

HOPE



Auchinleck
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Serving Christ, Serving the Community

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of our Newsletter

THE EQUATOR

Recently, I had the privilege of standing on the Equator which passes through Uganda. For a few moments I stood **straddling the world** with one foot in each hemisphere!!



I thought it quite telling that on the plinth the letters **S I N** appear to be written! The "S" obviously denotes the Southern Hemisphere and the "N" relates to the Northern Hemisphere, with what appears to be an "I" signifying the equator line. The letters of course spell out a word, the reality of which, affects the whole world regardless of latitude or longitude!! It is the word "sin". Romans 5:12 (a verse in the Bible) tells us, "Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) **sin** entered into **the world**, and **death by sin**; and so death passed upon all men, for that **all have sinned**." Many things change in the world, culture, language, eating habits, colour of skin, religion, etc but there is one thing we find in every people group and in all ages – **SIN** – which simply describes our behaviour before God. Romans 3.23 tells us, "For everyone has sinned; we **all fall short of God's glorious standard**." Sin is universal and has a universal effect – **death**. This death punishment is not just physical but eternal – it is what we deserve for the wrong we have done – **Eternal Separation from God**.

However, there is a love which straddles the whole world – it is **the love of God**. It doesn't matter who you are, where you live or what you have done – **God loves you!!** In John 3.16 we learn, "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." God sent His Son, Jesus, to a cross at Calvary where He would die for our sins. He became our substitute, the bearer of our sins. All that was due to me as a sinner before God, Christ bore on my behalf. **That's amazing love!!** We enter into the good of God's love by confessing our sin and receiving, by faith Jesus Christ as Saviour.



POET'S CORNER **I'm Forgiven**

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well
Your spirit is within me
Because you died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be?
That you, my king, would die for me
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honour you
Because you died and rose again

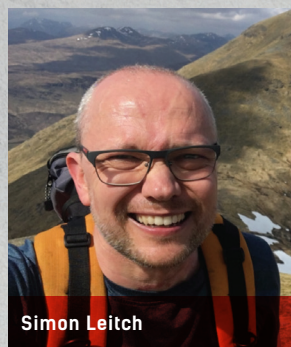
You are my king
You are my king
Jesus, You are my king
Jesus, You are my king

Chris Tomlin



MEET A MEMBER

SIMON LEITCH



When asked how to characterise my story as a Christian I often think of it as a very unremarkable account. I was very young when I realised that the **Bible taught I was a sinner** and that God wanted me to be a part of His family. This was not something that happened at birth but required a second birth, just as Jesus had instructed Nicodemus in John's gospel: John 3:3,6-7 NLT Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, **'You must be born again.'**"

I was raised in what is termed a 'christian' family. My parents instructed me in the teachings of the Bible and I attended church throughout my formative years. This made me **part of their family, but not part of God's**. So as a young boy of 9 years old, I confessed to God my disobedience towards Him as a sinner and repented of those sins. I recognised that Jesus Christ died for my sins on the cross and I placed my faith in Him to forgive me of each and every one of those sins - past, present and future! And so, I entered the family of God. I'd had a father here on Earth who clothed me, protected me, loved me for those 9 years and beyond, but now I had a Father in heaven who would do all those things and more for the rest of eternity! **More than a remarkable result!**

And so began **my journey as a child of God**. I would know His love as well as His correction, as His ways would guide me ever closer to a knowledge and understanding of Him. All God wants for me is to get know Him more and more on this journey. With every chapter of my life, God has been there - leading, cajoling, reprimanding, just as any Father would his child. This relationship does not exempt Christians from the hurtful experiences of life and this was brought home with stark reality to me when, as a young husband and father, I was **diagnosed with oral cancer** at the age of 28.

As a non-smoker and a tea-totaller, this was a bolt out of the blue. The floor of my world fell out! How would I go home and tell my wife and look at my young children, a son of 3 years old and a daughter of 5 months, that I had cancer? The worst news possible for me! Once the news was delivered I knew that the only way I would cope with this crisis was not by myself. **I cast myself completely on God** to deliver me and asked that His peace would overrule me and guide me in this dark storm. And He did! **God gave me such a calm** in the middle of this situation that it was completely unnatural. It was His Spirit within, proving that He was in control. This was another step on my journey of getting to know my Father in a more intimate and dependent way. On one occasion my wife and I went to see a consultant about a different procedure to remove the malignant tumour from my tongue and provide reconstructive surgery - a very different proposal from the initial proposal I'd received upon my diagnosis. We didn't know what was best for me at that time. **We weren't qualified to make that decision**. We went back to our car in the car park and just sat down and prayed together. As we prayed and committed our decision to God, there was a terrible down pour of rain with huge black clouds suddenly bursting and battering the car we were sitting in. It could not have better summed up our predicament at that time. As we finished praying and opened our eyes, the deluge had stopped and there before us, stretching over the sky was the **biggest, brightest, boldest rainbow I have ever seen** and am likely to see again! **God was with us!** That was the sign in the sky. We drove home and immediately contacted the consultant to put plans in motion to go ahead with the surgical procedure which was more complex and demanding. **God went before us** in every aspect of this trial and brought us through the other side. He taught me my absolute need and the dependence that I have of Him. To date He has continued to teach me these lessons. I need Him, not only in the darkest of days, but also when the sun shines brightly on my life and it appears I haven't a care in the world! **Being a child of God means I need to know my Father** in heaven more and more each day. Every lesson in life is just another means of leading me to that point.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

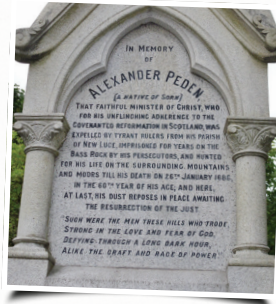
ALEXANDER PEDEN

Have you ever wandered along **Peden Drive** and wondered where its name came from? Or perhaps you have visited the church hall at the top of Backrodgerton Crescent and wondered why it's called the "**Peden Hall**"? Maybe you're a lover of the great outdoors and have walked along the river Lugar and discovered "**Peden's cave**" and been inquisitive as to who its named after?

The Reverend Alexander Peden, or "**Prophet Peden**", was born at Auchincloich farm, near Sorn, around 1626. He was educated at Glasgow University before becoming a teacher in Tarbolton. Subsequently he was ordained the minister of New Luce in Galloway in 1660. After the restoration of Charles II, Peden was forced to leave his parish and live life on the run. He was **one of the leading figures in the Covenanter movement** in Scotland.

For 10 years he wandered far and wide to bring comfort to his co-religionists, often narrowly escaping capture, and resorting to wearing a cloth mask and wig to hide his identity. In June 1673 he was finally captured and condemned to **4 years and 3 months imprisonment on Bass Rock** followed by a further 15 months in the Edinburgh Tolbooth. In December 1678 he was sentenced to banishment to the American plantations, however, the captain of the American ship, on finding out the reason for his banishment, released him. The remaining years of his life were spent between Scotland and Northern Ireland, with his final days lived out in a cave on the river Lugar. He died there, from hardship and privation, on 26th January 1686. He was **buried in Auchinleck churchyard**, however, six years later, his body was exhumed by the king's troops, with the intention of hanging it from the gallows in Cumnock. Objections to the plans resulted in his corpse being buried at the foot of the gallows, where in 1891, a monument was erected to mark the spot.

What were his crimes? What was it that caused Peden to live a life of hardship,



imprisonment and banishment, along with all his covenanter compatriots? It was his **love for Jesus Christ** and his refusal to accept anyone other than Him as head of the Church.

The covenanters focused on the 3 C's, **The Cross, The Crown and The Covenant**. The national covenant was signed in 1638 to confirm opposition to the interference of the Stuart kings in the affairs of the presbyterian church. Those who signed, refused to accept anyone other than Jesus Christ as the head of the Church. They refused to displace Jesus Christ and suffered terribly for it. Sadly, today **so many have displaced Jesus Christ**. They refuse to give Him His rightful place in their lives. Tragically, the One for whom Peden and his fellow covenanters were willing to suffer and die, has become, for many, just a name to ridicule and blaspheme. In Matthew ch 22 v 42 Jesus spoke with a group of religious men and asked the question "**What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is HE?**" I wonder as you read this article what your thoughts are of Christ? Do you value Him as Peden did? Or do you value Him at all?

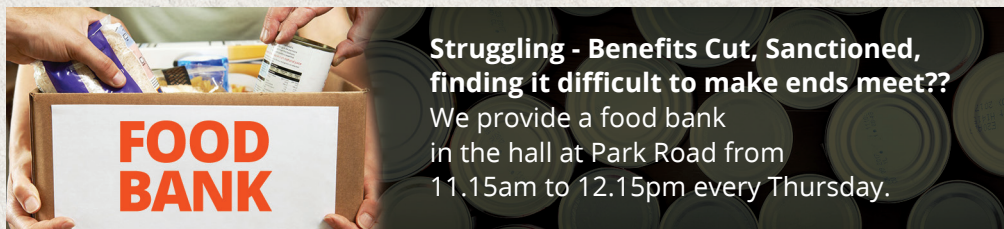
The message of the cross was central to what the covenanters believed and preached. Many years before Peden, Paul the great apostle wrote in the Bible, "**We preach Christ crucified**" 1 Corinthians ch 1 v 23. The Cross is central to the Christian message, indeed without it there is no message. In 1 Corinthians ch 15 v 3-4 Paul writes "**Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.**" Romans ch 5 v 8 reminds us that "**God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**". Christ's death on the cross, is the means by which our sins can be forgiven, and we can come to know God as our Father and Jesus Christ as our Saviour. This was the experience of Alexander Peden, and it was an experience that changed his life. He took the call to Christian living seriously and lived by the demands of Jesus in Matthew ch 16 v 24 when He said, "**If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me**". Are you willing, like Alexander Peden, to choose to live for Jesus Christ today?



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
(1st Oct, 5th Nov, 3rd Dec, 7th Jan)

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