

Connect



Resurrection

Churches Growing
Younger!

April 2018



Resurrection

Resurrection. What's it about? Well, first of all, it has to be about Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus is God's vindication of everything that Jesus did and accomplished, from the cradle to the Cross.

I'm penning this from the Middle East, where I'm teaching at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, in Beirut. Over the border, 50 miles north east of me, there are children starving and being bombed. Less than 70 miles to the south, in Galilee, is the place where Jesus was bodily taken up, His humanity made alive and sealed, His life and our eternity knitted together forever. This is the world we live in. Bloody. Torn. Beauty defiled. And it is into this context of brokenness that the resurrection breaks in and changes the very fabric of our Universe.

Jesus is the centre of it all, the pivotal point of the Cosmos. Everything was made for Him. Everything came about through Him. Nothing came into existence, in the Universe, without Him. So when He was raised up from the tomb, in His human body, the nature of the Cosmos was changed eternally.

Don't think that resurrection is just a distant dream. It is breaking in now. Because of Jesus, the fabric of reality is being invaded by life that is eternal. Miracles happen. Here in the Middle East Jesus meets with people in dreams and visions. People who have never been told about Jesus encounter him as He reveals Himself to them. The Jesus who wept over Lazarus weeps over the children and the refugees; and invades their present reality with resurrection power, with tokens of help and healing and hope.

There are Christians here, around me, whose lives are invested in bringing the presence of resurrection hope to the desperate and the destitute and the dying. I can see this new life with my own eyes. There is resurrection life breaking out around me. Therefore I pray that this resurrection power will continue to be expressed here in Lebanon and also among us, His people in Scotland. May you be a bearer of His life. May the power of His resurrection work in and through you too. May God be glorified, as the mighty power by which Jesus was raised from the dead finds a willing conduit in you and in our ministry together.

**That power is like the working of His mighty strength,
which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the Dead**

Ephesians 1.19-20

Rev Dr Jim Purves
Mission and Ministry Advisor

HILLVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH



This month we hear from Martin Clarke and the remarkable journey Hillview Community Church in Aberdeen has been on over the past seven years.

In 2011, God brought new life in our church. Not in the lives of individuals (though, praise God, that has come and is coming!), but in the core of our identity as Jesus' gathered people. In September of that year, we gave thanks for all God had done through International Baptist Church – decades of His faithfulness, through many amazing highs and some difficult lows – and we celebrated the new day that had come in the replanting of IBC.

For a number of reasons, we felt it was time for a fresh start. A new season of (we prayed, and pray) growth in Christ. We gathered the few dozen members of IBC, and in all our fragility like a tiny seed packed full of life and potential, we embraced new vision and values, a name change, staff changes, new understandings of membership and leadership, etc. We rested, rather vulnerably, on what we prayed and believed was good soil and we asked God to send His rain and the warmth of His light.

The church was the same – same bunch of sheep stumbling along behind the Shepherd – and the church was brand new, with fresh vision and energy for the path ahead.

Seven years on from the beginning of that replant journey, we look back with huge thankfulness. New life has come again in the planting of Kintore Community Church; but we are sure we're just at the very beginning of the adventure of seeing God's plans come to pass!

Keep up to date with the Latest News and Events on our website

scottishbaptist.com

Churches Growing Younger!

What if growing younger as a church didn't rely on lighting effects, contemporary bands, trendy preachers in skinny jeans, super simple teaching and a young cool city centre venue?

Well the great news is that after years of research none of these things are essential! Good News! No matter where you are, what your current age is or even your preferred style of service, it is possible to be a church that grows young.

This resource comes from the Fuller Institute and has found six factors that are found in churches of all shape, size and geography that are growing younger. You can get more information about what they are here churchesgrowingyoung.com or you can buy the book on Amazon.

Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church

Mark Pexton, Senior Pastor of Leven Baptist Church



"Growing Young is a research study that has come out of the Fuller Youth Institute, profiling churches that are engaging well with 15-29 year-olds. It is not saying, that to engage well with the younger generation you need to be a large church. It is not saying that to engage well with the younger generation you need to provide all-singing, all-dancing services. The research has come up with six strategies (or mindsets that the church needs to commit to) which will open up your church to being a place that welcomes, keeps and integrates the younger generation into your church. It is pretty simple stuff, but the hard thing is to be willing to make it a part of the DNA of your church. As this is the missing generation in most of our churches it is a resource well worth taking note of. I would recommend every church leadership to buy this book and reflect on it."

And someone else you may have heard of...



"Growing Young carries an urgent message. Young people need the body of Christ—and vice versa. This book is theologically informed, research savvy, and pragmatically outstanding. Read it now, before you get any older."

John Ortberg, senior pastor of Menlo Church, author of All The Places To Go

There is a way to help your church grow young! Our very good friends Scripture Union Scotland are running a series of events to help churches unpack this resource and we'd encourage you to get along to an event near you.

Check out the SU National Tour around Growing Young

It's an opportunity to explore some key research and consider what this could mean for your church, young people and mission in your community. Further details and to book: suscotland.org.uk/growingyoung

Growing Young National Tour			
Inverness	Culduthel Christian Centre, IV2 6AS	29 May	9:30am - 12:00pm
Edinburgh	Carrubbers Christian Centre, EH1 1SR	29 May	12:00pm - 2:30pm
Falkirk	Falkirk Free Church, FK2 8SN	29 May	8:30am - 11:00am
Dunfermline	East Church of Scotland, KY11 8LW	30 May	8:00am - 10:30am
Glenrothes	St Margaret's CofS, KY7 5HD	30 May	12:00pm - 2:30pm
Dumfries	Troqueer Church Centre, DG2 7DF	30 May	12:00pm - 2:30pm
Perth	Letham St Mark's, PH1 2HH	31 May	7:00pm - 9:30pm
Aberdeen	Deeside Christian Fellowship, AB13 0JE	1 June	9:30am - 12:00pm
Borders	Trinity CofS, Galashiels, TD1 1SE	2 June	9:00am - 11:30am
Glasgow	St Silas Episcopal Church, G4 9J	5 June	12:00pm - 2:30pm
Ayrshire	The Ark, Ayr, KA7 1JB	6 June	9:30am - 12:00pm

Come and explore the findings of the Fuller Youth Institute's 'Growing Young' research and consider resources and ideas from SU Scotland that may help you grow young people in your church and community. Refreshments, appropriate to the time of the event you attend, will be served at each venue.

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April 1st

- John Jamieson (Army Chaplain)
- Coastline Community Church
- Coatbridge Baptist Church

April 8th

- Gordon Jones (Chaplain, Royal Alexandria Hospital)
- Collydean Baptist Church
- Cornton Baptist Church

April 15th

- Cole Maynard (Deputy Assistant Chaplain, HQ 51 Infantry & HQ Scotland)
- Cowal Baptist Church
- Cowdenbeath Baptist Church

April 22nd

- Jim Meighan (Chaplain, Royal Hospital for Children)
- Crieff Baptist Church
- Crookston Baptist Church
- Crown Terrace Baptist Church

April 29th

- David Middlemiss (Army Chaplain)
- Culduthel Christian Centre
- Culloden-Balloch Baptist

Crown Terrace Baptist Church, Aberdeen

We give thanks for those within the fellowship who have come forward to serve, enabling us to have an admin team running the daily affairs of the church after our church secretary stepped down.

Please pray for the drop-in for the homeless we work together with other churches in the city on, and for wisdom in how best to develop this ministry.

Coastline Baptist Church

We are very thankful to the Lord for His encouragement; we have seen an increase in folk come to the various meetings, with a hunger to know the Lord. Please keep us in prayer as we seek a new youth and community work & seek new outreaches into our local community. Keep the East Neuk of Fife in your prayers please, thank you!

Gordon Jones – (Chaplain: Royal Alexandria Hospital)

Please pray that I, and all Christians in healthcare chaplaincy, would be sustained by love for Christ, compassion for each encountered neighbour and appropriate self-care. Praise God for new opportunities to serve and learn and grow.

Coatbridge Baptist Church

Praise God for the increasing numbers who are attending our Parent and Toddlers Group on both Monday and Thursday mornings.

Pray that we might be able to find more helpers to meet this growing demand and also pray that some of those who attend might start coming to our services on Sunday.

Crieff BC

We thank God for his continued faithfulness meeting our needs, giving us joy and believing prayers will be answered. Pray for Pastor Jim on Sabbatical after Easter Sunday. Pray as Rev Dr George Mitchell leads our worship the last 4 Sundays in April. We have just launched Discipleship Explored and are trusting Jesus for our good and his glory as the wonder of the Gospel touches all our hearts anew.

Crookston BC

We thank God for our Outreach Team, which for years has faithfully gone door to door telling people in our community about the church, and when possible, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. The Outreach Team will restart soon and please pray for God's anointing and power to be on them as they minister in our community. Pray that through their efforts, many souls will be saved.

Cupar BC

We praise and thank God for recent, (significant in our context), increase in membership, and for the blessing we have as we share our love of Jesus and pool our gifts and resources in His service.

We also ask for wisdom and discernment as we grapple with the impact of substantial unexpected building repair costs and the effect this may have on the activities we presently undertake as we seek to continue to grow in relevance to our local community and to present the 'good news' to them

Cornton Baptist Church

We praise God for growing numbers at our services and prayer meetings and importantly for people growing in their faith. We are thrilled that one of our young people has been accepted on a BMS Action Team. We ask you to join us in praying for our work among young people, that we would continue to reach out and demonstrate the love of Jesus to this community.

Culloden-Balloch Baptist Church

We thank God for ever-increasing opportunities for building bridges and sharing the gospel within and around our community, for clear answers to prayer with increasing numbers, conversions and growth in grace on so many fronts. Please pray for more conversions and a greater prayer life among us.

Revd Douglas Eric Watson



Douglas Eric Watson was born in Brixton, London, on 11 March 1928. He was one of three children, with an older brother Roy who predeceased him and a sister Iris. His earlier years, like those of many families of that era, were very difficult enduring both the blitz as the result of World War Two and the consequent evacuation of children to safer areas of the country.

In his childhood, the Watson family attended Chatsworth Way Baptist Church, West Norwood. Eric and Roy, aged 11 and 13 respectively, were baptised on the same Sunday in their home congregation. His National Service took place with the Royal Marines in Malta where he met his future wife Betty.

They have three children, David, Christopher and Elizabeth, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. Eric was a gifted sportsman playing both football and cricket in his earlier years. He had been a member of the Inter Services League Champions Cricket Team in 1947. He also had a trial with Crystal Palace Football Club prior to training for Baptist ministry. He captained the Spurgeon's College football team for whom he played for two seasons; later playing as a centre-back for Fareham United during his first pastorate.

Eric Watson entered Spurgeon's College to train for Baptist pastoral ministry in 1949, and then served at New Life Baptist Church, Fareham (1952-1957); Forrest Hill Baptist Church, Sydenham (1958-1964); Dennistoun, Glasgow (1964-1970); Rattray Street, Dundee (1970-1983); and then as the first Superintendent, Baptist Union of Scotland (1983-1993) prior to retirement in Broughty Ferry.

He was honoured with the Presidency of the Baptist Union of Scotland, 1977-1978 and the Presidency of the Baptist Missionary Society, 1994-1995. He was a very gifted preacher and pastor. He was preaching regularly in Baptist and other churches and stood in for his pastor at Broughty Ferry at holiday times until his death on Wednesday 8 March 2018.

Rev Brunton Scott

Connect notes the passing of former BUS President Rev Brunton Scott earlier this month and will carry an obituary in next month's printed edition.

