



From the Pastor



Where there is no vision the people perish.

A number of years ago Michelle and I, and some members of our family had an amazing holiday in Orlando, Florida. While I was there I read information about the grand vision of Walt Disney. It was amazing to read of his dreams and how he was absolutely committed to fulfilling them. There is a famous story told about the opening of the Epcot centre in 1982. It goes like this.

When the Epcot Centre was finished in 1982, Walt Disney had already passed away. Disney executives asked Walt's wife to cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony. When she was called up to the podium, one of the executives said to her, "Mrs. Disney, I wish Walt could have seen this."

She replied, "He did."

Vision is essential for something grand. Vision is critical for the church as well. We are called to be a people of vision. It says in **Proverbs 29v18**: ***"Where there is no vision the people perish."***

Helen Keller, an American author and educator and who was blind and deaf, famously said: ***"The only thing worse than being blind, is having sight but no vision."***

As the church we have a God given vision to fulfil the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

The Great Commandment

Mt 22v36-40: *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the law and prophets hang on these two commandments."*

The Great Commission

Mt 28v18-20: *"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All*

Viewfield News

**March
2019**

Newsletter
of
Viewfield
Baptist
Church
Dunfermline

authority on heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded of you. And surely I am with you always even to the end of the age.”

There are five Biblical principles that are imperative in us achieving this vision:

*Mission
Ministry
Worship
Discipleship
Fellowship*

Our God-given vision as the people of God does not change through the different seasons and chapters in the life of the church. The wording may change in a vision statement but the principles should not. This God given vision and these Biblical principles are the whole work of the whole church for the whole age.

As a local church at Viewfield Baptist we strive to fulfil this God given vision as we seek: ***“To enable people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.”*** We want to see more people become followers of Jesus and we want his followers to go deeper in their walk with God.

However, the specifics of a vision and our methods will likely change depending upon the different season or context of a local church. What specifically does the Lord want us to do in the next five years here at Viewfield Baptist Church? What are the things that God wants us to do in this context in order to fulfil our God given mission?

In the next few weeks and months together we will be seeking God as a congregation and listen to him as to how we can fulfil our God given vision in these days in our local context at Viewfield Baptist Church. I would really encourage you to attend our next church meeting on Wednesday the 27th March as we begin to discern what God may be saying. Every person has a part to play.

Let’s dream big dreams because our God is a great big God. Our verse for the year is ***Ephesians 3v20: “He is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask, think or imagine according to his power that is at work within us.”***

Let’s be history makers in these days for Jesus Christ.

Rae

Regular at Viewfield? – Keep Informed!

Whether you have been around for years or just arrived, if you have not already done so, it is necessary to complete a GDPR Consent Form to be entered in the Church Directory and to be kept informed about relevant news and events.

GDPR Consent Forms are available from the Office or from the counter in the Church vestibule.

Fellowship News

At a recent church meeting we were pleased to approve applications for membership by Leodiceia Da Silva, Janice Hall, Ramone McKenzie, Brian Stanley, Rosey Stanley, since when they have been publicly welcomed as members of Viewfield.

Women's Fellowship

When I look at the WF Syllabus for 2018/2019 I see there are only a few weeks left before this session will be over. We have had a varied programme and we thank all those who have given of their time on a Wednesday afternoon to bring God's message to us.

The ladies have enjoyed hearing from representatives of various Charities and have given so generously.

Hazel Carr has taken four sessions expanding on her chosen theme "Our Minds" and we are so grateful for her ministry.

On April 3rd we are hoping to do an Easter Celebration including Communion and a special tea. **All ladies are welcome!**

Viewfield ladies are hosting a Fife WF Gathering at 7pm on Monday 8th April when the speaker will be the National President, Andrea Voysey. I would like to extend an invitation to all ladies in Viewfield to come that evening and enjoy good singing, great fellowship, God's word and nice home baking!

We have been so thrilled to welcome a number of new members to Viewfield Women's Fellowship this session. If you are free on a Wednesday afternoon at 1.30pm please do come along. We still have a good programme till the end of April

Anne Macmillan (President)



Church - BMS Partnership with the Barrells

Following seven weeks of Home Assignment the Barrells, Susanna, Mark and Lizzie are now back in Mozambique. The following are a few snippets from their latest Prayer Letter copies available from Mary-Jane Kirkland or accessed at www.bmsworldmission.org/people/mark-and-susanna-barrell/

Lizzie especially enjoyed being able to see old school friends, her cousins whom she adores and of course Jake, on the final leg of his degree and Annie who, unbelievably, is halfway through her degree at Sheffield. Jake had also spent ten days in Uganda on a filming trip, and we are looking forward to seeing the fruit of this later in the year



Having family at Lizzie's baptism was such a blessing to us all, .. [tempered when] ..

Mark needed to remain for health checks. The fact that these were clear was a great relief for all.

Back in Mozambique....

One aspect of BMS partnerships is to build capacity over a wide range of areas including discipleship, vision and strategy, reporting and training. During this last month there has been a focus on finance and accounts. A BMS colleague, Paul, arrived mid-February to help identify areas where things are going well and where his skills in accounting could suggest improvements. Mark spent 10 days with Paul in Maputo and then Beira sharing with our partners, enabling him to see how the AMAC offices are performing in both locations in finance reporting. It was encouraging to see how daily money matters are taken seriously but also how improvements can be implemented to see greater accountability and use of funds.

Susanna has been reunited with the ladies at Huelene, who following some successful sales (thanks to many of you) have bought two more machines to add to "Lazarus" (see our blog for more details!) and the other machine. They are now considering how to develop their work as Susanna continues to seek to find the best way forward for sewing in Maputo and expand the reach of the project.

Get into the groove ...

Mark has been connecting with the AMAC team and is hoping that some recent connections with local communities will produce some new legal education opportunities. Susanna has started to pick up orders again for products, and hopes that the new machines will motivate the ladies in greater production.

One aspect that we haven't yet been able to reconnect well with is the Portuguese learning. Mark and his fellow learners have been busy with work and travel, whilst Susanna has yet to find the best way to restart with a new teacher.

Have I told you lately...?

We are so grateful for your support in prayer. As well as the ongoing language learning we have some specifics we would love to tell you about.

First our visas are due for renewal by 6th April. The process is underway and we would love for this to be smoothly completed before the 5th as we are due to go to SA for a Youth Camp that weekend.

Second, for the strategy and vision to come together for both AMAC and also Sewing. Each ministry has their own challenges and opportunities, but most of all to have a Gospel and discipleship focus.

Thirdly, Lizzie, Annie and Jake as they juggle their academic workloads whilst dealing with the long-distance relationships that mission ministry brings.

Fourth, we have had some uncertainties over our accommodation. It looks like we can remain where we are but please pray that this will be resolved quickly.

Thank you!

We can't stress just how much you all mean to us and we do so appreciate your love, concern, prayers and support.

With our love, Mark, Susanna and Lizzie x

Editor's Note

My thanks to those who have taken the time to send contributions, always room for more!

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

“give me also springs of water” [Judges 1:15]

First published by Pray for Scotland in “Forty Days of Prayer”

For some time the Lord has been speaking to me about the future of Scottish churches through a few verses of scripture in Judges 1:12-15, with the key phrase being *“give me also springs of water.”*

This passage came as answer to prayer for me. My prayer had been - how do I pray for our churches? How should I pray for Scotland? And this was His answer to me: Pray *“Give me also springs of water”*.

We know the potential of our nation to glorify God. But we also know that the living faith that grew and spread in and from this nation has significantly dried up in the past couple of generations. I believed the Lord was saying: *“The land can be fruitful again but it requires the refreshing flow of My Spirit to revive the church and to revive the nation.”*

This is good news but there also came a rebuke as I pondered this passage. I began to think of what I had been praying for years. And I think you could describe it like this: *“Lord give me a well for my field”*, meaning - give me a well to refresh my church, local and national. Maybe you have prayed in the same vein. Sadly, wells get protected by people who have them and they restrict access to others. Wells encourage selfishness, arrogance and pride. Look at how healthy my fields are! Look at what is happening in our fields!

We need to see the whole church irrigated by the move of His Spirit and the whole land of Scotland refreshed. We must not contain our vision of what God might do in this land to "my" fields and "my" ability to spread water by the bucket load from "my" well. The nation of Scotland does not need our buckets.....it needs springs of water bubbling up across the land.

Please pray:

- for *“springs of water”* to refresh this parched land that it might bear fruit, fruit that will last;
- for every church to take every opportunity in these uncertain times to bring God’s love and hope to the lost and hopeless;
- for an increase in local churches co-operating and working together for the extension of God’s Kingdom;
- for an increase in fervent prayer and intercession for our nation in these days.

Alan Donaldson

[Alan is the General Director of the Baptist Union of Scotland. As with all contributors to these reflections, he writes in a personal capacity.]



Georgette at Tilsley with AIM

We are part way through a busy year at Tilsley College. I am writing this just after joining the first and second year students on a Team Evangelism trip to Wiltshire. This was my first trip like this so I was excited to see how the Lord would use us. We were involved in among other things door-to-door work, children's and youth ministries and a lunch club. The students also took the service on our last Sunday there and did a really good job. We felt the Lord was with us as we were asked to do some challenging things and in binding us together as a team.



We have more students than we were anticipating at one point so God really answered our prayers. We have students from lots of different parts of the world this year, Romania, Poland, the Faroes, Ukraine, Italy and Zimbabwe to name just a few. The multi-cultural aspect of our community has brought many joys as well as a few challenges.

It has been great to see some of the students really developing in their knowledge and ministry skills over the last few months. Some are thinking of overseas ministry too, which is wonderful to see. I am having opportunities to share some of my experiences in Kenya with those who are interested.

I've been grateful for good health this term and been very aware of God's strengthening when I have felt weak. My pacemaker is still working well and although I sometimes don't have as much energy as I would like, I think that's mostly down to old age.

Thank you for your continued support of my ministry at Tilsley. Without it I wouldn't be able to be here. Please pray that I will have enough support to continue here for another year.

Every blessing, *Georgette Short*

[The above are some extracts from Georgette's latest Prayer Letter which is available from her sister Helen.]



"Not a wet idea"

Some extracts from the prayer letter of Christine Kling one of our BMS Partnership missionaries serving in France with The French Baptist Federation in Massy and a local church in Gif-sur-Yvette.

"Not a wet idea", it was on this "word play" that Stuart Blythe, one of my lecturers at the Scottish Baptist College, introduced his lecture about baptism.

And it was "not a wet idea" to start 2019 with the baptisms of our new two converts.

Lea and Audrey have many things in common. They grew up in atheist families and they became Christians by surprise.

Lea became Christian in Switzerland during a year studying at University. One of her student mates spoke to her about Jesus, about His Love and forgiveness, and prayed for Lea. Back to Paris, she had the feeling that she needed to know more about God and the bible. She looked for a church close to her home and found our recently redesigned web site.

Audrey described herself as a secular fundamentalist, a true atheist, denouncing what she called religious obscurantism. As a researcher in genetics, she had a busy life managing a career and a family but was looking for some peace. She went to meditation classes. During, one of these meditation classes something happened, something her rational mind could not understand, but as she experimented [she received] a great sense of inner peace and joy she never had before.

One day, reading the monthly newsletter of the local catholic church, she found the testimony of a new Christian convert and she realized that perhaps it was God, the God of the Christians she had encountered on the meditation class.



She started to read the bible, the gospel of John. She met Christian people, catholic and protestant, and they advised her to contact a local church and one day she sent me an email and we met at the local cafe.

At end of January we baptized them, they gave a wonderful testimony to their friends and families who for most of them attended for the first time a baptism service in a (Baptist) church.

[During her home assignment] ... Glasgow, Cardiff, Birmingham, London, Lake District, Prestwick, Nairn... [were] some of the places I .. visited.

There [hasn't been] .. too much time to rest as the work is still going on in France: a message to write for the religious program at the radio, a Baptist Assembly to organize, a couple of meetings waiting for me on my return and also Lent and Easter...

As you may know, with the help of the BMS Action Team we were able to start an English club for children. Carrying on the activity was a little bit difficult and I had to stop it before leaving for the UK. Nevertheless, there were real benefits in this club in building relationships with families and offering a service.

We need now to think of what could be the next steps. One is to propose a holiday club in summer: two hours per day of English and games during a week. It will obviously require volunteers, preparation and communication.

During my time in UK, ... I read the famous two books of Henry Nouwen about the parable of two lost sons in Luke 15: the Prodigal Son and Home Tonight and how the older son is struggling with "resentment"

[The converse of resentment is gratitude and I was particularly struck by the idea of] ... intentional gratitude.

"Gratitude is more than an occasional 'thanks be to God.' Gratitude is the attitude that enables us to let go of anger, receive the hidden gifts of those we want to serve, and make these gifts visible to the community as a source of celebration. Gratitude is at the heart of celebration and ministry." ...

I do like this idea of intentional gratitude, of embracing individually and collectively the spiritual disciplines of trust and gratitude.

Here are some of my prayer points for the next two months:

- Give Thanks to God for the new people who have started to join the church
- Give Thanks to God for Lea and Audrey's baptisms, a first step in their journey as disciples
- Pray for new vision for the English clubs
- Pray for the contacts made through the different activities and outreach
- Pray for unity and peace in the church
- Pray for a deeper sense of gratitude and trust

Thanks for your ... support and prayers.

Christine

Abandoned sucked up and blown away

After a sermon preached by our pastor, Rae, on Sunday 13th January on Psalm 13, I wrote this poem from the notes I took!

When heaven sounds silence and our suffering silences us
When our song has gone, and ask how long?
We struggle with our feelings and spiral into self pity
A small boat rudderless, we are robbed of our strength
But exercising of faith we have to embark on a journey
That will change our perspective
From being paralysed to praise
From despondency to dependence on God
From crippling fear to a great faith
I will affirm
I believe in God!
My time is in his hands
For I know he has been good to me
He can give me a faith lift
He is my heart song!
I can sing a new song because of him!

Philip Magee 2019

A grain of ash

Traditionally Baptists “don’t do symbols” except Believer’s Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, but that doesn’t mean that there’s no merit in some of the symbols used by other Christian communities. Anyway, didn’t you mark the transition into Lent, the forty days of preparation for Easter, by eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? [I did, and enjoyed too many of them!]

Myra and I also went to church the following day for an Ash Wednesday service. As preparation for communion, we read Isaiah 58.1–12 and Psalm 51, and in prayer we “called to mind our sins and the infinite mercy of God”. That prayer ended: “Accomplish in us the work of your salvation, that we may show your glory in the world. By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.”

Stirring words, but where does the symbolism come in? Because this is the point in the service where each member of the congregation had their forehead marked with the sign of the cross in ash (traditionally made by burning last year’s palm crosses), with the words of

ministration “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. Explained by the words that came just before: “Loving God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.”

Apart from the symbolism, the service was also memorable for the homily on a verse from the Gospel of the day: “Beware of practising righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:1) The homily consisted in Michael Paterson reading a poetic reflection twice, with a pause for thought in between. His message will be there long after the ash has washed away.

Practising righteousness
with ash on our foreheads
a symbol not of piety
but of reality and intent:
the reality that we are dust
and to dust we shall return;
and the intent
to make that dust
a veritable storm
that whips up our lives
exposing the half-truths and the lies
by which we justify and deceive ourselves.

A grain of ash may be all it takes
to turn us round
and to refuse mediocrity.

A grain of ash may be all it takes
to signal our intent
and elicit our Yes
to act justly
to love tenderly
and to walk humbly with our God.

Who would have thought
a grain of ash
could start such a revolution?

[This reflection for Ash Wednesday 2019, prepared for St Margaret's, Rosyth by the Rev Dr Michael Paterson was inspired by and adapted from a poem by Rev Liz Crumlish, Church of Scotland Path of Renewal Coordinator]
[Submitted by Martin Tarr]

A life that matters

This poem was part of a recent funeral service for one of our Knit and Natter ladies. It summed her up perfectly and gives us all something to aim for.

What will matter is not what you bought but what you built
not what you got but what you gave.

What will matter is not your success but your significance.
What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion,
courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered,
or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence but your character
What will matter is not how many people you knew but how many
will feel a lasting loss when you are gone.

What will matter is not your memories,
but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered,
by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.
It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.

Choose to live a life that matters.

[Submitted by Gillian Hall]

Prayer for help and healing

Father, You are always loving, always generous and kind to your children. Please have mercy on us as a nation at this time of turmoil and division. Help us to be tolerant and understanding of those who have different, sincerely-held opinions. And guide our leaders so that your will be done in our country and in our relationships with each other and with Europe and the rest of the world.

Lord, have mercy on us, forgive us and heal us.

In Jesu's name, Amen.

by Daphne Kitching

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