

CHRISTIAN WORKER



**Alastair Ferrie
(1950-2017)**



From the editors:

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With this issue we pay tribute to the life of Alastair Ferrie. As a result the magazine is a bit longer than usual. You will find the regular reports of those who have become Christians as well as the notices of congregation activities.

I am thankful to Alastair's daughter, Paula McDonald, for supplying many of the photographs. I tried to illustrate each part of Alastair's life, although there were no photos from his years at Sighthill. Rather than put subtitles on the individual pictures, I've decided to simply list them here for your reference.

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p.13 – the Ferrie family (c.2000).

p.14 – Alastair immersing a new Christian at Glenrothes (2012).

p.15 – Alastair and Linda with grandchildren (2012).

p.16 – a recent photo of Alastair (top) and the Ferris releasing balloons over Castlemilk after Alastair's memorial (bottom – Castlemilk was where Alastair grew up).

Many thanks to those who spoke at Alastair's memorial for sending their transcripts to us for inclusion in this issue. And thanks to those who submitted something in addition to these.

There is no way that a memorial service or twelve pages of tributes can adequately reflect someone's life. But we hope that what we have produced will be something to help us remember Alastair, his work for the Lord, and his dedication to his family.

Jon

Congratulations!

Tunbridge Wells: The angels in heaven are rejoicing – and so are we – because **Lauren Hammond**, daughter of Jeremy and Logie, made the decision to become a Christian on Sunday, 20th August. Her proud father couldn't contain his joy and excitement while leading our evening worship. Her baptism followed afterwards, when her mum was able to be there having been on a work shift.

Please pray for Lauren that she will grow in her love and commitment to God.



Stephen Daniell



Edmonton: By the grace of God, **Lesley Nicola** accepted the word of God and through baptism was added to the body of Jesus. Trevor Williams, who was the visiting preacher on the day, assisted with the baptism on 10th September. To God be the glory! We ask all to pray for Lesley on her Christian journey.

Charles Barino

Great Barr: We are extremely delighted that **Queenette Sola-Adeosun** was immersed into Christ on Sunday, 17th September.

May she have a long life, walking faithfully with the Lord. Please keep her in your prayers.

Sola Adeosun



Alastair Ferrie – my brother in the Lord

We did not have a funeral – Alastair decided to donate his body to Dundee University medical science so that they might learn something that would help in cancer research.

He told Linda to hold the memorial service in the house and to make scones for those who attended – he had expected a couple of dozen people to attend – such was the man's estimation of his importance. He would be impressed by the presence of all who came to Livingston to his Memorial Service. Around 200 were in attendance.

I was privileged to be first speaker at the service. This was because of the family ties that exist between the Ferris and the Montgomerys – ties that go back some fifty years when we were both part of the Castlemilk congregation in 1967. Ally was 17-years-old and Linda was eleven; I was that bit older at 24 and Betty my wife was 21. Ally became a Christian the following year in January 1968. Then a few years later in August 1974, Alastair and Linda got married – Linda was just 18.

The Ferrie family grew. There were blessed with five children: Susan, Colin, Mark, Paula and Craig.

I can say without contradiction that nobody was more cared for and loved in their final days than Alastair by Linda, their children and their grandchildren. His death is stamped on them all as just the next step in the plan of God.

Alastair and Linda have nine grandchildren. Susan & Mark have two daughters Leah & Eva; Colin has two daughters Hannah & Paige and a son Kyle; Paula & Stephen have a daughter Faith and a son Nathan; Craig & Heather have a son William and a daughter Rachel. Without exception those grandchildren all loved Alastair their 'Papa' and they will surely miss him.

Alastair leaves behind his older sister Sadie, older brother Ray, and younger brother Graham.



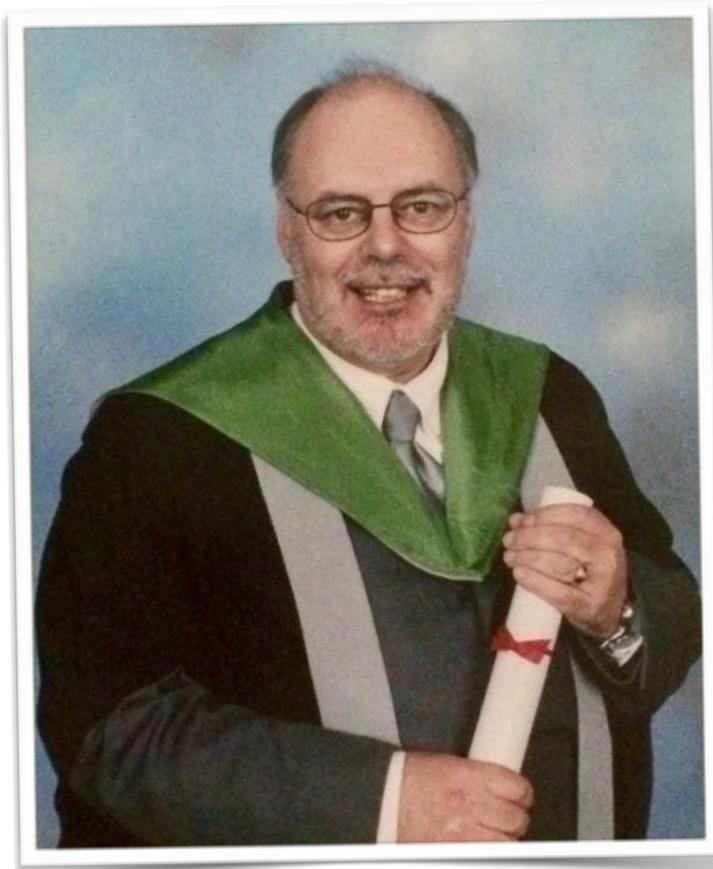
In the early 1970s Alastair was studying for his B.Sc. at Paisley College (now called the University of the West of Scotland). During his holiday period at college he would work in my branch of Frank's Scientific Instrument Makers in Edinburgh selling binoculars, astronomical telescopes, navigation and survey equipment. He gained his B.Sc. in Physics in 1974. Later at Stirling University he gained a Masters in Education in 1995

and in 2006 he gained his final accolade, a PhD in Education – he was now Dr Ferrie.

Back in 1983 I bought a Spectrum computer as I wanted to learn to program in BASIC but to do that you need a computer. Alastair had the idea of creating a Bible study system called CABS – a Computer-Aided Bible Study. Alastair wrote the script and I programmed it into the computer over a period of some 12-15 months. The spectrum computer had 16K of memory and used a cassette tape recorder to load and save the programs – there was no Internet to copy and paste Bible text from! I completed the program and I passed a copy to Alastair who used it in his evangelistic work. I learned recently that Alastair had continued to use the program as a Bible Study tool over many years beyond its sell by date.

I will miss Alastair – we would meet after several months or sometimes years and without any warm-up would get into some heavy Biblical discussion. Linda would comment to Betty that you would think they had started that discussion just yesterday. I will miss him – he was my sounding board for new Biblical thoughts and ideas.

Alastair was a caring friend. In February, I had a heart attack and toward the end of the month Alastair told me he was coming to see me. By this time he was not a well man. From Letham to Cardrona is a 2½ hour journey – just to travel there and back would be five hours. I told him I was ok, that the trip was not necessary. But he insisted. Susan's husband Mark (known as Sparky) drove him to see me. It was a visit I highly valued.



Betty and I visited Alastair on the Tuesday before he died. I told him that things would be taken care of *and* that we would meet again. He knew what I meant because as I left he smiled, waved and gave me a thumbs up sign. You see, we don't just believe in life after death – we believe in Life after Life after death.

The thought that was in my mind were coming from the words of Jesus: *“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”*

See you Ally.

Gordon Montgomery

Alastair – my Christian brother & best friend

“Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day?” (2 Samuel 3:38)

I don't recall the first time I met Alastair. It must have been in the mid-1970s when I went to Edinburgh to conduct meetings with the saints there. Alastair at that time was working with Andrew Gardiner while I was working with Frank Worgan in Corby. I didn't stay with Alastair and Linda on that occasion but spent time visiting with Alastair as well as enjoying fellowship in their home, which proved to be the basis for our friendship.

I don't know why the relationship between the Ferries and the Gaunts evolved, but I am glad it did. Our children were of a similar age. I can still visualise the time when Alastair was preaching in Peterhead and Linda and their four children (at that time)

accompanied him – they all slept in one room, the children on a 'shacky doon' on the bedroom floor.

There were memorable gospel meetings we shared in Edinburgh, Castlemilk, Dundee and Peterhead. On one occasion we shared the platform in Birmingham in 2011. I always learned something from his vast knowledge.

Our families shared a closeness. As our children grew and matured, I nearly got to

perform a wedding for Colin. I assisted at Susan and Mark's wedding, then at Paula and Stephen's – on both occasions Alastair wanted to walk his daughters down the aisle and then conduct the wedding service. We attended Mark's wedding and then later I was asked by Craig to stand-by for his wedding to Heather – at this time Alastair was dealing with cancer and because of his tiredness might not have been able to get through the wedding service. As it turned out, he was able to get through and my services were not needed.



We have, since the day we met, not only been brothers in Christ but best friends. Under any other circumstances I believe our paths would not have crossed. But God planned it this way.

We shared a holiday in Malta a number of years ago, where we were almost run down by a young

'boy racer'. We took a boat trip around the three cities, in Valetta harbour, Medina the 'silent city, Rabat, St Paul's grotto, St Paul's Bay, the Blue Grotto, and Anchor Bay, where we swam in the luxury of the warm Mediterranean Sea. All of these are such great memories for our families.

Six years ago Alastair and Linda obtained tickets for Handel's 'Messiah' in Glasgow and invited Maureen and me to go with them. We listened enrapt to the singing of the scriptures. Then, in the interval without

a Bible, Alastair and I wrote the texts alongside the order that they appeared in the programme. We got all but one – such was this man’s knowledge of the Book.

During these past months, as we have seen Alastair’s gradual decline, we have spent many happy hours encouraging and being encouraged by our extended family. We assured them of our love and we say what Jonathan said to David: *“The Lord shall be between me and you and between my*

descendants and yours forever” (1 Samuel 20:42).

It has been a privilege to have known Alastair. Our lives have been changed for the better by his presence.

“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24 ESV)

Michael Gaunt

Alastair Ferrie – An Appreciation

My ten and a half years (1961-1971) of delightful, though demanding, work in the UK was focused on the South of England, where we lived. For one reason or another, however—preachers’ meetings, missions, debates, camps, campaigns, and retreats—we had happy contact with brothers and sisters in many parts of the UK, from Brighton to Buckie.

Early in that decade I met Alastair Ferrie, soon after he became a Christian in his teens. I had met Linda’s parents in Glasgow but did not remember her as a wee girl. In those early years all I heard about and saw in Alastair was commendable. Claude Parish (who worked for many years in Edinburgh) always praised his character and work. Alastair took his new faith and work seriously.

In more recent years, after a long hiatus in contact, I got to know Alastair the mature

man, the husband and father, preacher and teacher. I admired his integrity and his commitment to thoughtful, Biblical Christianity. Though he earned his PhD, he cared far more about working with the church than lecturing on Physics in university. Like a lot of good preaching brothers I know, he could have succeeded

at a lot of things; but he cared more for God’s work and his family than about “fame and fortune.” Though he wrote several useful books (which have a way of ministering longer than their authors live), he also left behind

those invisible mountains of investments in people’s lives. My sincere condolences go to Linda and the children. I join the Christians throughout the UK in feeling that we have lost a good man, and that we are better for having known him.

Philip Slate

(Memphis, Tennessee)



Alastair Ferrie – A Preacher for all Seasons

“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage —with great patience and careful instruction.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

From the day I witnessed the baptism of Alastair Ferrie every day of his life was dedicated to preaching the word of our Lord Jesus Christ, whether it was convenient or not. Constancy is a rare quality that we find in too few people, but then constancy demands conviction of ones vocation. Alastair had that conviction, he was never *“ashamed of the testimony of our Lord”* and would always be ready in whatever circumstances to offer sound teaching concerning the Gospel of Jesus.

Although Alastair was a faithful preacher and teacher, he was also an enthusiastic

student of God’s Word. Alastair took every opportunity that came his way to sit at the feet of wise brothers. I well remember our trips to Edinburgh on Friday evenings to learn from Andrew Gardiner at the ‘School of Biblical Studies’. There was never an end to Alastair’s quest to ensure he *“rightly handled the word of truth.”*

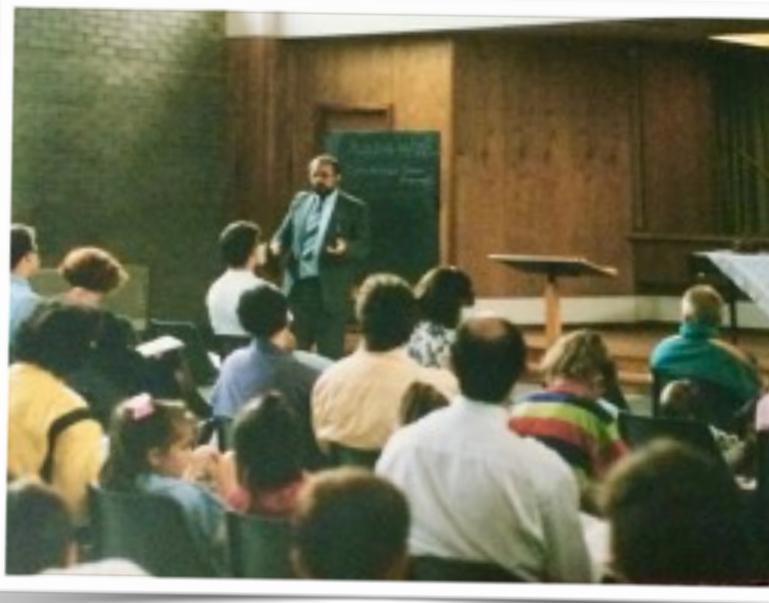
The admonishment of *“Preach the Word”* was, quite apart from anything else going on in his life, Alastair’s reason for getting out of bed in the morning. He was a preacher while at Glenwood School –

everyone knew of his love for the Lord. He was a preacher at university where he was studying physics and was bold in the proclamation of God’s truth in the face of those who would consider God’s creation as a random series of events held together only by chance. As a husband and father, he was a preacher of God’s word. His family life was blessed by the teaching of God’s love to his children and providing them with an example of holy living. In the various congregations where Alastair toiled over the years, many brothers and sisters owe their coming to Christ and their

spiritual growth in him to Alastair’s faithful and constant teaching.

As I try to mark out the list of Alastair’s achievements over the years I become reluctant to offer some anthology of

the things he did, the places he travelled, his academic achievements, the books he published. All of these are of course notable, but the one thing that Alastair would want to be remembered for was his preaching. If we forget what degrees he earned, if we can’t remember the titles of his books or which congregations he worked with, none of this would matter to him as long as we remembered the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel he worked for, the Gospel he lived for.



Alastair, over many years, was ready “*in season and out of season*” to preach when it was easy to do so and when it was difficult. As we look back over the years of Alastair’s life perhaps the blessing we derive from his passing on to glory is to pause and ask

ourselves if we are following his example; are we ready to Preach the Word; to be constant and consistent and to do so with “*great patience and careful instruction.*”?

Jack Paton

Alastair Ferrie – His work in Edinburgh (1974-1979)

“Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them.’”

(Revelation 14:13)

I first met Alastair Ferrie in May 1975. I was a ‘fresh-faced kid’ just off an airplane, one of a group of four who came to work with the Sighthill congregation in Edinburgh for the summer. The others went home and I stayed on.

Alastair was already there, working along with and being trained by Andrew Gardiner. He hadn’t started wearing a beard yet, so he was even more “fresh-faced” than me, but he was already a lot more experienced.

He’d participated in numerous campaigns in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and probably elsewhere; he’d worked alongside men like Jack Strachan, Adrin Fletcher, and Dean English at

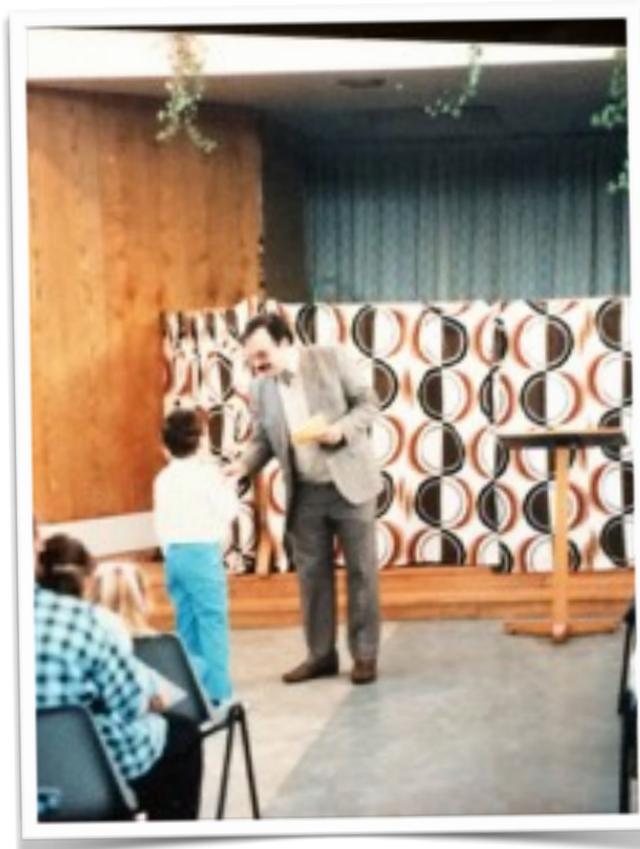
Sighthill; he’d worked with neighbourhood children in youth clubs; and he was already experienced at door-knocking and in preaching and teaching.

So I looked to him as a friend and, to some extent, a mentor. He was, even as a young man, a great mentor, and he was an even better friend. During those first sometimes

difficult years of adjustment to life in Scotland, his and Linda’s friendship, and their willingness to open their home and their hearts to me, made a huge difference in my ability to settle in and learn the craft of working with young Christians.

We shared an office in the Sighthill building during that time and I’m able to say that everything I learned about keeping a messy desk

I learned from Alastair! But the piles of books and papers in his corner of the room couldn’t disguise a truly bright and well-organised mind. Whether it was teaching a Bible class, preaching a sermon, or an



impromptu conversation with a person about the Lord, Alastair could impress you with both his depth of knowledge and with his gentle sense of humour.

He had a fearsome work ethic, albeit an unconventional one at times. More than once I remember being with him at a Saturday night fellowship evening or other congregation gathering at Sighthill, and he would remark that he was away home to finish writing his sermon for the next morning. I think he always worked best under pressure, and some of those sermons were among the best I'd heard. We wore out a lot of shoe leather in those years leafleting and door-knocking in the Sighthill and Wester Hailes areas of Edinburgh.

But the thing that impressed me most about Alastair, even when things weren't going so well and times were difficult, was that he never lost his faith in the power of the gospel to change hearts. If he was asked to perform a wedding or a funeral for a family from the neighbourhood, he

would always find a way to share his faith in Jesus with those people. Every Bible

correspondence course student, no matter how interested or disinterested they might seem, no matter how far across the city they lived, got a visit, and Alastair's tenacity for outreach brought more than one seeker to the Lord in Edinburgh.

They weren't always easy years, but they were good years, and when he answered the call to return to his beloved Glasgow to

work with the Christians there, I knew Glasgow was going to be better for it.



I'm proud to say that he was my brother in Christ, my co-worker, and my friend. The family that he and Linda nurtured and cared for over those years had wonderful ties to my family, and those wonderful friendships have continued with our children. He helped to make those Edinburgh years warm memories, and I look upon our time together as blessed indeed.

Mitch Vick

Alastair Ferrie – His work in Glasgow (1979-2001)

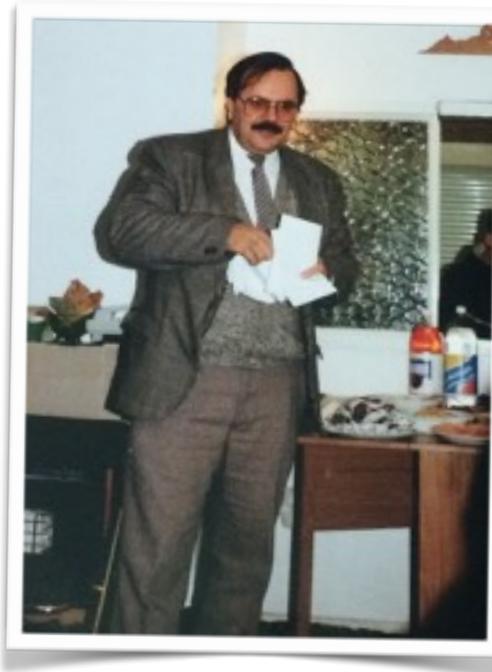
My association with Alastair and Linda and their family began when we moved to Glasgow in 1985 to begin working with them as part of a team of evangelists to take the good news of Jesus to Glasgow. I had met Alastair a few years earlier when he had invited us to come and work as part of the team he was forming.

When Alastair returned to his home congregation in Glasgow in 1979, he was faced with an immense mission. How do you take the gospel to a city of over one million people? For many, Glasgow was too immense to even consider attempting to evangelise. But not Alastair. He was convinced that if we could reach Glasgow we could reach Scotland.

Alastair was the ideal person to work with as a young evangelist. As Andrew Gardiner had helped to train him, Alastair did the same for me. During those first few years he patiently answered and put up with all my questions. He took me on studies and I learned to use the Computer-Aided Bible Study that he and Gordon Montgomery had written. We visited those in the congregation, studied with new Christians, and visited those

who had shown interest in learning more about Jesus.

Alastair was convinced that there were more people like him in Glasgow – people who wanted a real relationship with Jesus based on God's word. To that end we were always looking for those who were looking for that missing part of their lives. Alastair had observed how many tried to reach others. With the success of 'cold' door-knocking already diminishing in the 1980s, he was convinced there had to be a better way to meet those who were searching.



During those years of working and learning in Castlemilk, we tried many things that were probably regarded as



innovative at the time. As people enjoyed going to films, he suggested having 'evangelistic film nights'. He knew meetings in homes were becoming popular, so he suggested we begin evangelistic house meetings. We continued having

gospel meetings and campaign groups to supplement all that we were doing.

As we looked for another area of Glasgow as a site for a new work, we used Bible

courses to help locate interested people. Jim McGuiggan began to write his home Bible study courses about this time and we used these to full advantage.

With many enrolling in the Bible courses and studies being set up, we soon saw the first couple put on Jesus. A campaign group was invited to come simply to help us visit the more than 200 people who had enrolled. Alastair reasoned that this would be better than cold door-knocking as these people had already shown an interest in God's word. The first gospel meetings we had during that campaign were a great success! We not only saw large attendances, but we averaged around twelve visitors from the area each evening. This resulted in the formation of the Northside congregation.

Alastair thought it would be a good idea in moving to a new area to find a shop we could use through the week as a drop-in centre where people could get Bible information. This would also serve as a place we could meet on Sundays. We were able to secure a shop in Whiteinch and the Bible Learning Centre opened in 1987.



We tried so many things to just find one more person to teach. Whether it was through setting up displays of our Bible courses in Glasgow's city centre, having 'Biblechats', showing videos, or having questions and answers evenings, we

wanted to find those who wanted to know more about Jesus.

Those were good years and carry with them many good memories. Alastair taught me so much that I still use today. Much that I do today in planning and

organising, as well as looking for new ways to reach people, I learned from Alastair. The passion to find one more person we can talk to about Jesus will always remain in me.



Earlier this week, out of the blue, I received a phone call from one who became a Christian as a result of our initial work in Glasgow's West End. We lost track of her but she is now looking to get back. The seed that was planted is

continuing to grow.

The good work Alastair began will continue through the lives of all of us who learned from him. Thank you Alastair!

Jon Galloway

Alastair Ferrie – His work in Dundee (2001-2017)

It was in April 2001 that Alastair agreed to come and work with the congregation in Dundee. He had offers of other work but Alastair was first and foremost an evangelist and he couldn't resist the temptation to work with a small congregation committed to growth.

In 2001 the congregation in Dundee had 15 in regular attendance. By 2004 we had grown to around 40, in large part due to Alastair's relentless focus on mission and outreach. He always wanted to win more and never gave up on any of the many people he studied with one to one.

We had a healthy building fund and were looking for a more permanent home for the congregation in those days.

Alastair was perhaps most disappointed with Bernard Prestwich and me when we told him he couldn't buy an old cathedral-type building that became available in the centre of Dundee. He didn't think a congregation of 600 was too ambitious – he thought we just needed to work harder!

The truth is Alastair loved God, loved God's people and was sure everyone else would if they could just be shown. This passion is perhaps most clearly seen in the book he published in 2008, *Evangelism in a Post-Christian Culture*, aptly sub-titled "Teach

Yourself to Share the Gospel'. The book documents in great detail the study of John's Gospel that Alastair used so many times to bring people to faith.

Alastair was hard enough to keep up with in the early days when he was commuting several times a week between Glasgow and Dundee, clocking up thousands of miles. Once he moved to Dundee he became impossible!

He wanted campaign after campaign, adverts in newspapers, on the radio and on

the side of buses, interns, city centre 'Bible Challenge' events, leaflets, books, Christmas services, a mission trip to Shetland... anything that might find one searching soul.



It was Alastair who brought Patrick Sullivan to Scotland as part of the first group of US students he persuaded to spend a summer in Dundee.

I received a text from Paula in August telling me Alastair was in his last few days. The day before I had covered for him on Sunday teaching his class, so I knew he was struggling. But the news still seemed to come out of the blue. That evening I went to see him and he was sitting up in bed. The first thing he said to me was "Brother, this may be the end of my ministry, but I hope not."

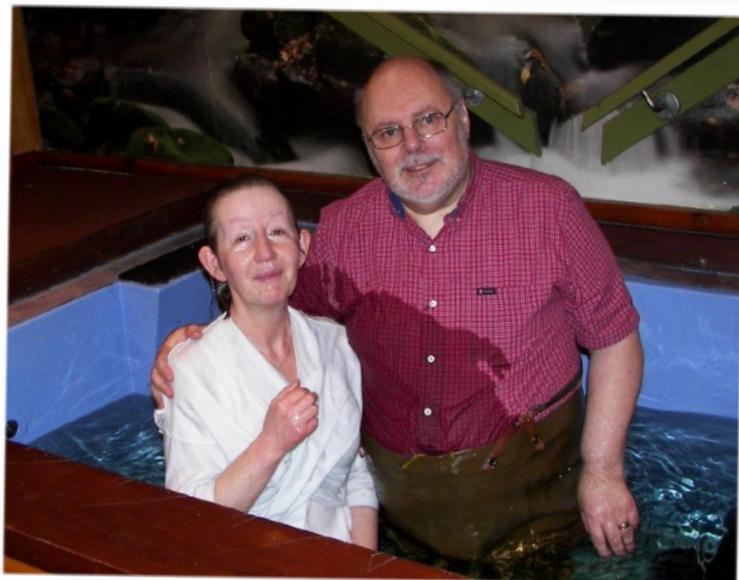
For about thirty minutes we chatted about all sorts of things. I could see he was tiring and asked him if I could do anything for him. He replied, “Just keep things going, don’t stop.”

Alastair was the finest Bible teacher I have known, always well-prepared, always willing to answer questions and with a knack of making difficult things understandable. He believed in a strong pulpit-ministry and we have already

been missing him for the last year, as he has struggled with his health.

Alastair was very frustrated over the last year that he couldn’t do more with his church work. He wouldn’t allow us to take him off the rota and he even accepted sitting down to teach his Sunday morning class.

In Alastair’s last days I had the privilege of watching his family gather around him, re-



uniting literally from around the world. Something became clear to me through all of this.

Alastair’s work for the Lord hadn’t been on hold over the last year. In fact, he had been doing his finest work demonstrating unquenchable faith to his family and friends, leading by example right up to his death. In his last hours of consciousness, he was still leading family

prayers and encouraging those with him to remain faithful. He was living the message of hope he had preached for so long.

In the words of the apostle Paul, it can be truly said of Alastair, “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness*” (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Mike Jones

Alastair Ferrie – our Dad

Many of you knew our Dad in a shirt and tie, as Alastair the evangelist, Alastair the church worker or Alastair the gospel preacher. But we knew him as a husband, our Dad and our children’s much adored ‘Papa’. Husband of 43 years to Linda; Dad to Susan, Colin, Mark, Paula and Craig; and Papa to Hannah, Kyle, Paige, Leah, Eva, Faith, Nathan, William & Rachel.

Many of you witnessed Dad’s passion for research and teaching over the years – we were blessed to have had the best teacher as our Dad. From his extensive church work, books published, teaching maths and physics at Cumbernauld college and home tutoring, he used every opportunity as a teaching moment. His best lesson however was the way in which he lived his life.

*He never looked for praises,
 He was never one to boast.
 He just went on quietly working
 For the ones he loved the most.
 His dreams were seldom spoken,
 His wants were very few.
 And most of the time his worries
 Went unspoken too.
 He was there...a firm foundation,
 Through all our storms of life,
 A sturdy hand to hold onto
 In times of stress and strife.
 A true friend we could turn to
 When times were good or bad,
 One of our greatest blessings...
 The man that we call Dad.*

Karen K. Boyer

The birth of Hannah, his first grandchild, was one of Dad's proudest days. Hannah stole his heart that day. From then on as each one his grandchildren was born he gave a little more of his heart to them. Watching him singing and reading to them and the joy on his face as he did it is an image that will live on all of us all for many, many years to come. Even when he was too ill to fully interact with them in that way, he was just happy being in the same room as them listening to all that was going on. As Dad's illness progressed in his final days, when he could no longer open his eyes, he smiled as he counted the voices from throughout the house knowing they were there with him.

Life in a large family is fun and there are so many fond memories and stories from our childhood. From bed-time stories...going on home Bible studies...many hours leafleting... playing crazy golf and tennis on family holidays...taking us to Queen's Park and Dumbarton football games... family holidays to the Lake District, Arran and France where Dad even took off his shirt and tie to partake in family fun. There are too many to narrow it down, however you've probably heard them as sermon illustrations over the years – I'm sure that's why they had five children! Thankfully for us he had moved on to stories about the grandchildren in the last few years.

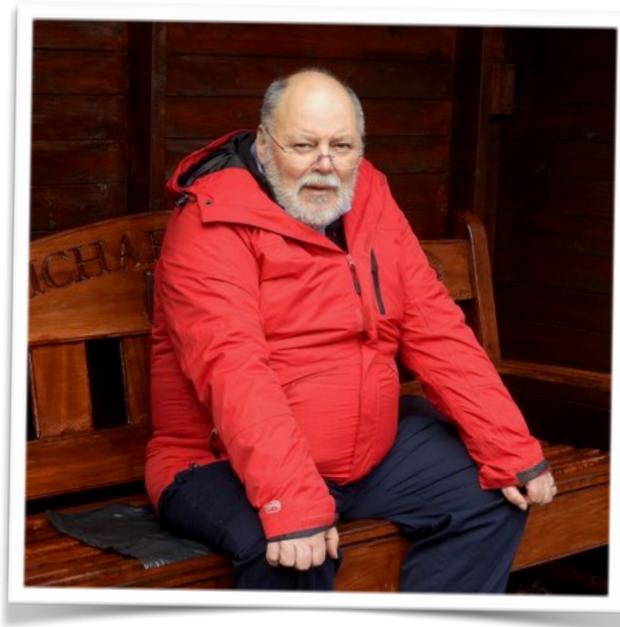


As Dad's earthly life came to an end he showed a level of faith that there are no sufficient words to describe. As Dad fought his illness, when many of us prayed "Why is this happening?", he

was fully accepting of it. His prayer was "Please Jesus, grant me the time to show one more person the way of the Lord, just one more." Our Dad never kept a numerical count of how many people he taught and led to Jesus, but if he had lived to be 100, we believe he would have still been teaching and praying, "Please Jesus, just one more."

His last sentences were prayers for each of us, scripture readings and he even sang

hymns which took a considerable effort, but effort that he felt was worthy. He even gave us a list of his 'unfinished work'. These were names of people he had been studying with but wasn't granted the time here to complete the studies. He always wanted time for just one more soul to be saved, one more opportunity to teach. Even in death, by donating his body to medical research, he is helping the teaching of medical students.



The testimonies to Dad's work could have gone on for many more hours at his memorial service This is what he dedicated most of his life to and is now being rightfully rewarded for it. But the biggest testimony was the number of people who were able to be there. The number of lives he had an impact on and continues to have, even in death, is incredible. He would have loved the singing in particular at his memorial service.

Life for us as a family will go on albeit with a huge gap in our hearts. We miss him terribly. We will continue to tell our children about their wonderful Papa and continue to teach them and show them

the love for the Lord that their Papa dedicated his life to. The church also now has a huge gap, however we trust that this is all God's plan and He already has the next chapter written.

Finally thank you to all who came to Dad's memorial service, for the cards, flowers, and messages – they were all greatly appreciated. Sitting on the front row we were unaware of the numbers that were there until the first hymn and then it

became apparent that there were quite a large number of people sitting behind us. Shutting our eyes we could see Dad's smile as the Lord's name was lifted in song. We had friends in attendance, not from a church background, that were amazed at the singing.



In the coming months we need your support and prayers as we mourn his loss. We give thanks for the

promise of eternal life where we will be reunited with him again. We give thanks to our Lord for giving us such a fantastic example as a husband, Dad and Papa.

Susan, Colin, Mark, Paula and Craig

church of Christ
Who are We? We are Simply Christians

Lost & Found!

Special Meeting Speaker: Jason Snethen

Saturday 7th October
1pm – 4pm

The Green Hut
538 Kings Road, Stretford, M32 8JT

All are Welcome, Lunch will be provided

 @ChurchofChristinStretfordManchester

We still have several Christian books that are in need of a good home, particularly the ones listed below. Please get in touch if you are interested in these.

Wigan Church of Christ Hymn Book (1957)

Christian Worship hymn book (1984)

Hymns of Faith (1987)

Scripture Standard, bound volume for years 1954-1955 (Vols 20-21)

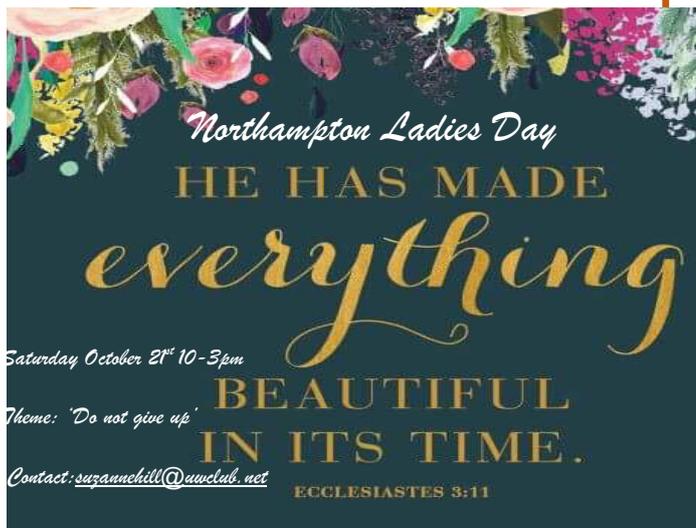
Selection of *Teacher's Annual Lesson*

Commentary on Uniform Bible Lessons for the Churches of Christ, 1948-1958 (not a complete run)

The Book of Amos translated into Colloquial English (n.d.)

I am particularly eager to find a good home for the Wigan hymn book. Thank you!

Sarah-Joy Maddeaux
sjmaddeaux@gmail.com



The Gathering

For Youth 12+

20-22 October

“Talk Right to Walk Right”

Hosted by Bristol church of Christ

Booking and Enquiries:
Jason 07795560990

Galatians

"The dangers of legalism are never far away and always to be opposed. This module examines the text of this letter in light of its first century context and draws some important lessons from it for today."

East Kilbride
Scholar's Gate, G75 9JL

Friday, 6th October 7.30 to 9.45pm
Saturday, 7th October 9.00am to 5.00pm

Friday, 3rd November 7.30 to 9.45pm
Saturday, 4th November 9.00am to 5.30pm

Teachers: Jack Paton and Mitch Vick
www.britishbibleschool.com

Study Weekends provide opportunities for short periods of instruction in a group setting. Participants can expect a fast-paced, intensive approach, covering a significant amount of material from a selected module.

For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook.

All are welcome to either or both weekends.



Walking with God

British Bible School Autumn Study Week

Monday, 6th to Friday, 10th November 2017

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District

All inclusive cost: £150 per student

For full details visit our website: britishbibleschool.com

"Personal faith and discipleship are important aspects of our lives ... students will be encouraged to explore the concept of walking with God, helped to assess their spiritual development and be offered practical help for the journey."



CHURCH
of CHRIST
LEICESTER

Sunset School, USA
Leadership Seminar

39-45 Pool Rd,
Leicester LE3 9GH

Saturday 4th November

The Equipping of God's Spiritual Servants by Him and for Him.

Program

9:15

Tea Coffee welcome

10:00

Servant leadership (Truitt Adair)

11:00

Spiritual leadership (Tim Burow)

11:50

Lunch

13:00

God called and God prepared leaders
(Brandi Kendall)

14:00

Resources for training (Tim Burow)

Tea coffee served through the day

Contact Paul Hill 07804 653690

October

4th-7th – **Mainz, Germany**: Conference organised by Sunset Bible Institute: “Lift Up Your Eyes”. For further information visit: www.sunset.bible/mainz

6th-7th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Galatians” (part 1) presented by Jack Paton and Mitch Vick. Friday: 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-5.30 pm.

7th – **Manchester (Stretford)**: Special meeting – “Lost and Found!”; guest speaker: Jason Snethen; beginning with lunch at 1.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon (dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

13th-14th – **Wembley**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “The Letters of John” (part 1) presented by Patrick Boyns and John Griffiths.

20th-22nd – **Bristol**: Youth Weekend – “Talk Right to Walk Right”. Ages 12 and over. Contact: Jason Snethen (07795560990).

21st – **Northampton**: Ladies’ Day: “Do Not Give Up”, 10.00 am-3.00 pm Contact: Suzanne Hill (suzannehill@uwclub.net).

27th-29th – **Livingston**: Youth Weekend.

27th-29th – **Sheffield**: Gospel meetings – “Is the Gospel Really Good News?” at Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 7 Christ Church Road, Sheffield S3 9HN. Contact: 07982 906618 or 07508 033534 for further information.

27th-29th – **Peterborough**: Ladies’ retreat – “The Blame Game – Why Me Lord?” at Holiday Inn West, Peterborough. Cost: £135-185 (twin or single – full payment by 1st September). Contact: Marsha Erysthee (merysthee1@aol.com or 01733 351192 or 07541 333908).

November

3rd-4th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Galatians” (part 2) presented by Jack Paton and Mitch Vick. Friday: 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-5.30 pm.

3rd-4th – **Summer Lane (Birmingham)**: British Bible School Study Weekend. British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “The Letters of John” (part 1) presented by Patrick Boyns and John Griffiths.

4th – **Leicester**: Fellowship Day – “Leadership”, 10.00 am-3.00 pm; speakers: Truit Adair, Brandi Kendall, Tim Burrow. Contact Paul Hill (paulh41@hotmail.co.uk).

6th-10th – **British Bible School**: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Module: “Walking with God” presented by Patrick Boyns and Ian Starrs. Cost for the week (room and board): £150. To register, go to britishbibleschool.com.

10th-11th – **East Kilbride & Clarkston**: Annual Joint Glasgow-area Gospel Meetings – Friday at Clarkston, 7.30 pm, Saturday at East Kilbride, 7.30 pm, combined Sunday worship at East Kilbride, 10.00 & 11.00 am; speaker: Patrick Boyns. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdalloway@mac.com) or Jack Paton (jgpaton@glasgowalumni.net).

11th – **Eastwood**: Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus: Prophet, Priest and King”; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Bob Eckman. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

17th-18th – **Wembley**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “The Letters of John” (part 2) presented by Steve Whitehead, John Griffiths and Patrick Boyns.

24th-25th – **Summer Lane (Birmingham)**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “The Letters of John” (part 2) presented by Steve Whitehead, John Griffiths and Patrick Boyns.

December

2nd – **East Kilbride**: An afternoon of song. 1.30-5.00 pm.

January 2018

13th – **Kirkcaldy**: 50th Anniversary Celebration (of meeting in their current location), 12.00-3.00 pm.

19th-21st – **Bassenthwaite Family Retreat** at Bassenfell Manor (Lake District). Organised by the British Bible School. (All spaces are taken.)

February

3rd – **Cumbernauld**: Men’s Day.

9th-12th – **Cumbernauld**: Youth/Young Adult Retreat at Rowardennan Youth Hostel (G63 0AR); Theme: “Keeping Up With Christ.” Cost: £35 for two nights or £40 for three nights. To book your place contact: Nicole Barr (nicole8barr@gmail.com).

19th-25th – **Gemünden, Germany**: Advanced Bible Study Series. ABSS I Monday-Friday, ABSS II Friday-Sunday. For further information or to book your place, contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com or +32 488 481 082). (Follow group on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/697781630273815/>)

The Final Word: "The 500th Anniversary of Luther"



It is generally recognised that 31 October 1517 was the beginning of the Protestant reformation. This was the day that Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of Wittenburg church, protesting against the corruption within the Roman Catholic Church mainly concerning the sale of indulgences. This meant that through the giving of money to the church sins could be forgiven.

Such was the resistance against Luther that he was excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church and imprisoned. What happened because of Luther was a realisation in Germany that faith in Christ and grace from Christ were essential to salvation and not good works from anyone. Ephesians 2:8-9 makes this very clear.

Within two years his teaching became rife in England and priests started to preach this in the churches – all of which were of course Roman Catholic. The king, Henry VIII, was a staunch Catholic and it was not until he wanted a divorce from his wife Catherine of Aragon that he picked up the theme of separation from the Pope of Rome – he became head of the Church of England in 1534. The church however did not change; services were still in Latin, the people still only received bread at communion, and they still had all the trappings of the Roman Catholic Church. Nothing changed until the dissolution of the monasteries in the late 1530's and 40's. By the time of his death in 1547 the religious house order was decimated. Henry's son Edward VI did his best to push forward the Protestant cause by establishing the Church of England, abolishing the Mass and clerical celibacy, and introducing an English Prayer Book.

After Edward's short reign (1547–1553) his older half-sister Mary became queen for a five year period. As a staunch Roman Catholic, Mary overturned the work of her younger brother. Hundreds of people in Britain were tortured to death for their faith in Christ and acceptance of the Bible. By the time Edward's other half-sister became queen (Elizabeth I) the country had been torn apart and savagely hurt because of political Christianity. This reign was one delicately trod by the new queen.

However the seeds of Protestantism (protesting against the Roman Catholic Church) had been sown many years before Luther with such men as John Wycliffe (1329–1384) and Jan Hus (1374–1415). The printing press had also allowed people to read the Bible for themselves. For centuries the Roman Catholic Church was ruled by irreligious, money grabbing, immoral clergy. These men were corrupt and only came to power because of their corruption. The church in its widest view was a disgrace to Christ, standing on tradition and myth.

Whilst we may remember the 500th anniversary of Luther's treatise, the church today must also take stock of its works now. No person or organisation is perfect and neither can any church group say it is the only one that correctly and completely understands the scriptures. We all have a responsibility to search our own souls, our own understanding of the Bible and wherever possible stand with fellow believers accepting that which is scripturally obvious and ordained. May God give us grace so to do.

Trevor