

Dear brothers and sisters

### Personal

I had a wonderful time with my family from Faroe over 9-20 April 2017. They had visits from lots of friends and family but we also had lovely times together doing touristy and family things. Meeting and getting to know Laura was an added dimension and that was lovely. I miss my family very much but I look forward to our times together. God has special instructions for family relationships and especially about husbands, wives, fathers and mothers and children. The one relationship we have in common is as children - some of us may not be parents or in a marriage but one command applies to us all: 'Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.' Colossians 3:20 There is something really special about being a child and it is something we never lose even as we get older. We may put away childish things (as Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 13:11) but we can always say that we are children of our parents. Maybe that is why we have brought into a family relationship with God and His beloved Son. And so John says 'I write to you, children, because you know the Father. (1 John 2:13). The overwhelming burden of his Epistle is about love. John says that the love of the Father will mean we don't love the world but that we will love the Father and we will love each other. The TCF Family is a special place to be and we need to constantly be vigilant about our relationships with each other and that they are characterised by love, even when we have to 'speak the truth', we do so 'in love' (Ephesians 4:15).

### Missing in Action

You may know that the formal role I have in TCF allows me to preach elsewhere for up to 6 Sundays in the year. This is a good practice as we enjoy have a reciprocal input of visiting speakers as well as our own very gifted brothers. I delivered three sessions on Saturday 22 March 2017 at a conference of church leaders in Northern Ireland on church unity and I am returning there on Sunday 6 May to speak at Crescent Church in Belfast. I have also made arrangements to speak at the European Leadership Forum and will be away from 19-26 May but which I will take as annual leave). I visit Romania (I have done this since 1990) for the period 22-27 June 2017. Thank you for the flexibility in the relationship I have with TCF that allows me to engage with others - and I try to do this for the benefit of TCF.

### Preaching and Teaching Programme

We are working our way through a framework that will see us cover the scope of scripture over a 5 year period. In the next few months we will be preaching from Jonah at our Family Services prior to the summer. This little book is full of irony but shows the heart of God for reaching the nations. The central theme is stated in Jonah 2:9 'Salvation belongs to the Lord!' Thereafter, we will embark on a series from Acts (October and November) as we build on our consideration of Jesus' teaching of the Gospel in Matthew and Mark and to see its impact in the days of the early church. This also relates to the evangelism of Jonah in the OT and the turning of the gentiles to God as the great enterprise of reaching the world begins after the ascension of the Lord Jesus. Our evening services in May and June will see us tackle character studies of the 8 good kings of Judah. This builds on the teaching we have undertaken on the Covenants and examines the stewardship of Judah's leaders to God. This also includes stories of revival and renewal that will challenge us in terms of how we live in our own time! After the summer break we will also be considering 'a gift catalogue' as we look at the spiritual gifts (this will be in the context of the morning series on Acts and we will be open to the challenge of how we all as individuals are serving God using the gifts He has given to us). As we commit to systematic preaching and teaching we are seeking the Lord's guidance on our exposure to scripture that will equip us to be more and more effective in our witness and character for Him. All with the ambition to better equip us to '*communicate his love in all we do and say*'.

### Evangelism

The Quench event scheduled for 13 June 2017 at 18:30 in Blend Coffee House is proving to be a popular event. Andy Bannister (who has rescheduled his preaching at TCF to 3 September 2017) will be with us. We will also be thinking about a formal 'befriending' approach, in partnership with Bethany Trust, and the Evangelism and Social Action Group will meet shortly to consider this - including some training on befriending for those who want to attend. The group will also do a post mortem on Alpha and plan for how we follow up on this. Over the summer we will have the Perth Alive event on 26 August 2017 and TCF will be hosting a lecture and Q&A session with Dr Alistair Noble on Intelligent Design. Any help with manning the event will be very gratefully received! In fact, if you would like to know more about the Perth Alive event then join with us on Thursday 18 May 2017 at 19:30 in TCF where we will be hosting a planning event - open to everyone - for Perth Alive.

### Bible Reading

The bible reading scheme is still ongoing and the passages have been posted monthly onto the website.

Go to <http://tcfperth.org.uk/> and click on TCF Family Room - each month's readings are posted separately. Please let me know if you would like any support with personal reading - scriptures or other areas of life and we can meet.

Every blessing



Remembering...

exams and change of schools...

Galatians 6:2