

ACF NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 Spring 2018

HOPE



Auchinleck
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Serving Christ, Serving the Community

Welcome to the Spring Edition of our Newsletter

Spring is normally the time when the dark, cold, stormy days of winter are fading from our memories and we are gradually heating ourselves up and anticipating soon the full heat of summer. Well, maybe if we lived in another country or another year!! Spring hasn't exactly started out the way we expected this year -has it?? Instead of gradually warmer, dryer and calmer weather we were faced with "the perfect storm" as it was described in some parts of the country.

Life can be like that. Doesn't turn out as we expect it to!! The disciples of the Lord Jesus were heading in their boat to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. (You can read the story in the Bible in Mark 6. 45-53) Straightforward, ordinary journey, until the "**perfect storm**" arose. Wind is raging, rain is pouring, waves are crashing into and over the boat which is being battered by the storm. The disciples' muscles are aching from rowing against the waves. It is dark, and they are fearful. Hope of a successful journey is fading. The big question is, "Where is Jesus?"

Maybe that kind of describes your life just now. All was going well **UNTIL** everything came crashing down around you and, like the disciples, you feel hopeless, alone and desperately asking the question, "**Where is God?**"

Where **was** Jesus in our story? He was on the mountain watching and praying!! He may have seemed disinterested, but He wasn't. **Today, He knows what you are going through, and He cares.** Jesus responds and makes His way to them, walking through the storm. He sees your problems and pain and He comes to you. Like the disciples, you may not recognise Him. **Maybe this newsletter is His way of reaching out to you right now.** He would have walked past them, but they cried out. He is waiting on you crying out to Him today. **If you don't, He will walk on by!!** When they cried out, His message was simple, "**Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid.**" The next thing He is climbing into the boat beside them and immediately the "**wind ceased**"!! Things happen when a person cries out to the Lord, trusting Him and allowing Him into their troubled hearts and lives. He is the "**Prince of Peace**" (Isaiah 9.6), He gives "**the peace of God which passes all understanding**" (Philippians 4.7) and He can do so because He has "**made peace through the blood of His cross**" (Colossians 1.20). He experienced the "perfect storm" of suffering on the cross for our sins. The main cause of most, if not all our troubles, somewhere along the line, is **SIN**. That is what the Lord Jesus dealt with on the cross. He had come to "**put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**" (Hebrews 9.26) He has dealt with the cause, so He can also deal with the results in the lives of those who commit themselves to Him by faith. Cry out to Him now!!



POET'S CORNER **Step Through the Veil**

To walk in darkness all alone
A fearful chill throughout the bone.
Lost to life each step not sure
Each wanton sin an easy lure.
The truth of God a vague cliché
That once in a while would pass your way
Yet never could you fill your soul
That darkened pit, that bottomless hole.
An empty craving, a restless toil
Upon this earth, across this soil.
You walk an empty, shallow life
Of anger, hatred, lust and strife.
But there is One who loves you so,
God who cares for you, I know.
"Step through the veil My child," He calls.
You stop, not sure, your motion stalls.
"Step through the veil My child," says He,
"The veil that hides your life from Me."
"My Son I sent to bring you home
to stop your endless, fruitless roam."
"His death upon the cross did cure
the guilty traits of sin for sure."
"Accept His death in place of yours.
Step through the veil, new life is yours."
Oh, glory, oh joy, oh see!!!!
Forever now you're free!!!!
but only in Jesus Christ
the way, the truth, the life.

Clinton Herring

MEET A MEMBER

MARY LEITCH

"The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2.20

I am always amazed at this verse in the Bible—**it is so personal!!**

I was born in Lugar in 1946 and was the youngest of three. When I was five I moved to Logan where I lived until I was married and moved to Auchinleck with my husband John.

I worked beside a friend who was a Christian and I could see that she was different from me. I went to church, had **always "believed" in God and thought I was a good person and good enough for God** but I was curious to find out more about what made this friend "different". I was always asking her about her faith. She told me that she had trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as her Saviour. This was new to me, I had never heard that **it was possible to have a personal relationship with God** through His Son, Jesus Christ, who had died to take away our sins.

I started to read the Bible and saw that **no-one was good enough** and that I was a sinner and needed to be saved. I was happy enough with my life, but **I had no peace in my heart**. I struggled with this for a long time. John didn't want our lives to change, he was quite happy.

I started to think about the time when I would need to stand before God, for we must all stand before Him some day, and I would have to give an account of why I had never trusted His Son as my Saviour. How could I possibly say to God, "It was because my husband was happy the way we were and didn't want to change." In the light of where I would be for eternity this seemed a very lame excuse.

I realised it was personal, between me and God and no one else. One day in March 1972 **I asked the Lord Jesus to save me and to come into my heart**. At last I knew peace and joy, not because of any good in me, or anything I had done, but all **because of what the Lord Jesus had done for me at Calvary** by dying to take away my sin.

I'm thankful that John trusted in the Saviour two years later. God has blessed us and kept us, in good times and bad times, over the many years since we first trusted Him.



EASTER EXPLORERS



Monday to Friday (2nd to 6th April)
10.30-12.15 am

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

COAL MINING

We can hardly consider the village of Auchinleck, without the coal mining industry coming to mind. Auchinleck, like many of the villages around, are fondly referred to as "Mining villages". Coal mining, played a huge part in Scotland's economy, as well as being a massive part of the lives of those who lived, and indeed still live, in Auchinleck. There are no doubt folks reading this article with fond memories of their own time spent "down the pit" as well as others who have had memories relayed to them by parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents to ensure that the legacy of the mines lives on.



Despite all the fond memories, there is no escaping the fact that mining was dangerous. Every time a miner ventured underground, they were faced with real dangers, including floods, fires, gas, explosions, collapses and heavy coal carts. It was no mean feat to be a coal miner, and these people risked these dangers to provide for their families and support the local economy. Coal mining was a **dark, dirty** and **dangerous** job.

One key piece of mining equipment was the miners' lamp. The lamp was key, enabling the miner to see his surroundings and be aware of dangers. This reminds me of words spoken by Jesus when He said: **"I am the light of the world, he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."** John 8 v12. This world is a dark place, and so many of us struggle to find a way through life, however Jesus has

come to be the Light. Light can be used to show the way; however, it also exposes. When Jesus came as the light of the world He came to show the way, but by doing so He exposed men and their wickedness. Sadly, Jesus' judgement then is the same as His judgement today, **"and this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."** John 3 v 19.



I can't think of a dirtier job than coal mining. My own experience of using coal is limited, but when I use it for my fire, it never ceases to amaze me how dirty I manage to get. I'm sure the miners spent hours cleaning themselves and their clothes after a long shift down the pit. Many a miner's wife would have ensured their husband was clean and tidy before allowing them to enter the house and sit on the furniture. This, again, reminds me of the Bible, and something that we all have which leaves us defiled and dirty, before a holy God. The Bible says in Romans 3 v 23 **"For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"**. Just as every miner's wife would insist on her husband washing before entering the home, so God insists that we are washed before we can enter His home--Heaven. The Bible says in Revelation 21 v 27 **"But there shall by no means enter it (Heaven) anything that defiles"**. How is our sin washed? **"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from ALL sin"**. Isaiah 1 v 18 **"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."**

Mining was dangerous. This danger was highlighted at 7.30pm, on 7th September 1950, in the nearby town of New Cumnock, when a glaciated lake filled with liquid peat and moss, flooded pit workings, trapping 129 miners underground. This became known as the Knockshinnoch disaster and became an international media event. What ensued, was a three-day mission to bring these men to safety. During the rescue mission, 116 men were successfully rescued, however, 13 sadly lost their lives. As I read this I am reminded of a far greater rescue mission which took place thousands of years before. The mission, was that of The Lord Jesus Christ, as He **"came into the world to save sinners"** 1 Timothy 1 v 15. Luke 19 v 10 says **"The Son of Man (Jesus) has come to seek and to save that which was lost"**. We are all lost to God because of our sin, but the

wonderful news is that **Jesus Christ came on a rescue mission for us, to save us from our sin, cleanse us from our defilement, bring us into the light and make it possible for us to spend eternity with Him in Heaven.** I wonder, have you been found, or are you still lost, living your life in the dark, defiled by sin, with no hope of being in Gods Heaven?



Parent and Toddler Group

Thursday @ 9.30 - 11.00 (term time only)

Please contact Ruth on 07402 468 244 for further details.



Struggling - Benefits Cut, Sanctioned, finding it difficult to make ends meet??

We provide a food bank in the hall at Park Road from 11.15am to 12.15pm every Thursday.

COFFEE MORNING

Why not drop in for coffee, cake and chat the 1st Monday of each month from 9.30am to 11.00am
(9th April; 7th May; 4th June; 2nd July)

Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.

All free of charge.



Family Service

Our all-age family service is held each Sunday @ 12.45pm

Creche for kids

Singing, Kid's Message plus Message for Adults

Free lunch provided for all after service

Youth Fellowship

Every second Friday @7.30pm

Snooker, Table Tennis, Tuck Shop, Bible Lesson

Contact :- Simon - 07411 801 594

Times of Services

SUNDAY

11.00am – Breaking of Bread

12.45pm – Family Service

14.45pm – Bible Teaching

MONDAY

7.30pm – House Meeting @
101, Main Street

TUESDAY

7.30pm – Prayer Meeting

CONTACT DETAILS

www.auchinleckchristianfellowship.co.uk

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