



Worship | Reach | Serve

Outlook

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FOR UNTO US
a child is born,
 unto us a son is given:
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
 and his name shall be called
 ***WONDERFUL**,*
 COUNSELLOR,
 THE MIGHTY GOD,
The everlasting Father,
 THE PRINCE OF PEACE.
 Isaiah 9:6

“Call it what it is!”



During my sabbatical in Vancouver I was invited out for dinner to friends of my Airbandb hosts. When I arrived for dinner I felt a little pressured as it became clear very quickly that everyone had been told in advance who I was, where I came from and what I did as a job! Having a ‘Reverend’ present at a dinner party when none of the other guests are card carrying Christians made me stand out a little! It wasn’t long before I was getting grilled about all kinds of subjects and issues with the repeated question, “what’s your view as a minister!”

One of the couples present are well known personalities in the music industry in Vancouver and North America. I of course did not know this at the beginning of the evening but soon picked up the fact that they were both composers and famous as the evening went on. In an attempt to redirect the attention and questioning away from me, I asked the composers if they had ever drawn inspiration from the Christian faith in composing their music. Their answer was an emphatic and enthusiastic, “Yes of course!” I was greatly relieved as the answer “no” would have definitely created an awkward moment!

The couple shared their view that some of the best and most important music ever written either by themselves or others has been inspired by the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ. In fact at that very time, which was in October, they were finalising a composition of Christmas inspired music for the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. The conversation was now about them and their music, and I was beginning to relax a bit more and enjoy my dinner!

As the conversation developed about their latest work the husband of the couple said something that really interested me and

sparked a lot of conversation around the table which was made up of two Jews, two humanists, an agnostic, an atheist and me! He said; “We cannot use the word Christmas in the title of any of the music we are composing and producing, in fact, I would lose work in the future if I did so”.

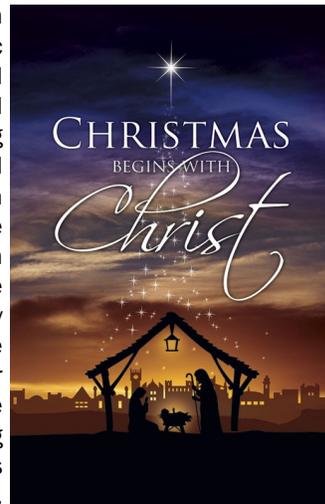
It was now time for me to ask the questions! I asked him how he felt about this and his answer sparked at least half an hour of discussion around the table. He said; “I think it lacks integrity and authenticity not to attribute the reason and inspiration for my music for the Seattle Symphony Orchestra”. He went on to add; “It’s all about political correctness these days”. I said nothing outwardly in response to him but rather listened intently to the reaction and conversation around the table! The Jews, the humanists, the agnostic and the atheist all agreed that it is ridiculous not to use the word Christmas and that political correctness has gone too far! One of them said; “we should call it what it is – Christmas!” I then went on to share what Christmas means to me and why the gift of Christ at Christmas is the greatest gift of all!

My experience at this dinner party made me realise that probably the vast majority of people living in Scotland are quite happy and content to call this season of the year ‘what it is’ – it’s Christmas! Not ‘Winter Fest’ or ‘Winter Holidays’...it’s Christmas! Let’s have the confidence to challenge the minority voice of political correctness and realise that the majority of people in Scotland are quite happy to ‘call it what it is’. As we have opportunity let’s make sure we tell people that **Christmas begins with Christ!**

“For today a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord” – Luke 2:11

Happy Christmas!

Alistair Senior Pastor



Family News

We extend our sympathy to...

... **Tom Blain** on the death of his wife June, who passed away peacefully on 1st November.



Thank you...

... from **Samaritan's Purse**: Special thanks to Dumfries Baptist Church for sending love and joy in the form of a simple shoebox gift through Operation Christmas Child.

... from **David White**: I have received a host of cards, gifts, and visits during this period of illness. The love and warmth shown to me is and has been a source of great encouragement and I'm thankful firstly to our Heavenly Father for His restorative power and to all who have ministered His love and grace. Blessings David.

... A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who supported the Ceilidh last month for Tansen Hospital in Nepal. It was voted the best ever ceilidh by dancers and band alike and raised lots of money for a fantastic cause.

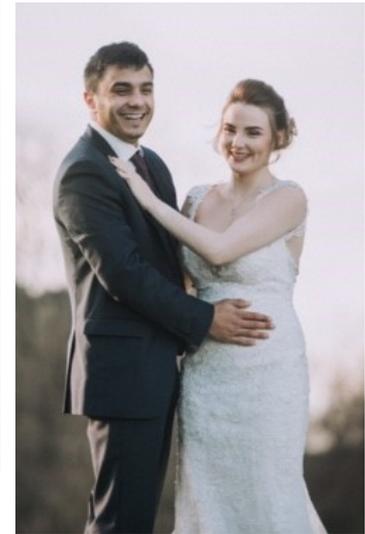
Pastures new...

... **Alan and Pauline Cook** have moved away to County Durham. We will miss their cheery banter and wish them every blessing for the future.

... **Tina McKenzie** has moved house to: 11 Ingleston Place, Dumfries DG1 3DF

Congratulations to...

... **Holly (Armour) & Zac Gazdick** who were married in Canada on 10th November and then had a Marriage Blessing in East Mains Baptist Church on Saturday 18th November. They are now living and working in Canada.



SU Scotland

SU Scotland in Dumfries & Galloway would like to invite you to a training event for anyone involved in children's work in churches or SU groups.

When? Saturday 27th January, 11am-3pm

Where? St Mary's Greyfriars' Church, Dumfries DG1 1HA

Cost? Free - lunch provided

To register or find out more

Email: Dumfries@suscotland.org.uk or call 01387 261454

Invitation to Primary 4 - Primary 7 aged children



You are welcome to our P4-P7 party
Troqueer Church Hall, 24 Church Street, Dumfries DG2 7AS

Saturday 9 December 2-4.30pm



Bring a friend!

Janet Mitchell at Lalitpur Hospital, India

Lucky me! I'm doing voluntary work in India for 4 weeks interspersed with a 2 week holiday in South Goa between the 2 work teams. I flew to Delhi with the rest of the 12 strong team where we stayed overnight at The YWCA and left for Lalitpur the next day.



We very nearly missed the train at 06.00—We were all up and ready for the bus to the station at 04.30 but the bus didn't come! We phoned and the driver had forgotten or overslept! Eventually after 05.00 he arrived, we piled in and set off for New Delhi station. The parking was on the opposite side to our train so some help was needed to get all the luggage over the tracks to the other side.....wonderful Coolies came to the rescue! As we were crossing the tracks, another train came in and the team got separated....half on each side of the tracks! 38 carriages later we were back together and caught the train by a whisker.



Phew.....only one train a day! The journey took about 6 hours and it was interesting to see the countryside and very sobering to see all the slum dwellings that people are living in beside the railway.

There are 2 hospitals in Lalitpur....a Government run hospital plus the one that we are working at which belongs to The Harriet Benson Memorial Hospital group, which is a charity. It opened in 1889 as both a school for girls and an orphanage. Many changes of use have taken place since then and it is now involved in Rural Development as well as providing maternity care, palliative in-patient, out-patient and general care, and out-reach work

Our main focus of work is to renovate the old Eye Ward and associated work rooms, as an Eye specialist is joining the hospital staff during our time here to recommence eye surgery and care. (see photo 1)



The overriding emphasis is sharing the Christian ethic of unconditional love amongst all who attend and work in the hospital. Each day commences with communal devotions and the main aim of the work done each day is to do it as Jesus would have done it. Not easy!

We are living in a bungalow with lots of space (see photo 2) and basic facilities. We have three meals a day cooked for us by great cooks (see photo 3) and it is all lightly spiced to suit us 'natives'!!! (The odd person may not immediately feel



desperate for a curry when they get home, but me? - I am really enjoying it!)

We brought craft materials with us so that we could invite folk living on the hospital campus to the bungalow for a craft evening and it was good fun.



Everyone joined in and no one wanted to leave! (see photo 4) We also had a sports afternoon for the children & parents at the weekend, with lots of very old-fashioned games like musical chairs to fun music that they loved and it was competitive!!

During the second week we spent most of one day visiting rural development projects. In one village they were running a nutrition program for the youngest children. The families are very poor and, by using the combined crops that they grow each day, one person cooked for the children. The meal included foods such as nuts, rice/maize, vegetables and turmeric. (see photo 5)



Towards the end of the first 2 weeks, on our way back to Delhi we stopped off at Agra to spend time at the Taj Mahal.....it was just as exciting seeing it this time as when I saw it 9 years ago! A beautiful, beautiful architectural site. (see photo 6)

Janet Mitchell

Update from Focus Photography Group

We have been busy with our cameras and phones taking part in various challenges throughout this year.

We tried our hand at **bird photography** on a perfect November day watching the Whooper and Mute swans, Barnacle and Canada geese and others gracing us with fly-bys at **WWT Caerlaverock**. We saw beautiful Teal, Widgeon, Black Tailed Godwit and Long Tailed Tit to mention a few but the Kingfisher eluded us. Fiona MacKenzie was there to help spot and name birds for us, adding to an exciting day. Joan and John Thomson were also on hand sharing knowledge and their experience.

We plan to repeat this day out as we all



really enjoyed our visit and we would like to give others a chance to enjoy the experience. Perhaps we will visit **RSPB Mersehead** next time....

Thinking about migration, our own Amy Bishop is on her homeward journey back

to Christchurch, New Zealand. We had a lovely meal at Bruno's to send her on her way and she promises to keep snapping away and post her photos on Facebook. We miss her already.

We have nearly completed our challenge to photograph all ministry groups within



our church for a new printed booklet, to illustrate the wide ranging ministry opportunities available within DBC. Personally this challenge gave me the opportunity to enjoy lunch with Encore! and try indoor bowling led by Willie Taylor.

Update on **Calendar Sales**: As well as the fun we had producing the 'Capturing Dumfries & Galloway' calendar, it has also given us joy to see it selling, knowing it will reach many people at home and further afield. Of the 400 print run, we only have 18 left so if you want one, I suggest you visit the office or find them on the table at the back of church

on Sunday.

We have reached a profit of £1145 for the church building fund, which is amazing! We must give a big thank you to **Heathhall Garden Centre, Dalscone Farm Fun, Loch Arthur Farm Shop, Kings Coffee Shop and The Usual Place** to name but a few of the businesses who helped to sell and distribute calendars; and also to **Granary** people and the **church family** who bought hundreds of calendars.

If you are interested in joining us for photography and fellowship we meet on



the **first Thursday of the month at 7.00pm** in the Upper Hall. You can also interact and join in with our challenges on our closed Facebook page if you can't always make our get-togethers.

Please contact Kay Cowan on 01387 256046 or Norma Miller on 01387 268602 if you want to know more.

INSPIRING FAITH

Richard Wurmbrand

"Jesus taught that when you are slapped you should turn the other cheek.

The probable result will be a second and third slap. I had the experience myself ... Jesus told us to walk the extra mile.

He never promised that this would give us success in our enterprises, but only that we would become perfect in love.

This is enough"

Pastor Richard Wurmbrand was imprisoned for 14 years in communist Romania in the 1950s and 1960s



May

**The King
of Christmas
rule our hearts,
the love of Christmas
unite us and the peace of
Christmas remain with us
now
and for
evermore**

BMS Stamp Bureau

Thank you all for your donations to the work of the Stamp Bureau. We always need more stamps, albums, postcards and coins for sale. So far this year we have passed £14,000 to BMS for their work.

Please keep donations from your churches, family and friends coming in and the amount raised will continue to rise.

Remember to cut the stamps off your Christmas envelopes and parcels with a maximum of 5mm (¼ inch) of the envelope showing all round, being careful not to damage any part of the stamp including the perforations.



Contacts



Dates of December activities:

Sunday 3rd December 10.30 am at Dumfries High School and 6-8 pm at the church in Newall Terrace

Sunday 10th December 10.30 am at Dumfries High School and 6-8 pm at the church in Newall Terrace

Saturday 16th December Christmas Shenanigans at the church in Newall Terrace (times to be confirmed)



Senior Pastor	Alistair Purss	01387 263032 Alistair.purss@btinternet.com
Associate Pastor	David White	07476379865 david.white111@btinternet.com
Youth & Community Worker	Andy Feather	07889900850 andyfeather0311@gmail.com
Secretary	Lesley Mackay	01387 247456 dumfriesbaptistsecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ian Penn	01387 263242 pennnithsdale@supanet.com
Church Office	Mon-Fri 9am-1pm	01387 268926 dumfriesbaptistchurch@gmail.com
Prayer Diary	Eleanor Moss	01387 263994 davemoss@btinternet.com
Prayer Ministry	Eleanor Moss	01387 263994
Girlzone	Karen Miller	01387 710155
Impact	Alistair Purss	01387 263032 Alistair.purss@btinternet.com
Toddlers Group	Heather McCombe Rachel Lyogaba	01387 253416
Friendship Hour	Val Penn	01387 263242
Discoverers	Jane Rafferty	01387 268066

Treasurer's Report

Total Monthly Income

September 2017 £14,552.15 (+ £413,717.54 for appeal)

October 2017 £22,665.15 (+ £48,629.04 for appeal)

As a result in the change of Financial year for the church this report represents the figures for the end of the first 3rd of the year. The total Income to date was £71,665 (£3981 / week) plus £944,869 for the Appeal Fund. Expenditure during this same period amounts to £64,898 (£3605 / week) plus £1,307,107 for the Appeal Fund. These figures are encouraging but we expect expenditure to increase considerably over the coming months as we enter the transition period to the new centre.

The response to the appeal has been remarkable in that we have now actually received more than £4,061,455 towards the purchase of land and building of a new church (this includes loans of £946,655). We have spent about £3,637,648 for the purchase of the new site and building which gives us about £423,807 in the building fund plus a number of promised gifts and pledges. We are so grateful to God for His generosity and we must maximise our giving to ensure that we use effectively the gifts God has provided.

If you already give regularly, or are considering doing so, and you pay income tax (as the vast majority of us do) you can "gift-aid" your offering which effectively means the church can claim an additional 25p for every £1 you give at no additional cost to you. Please prayerfully consider whether you can Gift-Aid your giving. You can continue to give weekly, monthly or directly through your bank. Please see me if you want further information regarding Gift-Aid. I also have information regarding Interest Free Loans if anyone is interested in investigating this further.

Ian Penn - Treasurer (01387 263242)