



I remember the first two weeks in December 2015 very well. My home in Cupar had sold and there was an urgency to rent a new home so that I could spend Christmas and New Year with my family in Faroe. The invitation to join TCF had become a reality and I was encouraged and moved by the overwhelming support of the church for the elders' recommendation - reassuring and humbling.

The imminent change meant that the cumulative detritus of life had to be ruthlessly sorted. Some things were obvious candidates for the charity shop, and other things could be auctioned so that I could cover the various additional costs of moving. Also, too many things were either necessary or so endowed with memory and emotion that they had to come with me. There were also a few trips to the recycling centre!

When the removers came to 3 Eden Square, Tibbermore PH1 1TG on 15 December, the van was filled with my memories and necessities and I had to distribute these throughout the house with logic and hope.

Two things were very helpful to me in the moving process:

1. I knew the items intimately
2. I had a degree of 'sovereignty' over them

I would like to update you monthly and in this first edition, I want to share with you how I will prioritise my initial period with TCF (but the two principles above don't apply!) Since 5 January:

1. I have spent considerable time in preparation for preaching
2. I have embarked on a series of visits to church members and others
3. I have attended various Ministry Planning sessions including the Elders, Home Bible Study Leaders, Teaching and Preaching Groups, etc.

In terms of planning my priorities I have been seeking guidance from God and advice from as many as possible within TCF.

**Feeding:** the word of God provides the richest table of spiritual food for sustaining the believer. It is the living word and my passion is to try and understand it and then explain it and apply it for the TCF family. So, in addition to the weekly teaching and preaching, I have been thinking and discussing how we would encourage even more bible reading within TCF including Word One to One, Annual Bible Reading Plans, public reading, etc. An emerging ambition is to try and cover the scope of scripture over a five year period in our public services including the Home Bible Studies and I will work with Steve Braithwaite and Jim Wilson and their two teams to discuss how we can do this.

**Family:** fostering the sense of fellowship and belonging within TCF and this starts firstly with me getting to know as many of you as possible in as short a timeframe as possible. In total, I think I have spent around 32 - 40 hours in visits so far. Also, I anticipate sharing coffee or tea over the next few weeks in some one to one time. One way to do this is to base myself in the Office in the Church on Wednesdays and Thursdays whenever possible and to keep the kettle full and warm - and invite drop-in encounters whether for particular issues or just a catch up. TCF appears to me to be very well blessed with godly sisters in particular and I want to follow their example in care and prayer. Please, please visit or call 07784 702876 and I'll visit you.

**Following:** the Lord Jesus has called us to be disciples. So, discipleship and its difficult and variable journey has to be a priority. No matter the starting point of each brother or sister - or indeed those who have not yet come to faith - this will be my permanent perspective. I would count it a privilege to have regular times of prayer or bible study on a one to one basis and I will invite anyone who is serious about their discipleship to contact me. I will also follow up with visitors to the Family Service in particular.

Thank you for...

your support and prayer ...

and patience!