

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the August edition of the Mission Church prayer / newsletter. I trust your summer is going well and that you have enjoyed / are enjoying the beautiful weather we have been blessed with whether you have stayed at home or travelled. You will be aware of our initiative to capture the Mission's summer ' footprint ' as we send, receive and display postcards from the different corners of the world that the Mission members have visited throughout the holiday season.

During the past couple of months when we were all immersed in sport, including the World Cup, Wimbledon, The Open golf from Carnoustie etc. I heard the term ' momentum ' used frequently. Momentum means the speed, energy and force of a movement which carries it to it's desired destination. Someone once said, ' momentum begets momentum and the best way to start is to start.' I began to think about the Mission's momentum and what that might look like and feel like. There is no doubt that there is a ' kingdom ' dimension about our momentum which makes it appear very different when compared to other areas of life. As I wondered about this theme I came across this quote which seemed both relevant and timely;

He asked for strength that he might achieve but he was made weak that he might endure;  
He asked for health that he might do greater things but he was given infirmity that he might do better things;  
He asked for power that he might impress and influence men but he was given weakness that he might seek God;  
He asked for wealth that he might be free from cares but he was given poverty that he might be wiser rather than carefree;  
He asked for all things that he might enjoy life but he was given life that he might enjoy all things.'

He received nothing he asked for but he received more than he ever hoped for, his prayer was answered! Blessed man! I believe this is the kind of momentum that the Lord gifts his church with and as we seek, pray and hope for his blessings to be poured out among us we shouldn't be surprised at the form it could take. We were reminded recently, again, of the Lord's call to and promise for the Mission congregation from Hosea 10 v 12, 'sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unflinching love, break up your unploughed ground, for it is time to seek the Lord until he comes and showers righteousness upon you.' May this gracious word inspire our momentum as we enter a new month with new opportunities for us to be carried to this very desirable destination.

Matters carried over from June / July;

I had anticipated that the June / July months would be quieter and less demanding than the rest of the year, however, this hasn't been the case, especially in the office. I have met many people from all walks of life with whom I chatted, prayed for and helped with some decision making and provisions. My prayer is that I / we become much more approachable and available to needy people and learn to love them unconditionally and sustain that love until their lives are secure and flourishing because of Jesus.

I am delighted with the spirit of intercession being manifested at 11am. each Wednesday morning as we gather for Prayer and Coffee. We are guided in our prayers by the petitions that Jesus taught his disciples in what is known as The Lord's prayer. These are meaningful and important occasions. We will continue with these meetings until Wednesday 22 August which is the day school pupils return to school and then resume our regular Praise, Prayer and Fellowship meetings at 7 00 pm on Wednesday 29 August.

I am thankful that there has been a welcome increase in our Food Bank use. I'm also grateful to the team who turn up regularly and joyfully to serve in the Food Bank, although our hearts go out to those we meet whose domestic circumstances have resulted in food poverty. Please continue to pray for this very worthwhile ministry.

During two busy days in June Steven and I were involved in two City - wide and significant gatherings. On Friday 22 June we attended the Lord Provosts Prayer breakfast in the Town House. where I was honoured to host a table attended by a number of Civic and Church leaders from the City. It was an amazing occasion! The following day we held the Shared Futures event in Pittodrie Stadium again

attended by the Lord Provost. This event was intended to integrate our friends from Syria and other international communities into the city in a welcoming and supportive way. It was a very special and warm occasion! I ask you to pray for our Syrian friends and for the ACC team who look after them. There are unique and sometimes difficult challenges in this kind of work.

The following day Steven and Mhairi left the Mission at 1 00 am to travel to Italy with the GLO mission's team. It was super to listen to their report last Sunday during our shared service with Stockethill Parish Church, it was also wonderful to meet with our Stockethill friends and worship with them. Please continue to pray for all the missions that we are connected with and support as well as the congregations, like Stockethill, that we have close relationships with.

Items for prayer during August;

Wed. 15 August 10 00 am Syrian Partners Group meeting

Fri 17 August 7 00 pm Back to School evening involving local school pupils and organised by local youth workers from the Mission, SAMS, The Lighthouse, Seaton Community Church, NESYFC and SU.

Wed 29 August 7 00 pm Resumption of our weekly Praise, Prayer and Fellowship meetings.

Sun 26 August 11 00 am This will be Paddy and Rita's last Sunday with us before they return to Taiwan. They have been an exceptional blessing to us and we will thank them and wish them future blessings during the service.

Sat. 01 September 5 00 pm AUCU Freshers Week BBQ

It will be of interest to readers of this newsletter that during our bi-monthly deacons meetings we have begun to read a book together, it is entitled ' The Wounder Healer ' by Henri J. M. Nouwen. The thinking behind this is s that we might grow together as we seek to serve the congregation in a more effective and united way. It may be that you would wish to purchase a copy of this very interesting book and travel with us on the journey we have embarked on. Our desire remains for us to become a hospitable, reconciling, healing and restoring community of the Lord's people and we are persuaded that this book will help us to achieve this.

You will be aware of our wish to upgrade the upper hall and transform it into a sanctuary of beauty and serenity, if you would like to be part of this project please speak to either Mhairi or my wife Anne. Similarly we are keen to improve our website and if you wish to help with this please contact either Andrew or Simi.

I was thrilled when I read the following Scripture this morning and I share it with you as an absolute and perfect truth so that you might discover it's grace, power and blessing also; ' His divine power has given us everything we need for life and Godliness, through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.' 2 Peter 1 v 3. --- everything ---!!

With warmest blessings on behalf of the Mission Church Elders,

Hector

*You're invited!*

Join us every  
Sunday at 11 am

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