

ACF NEWSLETTER

Issue 17 Summer 2023

HOPE

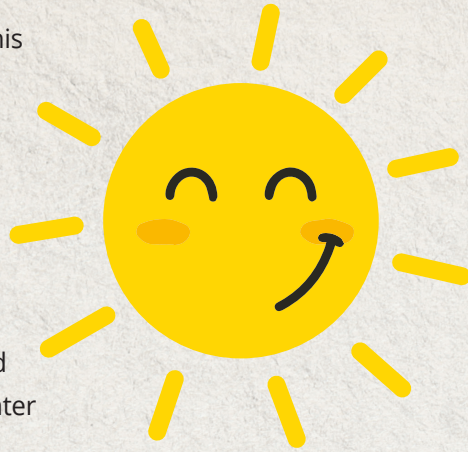


Auchinleck
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Serving Christ, Serving the Community

What a great start we had to the summer this year! Day after day of warm, sunny weather!

Did you know that **87% of people in the UK feel happier during the summer months?**

Sadly, the opposite can be said of the winter! In the UK, **two million people suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)**. These people can become extremely depressed and unhappy due to the cold and miserable winter weather and the longer periods of darkness.



The Bible reminds us that while the seasons change, and with it our moods, **God NEVER changes**. Lamentations 3.22-23 tells us, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. **Great is His faithfulness.**"

God has shown His love towards us by allowing His sinless son Jesus to die on the cross for all the wrongs (sins) we are guilty of. His mercies never come to an end because He continually allows men and women time to seek Him.

He is never forceful but **longs for people to repent of their sin** and accept that He has punished Jesus instead of them. He longs for us to believe in our hearts that it was for us individually! Believing means taking a step of faith. **God loves when men and women are prepared to trust Him.**

It is only when we do so that **we can have a relationship with Him** and enjoy all the blessings that He promises the believer in His word, the Bible.

True happiness is not dependent on life's circumstances and seasons. They come and go! It is dependent on a daily relationship with a God full of love and mercy, who is able to meet ALL our daily needs!

"Happy is the man (or woman) who trusts in God." Psalm 34.8.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.



MEET A MEMBER ANNA REID

I was brought up in a Christian home with loving parents who prayed for us as a family. They prayed that each of us would come to know the Lord Jesus as our personal Saviour. I attended Sunday School on a Sunday afternoon and Good News Club on a Wednesday evening. When I was eight years of age, I asked my mum how I could be saved. She quoted to me a verse from the Bible found in Romans 10.9 which says, **"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you WILL be saved."** I went up to my bedroom and simply asked the Lord Jesus to come into my heart.



Anna Reid

When I was eleven, I was taken into hospital with appendicitis and I remember my mum gave me another Bible verse which was Isaiah 12.2 which says, **"Behold God is MY salvation. I will trust and not be afraid."** This was a great encouragement to me. I was able to take God at His word and trust that He would take care of me.

As I grew up, I wanted to tell others about my Saviour, the Lord Jesus, so I became a Sunday School teacher and got involved in summer missions.

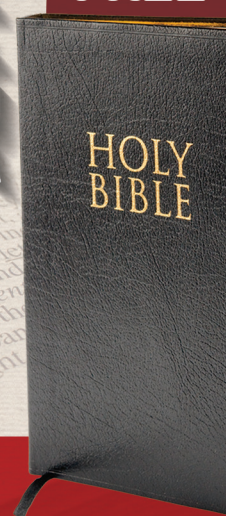
Later on, I met Steve, and we married in 2000 and came to live in Ochiltree. We were very happy together, but in 2020 God suddenly took Steve home to Heaven. However, I knew it was God's time and again I found comfort in God's Word. A well-known Bible verse gave me the assurance that since Steve had trusted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour, I know I will see him again and we will be together forever with the Lord. The verse is John 3.16 which says, **"For God SO loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."**

Through my life there have been sad times and happy times; times of sorrow and times of joy, but I can truly say that **the Lord Jesus has been with me all the way.** He has given me many precious promises from His Word, the Bible, and I would encourage you to read it so that you may know God's way of salvation.

BIBLE OFFER

FREE

*For A Free Bible
Please Contact
Us Using Any Of
Details On The
Back Page*



HOPE LADIES CHOIR



Monday 4th September
at 7.00pm

Time of singing followed by
refreshments. All welcome

OPEN DAY



Bouncy Castle



Craft Tent



Games, etc

**SATURDAY
19TH JULY
FROM 12.00
TILL 4.00**

**THREE TIMES OVER THE AFTERNOON WE WILL HAVE
A MINI-CHILDREN'S MEETING – SINGING, BIBLE STORY AND QUIZ
SWEETS, HOT DOGS AND REFRESHMENTS**

**ALL AGES
WELCOME
ALL FREE**

WHAT'S THE TIME?

The above is a common question that we have all asked and been asked many, many times.

Day time and night-time, bedtime and breakfast time, dinner time and tea time, starting time and finishing time, half time and full time, holiday time and work time.

We can't get away from time. Our activities are controlled by time.

The wise man, Solomon, said; "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: **a time to be born, and a time to die**, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted....." Ecclesiastes 3.1-8

However, "What's the time?" I want to draw your attention to a simple, but solemn, verse in the Bible, "**It is time to seek the Lord.**" Hosea 10.12. The reality is we make time in our lives for so many things, or we may be forced to make time for some things, but sadly so often, sadly, we use our time on **trivial things rather than vital things**. I wonder, how much time do you spend "seeking the Lord"? **Have you ever sought the Lord?** You have time for pleasure and leisure, work and holidays, family and friends, etc but what about God – **do you have any time for Him?**

Why should you seek the Lord? Well, why would you not want to get to know the person upon whom your very existence depends? Often people, who have been estranged from their biological parents, reach a point in life when **they just want to know** who their parent's are. They want to meet them and often desire a relationship with them. **Why wouldn't you want to get to know God and have a relationship with Him?** After all, according to the Psalmist in Psalm 139.13, you were made by Him, "For You (God) formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb." However, not only are you dependent on God for **your original existence** but for with your **continual existence**. Daniel reminds us, "God, in whose hand your breath." (Daniel 5.23) It is God who determines when our time to be born and our time to die is!! **We all really ought to seek Him, get to know Him and establish a right relationship with Him.**

Due to our sinful nature (that tendency to do what we want to do rather than what God wants us to do) we have become estranged from God but thankfully, **He has provided a way whereby our relationship with Him**



can be restored. He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be the mediator. He became like us. He was born of a woman. But, unlike us, He lived a life of constant fellowship with His Father in heaven. **You see, Jesus was never a rebel, He was constantly obedient to His Father.** There was never a moment when He was estranged from God that is, not until He hung on the cross at Calvary. There He cried out, "**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**". Why was He forsaken when He had done no wrong? The Bible tells us clearly, "For Christ has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust **that He might bring us to God...**" (1 Peter 3.18) On the cross, the Lord Jesus Christ was actually dealing with the very thing that has separated each one of us from God – **He was dealing with our sin**, by taking it upon Himself, and bearing the punishment it deserves. He died as our substitute to make it possible for us to be reconciled to God. **He is the mediator between God and man.** We need to seek God through coming to the Lord Jesus and acknowledging Him as our only Hope.

When should we accept God's provision of reconciliation and salvation by receiving the Lord Jesus by faith. Scripture reminds us "Behold **NOW** is the accepted time, behold, **NOW** is the day of salvation."

(2 Corinthians 6.2) Some time ago a wise man was addressing his students and gave them the following advice, "**Trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour and thus get right with God the day before you die.**" There was a silence in the room, so he repeated his advice, "**Trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour and thus get right with God the day before you die.**" Again, there was a silence only broken when a young man stood up and said, "But sir we don't know when we will die." The wise man's response was quick, "You are right young man, **you may die today so trust Christ NOW.**" That would be my advice to you as you read this magazine.

What is the time? It is time to seek the Lord. When should I seek Him? Behold now is the day salvation. How can I seek Him? By trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour.





Are you finding it difficult to make ends meet?

We provide a food bank in the hall at Park Road at 2pm every Thursday & at The Hub, Furnace Rd Muirkirk at 11am every Friday

Good News Service

@ 12.30 Every Sunday

Lunch served after service

(all ages welcome)



COFFEE MORNING

Why not drop in for coffee, cake and chat the 1st Monday of each month from 10am

Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.

All free of charge.



Friday @ 9.30 - 11.00

(term time only)

Please contact Ruth on

07940 355 882

for details.



For times of other meetings see website

CONTACT DETAILS

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