

Dear all

### Teaching Programme

As we begin our teaching programme for Autumn on 1 October, we will build on previous studies. During October and November we will be studying the first 13 chapters of Acts in our Family Services. This is giving us a progression from both the Sermon on the Mount in 2016 (Jesus' counter-culture in the Gospel) and also from the book of Jonah earlier in 2017 (the only Old Testament prophet to be sent to preach among Gentiles - God's heart has always been for the nations!) Our Acts studies will be concentrating on the advance of the Gospel into the known world of the 1st Century AD.

If you look at Acts, you'll notice that the first section covers Peter (Acts 1-12) and the second section covers Paul (Acts 13-28). Another way to 'slice and dice' Acts is in three sections: how the gospel was preached from Jerusalem (chapters 1-7), Judea and Samaria (8-10), and to the ends of the earth (11-28). Personally, I like the fact that there are six "progress reports" (6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31) in Acts. Each of these sections shows what went down as the gospel spread throughout the known world: 1-6:7 (Jews in Jerusalem), 6:8-9:31 (Hellenists & Samaritans), 9:32-12:24 (Gentiles & Antioch), 12:25-16:5 (Asia Minor), 16:6-19:20 (Europe), and 19:21-28:31 (Rome). We're only going to cover the first 13 chapters and watch the Gospel advancing to the point of sending out Missionaries (Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13 from Antioch). We're covering these chapters to give us a sense of God's unstoppable purpose and to further prepare us a church as a 'missional' church. A church of gospel witnesses reaching out to those in our own circle of family and friends and a church that supports global mission too, fulfilling the command of our Lord Jesus in Acts 1:8 '...**you** will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'

In the evenings we will be welcoming another guest speaker for four Sunday nights. Sam Gordon has an international Bible teaching ministry and over the years has travelled extensively around Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas. Originally from Bangor in Northern Ireland, Sam and his wife Lois make their home in Bawtry, a rural community in the heart of England. Their only son Timothy was killed when he was almost fifteen years of age - that story is told in the best-selling book, *It's Hurting Lord*. After twenty years in pastoral ministry, Sam spent almost eleven years as an on-air Bible teacher with Trans World Radio before moving on to a new role as executive director of Messianic Testimony, whose special focus is sharing Jesus with Jewish people. After eight plus years with MT he was led of the Lord in June 2016 to launch Truth for Today. See: <https://www.facebook.com/truthfortoday.co.uk>. A prolific writer with nineteen publications to his credit, a keen jogger and cyclist, as well as being a Man United fan, Sam is widely recognised as an able and enthusiastic communicator of biblical truth. On a much lighter note, if you wish, you can follow Sam on his personal Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sam.gordon.549>. Sam has a specialist interest in the Feasts of Jehovah and he will be teaching on the 'Autumnal Feasts' from Leviticus 23. This builds on our work in looking at Covenants and God's relationship with His people.

We are indebted to local speakers from within TCF and those who come from elsewhere - and I am sure we are all enjoying Allan McKinnon as he teaches on the Spiritual Gifts. This series was something that we committed to in our Strategic Plan! Look out for the self assessment tool available to all the TCF Family as you think about your own spiritual gift(s) and how this/these are deployed in TCF to serve God.

### Janey and Evans and Echoes International

Back in May 2016, the elders were interviewed by brothers from Interlink in Glasgow. Janey and Evans then met with these brothers in June 2017. The upshot of these interviews and a great deal of correspondence and other contact is that Janey and Evans will be listed in the merged Echoes International Daily Prayer Guide (DPG) with effect from 1 January 2018. Financial and prayer support will also be channelled to them each month and they will be profiled in the DPG and the Monthly magazine. They will also be getting other practical support from partners of Echoes International such as Brass Tacks who will be helping them in the building projects that Mwana hope to undertake. The new organisation is offering a FREE subscription to Christians (see August Pastor's Letter) and I will be taking names of all those who will wish to get the magazine for their prayerful interest and the stimulation of an even wider mission interest.

### Leadership Development Initiative

Sometimes I take on preaching and teaching duties as a 'quid pro quo' for others giving an input to TCF. One of my commitments in 2017 is to a week's teaching in Barcelona from 28 October to 3 November. I fund this myself but I will be spending 5 whole days and nights in bible teaching to around 30 leaders from across Europe. I will share this with a brother from Germany called Jay Eastman. This is a very demanding and spiritually intense responsibility for us both and your particular prayers would be very much valued.

### Intern

Pray for Cliff as he rejoins TCF for a 9 week placement beginning on Monday 16 October 2017.

