All present were so aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Deb Benn was delighted to be present at St Andrews as the Missionary Speaker but was very sad to be retiring to England and not being able to attend another time as a participant. She was thrilled to be told that she could come any time as although it is arranged by Scottish Baptist Women's Fellowship – it is not exclusively for members. That means **anyone** can attend. Well you have to be female to qualify!! (Sorry men.)

Now the secret is out – if anyone wants further information or details please ask any of the six ladies from Viewfield who went this year. My thanks go to Anne Macmillan who wrote a report of the weekend which I have used in part for this item. Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend because of the surgery I had but realise I missed a great time of blessing.

Val Bonser

Women's Fellowship

We will soon be into October! We might be thinking 'How did that happen? The summer passed so quickly. It can't be 6 months since W.F. took a break.' It really is – nearly 6 months. Fortunately, Women's Fellowship meets monthly informally for lunch during the break and is a good time for Fellowship and catching up with one another. Our last lunch is on Wednesday 28th September at 12.45pm for 1.00pm. ALL ladies will be welcome. Please bring your own food - drinks will be provided.



During the break the Committee has been busy preparing the syllabus for the next 6 months. A varied programme has been put together with visiting speakers, interest/informative sessions, and also learning about and supporting various charities.

We begin the session on Wednesday 5th October when the Incoming National President, Mrs Marlyn Quinn will be our speaker. The Theme she has chosen for the year is 'God's Gift of Friendship'. This will be explored throughout the session.

Our new syllabus should be available now. Please see any member of the Committee for a copy so that you at least know what is happening! All would be welcome to visit on a regular or occasional basis.

Val Bonser

Nathan's Summer Adventures

Our roving reporter (RR) caught up with Nathan McKinlay as he stepped out of the lift at Viewfield.

RR: Hi Nathan, what was the most exciting thing that happened to you this summer?

Nathan: Well did you know I am going to be a page boy. My Auntie Ali got engaged just after Beach Mission (I knew it was happening as I saw Jon (her fiancé) having a quiet word with Granda in the Isle of Man)

RR: Ah sounds great, what else happened?

Nathan: I went with Mummy and Daddy first to Scoughall (it's a very difficult word to say) near North Berwick. Mummy was in charge of organising the programme of activities for the boys and girls and daddy was a group leader. Grandma and Grandpa (daddy's mummy and daddy) were there to drive the minibus and look after me. This year all the boys and girls stayed and didn't get homesick. (I won't get homesick when I'm big enough go to camp by myself.)

RR: So Nathan, what was the point of the children being there?

Nathan: That's easy - to have fun and learn about Jesus.

RR: Super, then what next?

Nathan: Off to the Isle of Man. This year mummy and I went on the earlier ferry and met a lady called Steph (who used to belong to Viewfield). Steph cooked us lots of lovely meals - I just love eating. I was worried though, as I had heard that no one was going to cook for us during the second week. Mummy said not to worry, that God would sort something out. And yes he did - lots of local Christians came and cooked us lovely meals including Gregor whose Granny comes to church in a wheelchair like my Great-Granny.

RR: So Nathan, apart from eating what else were you doing.

Nathan: Well I went to Jelly Tots which was for little people like me. We got to play (and eat, very important) and then we had a story and songs about Jesus. There were lots of people there and sometimes it was just too noisy. I also went round to see some of the other groups, and of course was at the "Beach Service" which had songs, drama and a talk. All the ages of children and teenagers came to that every day.

RR: So apart from trips on the Steam train what were your highlights?

Nathan: Both Fridays I got to stay up late. The first Friday we had Family Fun. Lots of families came to that, and there were games and some of the children sang. Poor Auntie Penni got “dunked”. The second Friday again lots of people came and we did Ceilidh dancing and there were some performances. All great fun. Anyway time to go, Granda’s coming to take me on a trip!

Granda’s Postscript: Prayer, Planning and Preparation

Sometimes people say we shouldn’t plan, but just trust in God. Sometimes we plan but have little or no prayer. At both the Men’s Breakfast and at the beginning of the Port St Mary Beach Mission we looked at Nehemiah who Prayed, Planned and Prepared. There are many examples of how Nehemiah did all three as he set about turning his passion into reality (at the beginning Nehemiah 1:5,6 and 2:4,5 are examples).

At Beach Mission we need to do all three all year round - for those of us organising the event it’s a year round task. No matter how many years we’ve been involved no year is the same as another and we have to continue relying on God.

As we plan, we pray for the right people to be on the team and that the paperwork gets completed. There is always the concern about having enough team members, and that we will have enough cooks to cater for over sixty team members and their children. This year we had complications with paperwork for the Mort family who work for the Wycliffe Bible Translators in Nigeria – getting appropriate “Disclosures”/ police checks completed so as to be able to work with the children/teens proved to be very complicated!

Also this year our cook pulled out a couple of months before. We managed to get the services of Steph Rodger (Jill and Derek French’s daughter) but only for the first week. We were unable to get someone to take charge for the second week but several local Christians, along with Mick and Nena Albrock, stepped in to organise and provide all the meals – which avoided the need for us to get by with cold buffets all week!

We also had some change of group leaders this year and we were grateful to Alistair McKinlay (teenagers) and Hannah Downey (7-8s) for stepping up to leadership roles, along with Gillian Downey who has been leading the 11-12s group for a number of years.

We are fortunate in having a good overall leadership team including Penni Crosthwaite (who has recently moved to Dunfermline) who, along with Alison Stewart, provided the training for our young team members,

and Beth who keeps David and Evelyn sane. Alison also led the 5-6s group, and Rhona looked after the admin. We're very grateful to Nena for being on hand to deal with any pastoral needs amongst the team and Mick for his hard work as assistant cook. Jenny Turvey was back on the team for her third year, and Jess Downey was a team member for the first time.

This year our big change was a new group for 3 and 4 years old. This was organised and led by Suzanne Peden (married to Gregor) and Sarah Rotchell. This group met every morning and was staffed by local Christians. The children had a fantastic time, and the parents were delighted with the new group.

The thank you letters have been sent and the debrief taken place so it's on to planning for next year, remembering the three Ps and in fact one of things we are going to change is to help team members to have more time for preparation.

We are very grateful to those who came, prayed, planned, prepared and served and of course to those back in Dunfermline who prayed.

David & Evelyn Stewart (Mission Leaders)

Samaritan's Purse®

I N T E R N A T I O N A L R E L I E F

We have just heard that the building we have used for our warehouse/checking depot has been sold and is unavailable for use this year. Please pray that a suitable venue becomes ready in time for us to check the special gifts for children. We know God has everything in hand, and this is another way He is reminding us of that fact, and that we should have patience to wait for His time / His plan to come to fruition.

Towards the end of October, we will be emptying the attic in the Centre and discovering just how much has been collected over the year to ensure the shoebox gifts are special for each and every child. Covered shoeboxes and leaflets will be available soon, if you wish to fill a gift for a child. Please check the Bulletin for more details.

Filled boxes can be handed in any Sunday in November or can be handed in at the Centre, which is a registered Drop Off Point. Please see Gillian Hall or Christine Pennells for more information.

Encouraging quotation:

"The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us"



TOOLS WITH A MISSION

Sending tools across the world

Away Day – 15th October 2016

The Scottish Branch of TWAM are hosting a Scotland wide Promotion Day on Saturday 15th October in Viewfield Baptist Church between 11am and 1pm. Our Chief Executive Officer – Mike Griffin will give an outline of TWAM's work both internationally and here in the UK.

Our local workshop at Cowdenbeath will bring you up to date with their work and there will be an opportunity to ask questions and a buffet lunch will served .

If you intend staying for lunch could you please let us know via twamscot@gmail.com or telephone 01383 511704. This Cowdenbeath Depot email and telephone number and we are there between 10a.m. and 3p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, outwith these hours please leave a message.

Mike will also be preaching at the service in Viewfield on Sunday morning 16th October.

We hope you will support this event.

Finlay Robertson – Area Manager Scotland

Stamps for BMS World Mission

Winnie Seaman has kindly offered to be the new stamp lady on Jill French's retiral. Please continue to put used stamps either in the box in the new entrance area, or the plastic pocket in the hall.

Please leave a wide margin of envelope around each stamp (at least 1 cm/1/2 inch). Be careful not to damage the stamps as they are sold on to collectors.



Editor's Note

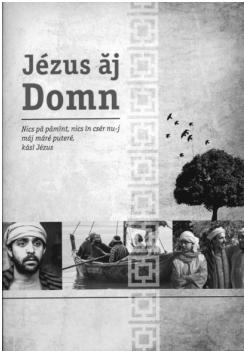
My thanks to all who have contributed to this issue.

A full colour version of the Viewfield News is available on the Church Website at <http://www.viewfield.org.uk>

Canvins' News

In July, I was privileged to visit Nori and Peter in Hungary. Both of them have been quite ill this year. The doctors still have not been able to diagnose Peter's illness, but, praise the Lord, he is much better now. Nori is not ill, but is in the middle of a difficult pregnancy. She has been told to rest, but with Peter ill and two children under 5 to look after that has been difficult...

Nori is one of our Roma team and has been working on translations of 5 stories from Luke's gospel in 3 varieties of the Bayash language – one in Croatia and two, Muntshan and Ardjelan, in Hungary. The Muntshan Bayash translation – entitled 'Jesus is Lord' in Bayash – was finally published in March this year and Nori gave me a copy to bring home to show all of you who pray.



Nori plans to continue to work with Agi, the Bayash lady who worked with her on the translation.

The Roma Bible Union (RBU) invited us to work with them to do this translation and it was RBU and OM East that published it. This is a good example of three missions working together on a project.

Please pray for the Bayash people, that they will take up this translation and be transformed by it. Pray also for Nori and Peter, that they will continue to grow stronger and that Nori's pregnancy will result in a healthy baby (due in November). Pray also for Bob, the leader of RBU (romabibleunion.org), as he has been ill for some time.

I also visited Jon and Andrea in Bulgaria in July. They are all doing well and Andrea is also expecting a baby in November! The weekend after my visit, Jon, together with Justin and Radko, a Bulgarian Roma missionary to his own people visited a Church in Ivaylo. They met with the pastor and a group of men and women from the Church. They led them through a Bible Study and showed them how to use that sort of study when they were at home. For the Study they used two different Bulgarian Bible translations as there is no translation into that variety of Romani. Afterwards they asked the group to translate a verse into Romani – Matthew 25:21 'His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.' Come and share your master's happiness!'

Jon reported: 'We asked the people if they could translate this verse together into their dialect of Romani. This caused quite a commotion as

they talked, argued, erased, rewrote and eventually agreed on a translation of the verse. One person stood at the chalkboard while others debated words and meaning. Every person wanted to be a part of this project in some way and the pastor was elated! He said later that most of the time the foreigners will come in and do something for them, but this time they were able to take part in an activity and actually create something themselves and he could sense that they really enjoyed it.'

Justin had made frames for these verses to be put into, so the people could take them home and hang them on their walls. Everyone copied out the verse on coloured paper and inserted it into the frames. Some of them decorated their verses and others put in 'translated by ...' All of the people were happy with the result.

Radko, Justin, Jon and the pastor debriefed before returning home. Radko suggested that they do this kind of Bible study and translation project all around Bulgaria. He said this exceeded his expectations and he wanted more!

Maggie and Tony Canvin

Baptist World Alliance Women's Department (BWAWD)

The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer is always celebrated during the week of the first Monday in November.

The Logo represents the Seven Continental Unions hands raised in worship with the Cross (Christ) at the centre.

The President of the BWA Women's Department, Ksenija Magda, is from Europe and serves from 2015 until 2020

This year the programme for the Baptist Day of Prayer has been prepared by the North American Baptist Women's Union and the Theme is 'Arise, Shine - Community'.

Viewfield Women's Fellowship will be meeting on Wednesday 9th November at 1.30pm in the sanctuary to participate in the Baptist World Day of Prayer and invites ALL ladies associated with Viewfield Baptist Church to come and be part of this very special occasion. We will be inviting other local Baptist Churches to join with us.



What's Next?

Thank you all so much for your prayers and financial support over the time I have been serving with AIM in Kenya. Since coming back in December I have been speaking at AIM prayer groups around the country and have represented AIM at a number of events. I have also been working with a new AIMER who is planning to go out to Uganda in January to help her prepare for her time there and complete her Bible requirement for going.

When I returned to Scotland in December last year I fully expected to go back to Kenya. But in talking to a counsellor and my GP and praying about what to do, it became clear that the Lord wanted me to stay in Scotland. It was quite a difficult decision to make since Kenya had become my second home but the Lord's leading was so clear that I couldn't do anything but stay here. As I got used to the idea I realised that it was what I wanted too and I have felt very much at peace about it.

I will be going out to Kenya from September 26th till October 19th to pack up my belongings and say good-bye. It will be hard but it will also be a good time and will allow me to finish well.

Without really looking for something to do here, the Lord opened up the way for me to work at Tilsley College in Motherwell. Tilsley is a small college which is part of Gospel Literature Outreach and trains people in mission both in the UK and overseas. The Academic Dean is going on sabbatical from January to June next year and they asked me to take up his role for that period. I will still be under AIM and supported through them for that period. I don't know what will happen after that but I am sure the Lord has plans for that too.

If you do not already support me financially and would like to support me during my time at Tilsley please write to AIM, Halifax Place, Nottingham NG1 1QN or email admin.eu@aimint.org.

Georgette

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