

Alloa Baptist News Sheet 114

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. — James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift that we receive comes from the hand of God. Our life, our families - everything good - comes from the Father of heavenly lights and who does not change like shifting shadows, for He is always faithful and dependable.

We have not always experienced such consistency and purity in our earthly relationships. Some gifts that we have received have come with strings attached, and people, in whom we have trusted, have changed like shifting shadows. But God is not like that. He is the giver of good gifts, and He never changes. Never. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His love is not fickle or conditional. His gifts are showered on us not because we have earned them, but because He loves to give good gifts to His children.

The Gift of Wonder:

Recently, I have been listening to a piece of music called *Saturn* by Sleeping at Last. While walking up the Ochil Hills with tired legs, enjoying the breathtaking views and the beauty they offer, it made me think more deeply and appreciate the wonder of the universe — to see the stars at night and the beauty of creation.

The Gift of Love:

For each of us, every golden sunrise, every red sunset, every change in autumn among the trees is a token of the Father's affection. As someone said: "He paints the sky with rainbows and scatters clouds simply for our delight. All of creation bears witness to His love and His majesty." If we begin to understand that all we receive in life comes as a gift from our Heavenly Father, then we will begin to look at even the simple things with awe and child-like wonder. Our Father is the most generous person in the universe. He loves us so much that He gave us His only begotten Son, and He continues to love us by giving us the gift of life every day that we live. May every breath that we take remind us that our life is a gift from our Father, who loves us and does not change like shifting shadows!

PRAYER

Father, I confess that I have not always recognised that every good gift comes from Your hand. I pray that I would have a new awareness and a thankful heart for all that You freely give to me. May each breath that I take remind me of Your precious gift of life, and each sunset, of the canvas that You have painted for my enjoyment. I am thankful that You do not change like shifting shadows, and Your love is something I can rely on every day of my life. In the name of Your beloved Son Jesus, I pray, AMEN.

Jimmy King, pastor

DIARY FOR OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

Sunday 12th October

10:45 Speaker: Jonathan – Baptist College

Topic: Mission

Evening 6:30 Deacons

Friday 2pm Bible Study – Session 4

Sunday 19th October

10:45 Rev J. King

Topic: Jonah "The Runaway Prophet"

Reading Jonah 3

Evening 6:30 Rev. J King: Reflection and Communion

Sunday 26th October

10:45 Rev. David Wilson- Communion

Evening 6:30 Deacons

Sunday 2nd November

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

10:45 Guest Speaker - Rev A. Luxton

Dedication of baby Cassandra

5 pm Church Meal - all welcome

Evening 6:30 Rev. J King

Worship/Communion

Friday 2pm Bible Study - session 5

Church Meeting 7pm, 5th November

Sunday 9th

10:45 Rev. Jim McFarlane - Communion

6:30- Deacons



Galyna Lee has surgery on 14th of October
Galyna's son, Valentine, a soldier in Ukraine
has now been placed where there is greater
intensity of conflict.

David Burns – "Thanks for prayer"- Now at
home recovering

Bob Drylie - Making further progress at
Home

Lore: New baby daughter, Marie-Angelina

Health Issues Jean Thomson, Margaret

Lindsay, Ann Douglas, Irene Sneddon

Margaret McQueen

Margaret Gardiner (Parklands Care Home)



"Our vision at SU Scotland is to see every child and young person in Scotland exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus."

Scripture Union Scotland is part of the worldwide family of Scripture Union movements that began in the nineteenth century and now operate in over 130 countries across the world.

It is a Christian charity working in partnership with local churches and other sympathetic organisations. Volunteers are involved in helping to run the activities, together with around 120 staff and associate workers.

Everything that is done is governed by two core values: dependence on God and deepening relationships.

There are three residential Centres in Scotland who can host week and weekend holidays for Primary, Secondary and Church groups. Teaching and Activities are tailored to the needs of the groups.

There are SU Groups who meet in schools at lunch times or after school which are led by adults who encourage interested children to express their views, engage with others, and grow in confidence as they recognise and develop their abilities and deepen faith. In our area there are 14 such groups.

Scripture Union also produce Daily Bible Reading notes of varying depths for adults and children. Bible study guides and resources for teaching children of different ages in different situations are also available.

Please pray for those who write and produce resources and for others who use them to draw them nearer to a Saviour. Strengthen and bless all who work for SU and for the many volunteers who give of their time and energy.

Please note: Jimmy and Julie will be on holiday 21 October till 1 November.

Next Newsletter - 16th November