

### Preaching Dates

**Thu 11<sup>th</sup> to Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.**  
**Jonathan Groves** teaching and planning  
in Blantyre, Malawi, with The Kerusso  
Trust

### 14 January 2018

**Irene Campbell** (am) at Westwood  
Baptist Church, East Kilbride  
**Bill Duffy** (am) at  
Galashiels Baptist Church  
**Charles Sommerville** (am) at  
Carbrain Baptist Church  
**Dawn Martindale** (am) at  
Leslie Baptist Church  
**Arthur Jones** (am) at  
Arran Baptist Church  
**Cheryl Nicolson** (am) at  
Ayr Baptist Church  
**Chris Townsend** (am) at  
Strathendrick Baptist Church  
**Glen Cartwright** (am) at  
Fusion, Newton Mearns Baptist Church.  
**Willie Henry** (am) at  
Cambuslang Baptist Church  
**George Thomson** (am) at  
Dumbarton Baptist  
**Elizabeth Shiveley** (am) at  
St Andrews Baptist Church  
**Richard Fettes** (am) at  
Kelso Baptist Church  
**Stephen Ilett** (pm) at  
Alness Baptist Church  
**Jim McNulty** (am + pm) at  
Islay Baptist Church.

### 18 January

**Hazel Brooks** (pm) at  
Cardonald Parish Church, Glasgow



### “If God Is For Us”

By John Perkins

If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

Most of us will usually be on the side of the underdog in what may appear to be a one-sided contest. A neutral fan loves to see a team which at least on paper seems to have only a very slim chance of winning a sporting competition beat the stronger team, or an individual defying the odds to emerge victorious.

We call such confrontations a David v Goliath contest, referring back to the original battle between the teenage shepherd boy and the ten feet tall champion of the Philistines.

Rather than both armies potentially losing many men in battle, opposing forces in those days would sometimes agree to let selected individuals from each side decide disputes in single combat. So the Philistines (the Israelites sworn enemies) naturally sent out their best warrior. Goliath was a professional, a fighting machine, and if he'd been a modern day boxer he would have been the undisputed, undefeated, heavyweight champion of the world! No wonder no-one in King Saul's army, including the King himself whose duty it was to defend his people, fancied their chances against this heathen; that was until young David appeared on the scene and took up the challenge.

But interestingly this wasn't really a question of physical superiority or weaponry. David told Goliath, “You come to me with sword and spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's armies - the God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied. **Today the Lord will conquer you**”.

And as we know, with just his sling, a well aimed stone, and most importantly his unswerving faith in God, David slew Goliath.

How do we approach the challenges, the problems, the battles and the ‘giants’, large or small, we inevitably have to face in life?

The battle between David and Goliath was possibly the most one-sided contest there has ever been; Goliath never stood a chance!