

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1:2006

Spring 2006

## MINISTER'S LETTER



**Pulteneytown Manse  
2 Coronation St.  
Wick  
KW1 5LS**

**01955 603166**

Dear Friends,

We live in momentous times. For some considerable time we have been aware of the decline of Christian standards and Christian witness in our land.

Recently we came very near to moving to a situation where genuine affirmation of Christian teaching would have opened the way for people to take legal action against a Christian for stating his/her faith. By one vote Parliament threw out the Governments 'Racial Hatred' Bill.

I believe that God over-ruled the plans of the government. I believe, also, that we have been given a 'wake-up' call and that liberties, which we have taken for granted, may soon be taken from us.

Let me explain. Pastor Daniel Scot was a lecturer in Mathematics in his native Pakistan when a new law made blasphemy against Mohammed punishable by death. He was pressed to convert to Islam and when he refused, stating his belief that salvation was found in Christ alone, he was charged with blasphemy, forced into hiding and fearing for his life he fled to Australia. However, in 2001 a religious hatred' law was introduced in the state of Victoria which was similar to the proposed British law but with less severe penalties.

Pastor Scot conducted a seminar on Islam in 2002 at which three Australian converts to Islam were present and they subsequently complained to the Australian Equal Opportunities Commission.

Mr. Scot has read the Koran one hundred times but at the Court case he was asked on three occasions by the Islamic Council of Victoria's legal team not to quote from it, as by so doing he was 'vilifying Muslim people'. Incidentally the Islamic Council was allowed many expert witnesses. Mr. Scot was allowed only one. The judge banned him from further criticizing fundamentalist Islam anywhere in Australia and ordered him to make a public apology.

# St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

This illustrates what might have happened had the Government's legislation gone through. In Britain it would have been a criminal offence. Professor in Law at Durham University, Professor Ian Leigh, outlined his opposition to the proposed new British legislation, saying it was; (a) a threat to liberty (b) a threat to free speech (c) unnecessary - because what the Government claimed to be concerned about was covered in existing legislation, and (c) divisive.

It is a matter of profound gratitude to God that the proposed legislation was rejected and the important amendments made in the House of Lords are now part of the law of the land. There is a section which protects Christian evangelism and witness. It was not that the Government were trying to stop these. But loosely worded legislation, like that in Australia, would have given people opportunity to challenge our right to evangelize and proclaim the uniqueness of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ

It is time to Stand up for Jesus!

Yours very sincerely,

**Bill Wallace**



## FUNERALS

Murdo Sinclair, Geiss  
 Alistair (Eck) Miller, Langlands Crt.  
 Mary Christie, Grove Lane  
 Katie MacDonald, Queens Crt.

**We extend our sympathy to those who have been bereaved and pray that the and peace of Jesus Christ would be their strength at this time.**

## RESTORATION FUND: FEBRUARY 2006

The Restoration Fund closed for Congregational contributions at the end of 2005.

British Gas Business Sales is installing a gas main to the Church.



The new heating system specification is being reviewed by the Property Committee, prior to placing a firm contract to install the system.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW: 23 February 2006

### FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR REMAINING WORK

(Estimated without quotes)

Gas-fired hot water radiator heating system (cost after VAT recovery)	27,250
Funds available to redecorate Church	4,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,550</b>
<b>FUNDING AVAILABLE</b>	
Bank Balance	31,550
Mains Gas Connection £1,900	Paid
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,500</b>

*James Houston*

Restoration Fund Treasurer  
 23rd February 2006

# St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

## DO YOU REVERE THE WORD OF GOD?



We live in a challenging age that is both hostile to reverent Christianity and very friendly toward external religion. But God's Word remains the same, despite the irreverence with which it is treated. It is still to be accepted as holy by God's people.

When they do so, they reap untold spiritual benefits, and His church becomes the force for truth that it was meant to be. Sinners are then converted, and God's people experience God-sent awakening and true revival.

May our God be pleased to grant us in 2006 and beyond what He once granted to Scotland in 1840.

"It was a common thing, as soon as the Bible was opened, after the preliminary services, and just as the reader began [here, you will observe, it was the simple reading of the Word without preaching; yet such was the power upon the minds of the people], for *great meltings* to come upon the hearers. The deepest attention was paid to every word as the sacred verses were slowly and solemnly enunciated.

Then the silent tear might be seen stealing down the rugged but expressive faces turned upon the reader....It was often a stirring sight to witness the multitudes assembling during the dark winter evenings - to trace their progress as they came in all directions across moors and mountains by the blazing torches which they carried to light their way to the places of meeting. The Word of the Lord was precious in those days, and personal inconvenience as little thought of when the hungry soul sought to be satisfied.

"Hear the word of the Lord, You who tremble at His word: Your brethren who hated you, who cast you out for My name's sake, said, "Let the Lord be glorified, That we may see your joy.' But they shall be ashamed" (Isaiah 66:5).

**Jerry Marcellino**

This extract is from an article in the Gospel Witness Jan. 2006, published by the Toronto Batisit Seminary. Jerry Marcellino has been pastor of Audubon Drive Bible Church, Laurel, Mississippi, since 1993.

## COMMUNION DATES

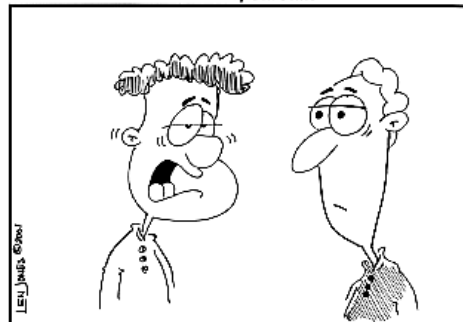
SUNDAY  
12 March 2006  
11.00 am

11 June 2006  
11.00 am

10 Sept. 2006  
If The Shoe Fits...



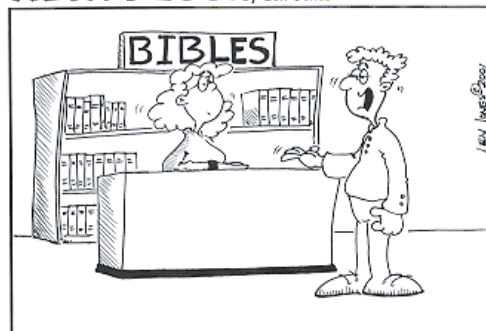
### ALTAR EGO. by Len Jones



"I was just fine with the concept of sharing my faith until Pastor said we actually had to talk to people."



### ALTAR EGO. by Len Jones



"What I really need is a translation that won't leave me feeling guilty, convicted, or in need of making some kind of decision."

# St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

It's reported that Henry Ward Beecher, the renowned clergyman, opened his mail one morning and found that one envelope contained a single sheet of paper with the word scrawled across it: "Fool." The next Sunday, in the course of his sermon, he referred to the letter by saying, "I have known many an instance of a man writing a letter and forgetting to sign his name. But this is the only instance I have known of a man signing his name and forgetting to write his letter."

## The Board Meeting

"There will be a meeting of the Board immediately after the service," announced the pastor. After the close of the service, the group gathered at the back of the auditorium for the announced meeting. But there was a stranger in their midst. He was a visitor who had never attended their church before. "My friend," asked the pastor, did you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?"

"Yes," said the visitor, "and after that sermon, I'm about as bored as you can get!"

## Hymns and Praise Choruses

An old farmer went to the city one weekend and attended the big city church. He came home and his wife asked him how it was.

"Well," said the farmer, "It was good. They did something different, however. They sang praise choruses instead of hymns."

"Praise choruses," said his wife, "What are those?"

"Oh, they're okay. They're sort of like hymns, only different," said the farmer.

"Well, what's the difference?" asked the wife.

The farmer replied, "Well it's like this. If I were to say to you, 'Martha, the cows are in the corn,' well, that would be a hymn. If, on the other hand, I was to say to you, 'Martha, Martha, Martha, Oh Martha, MARTHA, MARTHA, the cows, the big cows, the brown cows, the black cows, the white cows, the black and white cows, the COWS, COWS, COWS, are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn,' well, that would be a praise chorus."



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## INNOVATION IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

The following advertisement, which appeared in The Glasgow Herald on 31st March 1862, illustrates the difficulty Scots have always had with accepting changes in the Kirk:

### SANDYFORD CHURCH

#### INNOVATION IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

THE CONGREGATION OF SANDYFORD CHURCH are requested to meet in the Queen's Rooms THIS EVENING, the 31st instant, at eight o'clock, to consider as to a change in the Mode of Public Worship contemplated by a certain party or parties as respects Kneeling at Prayers and standing while singing, and particularly of all such as are opposed to any change in these respects, or as to the introduction of Instrumental Music of any description whatever without the previous sanction of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland as by law established.

Without such authority where is innovation to end?

"My son, fear thou the Lord and the King, and meddle not with them that are given to change."-Proverbs XXIV. 21.

# St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

## **A new plane for Bangladesh**



**Bringing spiritual hope and physical care, Mission Aviation Fellowship uses light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can receive the help they need.**

In Bangladesh, MAF's new Amphibious Caravan aircraft is bringing hope to people in remote communities. One of the world's poorest countries, development is severely hindered by its geography and climate. Countless rivers and the huge Ganges Delta make travel to receive vital medical help difficult and slow. The new aircraft can reach destinations quicker, often making the difference between life and death.

Since one of MAF's key activities in Bangladesh is the provision of medical emergency flights, the layout of the new aircraft with its larger cargo door makes it easier to load patients on stretchers, while the extra space inside makes the journey more comfortable. For an elderly lady in Chittagong, an emergency flight to Dhaka, saved her life. She had diabetes and had fallen into a coma. Pilot Marco Koffeman transported her safely to hospital where she received vital medical attention. Another emergency flight rescued a 45-day-old baby suffering from extreme diarrhoea and dehydration. Pilots Rune Karlsson and Chad Tilley flew the baby safely to hospital. After a few days of treatment, the child was out of danger and recovering well.

With its ability to fly even in poor visibility, the Caravan is ideal for the unique flying conditions in Bangladesh where frequent early morning fog hampers vision. On a flight to a DFID (Department for International Development) project with the British High Commissioner, the weather was particularly bad. Marco explains, 'It was dreadful weather all day, and we came back in rain and low cloud. It would have been a very demanding flight in the old Beaver, but thanks to the more sophisticated instruments of the new Caravan it was no problem. I doubt if I could have landed in the Beaver.'

Our team supports the work of doctors on board floating hospitals. These are towed to different areas of the country every few months, making it possible for people in the remotest places to receive medical treatment. Marco flew British orthopaedic surgeon Dr Jameson-Evans to Jibon Tari, the floating hospital operated by Impact Foundation. There he performed surgery on 30 people, mainly children with club feet. A few days later, Marco returned to the hospital with Dr Lourie who continued the operations. He operated on a further 35 people. Club foot is a common problem in Bangladesh where an estimated 10% of the population suffer some disability. A simple procedure changes the lives of these patients, enabling them to enjoy a better quality of life. For surgeons travelling to the floating hospitals, long and tiring journeys overland are no longer necessary. The reduced flight time in the new plane maximises the time surgeons spend in the operating theatre.

**MAF is involved at the heart of reaching vulnerable people, whether they are in spiritual or physical care.**

**Web address <http://www.maf-uk.org.uk>**

**Mission Aviation Fellowship, Challenge House, 29 Canal Street, Glasgow G4 OAD.**

# St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

## Easter Needs

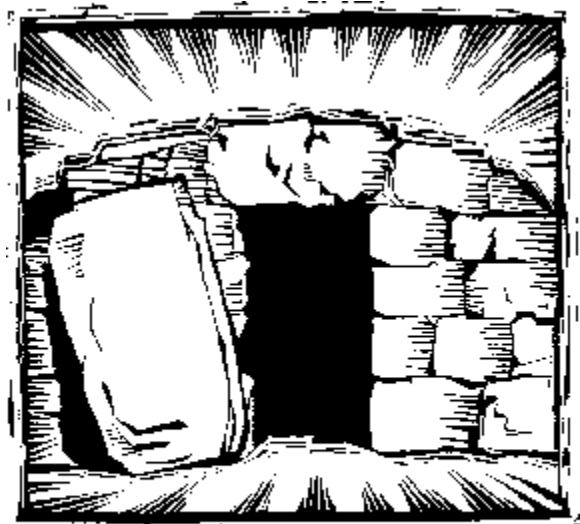
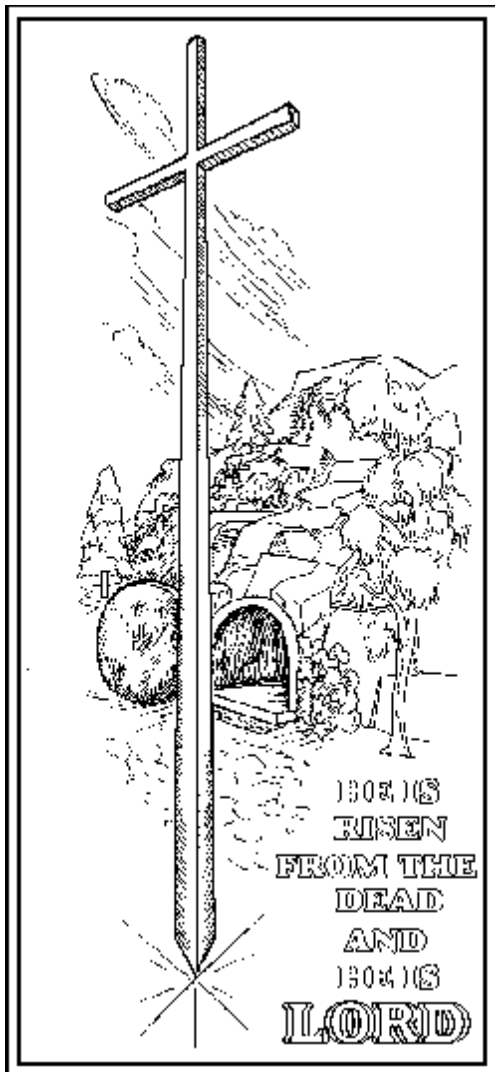
This spring we need the faith that Jesus taught  
More surely now than in the ages past;  
We need His strength to meet the fierce  
onslaught  
Of madmen who have set the world aghast.

*This spring we need the courage Jesus showed  
While dying on the cross for others' shame;  
We need His wisdom on this war-torn road,  
And true compassion for the ones to blame.*

This spring, above all others, we should see  
The need for more united brotherhood;  
We need to map the course in harmony,  
And work to salvage all there is of

*This spring when blossoms tell of life renewed,  
We need an understanding gratitude.*

by Pearl Carter Phillips



# E A S T E R

## In The Garden

I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own;  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice,  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing.

I'd stay in the garden with Him  
Though the night around me be falling,  
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe  
His voice to me is calling.

Words & Music: C. Austin Miles, 1912

This hymn was sung in the 1984 movie  
"Places in the Heart," which won two Academy Awards.

# St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

## Seek ye first the kingdom of God

by Nancy M. Hunter

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And His righteousness,  
And all these things shall be  
added unto you**

Karen Lafferty's rent was due. Her car payment was, too. Having left a well-paying job to pursue a call to ministry, Karen began a journey into uncharted territory.

Believing that where God guides, He provides, Karen stepped out in faith. But now her savings were gone, and bills were due. She spent the day on the phone trying to stir up interest in guitar lessons. She didn't want to go back to singing in nightclubs. If only she could get a job where she could make money and still be involved in ministry, but nothing seemed to open up.

Karen went to a Bible study that evening. The pastor was teaching on Matthew 6. Karen remembers, "When he read verse 33, 'But seek first His kingdom,' I just thought, Yeah, that's the answer. So I went home ... and my rent still wasn't paid — but my joy was back."

Karen picked up her guitar. The words of Matthew 6:33 began to fit the tune she played, and an "alleluia" descant took shape over the top of it.

Karen shared her new song at a youth service. It was easy to remember and caught on immediately.

It was 1971, the height of the Jesus Movement, and people from all over the world were in

attendance at Calvary Chapel in Southern California. When they returned to their native countries, they took "Seek Ye First" with them.

When Karen woke up the next morning, her rent still wasn't paid. But within days she received a letter that led to a check which paid not only her rent and her car payment, but also covered the cost of the Bible-training course she had hoped to take.

The next year Karen recorded her simple Scripture song on an early Maranatha! Praise album. By the time she felt the tug to missions in 1978, God had taken "Seek Ye First" around the world.

And as a testament to God's promises, and Karen's obedience to the words that she set to music, the royalties from "Seek Ye First" have provided 80 percent of Karen's income as a "musicianary"—for over 30 years!

"The song is the simplest thing I've ever done musically," Karen says today. "Anyone could have written it. I'm just grateful God allowed me to write it."

And live it.

Lyrics by Karen Lafferty © 1972 Maranatha! Music. Copyright © 2006 by the Christianity Today International/Today's Christian magazine.

**Nancy M. Hunter, a retired nurse, is now a freelance writer from Rio, Illinois.**

### **Christian Aid Week May 2006**

**United Church Service - Sunday 14th  
At the West Church 06:30**

**House to House Collection:  
Mon 15th - Sat 20st**

**Men's Coffee Morning - 20th  
10.00 am - 12 noon  
Sale of Work - 18th  
10.00 am - 12 noon**

### **Can you help?**

**If you would like to help with  
door-to-door collecting during this  
year's Christian Aid Week. or if you  
would like to become more involved  
in the the work of Christian Aid,**

**Contact Andrew Parker or Mary Hamada  
(Tel: 891774) or Carol Ross (Tel: 896380)**

**(Collectors must be at least 16 years old)**

# St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

## Light of the World

Martin Lloyd Jones

Light not only exposes the darkness; it shows and provides the only way out of the darkness. This is where every Christian should be jumping to the task. The problem of man is the problem of a fallen, sinful, polluted nature. Can nothing be done about it? We have tried knowledge, we have tried education, we have tried political enactments, we have tried international conferences, we have tried them all but nothing avails.

Is there no hope? Yes, there is abundant and everlasting hope: 'Ye must be born again'. What man needs is not more light; he needs a nature that will love the light and hate the darkness—the exact opposite of his loving the darkness and hating the light.

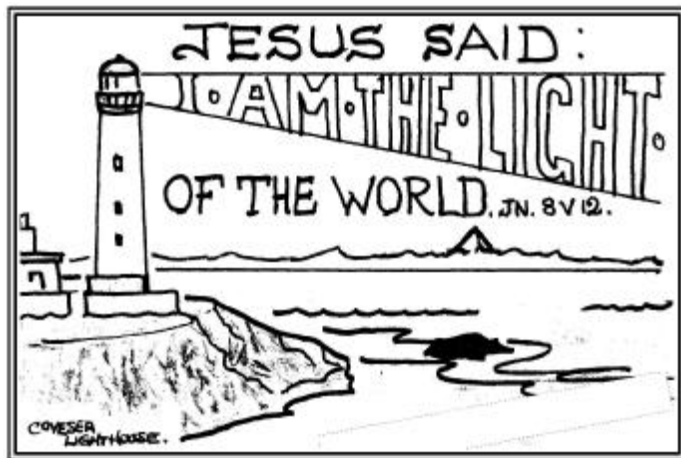
Man needs to be taken hold of, and he needs to get back to God. It is not enough just to tell him that, because, if we do, we are leaving him in a still greater state of hopelessness. He will never find his way to God, try as he may. But the Christian is here to tell him that there is a way to God, a very simple one. It is to know one Person called Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He is the Son of God and He came from heaven to earth to 'seek and to save that which was lost'.

He came to illumine the darkness, to expose the cause of the darkness, and to make a new and living way out of it all back to God and to heaven. He has not only borne the guilt of this terrible sinfulness that has involved us in such trouble, He offers us new life and a new nature. He does not merely give us new teaching or a new understanding of the problem; He does not merely procure pardon for our past sins; He makes us new men with new desires, new aspirations,

a new outlook and a new orientation. But above all He gives us that new life, the life that loves the light and hates the darkness, instead of loving the darkness and hating the light.

Christian people, you and I are living in the midst of men and women who are in a state of gross darkness. They will never have any light anywhere in this world except from you and from me and the gospel we believe and teach. They are watching us. Do they see something different about us? Are our lives a silent rebuke to them? Do we so live as to lead them to come and ask us, 'Why do you always look so peaceful? How is it you are so balanced? How can you stand up to things as you do? Why is it you are not dependent upon artificial aids and pleasures as we are? What is this thing that you have got? If they do we can then tell them that wondrous, amazing, but tragically neglected news, that 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners', and to give men a new nature and a new life and to make them children of God. Christian people alone are the light of the world today. Let us live and function as children of the light.

Taken from "Studies In The Semon on the Mount". Copyright The Inter-Varsity Press.



### Our Spiritual Lighthouse

Our faith is a lighthouse, not just a portal in a storm,  
But a steady beam by life to be lived, in any form.  
It guides and leads us; when the world darkens,  
it stands firm,  
Illumines all the corners as it does brightly burn.  
We must build it carefully with a foundation of trust,  
So it will never topple in any storm we are thrust.

The lens we must keep polished,  
for they are the windows of our soul.  
With all our trust in God our being will be kept whole.  
This beacon that searches within us  
can bring a great calm,  
Its guidance brings peace and hope is its balm.  
May this light shine in our life,  
without and within,  
As we strive against life's battles,  
we are always sure to win.

*Marcella Silberstorff*

## Christian Solidarity Worldwide

### Global Day of Prayer for Burma in London on March 11

CSW along with several other groups are to hold a Day of Prayer for Burma in London on March 11 as part of a global prayer initiative.

Jonathan Aitken will lead devotions and speakers from the Karen, Chin and Kachin ethnic groups will share prayer topics.

Guy Horton, a human rights campaigner who in 2005 presented the 'Dying Alive' report into the 'slow genocide' of the ethnic groups, will also be speaking.

Other topics for prayer will include support for the work to bring Burma before the UN Security Council and safety for those facing the ongoing attacks of the Burma Army. The Day of Prayer has been arranged by CSW, Karen Aid, the Karen Action Group and the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People.

Mervyn Thomas, Chief Executive of CSW, said: "Even as CSW campaigns for change in the political sphere, we are fully aware we must also pray for the people of Burma. The ongoing human rights abuses in Burma must drive us to our knees. I would urge as many as possible to join us for the Day of Prayer for Burma."

**For more information on the Day of Prayer, please call 020 8329 0031 or email [janebave@csw.org.uk](mailto:janebave@csw.org.uk) or visit [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk)**

(Burma has been ruled by a military dictatorship since 1962. There are an estimated one million people internally displaced inside Burma. It is estimated that about 10,000 people a year are killed by the Burma Army. )

**"Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry;" Psalm 34.14-15**

More Christians were martyred in the twentieth century than in all previous centuries combined. All over the world, men and women who heard about Jesus Christ and chose to follow him were brutally slaughtered for their choice. The onslaught has continued unabated into our new century. How will history record our response to the plight of the persecuted? Will we be remembered as those who rescued the perishing or as the silent majority?

Jesus tells us in John 10:10 (NAS) that 'the thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I have come that they might have life, and might have it abundantly'. We are the body of Jesus Christ on earth, and we have a mandate to ensure that the people of God have life and life more abundantly. I believe that we have been called to three roles. We are Ambassadors of Prayer, interceding for persecuted Christians. We are Kingdom Ambassadors, advocating publicly for our brethren and we are Financial Ambassadors, providing resources for this noble cause.

The need is urgent. Your partnership is vital. We do not stand alone. In Isaiah 41:14b we are reminded that God Himself will help us.

**Beverly Pegues  
President and CEO, Window International Network**

PS WIN 1040 is pleased to be working in partnership with CSW and others to promote prayer for the persecuted church. For more details and to sign up for e-mail prayer points please visit [www.win1040.com/prayerpoints](http://www.win1040.com/prayerpoints)

# St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso



## GUILD NEWS

Our Speaker for this session was Mr. David R. Jones who spoke to us about a "Better Deal for Fair Trade" explaining the success far outweighing the early failures. Mr Jones works with the Co-op Fair Trade, and brought an excellent show of goods displayed in the local branches. He shared chocolate with us. Yummy! !

We had a very blessed time with Mr & Mrs Guy Gordon & family each with their musical talents.

Mr Mike Potts spoke of how "Thurso in Bloom" began, and explained who supplies the plants which bring so much colour and pleasure to our Town.

We are in the final year of the projects chosen by us, with this years focus being on "Silent Hunger."

In the remote villages of Guatemala in Central America malnutrition is an ever-present threat. Tearfund, in partnership with Life Association, provide technical and financial support for health and community development projects. With the Guild's support, Tearfund will continue to help one hundred and twenty families to grow vegetables and keep livestock, assist the building of 35 homes, support and train 45 midwives, and many other things.

Wilma Miller enlightened us with stories of this project's success in Guatemala, This was enhanced with slides, shown by Mrs Ruth Hume., demonstrating the work of "Tear Fund".

By the time you receive this News Letter the young people of the church will have been and shared an evening of music, vocal, and no doubt fun. Visitors invited to this meeting will be from the North Coast Parish & Olig.

Our Guild has had several invitations to other meetings, the next on these being to attend the Salvation Army Rally on 13th March at 7.30 pm.

There will also be a gathering at the United Reformed Church in Castle Street on the 27th March at 7.30 , at which the choir from Wick Old Parish church will be giving a programme of songs . St. Anne's Church will be the venue for this year's Easter Praise.

We have had an excellent year so far and with only two more evenings one with our friends from the Episcopal Church and final one with Mrs. Morag Miller, and her links with "Riding for the Disabled" this will be our AGM. All our meetings are open to any one. Please come and see us there.

God bless you all

Mary Chalmers

**Contact person**

**Edited by Iain MacKillop for the members and friends of Saint Peter's and Saint Andrew's Church Thurso. Many thanks to all who contributed. Contributions not used may be used in later issues. Printed by St. Peter's and St. Andrew's Church.**