

# Scope

July / August 2011



# Minister's letter

Hello again

I've been getting the summer preaching plan ready. So I've been basically focusing on two things: how Peter tried to follow Jesus and the letter that Paul wrote to the Church in Colossi.

I've been struck by the simplicity, in the right sense, of how Peter just gets on with the job of following Jesus. I see him as someone who's the sort of person who did enter the Kingdom of God because of his child-like faith. He's the perfect player of the children's game 'follow my leader.' He's not overly concerned with how he looks to others – he's much more focused on just copying what he sees in Jesus. He fixes his eyes on the Son of Man and forgets about the world of men.

Towards the end of chapter one of Colossians Paul talks of the people in that church before their life in Christ; now as Christians; and then in the future. Paul is really stark about what they were and very clear about what they now are because of Jesus. He clearly draws a big black marker line between the two stages.

In our society Christians are encouraged to get along side not-yet-Christians and witness. I've done that kind of sermon myself. And I know I'll do that sermon again in the future. But we always need to hear that 'follow-my-leader' sermon; the sermon that asks you "are you copying the people around you at church

or are you copying Jesus?" We always need to hear the question "have you become so along side folk that you've stopped being along side Jesus?"

In short, we're called to walk a tight rope. The tight-rope that we find in the verse that says we are to be *in* the world but not *of* the world. The people who call us to that tightrope can be awkward but difficult to ignore. And then Mark Nicholas (minister at Gorebridge) said Shane Claiborne is coming to Perth. Shane Claiborne is a dreadlocked American pastor in baggy shorts (I like more already) whose ministry is often paralleled to Mother Theresa. Labelling him however is dangerous because he rarely fits into the neat labels Christians often use. He's awkward, in a nice way – I think that's the point.

If you look for *Shane Claiborne - The Upside Down Kingdom Tour Promo Video* on YouTube you'll get a flavour. 2008 saw the publication of two his books: 'Jesus for President' (with Chris Haw ISBN 0310278422) and 'Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers' (with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove ISBN 0830836225).

But his most famous book is 'The Irresistable Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical' (2006 - ISBN 0310266300). I'm not saying I agree with everything he says but I know this Shane Claiborne's trying to copy Jesus. Peter got it wrong – as we shall see through the summer – I'm sure Shane Claiborne does too. But as I read him I hear some one who's stopped trying to copy human beings. He's just trying to copy Jesus. Not

fitting Jesus into parts of his life – just copying Him.

It's such a deceptively simply message. Copy Jesus. I know you will have heard it so many times before. And yet it's a simplicity that seems to evade many of us in our lives. One of Claiborne's key points is our need to overcome the fear that pervades the Christian community to look different – he calls us to embrace the fact that we are *supposed* to look different – that's the point. There is a black marker line between what we were and what we are. Jesus made us different. We shouldn't fit into our culture neatly. We are supposed to call this society to be better – an upside-down society; more accurately, a right-way-up society. It's our society just now that's the wrong way up. If we are the right-way-up people surely we are meant to look different.

Over the summer check out the YouTube clips and the books as well if you can. Even come to Perth on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. But most importantly copy Jesus – be the best Xerox you can be. The photocopy without the fading ink. The reproduction that's true to the original.

*Yours faithfully*

*Ian Cathcart*

P.S. Mark Nicholas also says that the worship will be led by a phenomenal group from Bangor called The Rend Experiment Collective...

P.P.S. I'll try to not mention Mark Nicholas again - he's clearly getting too many mentions here!

Venue: Perth Concert Hall, Mill Street, PH1 5HZ

Date: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

Time: 7.30pm. Tickets £6.00

Tickets from: [www.horsecross.co.uk](http://www.horsecross.co.uk)

Tour Website:

<http://www.upsidedownkingdomtour.com>

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## **Comfort Rwanda.**

**A very big thank you to everyone who helped make our Coffee Morning such a success. It was a very busy morning with lots going on, car washes, chocolate fountains and popcorn, face painting for the wee kids ( and the big ones too!), plant stall, Comfort Rwanda Crafts and of course LOADS of lovely home baked cakes and goodies to enjoy with our coffee and to take home also!**

**We were absolutely overwhelmed by everybody's enthusiasm to help, donate goods and money, and just really get involved, it was a fantastic morning!**

**Thanks to peoples generosity we managed to raise £1065 ( at last count!) for the Gakagati Well project plus £140 for Comfort Rwanda from selling crafts!**

**That brings our total for the Well project so far to £3757, which is phenomenal, but not quite there yet!**

**I would like to let you know what we are planning for July and August so you can pop the dates in your diary now before the busy holiday period comes upon us!**

**In July we are testing mind and body! We are holding a Quiz Night on Wednesday 13th July 7.30pm in Penicuik South Church Hall, get your team organised! Look out for details in the newssheet! That's the mind, now the body! Helen Hogg is doing a Sponsored Swim at Penicuik pool on Monday 27th June, and Mary Ritchie is doing a sponsored Slim for 10 weeks, so look out for sponsor sheets in the porches if you feel inclined to encourage their efforts in this way!**

**And lastly in August we are having a Family Ceilidh on Saturday 20th August 7.30pm, with the MacLeod Ceilidh Band!**

**Join us in the church hall for a fun evening of live Scottish music and dancing, bring your family and friends too! Tickets on sale from the Comfort Rwanda Team from mid July! Hope to see you there!**

**From Callum Henderson, Comfort Rwanda.**

**The Rwandan High Commissioner is visiting Glasgow on Monday 15th August. Around lunchtime and early afternoon he is keen to meet people with an interest in Rwanda. If you would like to meet the High Commissioner and have a chat about your involvement in Rwanda, please let me know by emailing me at [callum@comfortrwanda.org.uk](mailto:callum@comfortrwanda.org.uk) and I will make suitable arrangements.**

## **Notes from Kirk Session – June.**

**Members of the Session will be undertaking the Local Links training in respect of IMPACT and the outreach in November on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July in the Church. An invitation is extended to all members of House Groups who want to be involved to attend this meeting too.**

**Thanks are extended to Jennifer Ruddick for publishing SCOPE in May. Lindsay Swan will be heading up this work from June and all articles for Scope should be sent to him or Mary Darling.**

**Kathleen Downey is heading up the 'Photocopier' group and liaising with individuals to carry out billing and copying.**

**Lindsay Swan will be our Presbytery elder for this coming year. Additional elders have been requested by presbytery and Joyce MacLean and Billy Hudson's names have been put forward.**

**George Hogg is the new Fabric Convenor – thanks George. A roof**

**repair has been undertaken to the hall following the heavy rain and winds of a few weeks ago. Further work will require to be carried out and we are investigating the possibility of claiming this from the insurers.**

**Session discussed the latest financial position and is considering what steps need to be taken in the future.**

**Christians Against Poverty – Joyce reported that she had two clients already and will be keeping the Church family up to date with regular feedback during some services.**

**Session discussed the impact of the decision taken at the General Assembly re homosexual ministers and their partners. A Theological Commission has been set up to consider how the Church of Scotland should move forward on this matter.**

**Please pray for the Session and for the decisions that have to be made that we will be honouring God and extending His Kingdom in Penicuik and beyond.**

## **Howgate News.**

Three new elders were ordained at the service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

The congregation welcomed Isobel Alford, Sheena Dawe and Graham Bell onto the Kirk Session and following the service bacon and sausage rolls and coffee were enjoyed by all as a special treat !!

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## **To think about....**

Once upon a time there were four people, Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody. When there was a job to be done everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did.

When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Anybody's job. Everybody thought Somebody would do it but Nobody realised it would not be done by Anybody. So Everybody blamed Somebody because Nobody had done what Anybody could have done.

Contributed by Debbie Hall.

## **Leprosy Mission.**

On behalf of the local committee represented from all of the churches in Penicuik we would like to extend out heartfelt thanks once again to all our many faithful supporters of the Leprosy Mission.

Our grateful thanks to everyone who came along, or who helped in any way, to the huge success of the Pancake Coffee Morning that was recently held in St Mungo's Church Hall on Saturday 04 June 2011.

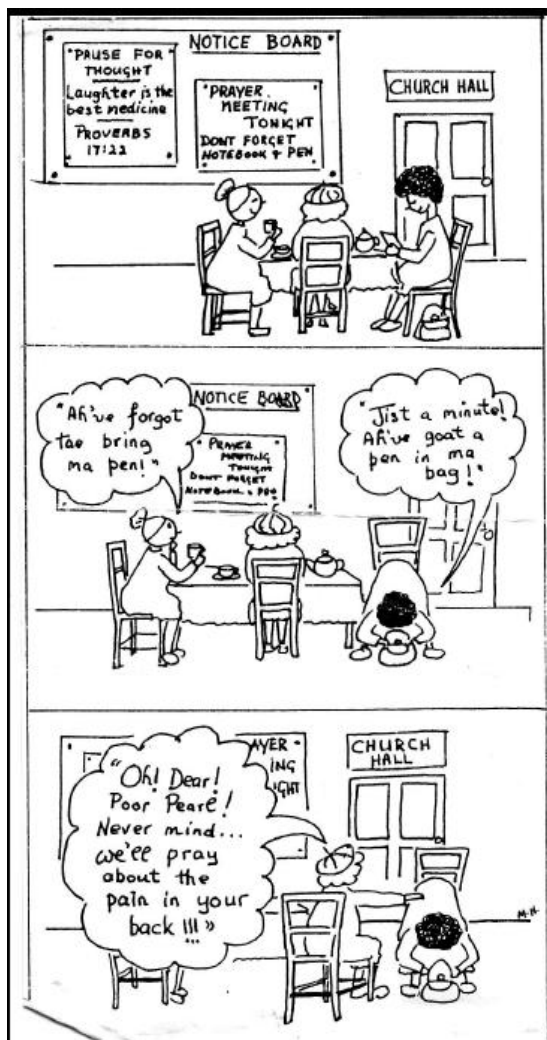
Good fellowship was enjoyed by all over their coffee and freshly baked pancakes.

We raised just over £1,050.00 and this remarkable sum helps us well on our way to meeting our target for Leprosy Aid in Africa and our final fundraising event for 2011 is another Coffee Morning to be held in Baldwin Court on Saturday 10th September 2011. May we also take this opportunity to thank all those who continue to support us by their kind donations throughout the year.

Thanking you again, one and all and God Bless.

Liz Murray & Wilma Wilson

## A bit of fun...



An cartoon penned so well by Pearl Taylor's friend Moira to illustrate a true event.

Sadly Moira passed away recently and Pearl contributes this to her memory.

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## What happens in Heaven when we pray ?

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, ' This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received.

I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world..

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

P.t.o.

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing.

"This is the Acknowledgment Section, my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed." How is it that there is no work going on here? ' I asked.

"So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments"

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked?

"Simple," the angel answered. Just say, **"Thank you, Lord."**

"What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked.

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy "

"And if you got this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity."

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day. "

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... You are ahead of 700 million people in the world..."

"If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world."

"If your parents are still alive and still married...you are very rare."

"If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair..."

Ok, what now? How can I start?

If you can read this story, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Have a good day, count your blessings, and if you care to, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

Taken from an e mail circulation which I thought worth sharing with those who haven't seen it. Lindsay.

## A note for my Dad.

On the right hand side of this page you will see part of one of the notes my eldest daughter Rachel leaves for me to pick up at the door as I go off to work each morning. I must have around 2000 of them by now and each one is equally precious to me.

It's lovely still to be called Daddy by Rachel in her notes when my other three children have taken to calling me Dad now they are in, or approaching, their teenage years.

It's also so good to feel appreciated when she says "thank you for everything you do for us and for how hard you work" even though I think I could probably do better at times.

I often wonder if our true Father in heaven who encourages us to call Him Abba or Daddy knows that He is appreciated? Looking back on my life I can see how He has guided my life and provided for me at every stage in such a wonderful and at times miraculous way ( a way that no earthly father could ) and I will always say "thanks for everything you do for us and how hard you work" to Him.

Next step for me is being more up front about telling others how

dear daddy x x x x x x x  
I love you lots & lots  
to pieces and pieces  
always & forever.  
Thank you so much  
for everything you  
do for us & for how  
hard you work each  
day. You are an  
amazing dad. Have  
a good day at work  
& I'll see you later. Thanks  
for finding my photo! God  
bless you & keep you safe always. All  
I love forever. Love xxx

much God loves them and how much He wants them to know he wants the best for them. He gave up his one and only true Son so that we might be forgiven and to enable us to live our lives with hope, how much more could He do to show the world He loves them ?

Lets be so proud and so glad that He is our true Dad that we wouldn't be able to stay silent !

Lindsay Swan.

# What's on....

## July 2011

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Morning Service	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Evening Service	South Church	7pm
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Service	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Traditional Service	South Church	3pm
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Evening Service	South Church	7pm
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Comfort Rwanda Quiz night	Church Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	Kirk Session meeting	Firthfield, Roslin	7pm
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Service	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Evening Service	South Church	7pm
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Service	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Praise Night	South Church	7pm
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Morning Service	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Evening Service	South Church	7pm

**Deadline for articles for next issue of Scope is Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2011.**

# **Pull it out, pin it up !**

## **August 2011**

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>South Church</b>	<b>11.15am</b>
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Evening Service</b>	<b>South Church</b>	<b>7pm</b>
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>South Church</b>	<b>11am</b>
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Traditional Service</b>	<b>South Church</b>	<b>3pm</b>
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Praise Night</b>	<b>South Church</b>	<b>7pm</b>
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Comfort Rwanda Ceilidh</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>South Church</b>	<b>11.15am</b>
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Evening Service</b>	<b>South Church</b>	<b>11.15am</b>
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>All age Service</b>	<b>South Church</b>	<b>11.15am</b>
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Evening Service</b>	<b>South Church</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>

**What**

**Would**

**Jesus**

**Do ?**

**Scope**

**Penicuik South Church.  
Scottish Charity SCO118**