



FEATURED THIS MONTH: G Edwards / D Gillies / J Hay / C Mackie / C Munro / G Paterson / G Smith / A Williamson

'A man is what he is on his knees, and no more.'

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Correspondence to: David Chalmers, 19 Durie Place, Edzell, DD9 7TS
Email: chalmersdj@gmail.com Mobile: 07939 599106

ISSUE 54 | MARCH 2024

■ GARETH EDWARDS (Perth)

In mid-February I enjoyed a weekend at Faskally speaking to teenagers at the North East Christian Youth Camp, but aside from that the focus of the work continues to be evangelism in and around Perth.

Recently I've been able to acquire some advertising space at McDiarmid Park, home of St Johnstone Football Club. We have two large boards up in the stadium and another in the astroturf training pitch displaying short gospel messages.

We continue with our weekly Sunday night outreach in the village of Scone. We were encouraged by around 80 local people attending the Christmas service there, and have recently started a new series of studies in the book of Acts. We hope to run an Easter family fun day to make more contacts in the village.

In January we held a "Scottish Evening" to which around 30 outsiders attended, while our February Community Lunch was one of the biggest for a while with about 40 people coming along. These activities, alongside the weekly Soup Kitchens, continue to bring us into contact with new people on a regular basis.

I'm hoping that we'll distribute another edition of our gospel magazine, The Signpost, in the next month or two, and we plan to recommence our weekly men's football outreach in mid-March as well. In January I had a productive meeting with the Council about opportunities with asylum seekers living in Perth, and am currently trying to discern the best way forward with that.



■ DAN GILLIES (Luthermuir)

Following on from the gospel meetings we had in the Town Hall, Axbridge, Somerset in September past, our son-in-law, Paul Thomas, has commenced a monthly gospel meeting in the Town Hall. Unsaved have been present at each meeting so far, in particular a Ukrainian lady, to whom Paul gave a bible. Prayer is much valued for this outreach. God willing, Paul and I are planning a further series of gospel meetings in September, again hoping to use the Town Hall.

We shared in the ministry with our brethren, Jack Hay and Alasdair Baijal, at the Innerleven assembly New Year Conference, held in the Kirkcaldy Gospel Hall. The time around the word of God went well, the Lord giving much needed help. Mid- January, I had a week of ministry meetings with the Limavady assembly, NI. Despite the wintry conditions, a nice company gathered nightly and a good interest was shown in the Christ- centred teaching. At the end of January, I spent a Lord's Day with the assembly at Fraserburgh. At the beginning of February, I had a few nights ministry with the assembly at Mintlaw where the meetings were very well supported by surrounding assemblies and the little company was much encouraged.

This past week, another brother and I have been stripping out the old kitchen and toilet at the Gospel Hall in Luthermuir in readiness for demolition and reconstruction into a badly needed storage area.

This next week or two, I am hoping to get back across to the coast to continue in visitation with our "Good News" gospel publication. I managed a morning last week and have almost finished Johnshaven village, Gourdon being next.

God willing, we leave for Botswana on 25th March for four weeks of both ministry and gospel meetings. We shall commence with the Serowe Easter Conference meetings and thereafter our focus will be on Palapye, where our dear brother and sister Colin and Christine Raggett serve the Lord.

■ JACK HAY (Perth)

During December a mailshot to thousands of homes in Strathearn carried a Christmas message and an invitation to a Christmas Eve Gospel Meeting in Comrie. It proved to be a wild wet night, but despite that, over forty "outsiders" attended. A secular magazine that is delivered to 6000 homes in our area carried a suitable message from me too, and the March edition will contain an article based on the message of Easter. Do pray about that.

I was able to give help in a couple of the Fife New Year Conferences and there were good attendances and a nice interest.

Craig Munro and I preached at the monthly Gospel Meeting in Kirkcaldy in January which proved encouraging. A lady and her sister attended for the first time. She is the mother of the gentleman who professed faith at the tent in the summer and then some weeks later was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer which took him in a short period of time. This was his relatives first time to hear the gospel except at his funeral. Another encouragement was that a mother and son from Kirkcaldy have told of being saved back at the tent time although they didn't make it known at the time. God is so good.

Leonard Currie and I have just returned from a visit to Sri Lanka. Both weekends were spent in Colombo, and on the first Lord's Day around two hundred unsaved people heard the gospel, most of them from the Dematagoda area where there is a thriving children's work each Saturday morning. On the second Lord's Day we had a mini-conference culminating with a gospel meeting when two young men were baptized.

A visit to the north, the Jaffna peninsula, saw us preaching at quite a number of preaching points so on this visit there was a bigger emphasis on gospel preaching than on teaching. Our thanks to all readers for your prayers.



■ CRAIG MACKIE (New Cumnock)

Recently I have taken responsibility for a set of graphics from Origin Bible Exhibition. The trustees, men who are in assemblies in Northern Ireland, were very gracious in allowing me to take on this great resource and we trust that it will be used mightily by the Lord in the salvation of precious souls. In January I was able to spend a week in Central Gospel Hall, **Irvine** with the exhibition. Despite inclement weather hampering our first attempt at getting the school to visit, they did come the following week, and it was so encouraging to see 184 children go away with their own copy of John's Gospel. There were also two 'open nights' where the public could visit and we were very pleased with the uptake, mainly from local Church of Scotland people who had received leaflets put out the week before. By the time this notice is in circulation we hope to have had the exhibition up in **Tarbolton**, in fellowship with the assembly there. I visited the school there for a short period after we were commended but this was hampered by the COVID lockdown and it has been hard to get in since, due to a change in senior management. Thankfully the exhibition gave the headteacher a reason to have us in and she was very positive about it all. The hall is directly opposite the school and, at her suggestion, all 200 pupils are planning to visit. Following this, we will be taking it into the school that I visit in **Cumnock**. This school has been incredibly receptive. I am regularly there for assemblies and they have taken calendars and booklets and when I suggested the exhibition there was no hesitation whatsoever.

Following this I am intending to be with the assembly in **Galston** for a series of gospel meetings in March. After those meetings finish, I intend to have some meetings in my portable hall in **Logan**. The particulars are still to be finalised, but I have permission from a local businessman to erect the hall in his yard and I expect these to start in mid-April, Lord willing. At the conclusion of these meetings, I am to be with the assembly at **Kilwinning** for drive-in gospel meetings following a large scale Seedsowers drop. The Seedsowers events we have been involved in organising previously have provided a good number of contacts and we are praying that the same thing happens this time.

Finally, I would appreciate prayer for the monthly gospel meeting in **Lockerbie**. Many of you will know that following meetings in March 2022 I began a monthly effort around the area which has developed into a gospel meeting. Numbers are never big, but we do have a few consistent attenders and some local saints have been very kind in attending as many meetings as they can. We are currently using the old gospel hall, but we aren't sure how long that will be available due to the homecall of the dear brother who so diligently attended to the practical things.

We (Craig, Christina, Daniel, Abigail & Noah) greatly value your prayerful interest in the work and trust you will know much of the Lord's blessing.

■ CRAIG MUNRO (Glenraig)

In late November/early December we left for fifteen days in India with brother Josh Jacob, Bicester. We went to the translators of the Present Truth and had meetings/conferences in the assemblies that they are in. We had extensive meetings in Doha, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Guntur, and Bangalore with so much to encourage us. The work in India is flourishing despite opposition and we thank the Lord for sustaining us in India and Hannah at home when I was away.

After returning from India in December we took the funeral of Thomas, aged 39, who was saved in the Tent meetings in August on the first occasion he had ever heard the gospel, and he came from receiving a tract. As soon as the meetings finished, he suddenly contracted pancreatic cancer, and died a few months later. We were with him before he died singing together 'what shall wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus'. He was the only one saved in his family and he had asked David Matthews from the assembly and me to bury him. Around 80 of the family came. He is now safe with our Saviour. He had been able to witness to his family of the grace of God. We leave it all with the Lord. His mother and aunty were in the gospel meeting in Kirkcaldy in January. We also took another local funeral in December, gave out calendars, visited the saints and unsaved ones, and took local meetings around about both midweek, Saturday nights and on Lord's days. We went down to Treorchy in Wales to see Hannah's mum and help the small assembly before returning for the New Year conferences. As you know many hundreds have heard the Word of God. Apart from attending our own conference in Glenraig, I was also preaching at the New Stevenson conference over two days. May His Word now have an impact on assembly testimony. A man who was saved in a miraculous way in New Stevenson through the Word of God and listening on-line to gospel meetings which we had with brother Jack Hay in May 2023 was beaming at the conference at New Year. He was received into fellowship in January.

The start of the year has involved a week of ministry meetings in Co. Sligo and another week in Skibereen Co. Cork, Southern Ireland with much to encourage. I returned home and helped the assembly in Plains. I was able to make the gospel meeting in Glenraig where I received the wonderful news personally from a mother and son (Linda and Chris Smith) that they were also saved in the tent in August but had only now found the grace to tell us. God is so good. They now attend all of the gatherings; they have no background.

We, as usual, are spending late January/February, working locally amongst the meetings in Fife. We are preaching practically every night this month in various places (mixture of ministry and gospel) and would appreciate prayer. We are having gospel meetings in a Miner's Institute on Wednesday nights in Lochore with Steven Graham with good interest, Thursday night mid-week meeting in Glenraig, Friday night ministry meetings going through Daniel, Saturday night meetings/Conferences so far in Newcastle, Leven, Ayr and Glenraig, Sunday's locally in Glenraig, Headwell and Cowdenbeath, Monday night in Kirkcaldy (monthly only) and Tuesday nights in Musselburgh in ministry. There are some encouraging signs in these places and a few who are under conviction. A lady was restored this month and received back into fellowship which has caused much joy. On the other hand, sadly, a backslider died, and I have been asked to take his funeral. None of his family are saved but interestingly they all testified to the change in his life as a father and a husband after he was saved. May the Lord use this funeral to bless them despite the fact that he died out of fellowship. Brethren pray for us.

■ GRAEME PATERSON (Orkney)

The work for the Lord has been progressing well here in Orkney. We moved up as a family on October having felt the Lord direct our path to here. Over the last 10 years we have been visiting 4 to 5 times a year. However, in the past year or so the local school work has been building and other gospel opportunities were being given to us.

So far, the Lord has blessed greatly. The children have all settled into school/work and assembly life.

We have been able to establish a monthly bible teaching meeting, commenced a mothers' and toddlers' group which is growing every week and started a monthly community lunch. We will also be starting our children's work with an after-school club leading to Easter holiday club.

The schools are very interested and we have been able to work with 6 schools to write an RME class curriculum and deliver this to all the school classes. Along with assemblies this takes up a fair bit of time! One outer Island school has asked me to hold an after-school bible club each Friday in May.

God willing, we plan to hold monthly gospel meetings in various community centres and we also have plans to use the trailer for shows and events with the cruise ships.

We appreciate the prayerful interest of the saints.

■ GRAEME SMITH (Inverurie)

By the grace of God we continue to visit the many local schools, engaging pupils with the wonderful message of the Bible.

Before Christmas we welcomed pupils from a local special school for their Christmas nativity event, which was well-attended. We are encouraged that the **Woodside Primary School SU group** has seen an increase in attendance, with 25 pupils now participating. Please pray for salvation as many would know the basics. Please pray for the return of one muslim lad who attended regularly, but recently had to make a choice between his own personal beliefs and the claims of Christ.

The Dyce Academy Senior SU group are currently on exam leave. Please pray for their return and continued engagement with the message of the cross. The Dyce Academy Junior SU group have a relatively limited Bible knowledge. Please pray that they will come to understand

who the Lord Jesus really is. The Inverurie Academy SU group has around 6 unsaved pupils. Please pray for their salvation as we continue to share the gospel.

Please pray for an increase in numbers at **Newmachar Bible Explorers**. We are so encouraged that those who do attend are really keen to learn. Please pray that the Lord will save their precious souls. We rejoice that a Chinese woman who recently attended encountered the gospel message. Please pray that she may find a job in Scotland and find out more about the glorious gospel.

Five schools (190 pupils aged 11) are participating in the Bible Alive programme this year. In these sessions, they experience a broad overview of the Bible, touching on key topics like the 10 Commandments and the significance of Jesus as the Lamb of God and Saviour.

The pupils have been curious, asking questions about heaven and hell, where God comes from, and the idea of eternity. It's been interesting to have these discussions and help them understand these concepts from a Christian viewpoint. After just two sessions, the students are grasping the message. Many understand that the 'Christian' God is forgiving and offers second chances. We were especially encouraged by one young lad who is now reading his sister's Gideons New Testament as a result of attending the sessions. Please pray especially as we present the cross work of the Lord Jesus this week.

I would appreciate prayer especially for the "Life Expo" Bible exhibition preparations currently taking place. Please pray that the timetable will run smoothly, that pupils will be given safety on the buses as they travel and especially pray that many new schools will attend this year.

As we prepare to distribute Bibles to primary seven school leavers in May, please pray that the Lord will once again open the doors and hearts to allow entrance of His word.

Lastly, prayer is requested as I participate in a memorial service for a teacher who passed away suddenly in January.



■ ANDREW WILLIAMSON (Culloden)

It was a busy **December** in various ways with good opportunities for gospel witness using Christmas as a launchpad. Please remember the results in prayer. We managed to get out for a witness in the street to sing carols and to briefly commend the gospel to the passers-by. We had several carol services (including a clear gospel message) in Culloden and two of the local village halls. One of the highlights was a local Polish brother who had a Polish carol service in the Hall which was very well attended by the Polish community.

Please pray for *Steven* who professed faith about 4 or 5 months ago. He comes from a very difficult background, but seems to be progressing. I've been able to do a few Bible studies with him recently which he is receiving and responding to well. Pray that I'll be granted wisdom and help, as he navigates a number of difficulties in his path – so that he might progress for the Lord.

Also, I would ask you for prayer for *Taylor* who has also recently professed faith in Christ. He doesn't have any background in Christian teaching, but rather has dabbled in different religions in our 'pick and mix' culture – please pray that we might be helped to guide and disciple both these men for the glory of God.

In **January-February**, I had Bible teaching locally and finished a little 3-part series on Romans 5.1-11 – the '*Joy of the Justified*'. It was really encouraging to have a good response to the teaching, as we covered topics such as our standing in Christ, our assurance for eternity and our current joy in the pressures and tribulations of life. We have now commenced a series on '*God's broken vessels*'.

We also have started a new Topic in our Home Bible Study – looking at '*Abraham's Steps of Faith*'. On top of this we have enjoyed visits in Celt Street, to Avoch Assembly and Huyton Assembly – looking at, *1 John*, *Believers Blessings* and *Ancient Roots in a Modern World* respectively.

Looking ahead we are hoping to go out with the gospel more in the coming months as the winter fades and the spring arrives.

- (1) The street work with the tract and coffee stand, which remains a great opportunity to share the gospel with passers-by.
- (2) The distribution work, as we have recently received 5000 John's Gospels. We are hoping to distribute these into local homes in the Highlands, as opportunity arises.
- (3) We are intending to expand into open-air work in Inverness this year as the Lord opens the door.

We are thankful for a number of other believers we work with who make these opportunities possible with their commitment to the progress of the gospel.

Lindsey and I have been thankful for the maturing and developing of the children in the past year. They are growing up fast in a world that is increasingly against Christ. It is well that we can bring them to the Lord in prayer. He is able to keep them (and us), for which we are eternally grateful.

Please also remember Lindsey as she gets into a new year of home education for the children. Her faithful and loyal support in everything has been so essential. She is hoping to pass some of the responsibilities for the toddler's work in Culloden to one or two of the other local sisters, as all our children have now almost 'aged out' of this stage.

Please continue to pray for us, that we might really exploit the opportunities provided, and 'redeem the time' in 2024.



All correspondence to: David Chalmers, 19 Durie Place, Edzell, DD9 7TS

Email: chalmersdj@gmail.com Mobile: 07939 599106