

God's Word in TCF

The recommencement of our more usual pattern of services after the summer has seen us spend time in Matthew and Ruth. The Sermon on the Mount contains so much practical advice on the attitudes and behaviours for our normal Christian life whereas Ruth tells us so much about God's sovereign care in our lives. In our teaching programme in 2016 we have learned much of individual and church living through James and 1 Corinthians, subsequently expanded on through consideration of God's ways with His people in Exodus and our mini theology series contemplating His attributes. As we anticipate the weeks to come, we will consider how God is a covenant-keeping God who binds Himself to His people and wants also to bind His people to Himself. The mutuality of our relationship is all by His Grace and as we approach the end of the year we trust it will be with a Holy wonder at His desire to live with us. The living, breathing word of God and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit are the basis for our life with God and it has been an immense privilege to be involved, with our other speakers in ministering to the people of God. 21 Family Services out of 39 (54%) and 18 Bible Teaching Services out of 26 possible (70%) has been my responsibility from January to September (inclusive) and it is a God-given privilege for which I am so thankful.

A faithful God and a responsive church

As we anticipate the final months of 2016, one new duty will be to encourage the potential of our intern, Cliff Kitson as he explores God's purposes in his life. Cliff has had a good start in this first week of October at the Young Adults Group, the SU Group in Scone and Home Group C and support for the YF on Sunday 9 October. He is also doing his academic work with the first assignment due in on Friday 7 October! He has also started work on his assigned practical tasks including the practical arrangements for Alpha in 2017 (more of this by way of notices) and also devising a TCF Bible Reading Scheme for 2017 (again, more to follow on this initiative). One feature stands out from this early experience is the generosity of God's provision and the sensitivity of God's people in TCF. In making known the need for a car for Cliff to maximise his time with us, not only was a car provided but also the means to insure, tax and repair it. *'Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.'* Isaiah 65:24. I am continually amazed at how God provides but so thankful for the responsiveness of our TCF family.

Danger, men at work

One new initiative for commencement in 2016 will be a men's prayer breakfast for males who may find it difficult to regularly attend their assigned Home Groups. This will provide an opportunity for fellowship, prayer and in due course, some mutual study. The first breakfast will be at my home in Guildtown on 12 November 2016 at 08:30-10:00.

Churches together

An area of development has been with the 'fraternal' in Perth of evangelical ministers and pastors. The attendance has been growing since the 4 or so who met at the beginning of the year and we have now agreed to meet monthly. We shall also be undertaking some joint training together and TCF will be hosting a Bereavement Care Training session with Care for the Family in early 2017. This builds on a very successful session when we joined together to have a local, web-access participation in the National Prayer Breakfast on 21 June 2016.

Community Action

We have had an approach to host a Gaelic-medium playgroup. In principle we have agreed to do this but there are two issues that give us concern about finally committing: the danger of a precedent being set to hire the premises and the potential for approaches from other groups that would be less compatible with our ethos and mission and also the very practical issue of opening and closing. We believe we can resolve these issues and your prayerful interest would be appreciated: this is a means by which we can be supportive of service to our community.

Room with a view

Despite the excessively busy period for my house move (it coincided with a week's lecturing on Luke's Gospel at Tilsley), I am safely ensconced and have begun to welcome callers from TCF. All are welcome at The Pines, Main Road, Guildtown PH2 6BS and the coffee or tea are abundant (but not the biscuits). I remain focussed on building the House of God at TCF but immensely thankful to have a dwelling place of my own among my brothers and sisters. I want to be settled with you and *'Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts...'* Haggai 2:4



Thanking God...

for faithful...

and generous provision!