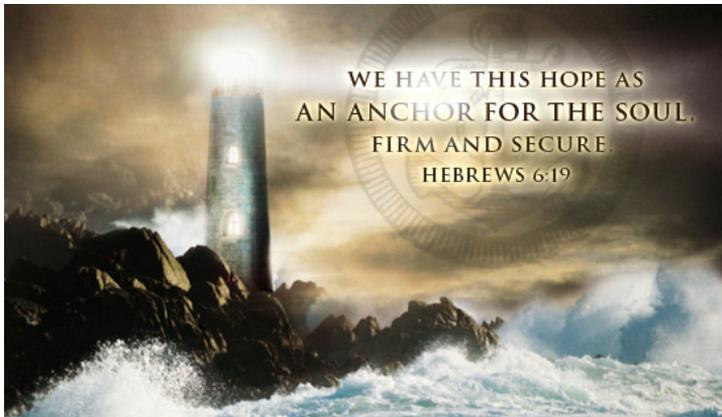




Pray for Scotland

Newsletter

2019 Issue 2



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*praying for revival in the church
and transformation in the nation*

Jesus is the Hope, the

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” [Heb 6:19 NIV]

Earlier this year, at the height of what was then intense activity at Westminster with Brexit vote after Brexit vote, the writer of an article in a national newspaper, commenting on how the nation was coping (or not) with the Brexit confusion and uncertainty, included these observations:

- stressed civil servants are being encouraged to talk to counsellors about the pressures they are under;
- some MP's may be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as they cope with coffins dumped at their constituency surgeries, smashed windows, death threats, round-the-clock negative social media and endless cancelled plans, putting their relationships and health under huge strain;
- a poll of happiness levels since 2016 suggests 'we are now overwhelmingly a country of pessimists';
- younger folk are reporting broken sleep patterns and feelings of powerlessness;
- people feel unable to make a decision about anything from moving home to changing jobs;
- in 2017 the dominant words used for the political situation were 'confusing' and 'uncertain' - two years later the dominant words are 'broken' and 'chaos'.

There was more, but you will have grasped the general theme by now - and it is a pretty negative, discouraging picture of the UK the

writer was painting. Maybe in some quiet parts of Scotland you don't recognise that picture - but for many, especially south of the border, it has been a reality.

By the time this newsletter is read the uncertainty may be over and an agreement will have been reached that can be supported by Parliament, with or without a 'People's Vote', but until then, the uncertainty, confusion, fear, anger and division continues.

But at the same time another picture is being painted - one of hope, of new birth and new life. During April we remembered and celebrated Christ's death and resurrection at Good Friday and Easter Sunday services across the UK (and the world).

We have since received reports of churches across different denominations being fuller than in recent years - in some cases 'packed out'! We heard of lively, joyful, hope-filled celebrations. We heard of multiple baptisms at Easter services, especially of teenagers and young adults who have recently come to faith in Christ.

When the 'world' is in confusion and anxiety the church has a wonderful opportunity to present the 'Good News' - the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And when Christians take that step of faith, what happens - we find folk are more open to hearing and receiving

Anchor - the Answer!

than at other times. Those involved in the ongoing Turning-Scotland outreaches in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow are experiencing this every month, as folk from several churches join together in sharing the Gospel with complete strangers in different parts of their cities.

When folk have no hope - we can point them to the One who gives all hope.

When folk are drifting on the sea of public opinion, rumours and 'fake news', we can point them to the One who is the Anchor, keeping us firm and secure on the solid rock of Truth.

When folk have no answer to the problems besetting them individually and nationally - we can introduce them to the One who not only can provide the answer to every question, but who is the Answer - Jesus Christ!

God has special plans for Scotland. As we mark the 70th anniversary of the 1949 Lewis Revival we recognise that true revival is primarily a supernatural move of God flooding a community with His presence and power, as in the day of Pentecost. But we have a role to play. He is stirring up those in His church with 'ears to hear' to engage more deeply in prayer and is stirring a desire for holiness in personal lives and in the church - which may require humility and repentance.

He also continues to put Scotland on the hearts of folk all over the world. An Edinburgh pastor recently met the leaders of around 60 Community Bible Study groups with over 460 members in Arkansas, USA. They pray for Scotland on their own daily, and together weekly, and include a group of around 30 women who became Christians in a maximum security prison, who have been praying for Scotland for over 2 years!

Yes, there are huge problems in our nation, there are great stresses and strains affecting almost every part of society in these days - and at times it must almost be overwhelming. But what does Jesus say to us in John 16:33? *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

So take heart! Be encouraged! God is at work in Scotland! Pray for all those reaching out to family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues with the Gospel - that many would respond. Pray for the ongoing city outreaches under The Turning banner, for every Alpha course, for Trypraying and every similar project - that every seed sown would produce a rich harvest for the Kingdom!

Cry out to God: "Will you not revive us again?" [Ps 85:6]

Alistair Barton, Director

The Filling Station - Scotland

Craig Mackay, Scottish Regional Director

When you hear the words 'Filling Station' – what immediately comes to mind? Your nearest provider of petrol or diesel? Or a place where folk enjoy meeting with each other, and with Jesus.

Well...it's not the petrol station! It is a group of Christians from local churches who gather midweek once a month, often with guests, to worship, pray, and enjoy a visiting speaker – who usually shares their testimony as a way of speaking about God to those not-yet Christians.

It is not a new church or denomination but is a fresh expression of gathering, teaching and worship supporting the work of the local church, pointing seekers to Jesus and His church and often encouraging “the Prodigals” to return!

Now meeting in over 100 locations in UK and overseas, Filling Stations began over 15 years ago in rural areas, but is now also to be found in urban settings. As Scottish Regional Director for the Filling Station Trust's activities I have the joy of encouraging the teams in Thurso, Black Isle, Lossiemouth, Alford, St Combs, Inverbervie,

Auchtermuchty, Bo'ness, Wishaw, Ardfern, West Kilbride, Girvan and Melrose, with several more waiting in the wings to launch.

Meetings are hosted by teams of 6-12 local Christians who love their local church and believe that there might be a need for this model of ministry in their community. Teams are supported by an amazing list of speakers and worship leaders throughout the country who bless each meeting, encouraging a heart of renewal and expectation.

Gatherings are Holy Spirit led and come in all shapes and sizes from cosy gatherings in cafes to gatherings of 180+ in community halls. No matter what the size of venue or gathering the teams are encouraged to be creative with their décor, their food, their welcome and how they make Christians and 'seekers' very welcome and comfortable.

Psalm 114:8 – “*turning hard rock into springs of living water*” reflects what Filling Stations seek to do where they meet. Month after month we see testimonies of healings, salvations, breakthrough, renewal, returning prodigals and joy!

You can find a Filling Station meeting in many places in the UK. So why not pop in sometime and bless us with your heart for Jesus. Check out the website for a TFS near you – www.thefillingstation.org.uk or call me on 0781 387 2818 for more details,



Prayer Chain Ministry

“To see a network of believers joined together to pray for our nation.”

In the 1960s and 70s Britain's culture was changing for the worse. Secular and humanist movements became more openly hostile toward God. Individualism and the “do what you want” culture became the order of the day. Many Christians were praying that God would send the Holy Spirit throughout our nation and turn people back to Himself. The year was 1981, God was answering prayer, prayer movements were being formed and leaders were being raised up.

One of those leaders was Jessie McFarlane, a Glasgow housewife. Challenged by Evelyn Christianson's book “What Happens When Women Pray” Jessie and friends met to pray for Scotland. God spoke to them about forming a telephone prayer chain, as described in the book. Many women, praying in their own homes, could be united in specific prayer for Scotland. God gave them 2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people.....”

Jessie heard that Evelyn was speaking in England and invited her to Glasgow. They prayed that many would come to hear Evelyn and in faith booked a large church in Glasgow. 650 women from across Scotland came and the decision was made to form a Prayer Chain for Scotland. Anyone wishing to be part of this chain could put their address and phone number on their name badge and leave it in a basket at the door as they left. Over 400 did so and Telephone Prayer Chain Ministry was born. You can read the story in “A Housewife's Adventure with God” by Jessie McFarlane.

Over 30 years later several hundred faithful pray-ers (men as well as women) still take part in praying every week, linked in a chain through local group and regional leaders. Now called Prayer Chain Ministry as email is used instead of the telephone, volunteers still seek God's guidance, prepare and send out three or four prayers to members every Monday from the Glasgow office.

God has been faithful and we have seen many answers to prayer - see our website for current reports - www.prayerchain.org.uk Increasingly, the prayers of the entire organisation are requested on matters of public concern which may not be generally known. Such requests may come from Government circles or professional bodies.

The battle for hearts and minds is still raging. We are praying that younger women and also men will take up the mantle, join us, take over from us, but above all, pray with passion and perseverance for God to halt the tide of evil and establish Godly rule in Britain. If God is calling you to join us – please do get in touch through our website.

Elizabeth Sammon, Chairwoman

Refuel19



Refuel19 - The only outdoor, week-long, all ages, all church, family Festival of Faith, is ready to open its gates again this summer in the stunning grounds of Gordon Castle Estate in the Highlands of Scotland.

With guest speakers from all over the world, youth ministry, seminars, workshops, kids clubs, camping, caravanning, motorhomes, restaurants, walks, hills, beaches, dolphins, mountains and rivers...how could you not wish to spend your summer up north!

Now in its third year, the creation of an event like this was partly a response to the lack of large non-denominational summer Christian festivals in Scotland, but was also born out of a clear mission to foster UNITY in this country and beyond.

As Craig Mackay, the event director explains, "...our prayer is just as Jesus prayed in John 17:23 where he said: '*...may they experience such PERFECT unity that the world might know that you sent me.*' For two years now we have seen the blessing that such unity commands, both at the event and rippling throughout Scotland as delegates go back to their churches and communities."

Guest speakers include Fred Drummond from EA Scotland, Dr Andy Bannister from Solas, Bruxy Cavey from the Meeting House in Canada, Peter Horrobin, founder of Ellel Ministries,

Eddie Lyle from Open Doors, Rachel Hickson, Garth Gilmour from Jerusalem, Andrea Wigglesworth and Andy Hall from Lions Roar for Scotland.

When we launched Refuel we were told that two things were not achievable...

1) that an event can truly include all denominations and represent each beautifully, and 2) that an event like this can be financially self-sustainable. We believe otherwise and have in just two years seen supernatural progress in respect of these "impossibles".

2019 looks to be blessed again by the nation's pioneers who wish to see this kind of event established in Scotland. Once again it looks set to be a great blessing to those that come and the communities they serve. Refuel seeks to serve the church, reflect the church and grow His church by offering people an opportunity to celebrate our unique and different ways together and to "show the world" whose name we gather in.

There is something for everyone at Refuel19 and God always does immeasurably more than we can ever imagine when we take time out to be with Him and His people.

For more info or to purchase your tickets, check out the event website at www.refuelscotland.org.uk or call the Refuel Team on 01343 610 230 at any time.

Praying across the nation



Thy Kingdom Come: 30 May - 9 June

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a call to all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for family, friends, neighbours etc. to come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Now in its fourth year, what started out as mainly an Anglican Church initiative has expanded rapidly to become a global phenomenon – a wave of prayer in over 100 countries worldwide, uniting Christians from every church tradition with one common aim - to pray for the salvation and transformation of their communities.

Churches in Scotland have taken part in past years, but in 2019 more churches than ever are joining in. These will include many Church of Scotland parishes for the first time, following a call from the Moderator of the Church of Scotland encouraging every congregation in that denomination to participate.

As well as being an opportunity to pray with millions worldwide, Thy Kingdom Come is another great way to join with folk from churches in your area to pray for your community.

Full details of the programme and the wide variety of excellent resources are available at: www.thykingdomcome.global

National Prayer Breakfast for Scotland: 12 June

This year's National Prayer Breakfast takes place at 7am on Wednesday 12 June, at Prestonfield House, Edinburgh. The theme is 'Reconciliation', which is very timely, given what has happened both to Scotland and the UK since the 2014 and 2016 referenda.

At the time of writing there are still a few places available and you can book in at: www.npbscotland.org.uk

If you are not able to attend, you can still take part at one of the live-stream locations around the nation. If there is not one

near you - encourage your church and other churches nearby to host a live streaming event - for more details check out the NPBS website.

Our vision is to see a live stream event in each of Scotland's 32 Council areas - the nation linked in prayer by way of the internet – a 'net' of airways criss-crossing the nation!

In 2018 there were 15 live-stream locations - will you help to increase that number in 2019?

The Turning – Scotland: Update

Teams from several churches continue to go out onto the streets in Aberdeen, Edinburgh & Glasgow on the first Saturday each month to share the Gospel and build unity. Encouragingly, they continue to experience and record more folk coming to faith in Christ.

After the 'Leaders Envisioning' meetings in February, a round of 'Leaders Training' meetings took place in late April in Prestwick (for several Ayrshire locations) and Falkirk (for several local towns), plus there was a meeting with interested leaders in Dundee.

Ayrshire & Falkirk areas, together with Inverness, are going ahead with plans for missions in late August.

To keep up to date, make sure you are on our email list or linked to our Facebook page, or you can register for updates at: www.theturning.eu/scotland.

Father's Day.... Father's Love



A county Foodbank with several centres has taken another box of Father's Love Letters to give away with the food parcels, and the Glasgow Turning hub have taken 2 boxes to give away on the streets – just a couple of the latest requests we have been able to supply.

Father's Day this year is on Sunday 16 June – a great opportunity to give away the Father's Love Letter in your community!

If you wish a supply, please email us as soon as you can. We are happy to give them away (though gifts towards printing costs are welcome) and only ask for refund of postage for large quantities.

'Thank you' & Keeping in touch

We appreciate so very much all your prayers, encouragement, feedback and support. Please do email and let us know of events, conferences etc. that are about prayer – we will do our best to help publicise these, especially through our more regular e-letters.

You can also contact us/keep up to date via Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.

Please let us know if you change your postal address.

If you wish extra copies of this newsletter for your friends or your church, please email us. Our mailing list is growing and we now print 4,000 copies of each issue.

Thank you also to our valued regular donors, and to everyone who sends a gift at anytime – we are continually surprised and blessed at your generosity! To support us either send a cheque to our address, or donate by internet banking with your name as the reference -

Account name: Pray for Scotland Sort code: 82-66-03 Account no: 40065269

A Gift Aid form can be downloaded from our website and posted to us.



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