



BEC News

February 2012

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him"
 [Romans 15:13]



Doing the Right Thing

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Jesus speaking in
 John 10:10

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Walking through Largs recently, I observed a local undertaker, setting out with two hearses to attend a funeral. The family had not yet been collected so it was just the funeral service staff present, complete with coffin. At no point did he see me across the street and there was no-one else around.

I watched as the chap in the top hat (the chief mourner), bowed reverently to the coffin. Of course we know the deceased had no knowledge of this act, but it demonstrated to me the respect we have for the person, even though they are physically dead and not aware. It was a

touching moment but also a confusing one. What is being done; a noble act of reverent respect or a piece of theatre steeped in tradition without any deep meaning?

Two things occurred to me:

I was impressed that the undertaker would carry out this simple ceremony even though no-one was watching, except me at a distance, which they were unaware of. No family members were there to be impressed. Simply doing the right thing seemed to matter.

It made me ask myself how diligent I am when there's no-one else watching

how I act or perform my daily duties and tasks?

Secondly, it struck me how much we respect the dead in our culture. Think back to any remembrance parade, or the reverence shown at the last funeral you attended.

But how do we as Christians handle those who, according to Scripture, are spiritually dying? Where is our urgency and our energy to do the 'right thing' where they are concerned?

Let's continue to do the right things and make much of Jesus, the Conqueror of death and the Giver of Life.

Love and prayers in all you do for Him,

Gordon



Graeme McMeekin and his wife Barbara

The number of members attending our prayer gatherings on a Wednesday evening is down recently. Have you got out of the habit? It would be great to see you joining your prayers with brothers and sisters as we bring our prayers and petitions. (Philippians 4:6)



Private counselling sessions will be taking place in the Church Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 5pm.

The upstairs lounge will therefore be unavailable at these times.

A notice will be displayed at the foot of the stairwell when sessions are taking place.

Keyholders should avoid accessing the Hall wherever possible during these periods. Thank you.

Focus on Graeme McMeekin

VICE-PRINCIPAL OF INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

(Guest speaker this month - visiting BEC on February 12th)

Graeme hails from Newtownabbey, which is about 7-8 miles north of Belfast. Growing up in Northern Ireland in the midst of 'the troubles' has profoundly affected him in two main ways.

Firstly he became frustrated that in Northern Ireland, religion and politics had a very warped relationship and therefore he wanted to investigate how Christians can have a healthier relationship to politics.

Secondly, as someone who became a Christian in his teens but came from a non-Christian family, he realised the importance of having a Church youth worker who was able to disciple and guide him as a new Christian.

These two things became increasingly important as Graeme came to Scotland in 1995 and studied social policy at the University of Paisley (later known as the University of the West of Scotland) whilst at the same time getting involved as a volunteer in leading some of the youth work in his Church and an evangelistic

Graeme fulfilling a number of roles both at a national level, working with 'Covenanters' and 'Youth for Christ' and at a local level by working for four churches in Barrhead. Whilst these roles were primarily in 'Christian Youth Work', Graeme later had the opportunity to work in youth justice where he was involved in

International
Christian College
glasgow, scotland



& discipleship organisation called 'Firestarters'.

It was in the course of this youth work that Graeme met and fell in love with Barbara, whom he married in 2000.

After graduating, youth work became the main focus with

victim-offender mediation.

This experience both brought him back to thinking about politics and also gave him new insights into forgiveness, grace and mercy which he will share more ...

(contd. on p.4)

Missions Focus — Scripture Union



When you give financially to this month's missionary offering (the box in the foyer) you will be giving to an organisation which has consistently reached young people's lives with the good news of Jesus.

Scripture Union was founded way back in 1867 as an international, inter-denominational evangelical Christian movement whose stated aim is to use the Bible to inspire children, young people and adults to know God.

Perhaps best known for schools, missions and camp work, SU is also responsible for

producing many aids for people to read their Bible, such as daily reading notes.

Taken from their website www.suscotland.org.uk here are 4 prayer pointers which SU are asking us to pray for our local schools:



1. We want pupils to gain maximum advantage from the education system we have here in Scotland, growing in knowledge and understanding, fulfilling their potential.

We also want them to grow physically, protected from sickness and harm.

2. We long for Christian children in particular to be strong at school; not weak, following the crowd, but with an inner strength that sustains them through times of doubt and difficulty.

3. We also want them to be wise, able to discern the difference between truth and lies, making good decisions and right choices.

4. And of course, most of all, we long for the grace of God to be upon them. What does that mean exactly? It means that they might be aware of his goodness, his love, his favour, his blessing.



Seeing these prayers answered would be thrilling. Maybe a young person you know is flourishing at school, or growing as a Christian. Praise God! Or perhaps someone comes to mind who isn't, and needs your prayers.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

After a month of considering gym memberships to lose a few of those Christmas turkey pounds, the men have decided to reconsider.

If the call of the bacon roll proves too strong (and it will!) then they will be meeting on Saturday 25th Feb in the church hall at 9am. Good food and friendship as well as some encouraging Bible-teaching, this month from our very own Pete McClelland.

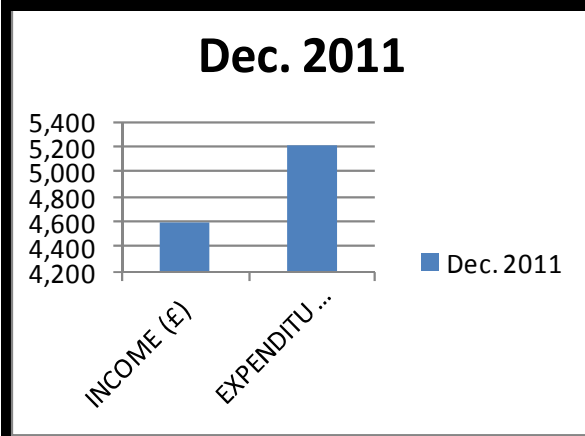
What's on

FEB

- 8,22 Morning Break
- 12 Guest speaker (Graeme McMeekin)
- 14 Steph MacLeod visiting Teen Ministry bus
- 16 ABC (Exodus)
- 18 Steph MacLeod concert
- 19 Visit to Auchinlea
- 20 Elders' meeting
- 25 Men's Breakfast
- 29 Housegroups

The Income and Expenditure for the month of December 2011 was as follows:

Income £4,592, Expenditure £5,202



(contd. from p.2)

...about as he looks at the story of Philemon on Sunday evening (Feb 12).

Graeme later continued his studies and has an MEd in Community Education (which includes Youth Work) and an MTh in Biblical Interpretation.

He now leads the Youth & Community Work with Applied Theology programme at the International Christian College and is one of the Vice-Principals there overseeing the academic quality of the College's programmes.

Being committed to the local Church, Graeme is one of the leaders at Life Church, who meet in St Mirren Park football stadium every Sunday and is involved in some of its youth work including a joint Church project called 'Create' with over 650 attending each month.

We're delighted to have Graeme and Barbara with us on February 12th and look forward with great excitement at what God will share through Graeme's ministry with us.

IN CONCERT

STEPH MACLEOD & BAND



'STEPH MACLEOD IS AN
INSPIRATIONAL SONGWRITER AND
A MUSICIAN'S MUSICIAN'
- ACOUSTIC NEWS

'THE 29 YEAR OLD FROM
EDINBURGH...A HOMELESS
ALCOHOLIC UNTIL HE
FOUND (IN ORDER) GOD. REHAB.
SOBRIETY AND SONGWRITING.'
- CHRISTIANITY TODAY

SATURDAY 18TH
FEBRUARY - 7.30PM

BRISBANE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
SCHOOL STREET LARGS

www.beclargs.org

Free entry (donations only)