

ACF NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 Summer 2018

HOPE



Auchinleck
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Serving Christ, Serving the Community

Welcome to the Summer Edition of our Newsletter

"We Won!!!!"

Sunday 27th May saw another amazing milestone in the history of Auchinleck Talbot – a twelfth win in the Scottish Junior Cup competition.

Two goals in the final minutes of injury time secured a dramatic victory!!! **Victory seemed impossible** just a few moments before.

Almost the whole village was affected by the efforts of the team on the pitch at Rugby Park, as well as the efforts of the background staff that had trained them over the past months. The skill and the hard work was all theirs, but the town derived the benefits – **the joy of victory, the feel-good factor of being associated with a winning team.** Everyone in Auchinleck can say, "We won the cup" but in reality, it was the guys on the pitch that won it – everyone else just really shares the "spoils" of the victory.

It reminds me of another "victory" that took place in very unusual circumstances. Over two thousand years ago a man hung, suffering on a cross. **He looked defeated.** It was dark. He was bleeding profusely. Time was running out. It looked as if He was finished when in a loud, victorious voice He cried, **"It is finished."** It was a cry of victory!! What was finished? The work His Father had given Him to do. "The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." (1 John 4.14) He had won a victory over, sin, death, hell and the grave. Three days later He rose again.

The victory was His, but we can share in His victory by our association with Him through faith.

"Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor 15:57)



POET'S CORNER **Victory in Christ**

Sometimes we feel defeated
When things don't go as planned,
But there's victory in Christ—
The Rock on which we stand.
He's our risen, reigning King,
And He does all things well;
He has overcome the world—
Darkness, sin, death, and hell.
All power is given Him
In Heaven and in earth,
Friend, He is our Victory...
When we have new birth.

If we think we're defeated,
Then we've not understood—
God is in complete control,
Working all things for good.
He knows just how to mould us,
Making us like His Son—
In His strong hand, He holds us...
Gently shaping every one.
He's with us in fiery trials—
In Him, we've overcome,
Nothing touches our lives, friend,
That has not touched God's Son...
There's Victory in Christ!

Connie Campbell Braticher

MEET A MEMBER

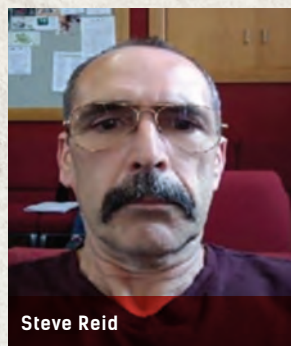
STEVE REID

I was born in Bishopbriggs in 1959. My family immigrated to Canada in 1969. My family never had an active interest in church. God wasn't discussed or mentioned in the house except as a swear word.

I started drinking in the last couple of years of high school. After a couple of years working as a maintenance handyman my love for drink led me to working as a bouncer in various bars. However, I realised that bar work wasn't ideal as a lifetime job, so I went back to college to study marine mechanics. After graduating I worked for Caterpillar and then after a couple years for John Deere. However, as the years went by **my dependence on alcohol increased.** Because of my education and training I was able to secure work continuously in forestry, deep mines and anywhere there was heavy plant. I worked all over Canada from the Great Lakes to the High Arctic, Yellowknife, South Sarir in Libya and Malta. The reason for so much travel was that **sooner or later, wherever I went, the drink would get the better of me and I would chuck the job to go on a bender.**

After completely screwing up in Canada, I returned to **Scotland determined, once again, to make a fresh start.** My determination didn't last the flight over. After working some Glasgow bars and moving for a while to the Midlands, I found myself back in Glasgow – **homeless.** However, family in Ayrshire heard about my situation and got me a place to stay in Ochiltree. However, I continued drinking myself to death. While staying in a local bedsit I met Rosie, the mother of another tenant, who took me to my first Gospel Meeting and over the next couple of years, as I moved around East Ayrshire, the Christians from the Gospel Hall in Auchinleck kept in touch. After being homeless again, **the council put me in a house on Stoner Crescent.**

Life was all about where the next drink was coming from. However, I kept dropping in at the Gospel Hall and people would also take me to house meetings at Rosie's in Ochiltree. Despite not having any background in the church, **the existence of God was something I believed in.** My problem was I felt I had to clean myself up to be acceptable to Him, which is impossible for man, only possible with God. I ended up before the Sheriff in Ayr for drunk



Steve Reid

driving. Despite it being my first offence, and there being no accident or other parties involved, **I was banned for 99 years with a minimum 5 years,** as no one expected me to live another 5 years. Social work report said that I lived to drink. I always had a bottle to hand, even sleeping with one beside me. I would wake up, drink and go back to sleep.

Attempting to sober up for the court, I had only succeeded in putting myself into alcohol withdrawal and severe DT's. My brother in Christ, Ian Robertson, had driven me to court. After sentencing, he took me home and as I got out of the car, expecting me to hit the bottle, he said "just go easy". I sat in the house thinking about what had happened and before I started drinking the Lord spoke to my heart and asked, **"Have you had enough?"**. Having reached the end of myself, I said **"Yes Lord, forgive me"**. Immediately my DT's were gone, the relentless desire for alcohol was gone, the person looking back from the mirror was different. **"Old things are passed away; behold all things are made new."** 2 Corinthians 5.17

Twenty years later and the Lord has never left me. From homeless to homeowner, unemployed to business owner, alone to loved and married all because **I trusted the One who did for me what I could never do for myself.** The One from whom I had no right to expect anything, gave me everything laying down His life for me on a cross at Calvary.

OPEN DAY

Bouncy Castle

Craft Tent

Games, etc

SATURDAY
18TH AUGUST
FROM 12.00
TILL 4.00

REFRESHMENTS :- CANDY FLOSS; HOT DOGS, POP CORN, TEA, COFFEE, CAKES AND SANDWICHES

ALL AGES
WELCOME
ALL FREE

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

JAMES BOSWELL

Whether we wander round the streets of Auchinleck, walk up Kirk Brae past the Parish Church, enjoy coffee and cake in the Coach House, have a drink in a particular village pub, or simply remember the primary school house and colour to which you were assigned for Sports' day, the name Boswell is closely associated with the village. Approaching by road, the signs indicate that Auchinleck is in fact, the home of James Boswell, and not as some might prefer the signs to say, the home of the mighty all-conquering Talbot. Only last month some of the great and the good from the world of literature descended on Dumfries House to celebrate the life and work of **one of Auchinleck's most famous sons, James Boswell.**



Why does this 18th century, 9th Laird of Auchinleck, still maintain so much influence and be celebrated today? It was as a diarist and biographer that **James Boswell gained such prominence among his literary peers** and remains a figure hugely remembered and honoured by the festivals, documentaries, scholarly articles, not to mention streets, pubs, cafes and school sports' houses today. It was his ability to record the actions and deeds of others in print that led to his acclaim. This, some might argue, makes James Boswell's works not the thing to be admired, but rather their subject. It's a bit like the moon. It's beauty, and our appreciation of it, only comes from the fact that it is able to reflect the light that comes from the Sun. **The moon has no light of its' own.** The Sun, in Boswell's case, was Dr Samuel Johnson, the English writer, his greatest work being **Johnson's, "A Dictionary of the English Language"**.

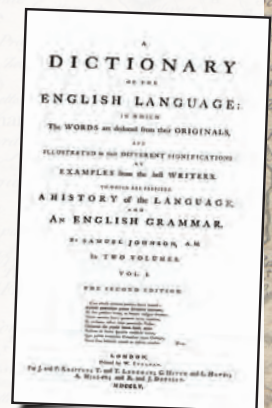
Johnson's dictionary had a far-reaching effect on Modern English. It brought him popularity and success. Until the completion of the Oxford English Dictionary 150 years later, Johnson's dictionary had no peer. By the end of the eighteenth century every educated household had, or had access, to the great book. So firmly established did it swiftly become that any request for "The Dictionary" would bring forth Johnson's and none other. One commentator wrote, **'One asked for The Dictionary, much as one might demand The Bible.'**

This comparison brings us to consider other biographers who preceded Boswell by centuries. They too had a subject, a person, however, of far greater note than Dr Samuel Johnson. **The four Gospels**, at the beginning of the New Testament in the Bible, bring before us four different, but matching accounts of the life of Jesus Christ. Samuel Johnson is remembered for his great collection and explanation of English words. The accounts, of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John bring before us the revelation of God to man through **The Word** – *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."* John 1:1 & 14

Jesus Christ was God on Earth. He brought a **direct revelation of the heart of God to men and women.** This has been recorded for us by these Gospel biographers. While Johnson certainly brought the truth of the English language to the masses in 18th Century Britain, it could not be said of him that he brought much grace. His moods and mannerisms left a lot to be desired. On the contrary, Christ brought both the truth of God, the giving of His life upon the cross for a sinful world, and the grace of God, the love and healing of a sinless perfect man to those he encountered.

Eventually, Johnson's great literary work was superseded by the Oxford English Dictionary. Language evolves and new words are created to be added to the most up to date Lexicon. **"Selfie" was not a concept nor even a word in Johnson's day.** However, the message of the Gospels, remain unchanged and ever relevant to a world where uncertainty and insecurity abound. The message is simple yet powerful – *"...Christ Jesus came in to the world to save sinners..."* 1 Timothy 1:15. The Gospels bring us to Jesus, teaching us about His love for each one of us, regardless of our actions and attitudes towards God. James Boswell was a talented biographer who captured the essence of his subject, Dr Johnson. The Gospel writers were used to bring to us **the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.**

Samuel Johnson is buried in Westminster Abbey. James Boswell, buried in a crypt, under the Boswell Museum. Jesus Christ was buried in a borrowed tomb. The remains of the first two lie in the same places where they were laid. However, on the third day, Jesus Christ rose again. He lives today and shines brighter than the Sun. His desire? **That His light might fall upon each one of us and that we might reflect just some of His magnificent glory to the world around.**



Parent and Toddler Group

Thursday @ 9.30 - 11.00 (term time only)

Please contact Ruth on 07402 468 244 for details of new term.



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
(2nd July; 6th Aug; 3rd Sept; 1st Oct)
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
hecares4you2@aol.com Mobile :- 07734 709 834