

Scope

September 2011



Minister's Letter.

Hello again –

and I hope you had a good summer
least I hope you had a drier one than
be clear right from the outset – because



at the very
we did. Let's
things often

do get exaggerated in the re-telling – it wasn't a flood and it wasn't even a deluge, but it definitely was a full-blown burn bursting its banks. And then very soon after that, it was a very impressive spontaneous swimming pool at the 'front door' of our tent, in the Ardnamurchan camp site (in Kilchoan for those who like their geography to be precise) where we were staying for a fortnight after CLAN. As the pool began to edge its way into our temporary abode we all, as if with one mind, decided that it was time to see Penicuik again – ten days away was clearly our limit.

It turns out Ardnamurchan is one very distinctive old volcano (it's 'rings' are one of the few things in Scotland that are clear from space) and so it's all basically igneous rock i.e. about five inches of top soil and then impervious rock. So when it rained for about twelve hours solid one stormy night the precipitation very quickly runs down off the mountain and, it seemed, all into our tent.

Quite amazingly, we watched a 'mound' of water *under* the grass gradually travel about four metres down the hill into and then under another neighbouring tent. Stepping on this mound was like being on a very grassy bouncy castle. And if we hadn't been swiftly packing up all our things it would have been great to just sit and watch the speed and power of these natural elements.

Understandably, none of us were spectating the weather very much. In our family we had at that point frustration and fear; anxiety and not the best attitude; and, yes, there were some tears as well – which literally just added to the problems before us; but there were other things as well. Really good things

My mother got to see Sanna Sands and Ardnamurchan Lighthouse – that was important for reasons which are too many to detail. Two families, one from Rochdale and one Sheffield, while thanking us for the joys of a glorious Scottish summer, helped us tirelessly until everything was packed away in our car and trailer. They were just phenomenal. As the rain fell down it turned out we were in this small positive attitude zone. People got on and just did what was required. And we drove home thanking God for them. As I think on them now, it's Cornelius in Acts 10 that comes to mind – their “prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.” I don't know if they were Christians or atheists or something in between, but I'm quite sure their 'alms,' and in their case, their arms have made a memorial before God for them.

But there was something else as well. I asked Joshua just before he went back to school, what were the best things about the Cathcart summer holiday this year: seeing the crabs and the fish under the water at Sanna and Kilchoan while snorkeling; winning at 'Monopoly' and 'Risk' (I have to say, he usually does); and most of all, *packing up to come home!* The highly calamitous, annoyingly premature, overly-wet and very stressful conclusion to our family sojourn in Ardnamurchan was Joshua's highpoint of our summer season. And he wasn't kidding.

And each of us, in our own way, knew exactly what Joshua meant because we had all felt it and relished it ... possibly more after the event than during! Joshua was the one among us all who more than anyone else kept a positive mental attitude. But as he did then we all did. There was the very real problem - not contrived or manufactured. There was the initial confusion and then there was the very real sense of everybody working together and pulling together, family among people we couldn't even name, and the problem was eventually overcome; and attained. As we all sat in the car, we knew soaking wet; we had a seven hour road ahead of us and days of trying to get a dried out. And yet we curiously happy – There was a very real and profound sense



resolution
we were all
journey
sodden tent
elated even.
of

togetherness (in the New Testament it's called koinonia) which no amount of planned and contrived family-activities together could have ever generated. As I said at the beginning, it wasn't a flood or a deluge; it wasn't some family-sized, reverse version of the D-Day landings. It was just a very wet packing up of a tent ... but Joshua was so right, it really was the best part of our holidays.

I don't know if the local authority in Rwanda will let us sink the well while we're out in Rwanda. I don't know what the long term results of the Impact World Tour will be. I don't know what the Church of Scotland will look like in ten years time. But this I definitely do know from God because he has blessed me with it over this past summer. It's what we do together, in love, that not only lasts but transcends. It's all in the attitude – positive or negative.

When our attitude is wrong and we decide to just 'pick' at the mistakes of others or bemoan the missed opportunities of this initiative or that campaign we simply miss the point. This is not a call to acquiesce to poor performance or to just accept a lack-lustre vision. It's just when people tell themselves '*I'm a good person ... with a bad attitude sometimes*' we are fooling ourselves. Our attitude can be so negative we can undermine everything even if our motives are genuinely positive. So do you need to change your attitude? You can, because attitude is always a choice.

It's simply the recognition that Jesus focuses much more on how we speak rather than what we say; Jesus is in the stuff that all goes wrong just as much, if not more, as the stuff that all goes right; and it's the slender, the unseen and the gloriously invisible acts that bring us together as family of God that make a memorial that's set before our God in Heaven. That attitude changes everything.

Hope you had a great summer – we did! And I didn't even mention the two burst tyres...!

Yours in Him,

Ian Cathcart.

20 years of Operation Christmas Child.

Leaflets are now available in both vestibules of the church for this years shoebox appeal. Filling a shoebox with gifts and toys for needy children abroad demonstrates to them the love of God.

Filled boxes, which are distributed across Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, should be handed in to E-Clips Hair Salon, 19 High Street, Penicuik between The 1st and 18th of November 2011.

A short DVD highlighting the work of Samaritan's Purse is available on loan. For more information phone Bill Bruce on 01968 678527. Lisa's story ;



2.) Lisa

Lisa is eight years old and lives in a small village in the north of Crimea, an autonomous region of Ukraine.

Two years ago, Lisa was diagnosed with leukaemia. Right now, she's doing pretty well although her liver is not in a good condition, due to a blood infection that happened while she was having chemotherapy.

The OCC team actually visited Lisa at her home to deliver her shoebox, as she wasn't able to go to the shoebox distribution in her village. She beamed a proud smile as she opened her shoebox, putting on the hat, gloves and scarf that someone in the UK had lovingly packed.

"You know, we appreciate these gifts very much," said Lisa's mum, summing up the feelings of both Lisa and her sister, who also received a shoebox.

"Children only need a few things to make them happy and these gifts are more than enough".



Thank you.

Irene Brown would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers and well wishes following her recent operation. These have been much appreciated and thanks too for your prayers and concern.

Renewal Weekend.

Friday 21st October 2011 to Sunday 23rd October 2011.

St. Mary's, Kinnoull. Perth.

Theme: "Healing of Judgements – Freedom Under Christ" and "The glory of God is in humankind fully alive". St.Irenaeus.

We need to be set free from the judgements that we make about ourselves, others and God. In this freedom we can then see God as he really is. It is through the power of Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the gifts he bestows that we are empowered to see the face of God and so live and proclaim the Gospel.

Speakers: Ged Farrell, Tony Milnes and Jamus Smith. (all from Aberdeen Diocese)

Organised by the Aberdeen Diocese Association of Prayer Groups the total cost for this residential weekend is £99. For further information or to book please call Tony Milnes on 01542 870250 or speak to Mhairi Tulloch 01721 722990 who has attended this event for the past seven years and highly recommends it as "a wonderful weekend, akin to CLAN".

Comfort Rwanda News Update

This will be our last update before we leave for Rwanda on Friday 9th September and there's lots to tell!

Firstly, we are all overwhelmed with the kindness, generosity and support the team has had from our church, family and friends. You have been astounding! From film nights, musical evening, come dine with me, coffee morning, quiz night , sponsored events and ceilidh you have come out in wholehearted support (& hopefully had fun too!) and we have extended our target for the Gakagati Well Project from £4000 to £6000!

At last count, together we have raised £5500 and we still have donations coming in so we pray that by the time we leave for Rwanda, by Gods grace, we will reach £6000.

Next. I would like to say a very big THANK YOU to the MacLeod Ceilidh Band for " a STOATER of an evening!" The church hall was packed to the gunnels with family and friends from as far north as Aberdeen and as far south as Australia, from as young as 1 year to our most senior 86 year old, and they both managed to stay and steal the show at Auld Lang Syne! It was simply a fabulous evening with lots of non church friends commenting on how friendly and welcoming everybody was, so thank you and well done!

Proceeding the Ceilidh we had a meeting with Callum Henderson from Comfort Rwanda, and we now have a clearer outline of what we are hoping to work on during our time there.

I'm not going to say too much about it here as I would like to encourage you all to come along to the morning service on Sunday 4th September when the team will share with the congregation their expectations and prayer requests before we are sent out to Rwanda as representatives of the church in Penicuik to share the

gospel of Gods love in that nation. The Thank Offering will also be collected that morning and will be taken to Rwanda by the team, so can I please invite you all to come along and send us out with the love and support you have so generously given over the last six months.

Thank you, Linda Dowling.

It's
all ^{in the}
Attitude

A Big Thank You

I'd like to thank everyone for the kind words, prayers, flowers and photos that I received at the all age service at the end of June. I have fond memories of my time leading S Club that will stay with me. I really appreciated the lessons that God taught me through the other adults involved and even more so through the children.

Below is a prayer that the children wrote last year.

Sheila Anderson

S Club Thank you Prayer

Thank you Lord for our brilliant families

Thank you for their company. Thank you lord for baby brothers and sisters and Mums and Dads sometimes.

Thank you Lord for everyone we love.

Can you help ?

My name is Andrew Kennedy and I was born in Penicuik in 1947.

My family were members of the South Kirk congregation, my father was Stephen Kennedy and my mother was Florence Elizabeth Kennedy (nee Gee). My Grandfather was Andrew Kennedy.

I think I was Christened in the Kirk, but I'm not positive on that.

After a disruptive adolescence I left Penicuik in 1967 and joined the Army, where I stayed for 23 years. I have never been back to Penicuik since and have lost all contact with my family.

I have tried all of the usual places to try to find out if I have any surviving relatives, but have come up empty-handed.

I wonder if you could throw any light on the subject?

I know that this is an imposition, but I would be very grateful for any help you could offer.

Yours Sincerely and with Respect.

Andrew Kennedy.

D.O.B. 10th June 1947.

If you can help Andrew find his relatives please either

contact Joan Cape 01968 674276, capefamily@talktalk.net

or Mary Darling 01968 675260, marydarling354@btinternet.com.

Keswick 2011 – Word to the World.

The theme for this year's Keswick Convention (the 136th Convention) first arose when it was realised that 2011 would be celebrated nationally as the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible. However it was more than just a celebration of the Word but the Word to the World because as Paul expressed it in Thessalonians, "We thank God continually that, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God which is at work in you who believe" (1 Thess: 2.13)

So for three weeks, Keswick explored the dynamic impact of the Word – authoritative and powerful, transforming individuals, communities and societies because as Isaiah reminds us, it is effective in fulfilling God's purpose (Isa 55:10,11)

In week 3 the morning Bible readings focussed on 2 Timothy – Letter from Death Row. Peter Maiden led us through some of the most emotional literature in the whole of the Bible as Paul, aware his execution is imminent, struggles with loneliness, and the knowledge there has been mass defection from the faith before finally passing the baton to his much loved colleague, Timothy. Paul's investment in Timothy is a vital challenge to us today concerning the place of discipling and mentoring in the mission of God. However Peter also reminded us how Paul even in these darkest times never gave up the joy he had in our Saviour and the message never to give up is the great theme of these letters.

Evening celebrations led by Rob Parsons, Amy Orr-Ewing, Bill Bygroves, John Risbridger, Derek Burnside and Steve Brady focussed on mission – why, for what purpose, in what name, with what message, with whose resources, by whom and for how long? Seminars and talks throughout the week picked up the theme of the Word to the World as did the children and youth ministries. Worship was led by Stuart Townend and band who provided inspirational musical accompaniment to every meeting and blessed us so much with their gifts.

New this year was Keswick Unconventional - an opportunity to explore more creative and imaginative aspects of Christian spirituality using art of various disciplines with contributions from authors, actors, comedians, singers and musicians including Steph Macleod.

It was an enjoyable, tiring, exhilarating, exhausting, stimulating, learning, thought provoking and challenging week set against the back drop of one of the most beautiful areas in the U.K. We are still digesting all we have learnt but we would thoroughly recommend Keswick 2012 to everyone!

Ellen & Rob Walley.



Contact us ;

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The deadline for articles for the October edition of Scope is Tuesday 20th September 2011.

 **POSITIVE**
ATTITUDEZONE

Services for September/ October /November 2011

Date	Service	notes
Sun 4 th Sept 11.15am	Rwanda Focus- Gift Sunday. Praying for and sending out the group going to Rwanda . Philippians 2:19-30	communion
Sun 4 th Sept- 7pm	Jesus the fulcrum of the bible; Jesus the key to the story. 1 Samuel 17;1-58(selected verses)	
Sun 11 th Sept 11.15am	Racial Justice Sunday-People aren't for sale! Exodus14:19-31 Romans 14;1-12	Joyce Maclean preaching
Sun 11 th Sept 3pm	Traditional service	
Sun 11 th Sept -7pm	Praise service- sung worship only	
Sun 18 th Sept 11.15am	Does God really love us? Wrestling with disillusionment. Malachi 1:1-15	Angus Bayne preaching
Sun 18 th Sept- 7pm	Testimony night- Ken Gordon co-ordinating	
Sun 25 th Sept 11.15am Sept 25 th 7pm	Is it really all worth it? Wrestling with shallowness. Malachi 1:6-2:9. Jesus the fulcrum of the Bible, Jesus the Law-keeper. Leviticus 16, Hebrews 10:9-25	

Congratulations.....



To Neil and Joan Cape following the marriage of their eldest daughter Elspeth to Darren Coult on the 6th of August 2011 at St. Barnabas Church in Cambridge.

Christian Aid Week 15th – 21st May 11 – update

The total amount for Christian Aid collected in the Penicuik area by all the local churches this year was £7440.85. The South Church collectors total was £1223.61. This was slightly down on last year's total amount and slightly down on South church's contribution as well but considering the economic climate, it is still a great sum to be able to send to Christian Aid and a big thank you once again on behalf of the world's poorest communities.

Ellen Walley.

This year's Bethany Walk for Homelessness takes place on Saturday 10 th September along the Water of Leith in Edinburgh.

Please come and take part and help make a difference in the lives of homeless and vulnerable people by raising as much sponsorship as you can and enjoy a great day out at the same day! The Walk is 11 miles and is suitable to bring dogs if kept on a lead. For more information see our website and download an info sheet and sponsor form. If you would like to request information by post or email attachment, please email events@bethanychristiantrust.com

To take part please register with your full name, address and postcode and contact number at the email address above or call 0131 561 8925.

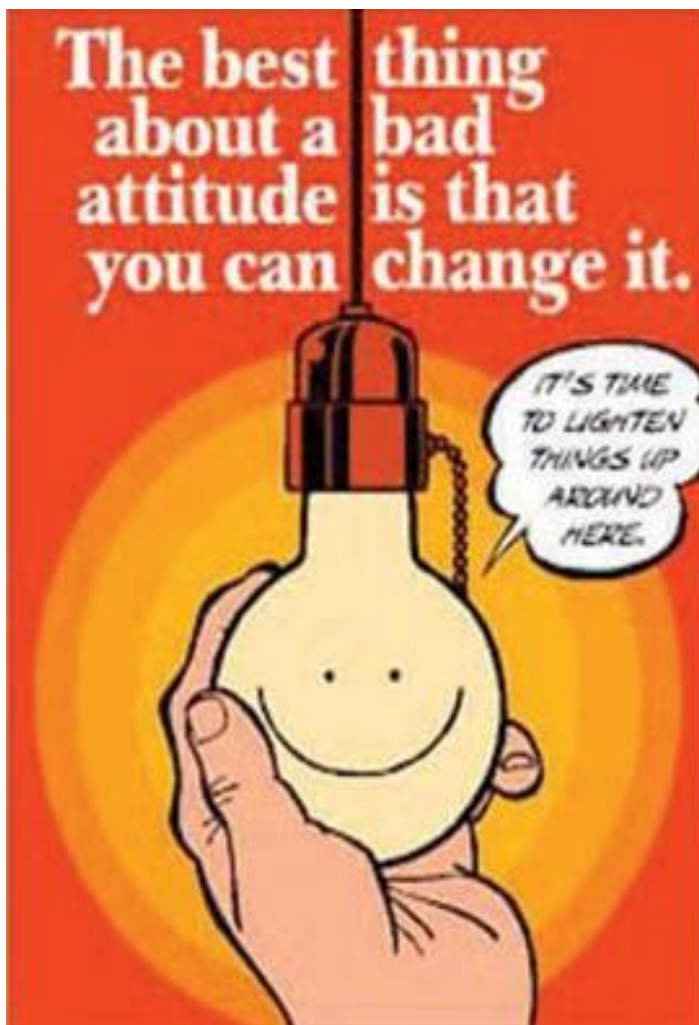
If you can't take part, but would like to support the event, you can donate at our online fundraising page below.

www.virginmoneygiving.com/bethanysponsoredwalk

"I just wanted to say a 'thank you' to all who sent cards and flowers on account of my mum's recent death. She had been suffering from a brain disease called spinocerebellar ataxia which, as it progressed, made it more and more difficult for her to move, swallow and breathe. She died peacefully on 24th July in a nursing home in Derby and both me and my sister were present with her when she passed away. She became a Christian 22 years ago and maintained her faith to the end. I am confident therefore of a reunion in Heaven one day.

I would like to say to anyone reading this who is not a Christian, that if you are without Christ, you are under God's wrath and will never see heaven. Take the opportunity now to believe and trust in Him before it is too late. To find out more, please click on 'juststopandthink' on the South Church website home page (top left)."

Paul Toms.



Scope.

Penicuik South Church.

Scottish Charity SCO118.

www.penicuiksouthchurch.org.uk