

newrestalrig

an evangelical church of scotland

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

FROM ZAMBIA

This month's letter is from Donald in Zambia bringing us up to date with the latest news from the MacDonald family.

Dear All

Recently I had 3 weeks leave which I enjoyed immensely. As well as relaxing, I was able to take the time to take stock of how things are going in all aspects of our work here. It is now nearly 4 years since I took over as CEO of Zambian Airways, and I have been extremely busy over that time, in particular during the last 12 months. I have felt for some time that this was taking an excessive toll on health and family life, and in addition the work amongst the boys has taken more and more time and effort. Towards the end of last year, the Chairman and major shareholder in the company announced that he planned to come into the company on a full time basis as CEO. Over the past 4 years we worked hard together and have been fairly successful in growing the business from very small beginnings,

including restoring profitability and increasing annual turnover from \$3.6 million to \$18 million.

After some thought, Christine and I decided this was the push I needed, and so I have resigned from my post within the company effective 30 April. I will however remain involved as the board have kindly asked me to serve as a director of the company in charge of business development. I intend to split my time between running a number of business projects I have been approached about, and taking more time looking after the work amongst the boys which I feel is at an important crossroads. On the one hand the needs are greater than ever, and the requests for help overwhelming (more little boys coming on to the street every day, the whole issue of street girls, how can we secure employment for the guys when they "graduate" etc). On the other hand, the interest, concern and support from friends in Zambia, Scotland and elsewhere, seems to have reached an all time high, and the whole thing needs more co-ordination and administration as it grows. I seriously considered working

full time in the Street Kids project, but have held back because:

a) I need to earn some money to support the work and the family;

b) I feel keeping contact with the business community is important to encourage them to support the issue of Street Kids; and

c) working full time with the boys would probably drive me crazy in a very short space of time.

So, as the time to make this change comes closer please pray for us that:

we make the right decisions; the administrative issues are dealt with especially with regard to work permits and our being allowed to stay and work in the country; and our business efforts succeed so we can continue and expand our work with the boys.

All our love

Don

BIBLE ALIVE

Part 2 of Bible Alive, which consists of four one hour presentations giving an overview of the New Testament, was given to senior classes of children in Blackhall Primary School, Roseburn Primary School and Abbeyhill Primary School. These took place during the month of March.

In each case they were a follow on from previous presentations of the Old Testament.

Invaluable support was given by Peggy Gibson, Isabel Murray and Alan Jeffreys. Peggy and Isabel operated the projection equipment, helped the children with costumes and were "heavily" involved with the transporting of props. Peggy played a major part in teaching the signing and rhyming couplets while Alan was magnificent as John the Baptist, a Pharisee, the disciple Peter and Paul of Tarsus (not all at the same time of course).

A further Training Course for Bible Alive took place at the end of March and it included three people from the Lothians. The number of fully trained presenters is now thirty six and Bible Alive is taking place from Dumfries through the Central belt and up through Aberdeenshire and the Moray Firth area and on as far as Shetland.

Please pray that the work will continue to spread until the vision of it reaching every school in Scotland is achieved.

A.C.Guthrie

CHANGES TO THE CHURCH FAMILY

New Member

Mrs. A. Stevenson

By Transfer

Change of Address

Brian, Ruth, Calvin & Eva Donnelly

15 West Brighton Crescent

Edinburgh EH15 1LU

Tel: 669 9351

ANNOUNCING

The Faith Mission Convention Tuesday 3rd -> Sunday 8th July. The FM convention brings together people from all walks of life with one common goal - to hear God speak through His Word. This is a week of opportunities - to hear the Bible taught; to expand your understanding and your faith; to meet old and new friends. For further information contact: The Convention Secretary, The Faith Mission, 548 Gimerton Road Edinburgh EH17 7JD. Tel: 01316722149/1419. Email: admin@faithmission.org.

Frenzy 07 Saturday June 9th at the Royal Highland Centre. Line up includes Newsboys and Chris Tomlin, Starfield, Leeland, and Casting Crowns. Prices are £29 for adults and 18 for Children.

EVENING SERVICES FOR MAY

13th - 'You've got a Friend' – Peter Edwards, Friends International

20th - Christianity can't be true... Just think of all the suffering in the World.

27th - How money can make you a fool - Luke 12;13-21

BOARD REPORT

Congregational Board Report- May

Fabric

Arrangements have been made for the repair of the Upper Hall outside door, and the replacement of the damaged large glass window in the Church Centre plus a number of small windows in the sanctuary. Plans have now been drawn up and a building warrant applied for in connection with the reconfiguration of the downstairs washroom in the manse to accommodate the installation of a shower. We are awaiting the granting of a building warrant for the plans that have been drawn up for the kitchen refurbishment and Centre modifications.

Finance

Although we have substantial funds in reserve for specific purposes it is important to note that our general expenditure is exceeding our income and therefore is eating into our reserved funds. With the changes in the tax laws we need to anticipate a reduction in the amount we receive from tax reclaims on Gift Aid. Salary increases of 3 % for our paid workers was approved by the Board. The Gift Day which was due to take place on 29th April has been postponed until 27th May

Communication & Technology Group

The church laptop used for the preparation of the monthly newsletter and the weekly Order of Service sheets, developed a serious fault which rendered it uneconomical to repair. A replacement, capable of coping with the presently used software has been purchased at a cost of £849

Other Matters

The Board has been happy to welcome Margaret Bennett and Anne White as co-opted members of the Board. With the return of Holyrood Abbey to their own premises we lose the valuable, voluntary cleaning of the church premises by Dilys Noble, a member of Holyrood Abbey. The Board would like to acknowledge their gratitude to Dilys for offering to help with the cleaning here at New Restalrig while we were hosting Holyrood Abbey's congregation.

The New Year has also seen changes in the leadership of Children's Ministry with the resignation of Claudencia. Now that she has embarked on a full time Nursing degree course at Napier University it is not possible for her to continue with all her responsibilities to the congregation. We are indebted to her for all she has given to the vital role she played in the life of the congregation and we wish her success and fulfilment in this new phase of her life.

Within a few months we will be saying farewell to Andrew and Kay Randall as they leave Edinburgh to take up a new position in Logie & St. John's Parish Church in Dundee. We would wish to express our gratitude to Andrew for the many times he has encouraged and challenged us as he has opened up the Scriptures. We have been privileged to have had him serve on our Kirk Session, to have known him as a friend and to have watched as he was called to the ministry. Our prayers go with him as he starts on this next step of preparation for leading the people of God. We also have to say a very sad farewell to Kay, who has been our Musical Director for nearly 10 years. Her gracious manner, wonderful playing and lovely voice have so enhanced our worship as she has introduced us to new lyrics and melodies. We know she will be a tremendous asset to the congregations where Andrew will serve and we thank her most sincerely for all she has done in her time with us.

We are delighted however to have a new Musical Director ready to take over from Kay. We welcome Claire Stubbs to the role and offer her our deep appreciation and dedicated support.

Agnes C. Guthrie (Clerk to the Board)