

Preaching Dates

29 July 2018

Andy Bell (am) at
Welshpool Baptist Church, Powys
Glen Cartwright (am) taking devotions at
the Team Leaders Meeting, Holiday Club,
Newton Mearns Baptist Church
Alastair Crockett (am) at
Cupar Baptist Church
Jim Ewing (am) at
Maryhill Evangelical Church
Neil Fisher (am) at
Dingwall Baptist Church
Mark Laing (am) at
Larbert Baptist Church
Dawn Martindale (am) at
Kings Covenant Fellowship
Adam Renberg (am) at
Tobermory Evangelical Church.
Charles Sommerville (am) at
Carbrain Baptist Church
Andrew Swanson (am) at
Cambuslang Baptist Church
Peter Trotter (am) at
Pollok Baptist Church
Jim McNulty (am + pm) at
Islay Baptist Church.

31 July – 23 August

Jonathan Groves in Malawi with
The Kerusso Trust



“God Uses The Weak To Do Powerful Things”

By Tony Walters

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. (1 Corinthians 1:26-27)

I find the above passage a great encouragement when faced with the challenges of a lay preacher. When we look at the development of the early church, there are stories of continuous victory with words like; the Lord added to their numbers daily and the word of God increased and the number of disciples multiplied significantly. All because a small group of disciples who were weak ordinary individuals like you are me, were prepared to follow the call of God. However, making comparison with our own experiences in church life can lead to disappointment. Several years ago, I was in Honduras on a mission trip well into the jungle on the Mosquito Coast. We were hacking our way along overgrown paths until we reached a village named El Guano. The houses were wooden shacks that we would consider unsuitable to keep our garden tools in, but this was home to us for two days. The pastor travelling with us had brought the word of God to this village twenty-five years earlier. Most of the villagers were now Christian and had built their own place of worship and appointed a pastor from within.

On arrival the pastor told us that many of the villagers were very ill and suspected Dengue fever. He asked us to go with him to his parents' house and pray for them because he thought they were dying. My heart rate and anxiety level rose significantly. On arrival, his father, a frail old man, told us they had been praying and praising God, knowing we were coming to minister to the village. They were convinced that if we prayed for them they would be healed.

My immediate thought was this must be a case of mis-identity, perhaps they were awaiting a tele- evangelist and was about to say, I'm Tony Walters from Scotland, I think you have got the wrong man. Then I had an over whelming urge to read Psalm 121 through the interpreter, followed by a prayer for healing. The old couple with tears running down their faces embraced us and said, “We know we will be healed”. What faith compared to my response, which was, get us out of here quick Lord before we catch this disease. Yet throughout our stay, God watched over us as we ministered to many people, and we returned home never knowing what happened to the old folks. But on that day, God used scared weak individuals to bring comfort and encouragement to two old folks who had become Christians twenty-five years earlier. They had believed the words of a simple missionary, that Jesus Christ has the power to heal and to save, both spiritually and physically. Who knows what mighty work God will do with the words of our fellow lay preachers in the coming days ahead?