

Word For The Week

21 August 2020

Preaching Dates

23 August 2020

David Andrew (am) at socially distanced Craigmaiten UF Church, Bo'ness

Ian Barr (am) speaking at Crookston Community Church, Glasgow

Graham Bruno (am) via YouTube for Bridge of Don Baptist Church, followed by a gathering on Zoom.

Elizabeth De Silva (am) speaking at South Beach Baptist Church, Saltcoats at their Virtual Service.

Matthew Edmonds (am) at Castlehill Baptist Church, Bearsden, Glasgow via Zoom

Stephen Ilett (am) via Zoom at Dingwall Baptist Church

George Thomson (am) at Coatbridge Baptist Church via Facebook

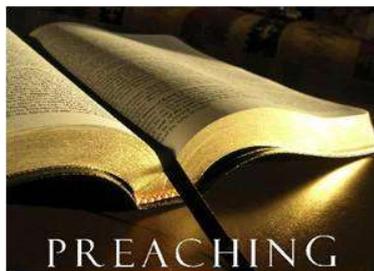
Glen Cartwright (pm) at Fusion via Zoom for Newton Mearns Baptist Church

24 – 28 August 2020

Glen Cartwright *Teaching Truth* (via YouTube) from Monday to Friday

27 August - 17 September 2020

Charles Sommerville via Zoom, Thursday evenings on Philippians. For details: drcharles.sommerville@sky.com



“Hope in Difficult Times”

By David Andrew

As we try to cope with effects of this Covid-19 pandemic, having had over 3 months of lockdown and now a slight easing of these restrictions, we are still faced with the fact that the Coronavirus is still around. No matter what stage in life you are at, this pandemic has affected our lives in numerous ways. For myself, having an aneurysm that is growing, and reaching the point when there is a need for major surgery. Going through meeting with the consultant, then the consultant aestheticist, only to be told by him that operations are dangerous, and people die during them or because of them, makes one stop and think about one's life and the, what after.

Fortunately I have the peace that comes from having Jesus as my Saviour, and to quote the words of that well known hymn
“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness, I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly lean on Jesus' name”

Hope, something that everyone needs, especially in these times. It is no wonder that the theme of Virtual Keswick, this year, was “Hope”, and the name of the new gospel magazine, being given away by the organisation Good News for Everyone (formally Gideons UK) is simply called “Hope”.

As we work our way through these trying times, and as members of the SBLPA, surely our most pressing task is to bring others hope. To share not only what we have that sustains us through these, and other, difficult times, but who we have that sustains and always supports us. To explain this in simple terms, to share verses like we find in *Matthew 12:21* “In his name the nations will put their hope.” (NIV) and in *Acts 2:26* “No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope.” (NLTse), so that people can find that they too can have “Hope” in these very uncertain times.

We do not know what a new day will bring, but of this I am sure, no matter what that may be, the Lord knows and is there for us. *Deuteronomy 33:27* “The eternal God is your refuge, and his everlasting arms are under you.” (NLTse)

A final encouragement from the hymn “One Thing Remains” by Jesus Culture
 “Your love never fails. It never gives up. It never runs out on me.”

This is our HOPE.