



1 May 2021

Hello from Edinburgh,

We thank you for your prayers and support for the continued ministry here. It is much appreciated as we continued to pray for and seek Gospel opportunities. Although the government has eased some restrictions, like now being able to drive out of our area, other restrictions are still much in place like masking and social distancing, and stay-cations being urged upon the public. Last week our local primary school had a fresh outbreak of covid with 17 teachers and 11 out of 19 classes having to self-isolate, so the school of 534 has closed and adopted remote learning. Others in the community have also experienced the effects of the surge in covid numbers. One would have thought that with the vaccine roll-outs, this wouldn't be happening, yet a return to normality has been slower than anticipated. U.K. scientists are warning the government that we could be at the beginning of a third wave. Since meeting up as a group is still limited, we've met with various ones outdoors, on walks, in our backyard, or in theirs. Sermons are still sent by email or delivered as hard copies if preferred. I wanted to give our people a syllabus of lessons on topics that any Christian could find encouraging throughout their life. We encourage them to print and keep the lessons.

**Prayer Focus:**

1. To serve most effectively through these times, for wisdom to reach the lost, continued discipleship of believers, and for church folks to remain faithful.
2. For the salvation of Donald, Ian and Amanda, Norrie and Sheila, as well as others we regularly see on our street, the local park, or shops.
3. Pray for a neighbor Paul who needs deliverance from addictive habits in his life. Recently he contacted Mark and they had a Bible study, which he seemed grateful for at the time and even gave an offering to the church, but then he hasn't shown up since.
4. For Mark's health and strength as he experiences fatigue and ongoing pain (from chemo damage and sciatica); for Joanne as she befriends elderly and lonely ladies and seeks to encourage them in the Lord.
5. For God's grace, provision, patience, and help in these unsettled times of fluctuating rules and local restrictions.

Psalm 25:5 says, "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." Spurgeon says of this verse, "It is our duty and privilege to wait upon the Lord in service, in worship, in expectancy, and in trust, all the days of our life. If our faith is true, it will bear continued trial without yielding. We will not grow weary of waiting upon God if we remember how long and how graciously He once waited for us."

May the Lord encourage you today in your place of service.

Mark and Joanne Landon

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