

Dear friends, members and partners of the Mission Church,

Welcome to our October 2020 prayer/newsletter. At this time of year the Mission premises and the immediate area are usually buzzing with life and vigour, sadly not so at this time. It's very quiet in Old Aberdeen! Nevertheless, the work of the church continues and it remains an exceptional honour to be able to encourage the congregation and the wider community to persevere and to be strong. I have frequently been blessed when reading the words that the Lord spoke to Joshua when he was faced with a new and challenging situation;

“Be strong and courageous, Do not be terrified, Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1 v 9.

As I write this letter, we have just completed our annual 24/1 prayer event. Thank you to everyone who participated during the occasion and especially to those who prayed during the ‘wee small hours’. It usually takes some time for the fruit of this event to filter through and for the reaping of what has been sown, but let us all wait with expectation and hope that our prayers will be answered.

As we continue to wait, we have opportunity to reinforce our prayers during our ‘Immerse the Mission in Prayer’ meeting, which will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Please join us for this important prayer time. During the meeting we will pray for our October Mission of the Month which is Operation Mobilisation (OM). Hopefully Phil and Sharon Rose who are involved in the work of OM in Scotland will be able to update us on OM’s situation and needs during the month.

I have a good friend who is an Archbishop of the Anglican church in Africa. Very sadly, he is suffering from cancer and having chemotherapy. Recently he shared his desires and prayer petitions and I believe that they will be timely and instructive for us too, so I felt it right to share them with you:

I want The Bible taught with clarity, integrity and conviction.

I want The Bible lived out in real life, changing lives and communities everywhere.

I want truth, righteousness and justice to become common in the life of the church amongst believers and extended to the world.

I want the Mission of the gospel to be a living experience of the church, with a focus on conversion, experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit and bearing the fruit of the Spirit as a mark of discipleship.

I want ministry to children, youth, widows, orphans, the elderly and the helpless to be a characteristic expression of mission by the church.

May the word of God spread with speed.

May the gospel of salvation be preached to the world.

May the Spirit of God fall afresh on us.

May the name of the Lord alone be glorified.

There is something very powerful and poignant about those raw desires and petitions. I trust that we can embrace them as ours too.

The Mission's leadership remains steadfast in our commitment to provide the essential aspects of church for you in as practical, meaningful and relevant way as possible, despite our challenging Covid context. This provision includes, Word, Sacrament, Prayer, Care and the Sharing of information in an open and inclusive way. Please keep praying about our online Sunday morning services via Facebook live and our Wednesday evening ‘Prayer n Catch-up’ meetings via Zoom and do let us know if you have any needs that I/we can pray about specifically. As a leadership group we meet every couple of months or so, and if there is anything urgent, we communicate via Whatsapp. The elders have taken to going on walks together from time to time, physically distanced, of course.

Please continue to pray for all aspects of the life of the church and that we return together even stronger post lockdown. In my own experience the concept of Ecclesia has become very precious during this period of restrictions. Ecclesia is the idea of Jesus building his church in our homes, Ecclesia being the NT Greek term used for assembly or church. (Matthew 16 v 18).

Two chapters later in Matthew 18 v 18 to 20 Jesus explains that these Ecclesia can be as few as two or three believers gathered together in his name. Jesus promises his presence in these gatherings which is a wonderfully transforming assurance for our homes, streets and communities. For further information please visit <http://www.transformourworld.org>

Matters carried over from September that we should continue to pray about; Please continue to pray about answers to our 24/1 prayer event. During opening and closing sessions, via Zoom, we considered the prayer of Jesus from John 17. Jesus' priority was the glory of his father and we prayed for that to be our priority too. We prayed for protection, provision, joy, sanctification and growth and we prayed for ministry and mission, including the efforts of over 30 partners whom we support and work with. We meditated on John 17 v 26 where Jesus prays that the love the father had for him may be in us and that he himself may be in us. From that arose prayers for more love and more power to love Jesus, to love our neighbours, to love the strangers amongst us and to love our enemies. We also prayed about the nature of our evangelism and our environmental attitudes. Let's continue to pray about these matters!

Our Mission of the Month for September was Friends International. Please continue to pray for Bethany and the work she is engaged in with international students from both universities.

I was delighted to hear that CAMEO has resumed despite the lockdown. CAMEO has been meeting in local parks throughout the month and as colder and darker mornings are approaching please continue to pray for good attendances.

Dates for your diaries and prayers;

Sun	04 Oct	11 00 am	Family service with Communion via Facebook Live
Tues	06 Oct	9 15 am	Local pastors and church leaders prayer meeting via Zoom
Wed	07 Oct	7 00 pm	Immerse the Mission in prayer for the month of October via Zoom
Fri	16 Oct	7 00 pm	City-wide prayer gathering hosted by Dyce Parish Church.
Sun	18 Oct	11 00 am	Family service during which we will give thanks for this year's harvest. Donations of cupboard food for the Foodbank will be welcome.
		7 00 pm	Hector will be preaching 'live' in the Footdee Mission
Sun	25 Oct		The clocks go back by one hour.
Sat	31 Oct	10 00 am	Collection point for completed shoeboxes for Blythswood Care. Leaflets for this annual event are now available.

I began this newsletter with a reference to Africa, so it seems appropriate to end with one too. There is an African proverb which says, "If your vision is for a year, plant wheat, if your vision is for a decade, plant a tree but if your vision is for a lifetime, plant people." Paul wrote to Timothy, "You, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and the things you have heard me say, entrust to others who will then be qualified to teach others." 2 Timothy 2 v 1 + 2. Let us continue and persevere with the noble task of winning the lost and their discipleship.

With blessings and best wishes on behalf of the elders,  
Hector

*You're invited!*

Join us every

Sunday at 11am on



St. Machar Drive, AB24 3RX

Tel. 01224 277265 Email: [office@the-mission.org.uk](mailto:office@the-mission.org.uk)

Web: [www.the-mission.org.uk](http://www.the-mission.org.uk) Facebook: The Mission Church Aberdeen