

ACF NEWSLETTER

Issue 11 Spring 2020

HOPE



Achinleck
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Serving Christ, Serving the Community

Coronavirus – COVID-19

For the last few weeks nearly every time I read the news, go out in public, or talk about travel, the Coronavirus comes up.

I am **NOT** going to tell you about its horrors, or that it's a conspiracy theory, or about prevention or share any statistics – we have had an abundance of all that.

I am going to take you to the **WORD OF GOD**.

Isaiah 8:12-13 :- *“Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.”*

I'm not sure how many will contract Covid-19, but far more will fear it. Perhaps for good reason, perhaps not!! However, people are taking it seriously, very seriously, although many will never get it and may never know ONE person who got it.

And yet! There is a disease, a virus, **EVERY HUMAN** has contracted called sin. This virus will kill you and not just the body but the soul in Hell (Matthew 10:28). Jesus says, “Fear that!”

Coronavirus might kill you, sin will!!

As much as I want there to be a cure for this virus, I **DESPERATELY** want people to take **MORE SERIOUSLY** the reality that all mankind will live forever — in Heaven with Jesus Christ or in Hell eternally separated from Him. The virus of sin will take us to an eternal place of pain and torment.

Hand sanitizer won't work for this virus. There is no prevention. Only a solution.

The **CURE** is -- a complete, God-approved and provided cure. Not just a cure that heals one of their sinful condition but makes them a child of God, heir, and a citizen of Heaven.

God loves you and totally took the virus of sin, the curse of death on HIMSELF, conquered it, and offers YOU eternal life. **GUARANTEED**. Have you taken the cure by accepting His gift?

(adapted from Nate Bramsen)



MY TESTIMONY

I was brought up in a Catholic School, attended all the usual Church services and was **an altar boy in primary school**. So, from a young age I believed there was a God, but I didn't think he would be interested in me. I thought he was **a faraway God** who would listen to your prayers but never personally answer them. Once I finished Primary School **I never really went back to Church**.

I was brought up on a scheme with high unemployment and with **no real good role models in my life**. My dad worked on and off and he tried to make a pound or two wherever he could, doing whatever he could. From a young age, being around people who used drugs was normal and the people I looked up to used drugs. At the time I thought the older kids on the scheme were cool. Back then it was **mainly weed and speed**. I had my first drug, age 14, which was cannabis and if I'm honest, I loved it. It took me away from all my problems, fears and insecurities. I was the type of person that would try anything once and that's what I did with drugs, taking LSD, speed, ecstasy. To be honest I didn't care what it was as long as it took me out of my present circumstances and **made me feel good**.

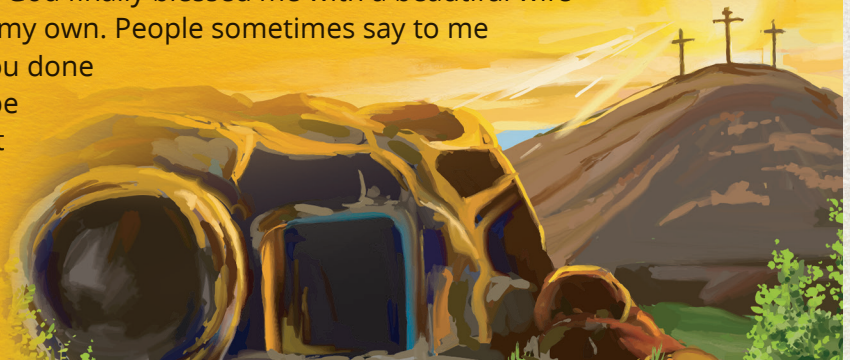
Things took a dramatic change for me when I was introduced to heroin. This was the drug that I had been searching for. This may sound strange but at first, **I loved it and it loved me back**. It made me feel safe and secure in my wee heroin bubble where I could forget all my troubles. That's the thing with heroin though, **it will rob you of a lot more than it will ever give you**. It wasn't long before I had a habit and was totally dependent on it. I would do



anything I could to get money, which led to my mum and dad not being able to cope with me and asking me to leave the family home and also led to me getting into trouble with the police a lot. I then spent a few years in and out of hostels and ultimately **spent 3 years living on the streets**. It was here that I came to the end of myself and just wanted to die but never had the guts to take my own life.

Thankfully my mum and dad never gave up on me and my mum found a rehab that would take me. It was a **Christian rehab** and to be honest I didn't care what kind of rehab it was I just wanted help. The day I went I weighed under 7 stone and had numerous health issues because of the lifestyle I had been living. The first thing that struck me about this place was the people – they were genuine, empathetic and wanted nothing from me apart from to see me get better. I had very low self-esteem and **felt I had no value in life** but it was here that I learned that Jesus the Son of God had died for my sins, yes for me personally and for Him to do that meant I must have value. I always thought that my main problem was my addiction and that was the root cause of everything but I learned that **my addiction was a by-product of me being a sinner** and I needed to be forgiven of my sins to move on in life. It was then that I asked God into my life, to forgive me and to change me and God did! Through reading His word and praying, God changed the way that I thought and acted and for the first time in years I felt loved. In fact, **I knew I was loved by the One who had died on a cross** for my sins.

I went on to do 3 years in bible college, travelled to different parts of the world on missionary trips helping people a lot less fortunate than myself before God finally blessed me with a beautiful wife and family of my own. People sometimes say to me 'Oh haven't you done well?' and to be honest I didn't do anything – **God did everything!**



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

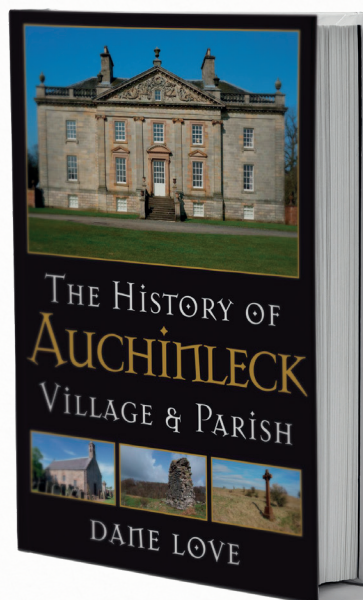
HAPPENINGS AND NAMES

Recently I have been reading **Dane Love's book, "The History of Auchinleck – Village and Parish"**. In the early chapters he deals with pre-1504 to the 17th century. What struck me was the various events and names he records.

Events like, building castles, churches, roads etc, wars and skirmishes (William Wallace splitting Earl Percy's head in two by a single stroke of his broad sword and the mutilation of John Sampson's right thumb in 1526 by David Boswell and Cuninghame of Caprington among others), romances and marriages, diseases and deaths, the transfer of lands and properties.

Names like, Colonel John George Alexander Baird of Wellwood, Lollius Urbicus, King Robert the Bruce, John Auchinleck of that Ilk, Sieur de Bosville, and plain old Archibald Fairburn.

Dane has obviously done a lot of research and has recorded well his findings but, understandably, (as there are no longer any living eye-witnesses from the 17th century and before) his record is incomplete and some parts of it are **based on educated guesswork**. He uses words like, probably, no doubt, it does not seem, or, it seems, possibly, sometime around, it is thought that, etc. He also mentions many names but **obviously not all the names** of the folks who lived in the area during these times.



It got me thinking of a complete, perfect record of history, with nothing missed out, and a complete list of the names of all who have ever lived.

In the book of Revelation in the Bible, we read of **a day when God is going to open His book** of the history of all mankind. A history of each of our lives – nothing deleted, nothing missed out, nothing “airbrushed” – a complete account. The awesome scene is described by the apostle John :- **“And I saw a great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And **I saw the dead**, small and great, stand before God; and **the books** were opened: and **another book** was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Rev 20.11-15)**

It's a very sobering thought that the Holy God has a complete record of each of our lives – not just what we have done in public, but in private -- our thoughts and motives as well as our deeds!! Nothing is left to guesswork – God has been the eye-witness of all we have ever done, he has recorded everything, warts and all, and one day, as we stand before His Great White Judgement Throne, He will say, **“This is your life”**. We will all be judged according to the things written in the books. None of us stand a chance on that day – we will all stand condemned as having **“sinned and come short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3.23). Is there any hope for any of us then or are we all doomed?

Thankfully, there is hope. Paul says, **“Jesus Christ...is our Hope”** (1 Timothy 1.1). How does Christ give us hope? We learn in 1 Timothy

1.15 :- "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." **To save sinners from what?** To save from the judgement that sin deserves and, more than that, to cleanse, sinners from the sin that has defiled them. In other words, to preserve them from the punishment they are facing at the **Great White Throne judgment**, which is eternal damnation, and to fit them to spend eternity in the presence of a Holy God. How is Jesus Christ able to do this? He is able to do it because He became the bearer of our sins when He died on the cross – **"For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"** (1 Peter 3:18) How do we get the assurance of this salvation being personally ours? Paul says, **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved."** (Acts 16.31)

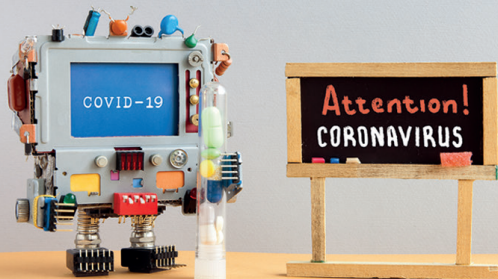
What happens when we believe? Well, among a host of other things – our names are written in the "book of life". This list is a complete, perfect list of all who are saved – who have eternal life and who will never perish. **All sorts of names are on this list** from beggars to billionaires, from landed gentry to ordinary working men, male and female, young and old, from all nations, from all generations – the thing they all have in common is that **they have all believed.**

Is your name in the book? Have you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you saved?



ATTENTION!

All our public activities are suspended due to the current situation



We appreciate we are all living in unprecedented times!! Times of uncertainty leading to panic, paranoia and fear.

We appreciate there are many elderly, vulnerable and lonely people in the community some of whom are having to isolate themselves because of the Covid-19 virus.

We are here to help in whatever way we can without being intrusive.

If you need **spiritual help** at this time (comfort, assurance, answers to spiritual questions you may have regards life or death, etc.) please give us a call and leave a message on our dedicated phone and someone will return your call.

If you need assistance with your shopping, or the picking up of medication from the chemist, or if you feel we could help you in any other way please give us a call.

Finally, if you need food supplies we have a stock of free food and would be happy to drop some off to you.

**OUR HELPLINE
NUMBER IS :-
07591670604**

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