

Connect



FEARLESS.

March 2018



How can we reach the young people of Scotland with the life transforming news of Jesus?

On the day that Billy Graham died at the age of 99, I find myself reflecting on our need to see a new generation of evangelists rise up to impact their generation. Perhaps we will get back to stadium crusades in Scotland as was the case in the 'Tell Scotland' campaign of the 1950's or 'Mission Scotland' in the early 1990's.

However, in the meantime I wonder if what we need is an easy way to help churches to do the hard work of communicating the gospel relevantly to a generation far removed from church. A generation that will not easily appear in our Sunday gatherings, are in many cases very honest about their needs in life but unable to see how faith in Jesus could fulfil them. Project 10:10 is designed to help bridge that divide and help young people see the incredible life that can be found in Jesus.

I'm really excited about the potential of Project 10:10 for our churches.

So what is it?

Head over to our website for a little interview that I did to explain it.

<http://www.scottishbaptist.com/news/the-1010-project/>

Project 10:10 is remarkably simple.

It's 16 weeks to meaningfully connect with young people in your community, helping them to find a way to live life to the full.

Pre 10:10 - Get a team of 6 people. Get excellent training from Alpha and the Eden Bus.

Ali Laing

Next Generation Development
Coordinator

Week 1-6

Get the Eden Bus to run youth nights wherever you think will work best.



Find out about the Eden bus here.
(www.message.org.uk/category/teams/eden-bus/)

Week 6-16

Using the amazing Alpha Youth Series, run a youth night for the young people you are getting to know.



GET THE FREE SERIES NOW

Find out more about Alpha Youth Series and watch content.
(<https://alpha.org/alpha-youth-series>)

So here is how it all works.

1. A church pulls together a team of around 6 people. (We do not provide team.)
2. Alpha and Eden (Message Trust) provide a day's training.
3. The bus comes for 6 straight weeks to a location you have chosen.
4. Week 5/6 you start running Alpha Youth Series.
5. Week 7 you need a venue to continue the Alpha.
6. Week 12 the bus returns as part of the day away on alpha.
7. Week 16/17 the bus returns for an end of project celebration.
8. Week 18 the church continues the journey with the young people they have connected with.

If you want to do this or find out more what do you do?

We have availability for 9 churches to do the project from late August 2018 through to Christmas. Please contact ali@scottishbaptist.org.uk to set this up. We expect these to book up quickly.

As a Union of churches we are committed to new expressions of mission and so if finance is the only hesitation you have please do not worry, there are funding options available.



FEARLESS.

To be fearless, for a believer, is not to know no fear; but to act, with boldness and trust, in the face of fear. As a child, I marvelled at the stories of Christians who circumnavigated the globe as missionaries, called by God and fearless in the face of famine, illness, and physical violence. Today, I cannot imagine the faith and courage of those mission personnel who take their families to live in places like Afghanistan, where there is regular violence against Westerners.

In our partnership with Eden teams <https://www.scottishbaptist.com/our-union/mission-initiative-2/>, we invite Scottish Baptists to move onto the poorest housing estates, as servants of God, seeking an opportunity to serve and witness in the name of Jesus. This past week, I visited the team in Hillhead (Kirkintilloch) and talked with parents who have moved, with their infant children, into streets with known dealers and addicts. They are discovering what it means for them to be fearless, as they follow the call of God on their life.

The need, however, is far greater than that found in just a couple of locations. Can you imagine what our witness would be like if we, Scottish Baptists, were known for our fearlessness? All of our networks and neighbourhoods are calling out for disciples of Christ to be fearless in their witness and service: a people who will remember the often repeated commandment and promise of God, "Do not be afraid, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

This year, our Assembly will unpack aspects of discipleship in relation to this word, "Fearless." We will be joined by Teun Van der Leer, Rector of the Dutch Baptist Seminary, who will be exploring our Baptist roots and the fearless witness of early Baptists. Rosey McFarlane, Pastor of Pastoral Care & Prayer at Stirling Baptist Church, will be helping us reflect on fearless prayer and how we might grow in boldness in and through prayer. Kang-San Tan, General Director of BMS World Mission, will close our Assembly with an exploration of the topic, 'fearless mission', reflecting on what it looks like today for us to participate in the mission of God with a Godly boldness.

Let us pursue and walk this path together, in Jesus' name.

Rev Alan Donaldson
General Director

Boldness

Dez Johnston is leading an Eden team connected with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church in Hillhead, Kirkintilloch. He reflects on the boldness required for such a task.



"To live life counter culturally, can seem like a bold and courageous act of faith. Especially when you move your family and ask others to join you in a community where people are normally keen to escape. However, it doesn't feel like that, it feels natural and this is because the apparent large scale boldness is born out of many smaller decisions that God has used to make this calling clear and relevant.

The choice to live out our faith practically in community with the least, the last and the lost means that what may seem bold to many, has to be our reality. The boldness we need to have is being relentless in love. Chaotic lives means working with chaos, three steps forward regularly means twelve steps back. Our boldness is to be there not 7 times but 77 times.

The love we know from God drives us to emulate an Acts 2 church rooted within community, giving the most precious thing we have... time. No matter what situation or adventures are in someone's life, sharing time with them for nothing more than love... is our bold reality! Is our calling... is our mission... is Love."

Military Chaplaincy to A&SH Bn, ACF. Rev George Hunter

At present I am sole chaplain to the Bn. Please pray that two Enquirer's (both Baptists) will receive security clearance and be able to join the Bn as Chaplains.

Give thanks for the fun settling in over the last few years getting to know adult volunteers and cadets. I have been asked to celebrate a wedding next May for two AV's so this is not only an honour but a sign of their trust in me. May I be worthy of that trust.

Prayer Link March

Cathcart BC

Please pray for the fruitful involvement of a US team coming to us in mid-March, working in creative ways, across four days, within our community engagement. And we give praise to God, for the growing clarity and purpose of the church in pursuing our next stage of local ministry as a church and community hub around the language of plant/grow/flourish.

Prayer Link March

March 4th

- Leslie Edge (Chaplain, Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice)
- Calderwood Baptist Church
- Cambuslang Baptist Church
- Campbeltown Community Church

March 11th

- Ron Flett (Aberdeen City Centre Chaplain)
- Canonmills Baptist Church
- Carbrain Baptist Church
- Carluke Baptist Church
- Carnoustie Baptist Church

March 18th

- George Hunter (PT Chaplain, MHA Auchlochan; PT Chaplain HM Forces)
- Castlehill Baptist Church
- Castlemilk Community Church
- Cathcart Baptist Church

March 25th

- Cliff Jackson (Regional Chaplain, Methodist Housing Association)
- Central, Edinburgh
- City Gates, Edinburgh
- Cleland Baptist Church

George Hunter (PT Chaplain: MHA Auchlochan and HM Forces)

Auchlochan - Give thanks that this is now the end of my third year with MHA and my first at Lower Johnshill. I have settled in to be part of the care team and have great relationships with staff, residents and their families. Pray for those recently bereaved at this time and that I will be a comfort to them.

Rev Leslie W. Edge – (Chaplain, The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice, Glasgow)

Prayer - That I will continue to meet in an appropriate way the spiritual and religious needs of the patients, their families both within the Hospice and in the community together with those of the staff and volunteers.

Praise - For the progress on the new multi-million pound Hospice nearing completion in Bellahouston Park. Through peoples generosity we have now raised more than £20 million of the required £21 million.

Calderwood Baptist Church

Give thanks for the incredible opportunities for the Gospel that advent season brought. Give thanks for those who have found faith in Jesus Christ through our ongoing ministries amongst family and in our community.

Pray for wisdom as we seek to expand our building to cope with the growing number of people in attendance.

Campbeltown Community Church

We thank God for this past year of mission, and fellowship. By uniting with other local church youth groups, new resources and opportunities have been released. Changing our Mainly Music Programme to the “Ark” Toddler group has increased our reach. Please pray with us in this year of transition. The building we have rented for 6 years has been sold and we seek guidance regarding the best missional opportunity of a potential changed location.

Ron Flett - (Chaplain: Aberdeen City Centre)

Praise for Chaplaincy growing beyond the City Centre.

Praise for good relationships being made as more people are using the service.

Pray for growth and development of team, by recruiting more volunteers, who are invaluable.

Pray for meaningful connections and conversations to be forged.

Canonmills Church

Canonmills Church rejoices in a corporate ministry in which we can share in a wide range of preaching from many denominations and we give thanks for the generosity and openness by which we are stimulated.

In October we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary in the fourth home of our congregation founded in 1810 by Dr William Innes who led us to the open table and membership we treasure.

Carbrain Baptist Church

We praise God for His providence while we are without a minister. We are encouraged by the appointment of new Trustees and Leaders and are working towards further changes in our administration. Give thanks for new people and regular visitors.

Pray for adequate pastoral support for our congregation and for opportunities amongst the groups using our facilities including AA groups, dance classes and a play and learning group for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Carnoustie Baptist Church

Give thanks for growth in numbers and in discipleship; for new contacts through our growing Toddler group; and for new opportunities in youth outreach and wider mission in 2018.

Please pray for God's resourcing of our youth/children's ministries, and in music; and that through individual witness and events people would hear and respond to the gospel!

Cliff Jackson (Regional Chaplain, Methodist Housing Association)

I'd be grateful for prayer for residents and staff who are particularly susceptible to the various bugs that fly around during the winter months. These are also months when chaplains are conducting many funerals and bringing comfort and support to residents, relatives and the community as a whole.

The MHA Chaplaincy Department gives thanks for winning the 3rd Sector Care Award for our end of life care. It's a major achievement for something we hold very dear to our hearts.

Castlehill BC

Give thanks that we have been able to secure the lease of a shop unit near the school where we meet. We have named it The Bridge and hope to use it for mission into our neighbourhood.

Please pray for the steering group we have appointed to organise things that we would all know God's leading and provision in new ideas and creative thinking to use the premises best.

Rev Alex Wright



Alex was born July 1927 and after being baptised he became an active member of Shotts Baptist Church until called upon to fulfil his National Service obligations. After he finished his two years commitment with the army, attached to the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), he became a ministerial student at Spurgeon's College in London. He was not only an enthusiastic student winning the T.M. Bamber Prize in 1954 but was equally committed to playing on the college football team. He swiftly rose to captain the team and was entrusted with this leadership role for three years and it was under his leadership that the team won the inter-college 'London Football Shield.'

Alex was ordained to the Baptist ministry on 25 July 1954 at his home church, and became the pastor at Stocking Farm Baptist Church in Leicester until 1958. He accepted the call to the new town ministry at Glenrothes Baptist Church becoming its first full time pastor on the 5 January 1958. This was to become his life work, working closely with his wife Lottie. They would faithfully serve until his retirement in 1993 choosing to remain a well loved member. The same year he was elected president for 1993 -1994 session of the Annual Assembly of the Baptist Union of Scotland.

Under his inspiring leadership, through many challenges, the fellowship grew numerically and in spiritual depth, seeking always to win Glenrothes for Christ. During his ministry he was key to the founding of Glenrothes Council of Churches.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lottie, their sons David and Alistair, and their grandchildren Lindsay and Kirsty. I, as a new pastor following in his giant footsteps will always be thankful for his kind advice when sought and his constant support and encouragement.

Neil Allison

(Alex's ministry at Glenrothes Baptist Church is described in **The Adventure of Faith: Glenrothes Baptist Church 1958-1993**, written by Neil E Allison (Norfolk: Glenrothes Baptist Church 2016). Copies are available from Colin Roworth C/o Glenrothes Baptist Church £6)

