

# Autumn Tron Times

Newsletter | The Tron Church Glasgow | October 2013

## Don't go it alone!

Dear Friends,

It is no accident that so many of the commands given in the New Testament letters involve 'one another': welcome one another; care for one another; bear with one another; forgive one another; submit to one another; admonish one another; exhort one another, and so on. *Don't* judge one another, deprive one another, lie to one another, speak evil of one another, envy one another...etc, but *do* comfort one another, encourage one another, edify one another, and – above all – *love one another*.

The reason for all these injunctions is quite obvious: clearly, we need one another!

The apostles want the churches to understand that the duty for pastoral care (shepherding the flock of God) belongs to the whole flock. The Church is a family, and of course there is leadership within the family. Just as any family has its principal bread winner(s) Paul speaks in Eph 4 of the pastors (shepherds) and teachers whose particular calling is to bring the bread of life to the body of Christ. But in doing this their task is to equip all the saints 'for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.' 'Speaking the truth in love' to one another 'we are to grow up in every way'. It is 'when each part is working properly' that the body grows so that it 'builds itself up in love'.

This is very important to grasp, because it means that if the Church is to grow and be built up (in strength, maturity, grace and love as well as in numbers) then each part must be working properly; everyone must be ministering to one another. In fact, the truth is we cannot avoid ministering to one another; the question is, how are we ministering to one another? Negatively, and destructively (as in the 'do not's' above) or positively and constructively, in all these other commands (and many





more)? Does our pastoral care of one another reflect the loving care of the Good Shepherd, who laid down his own life for the sheep, or that of the negligent and self-serving shepherds for which the bible reserves such harsh criticism, because they cared nothing for the sheep, and only for themselves?

We live in an age of extreme individualism, within a culture of consumerism, and this affects the way we think and live far more than we realise. The whole concept of community is increasingly foreign, and modern technology means that we can privatise so much of our life experience: we do what we want, when we want, on our tablets and phones; we shop the same way, listen to music privately via headphones, and even communicate with others in an increasingly private way. Texting, tweeting and 'facebooking' have made communication both instant and ubiquitous, and yet distant and impersonal at the same time (as well as adding peculiar verbs to the English language!). It therefore should not surprise us that by default many Christians today have an individualistic, consumerist attitude to their church life also; we can hardly help it. We come to sing, to listen, to experience...to consume. But to minister? The thought is really quite foreign; isn't that what the staff are paid to do?

But the bible is a stark challenge to this way of thinking, to which we must listen and respond, because one thing which the New Testament makes abundantly clear is that you cannot go it alone as a mere consumer in the Christian life. Nor, for that matter, can you go it alone in Christian ministry. William Still puts it this way in *The Work of the Pastor* (still one of the best books any young minister or trainee could read):

'... no-one is or can be saved, except through the ministry (using the word in its total sense) of the church...no-one ever does any good for God or for Christ's sake anywhere, without other Christians.... The church is one in her work. None of us works on our own.'

In other words, the ministry, the pastoral care of the church, involves all of us. Why? Because we need one another! The Christian life is hard; '... it is through many tribulations that we must enter the Kingdom of God' and we cannot travel that path without the mutual ministry we receive from, and give to, one another.

All the New Testament letters are full of this theme, but perhaps the latter chapters of Hebrews are particularly clear. 'We have such a great salvation, and there is a such a great joy set before us, so keep running the race with endurance!' That's the message of the whole letter. 'Don't throw away your confidence...you need endurance!' (Heb 10:35). 'Don't throw in the towel', we might say. 'Keep going!' But, there are many reasons why we do often feel like throwing in the towel in the Christian life: there is the struggle of suffering (10:32) which comes to every true believer at some times in their lives (2Tim 3:12); there is the shame we bear (10:33; 13:13), the reproach of those who must live 'outside the camp' with Jesus in a hostile

world; and there is the sin which so easily entangles us (12:1), and can drive us to near despair.

Nevertheless, says the writer, we can endure, despite suffering, shame and sin, because we have two great provisions of God to enable us to run the race marked out for us: we have a great High Priest in heaven, and we have one another here on earth.

'Since we have a great high priest over the house of God', we can 'draw near to God with full assurance of faith', despite all these things (says Heb10:19-22). So, 'let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful'. But immediately it goes on: 'and let us consider how to stir one another up to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together...but encouraging one another.' In other words, we shall keep on drawing near to God in heaven, the source of our endurance, as we keep on drawing near to one another, encouraging and exhorting one another to faithfulness and endurance, here on earth.

Obviously the meeting together we must not neglect includes main gatherings of the church, such as Sunday services and corporate prayer meetings and so on. But it's more than that. Heb 3:13 encourages believers to '... exhort one another every day...' which surely implies the informality of ongoing Christian personal relationships rather than just larger meetings. Moreover, these relationships are assumed to be of depth and significance, because the reason given for mutual exhortation is clear: '...that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin'.

Sin is a great deceiver; through it we deceive one another and we deceive ourselves, and the truth is that the relative anonymity and distance possible in a larger church fellowship can be great cover for such deception. But it is much harder to pull the wool over the eyes of those with whom we share real, open and accountable (ie pastoral) friendships. That is why we need one another.

We must not either hide from, or avoid, honest pastoral relationships with one another. If we do, our adversary who prowls constantly seeking whom he may devour will deceive us, and we will easily be hardened, becoming a root of bitterness to defile and spoil not just ourselves, but others also (Heb 12:15). It is precisely to prevent such spiritual catastrophe that we are enjoined to eschew superficiality and sham, and exhibit true friendship within the family of Christ: 'having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbour, for we are members one of another.' (Eph. 4:25)

That doesn't mean we wear our hearts on our sleeves with everyone, nor suffocate a few in over-intense relationships that drive them to distraction. But it does mean having a group of Christians who will notice if you are not around, and allowing them to care for you, and call you to account with honesty and candour, as you commit to do the same with them. That is simply what it means to be part of the body of Christ; we are 'members of one another'.

Understandably, it is a challenge to our privacy and natural defensiveness to open ourselves up to others in this way. But, as we have been reminded in our recent studies, this is the very purpose of our new birth; we are redeemed for 'a sincere brotherly love' (1 Peter 1:22). William Still once again:

'In certain company you dare not let people know what you are, but amongst Jesus-folk (within reason and in degree according to how Jesus-minded they are) you can and must. A true Christian fellowship is a place where stray cats and dogs can find a home. It is a hospital, where the only sin is to hide

your wounds from the doctor and nurse.' (The Work of the Pastor, p 46)

I am so thankful for those whose true friendship keeps me close to Jesus-folk, and thereby close to the Lord Jesus himself. I couldn't go it alone. Nor can you; so let's determine to be a truly Jesus-minded fellowship who know we need one another, and make it easy to minister to one another.

Yours, together in Christ,

William J U Philip

## Home news

compiled by Ruth Hodgson

If you have ever been to an SU camp you will have known that last-day-of-camp feeling when you part from your friends, wonder how you can possibly go on existing without them (even though you really do appreciate your parents and all they do for you!) but then, oh joy, less than twenty-four hours later you meet up with some of them again in church. What a buzz! So much to say! Sundays in church in the middle of August at the start of the new school term were just like that. We are so grateful to God for all the opportunities afforded by summer camps and missions, for the large number of our church family who helped to run them and for the very many young people who benefitted. An equal buzz began about mid-September when previous years' students returned and new ones began to appear. A warm welcome awaits all of them. **Rupert Hunt-Taylor** and **Katie Piggot** with a host of helpers have made preparations for welcome teams, host families, student lunches, RtW evenings and much more that will help students to settle, make friends, and, above all, build them up in their Christian faith.

The term has begun for the Cornhill (Scotland) students and we have particularly welcomed our three new apprentices, **Anna Dews**, **Kenan Berker** and **Jonny Campbell**. Anna comes from Newcastle-on-Tyne and for the last three years has been teaching in Zambia; Kenan is from Enfield, north London and graduated this past summer from Strathclyde University in Audio and Video Engineering; and Jonny is from Nottingham and also graduated this past summer from Glasgow University and the Art School in Product Design Engineering.

We send our warmest congratulations to former Cornhill student **Bob Hamilton** and his wife **Gill** on the birth of **Alasdair John** on 2nd September and to **Mark and Louise Brennan** on the birth of **Martha Kate** on the 23rd September. We also congratulate **Jordan Black** and **Nicola Brown** on their engagement.

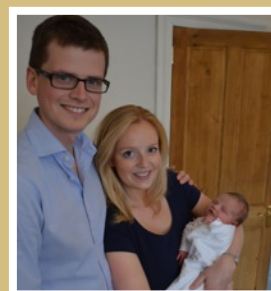
Our elder, **Duncan Munro** has been far from well and we lovingly uphold him and **Jenty** at this time. **Ian Constable** too, has spent much time in hospital recently and will have ongoing treatment. **Margaret Hair** and **Annabel Mason** have both had surgery. Margaret is making a good recovery and Annabel is currently undergoing treatment. These dear friends and their families greatly value our prayers. Several of our members are 'in care' and they too so appreciate our visits and our prayers.

We were saddened to lose **Kenny Macdonald** who died in August. Kenny was a Lewisman who maintained his strong island connections through the Free Church in Glasgow. Another faithful attendee who also died in August was **Bill McMillan** of Coatbridge. A quiet man who regularly cycled or walked to the church until well into his seventies, Bill was first brought under the sound of the gospel by **Bill** and **Anna Wright** of Airdrie. The Wrights are still remembered by many who will be sorry to learn that Anna died last month. We sympathise too with the **Lobb** family on their loss in September of Edward's mother, **Helen**, who came to personal faith later in life and who Edward had the great joy of baptising when she was sixty-three.

One of our teenagers **Kirsty McAuley** has begun a gap year project with SU working with after-school clubs and



Bob and Gill Hamilton with Alasdair



Mark and Louise Brennan with Martha

youth groups in one of the less affluent areas of Edinburgh. **Lesley Nichol** found her visit to Nepal useful and thought-provoking and is now continuing her studies while looking to the Lord for guidance re her future. Several of our members are working with **UCCF** in various parts of Scotland: **Laura Porteous** and **Alana Barrie** are both Relay Workers, Laura in Stirling and Alana in Dundee. **Andy** and **Naomi Baxter** are working with universities in and around Glasgow, Andy as a staff worker and Naomi as an associate staff worker, and **Caz Dodds** also works in Glasgow but continues to share the leadership of the work of UCCF in Scotland.

Our church premises in Bath Street which we share with Cornhill continue to burst at the seams in almost every activity. We thank God for all the blessing and encouragement he has given and look forward to the development of the adjoining building.

# The Lord is in the details

Beautiful things in small groups

And Jesus said to them,

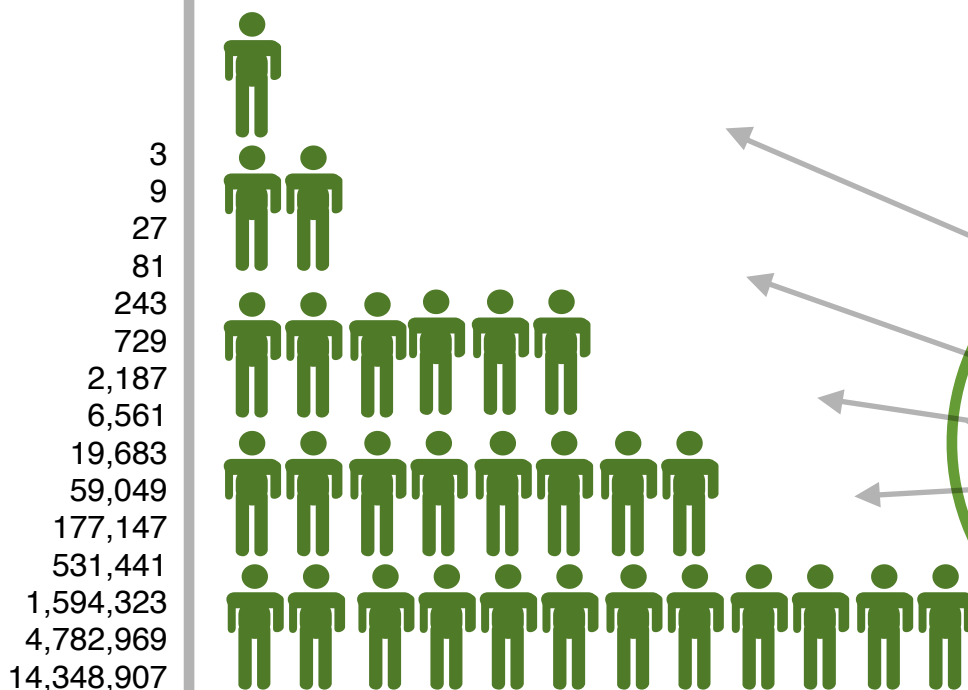
“Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations.”

Matthew 28:18-19

1. **Discipleship**: we're all disciples. We're all to be growing and maturing. Our small groups are the best place to help each other grow, to pray for each other and carry each other's burdens.

3. **Mission**: Jesus said GO! We want others to know and follow Jesus through our small groups. When we meet together in Bible study and prayer, we see our missionary God seeking to win the lost and we desire to do likewise.

2. **Practical care**: To 'make' disciples requires care and nurture. Small groups at the Tron Church provide an excellent opportunity, in a big church, to build deep friendships with others.



## Ministry multiplier

You discipled 2 people a year.  
They then disciple 2 people.  
And so on....exponentially.

Scotland discipled in under 15 years!\*

\*statistics are for illustrative purposes only.

House groups

Tron Youth

Church

Small group

Disciple

Bob Fyall reminds us often that the God of Genesis 1 & 2 is the God who is “up there” and “down here”.

Christianity Explored

Activ8

So Jesus’ parting words about God’s work up there are — “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” — and down here “go therefore and make disciples of all nations”.

internationals

Road to Recovery

Release the Word

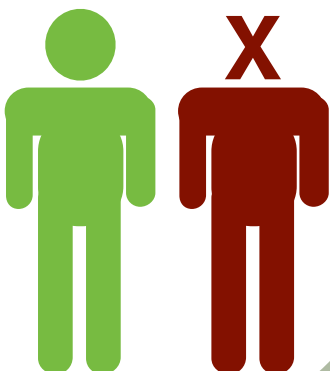
His plan is universal but it’s also personal — worked out in the detail of our daily life, discipling and being discipled.

Ladies fellowship

Prayer triplets

Discipleship is a process undertaken day-to-day and person to person. (and preferably in a small group!)

God sees people not projects



The point of small groups is to build stronger friendships, encourage following Jesus and help others to do so. This happens around the bible but will affect all of our lives including:

1. speaking
2. studying
3. eating
4. rejoicing
5. mourning
6. serving
7. relaxing
8. exercising
9. holidaying
10. dancing

Now go →

How can you be part of the disciple-making work?

Are you being discipled?

What small group are you part of?



# Why not join a small group?

## Release the Word

Church (Thursday pm)

Rupert Hunt-Taylor

## Internationals

Church (Thursday pm)

Katie Piggot

## Disciple

Church

(Wednesday pm)

Kieran Dodds

## Wednesday evening small groups:

Bishopbriggs: Dan Greaves

Burnside: Steven Grant

Church: Paul Brennan

Church: Richard Henry

Dennistoun: Alasdair Walker

Kelvindale: Arthur Porteous

Muirend/Clarkston: Kenan Berker

Pollokshields: Eric MacDonald

## Ladies small groups:

Crookston (Thurs am) Catherine Lobb

Church (Monday am) Isabel Murray

Church (Friday am) Jacqui McMahon

## Activ8/ Tron Youth

Church (Friday pm) Agnes Brough

Which group is this at their summer barbecue?



To find the right group for you,  
please contact Paul Brennan  
[paul@thetron.org](mailto:paul@thetron.org)



## Away news

compiled by Ruth Hodgson

**Scott** and **Nok Murray** are still recovering from the destruction caused by flooding to the Kwai River Christian Hospital in Thailand. So much essential equipment has been lost yet babies have been delivered and operations have been carried out in conditions that would be unthinkable here. With our Harvest Offering we have been trying to assist their rehabilitation and replace equipment. Scott and Nok are amazingly resilient, but they must be very tired.

We have just said farewell to **Carol Whipp** who will return to her homeland of Australia in November. After nurse training Carol came to UK, studied midwifery, went to bible school, then served in India, Fiji and Scotland with **WEC International**. Most recently she led a Neighbours Worldwide team in Wolverhampton. Now she will assist with the care of her mother who a short time ago came to personal faith. Carol still needs a place to live when she gets back to Australia.

**Sam** and **Ruth** have encouraging contacts with quite a number of local people whose involvement with them is in childcare, housework and teaching. We remember their children, **Mark, Paul, Lisa, Johannes and Annieka** and all the opportunities they provide for their parents.

**Imran** and **Nagina Gill** work with OM in Pakistan's Northern Province but are presently considering an invitation to take on more responsibility in another area altogether. They have seen much growth in the church where they are but long to see greater understanding and knowledge of God and his Word among his people. We are very aware of their need for wisdom and protection in a land where there is considerable hostility to the gospel.

**David** and **Julie Rowbory** are settling back into their work in Jos, Northern Nigeria. The girls are pleased to be back though still missing their Scottish friends, and Julie has begun the task of home-schooling **Rebekah** while at the same time looking after **Elizabeth** and **Abigail**.

News from **Kenny Macleod** in Slovakia is that English teaching work for a foreigner is much more difficult to come by because of changes in employment law. Kenny is looking to new possibilities in a business environment. Much encouraged by the students' response to the gospel at summer camps he is now starting an English class for them.

**Jonathan** and **Juay Blyth** continue their work in Turkey with Jonathan having increasing responsibilities. They doubtless find it hard to be so far from **Andrew** and **Nina** who are studying in the UK.

It was good to hear that the return-to-Cambodia trip for **Darren** and **Susan Wall** with **Elspeth** and **Catrina** was a resounding success. They are now back in Sevenoaks, Kent with all the demands of work in OMF for Darren and Susan and of school and friendships for the girls.

**Bill** and **Margaret Dunlop** are back in Uganda. Bill teaches theology to students from diverse backgrounds and Margaret helps with those struggling with English and also teaches in a church primary school.

# SPOTLIGHT on

## Donnie Campbell

### a marathon not a sprint



‘If you want to win something run 100 metres. If you want to experience something, run a marathon’, said three time Olympic gold winner Emil Zatopek.

I’m no athlete but catching up with Donnie Campbell indicated that Zatopek may well have been on to something.

A former Marine, Donnie spent three years in the service including a tour of duty in Iraq.

He is currently the fastest man in Scotland over 100km and has just returned from Austria after winning a road race competing for Scotland over this distance.

Donnie not only runs competitively but to raise money for some great causes and this summer undertook 19 ultra marathons (30mile runs) in 19 days in Africa this summer two of which involved treks over Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya to raise money for the African Palliative Care Association.

In 2011 Donnie completed a challenge to get from Milngavie to Portree in his native Skye without stopping to sleep in 44 hours raising £15,000 for Skye Cancer Care.

Donnie’s running has led him to experience so much more than the fantastic sporting achievements he has

enjoyed. For it was through his training and race preparation that he came to faith after turning his back on Christianity at the age of 16.

Donnie said

‘At the age of 16 I decided that I wanted to experience something of the world, stopped going to church and my priorities shifted towards having a good time with my friends and going out at the weekend.’

### Training other people presents an excellent opportunity to live out my faith

After leaving the Marines in 2005 Donnie moved to Glasgow to study sports development at university. After leaving university in 2008 he took up running; initially for exercise but quickly became clear he could compete internationally over long distances.

‘Long distance running is as much about mental preparation and mental strength as the physical side so one Sunday before a race I decided to go to church and ended up in the Tron as part of my preparation. I won the race and then

became superstitious about attending church the Sunday before an event and even began trying bargaining with God during a race – if you let me win I will go to church next Sunday. This was selfish and totally the wrong attitude but it introduced me to the Tron and the more I came the more I enjoyed it and by April last year I was going every week. It was during this six month summer period that I really began to engage and encounter the gospel, slowly but gradually coming to Christ’

Running a personal training business Donnie trains athletes at all stages; including fellow ultra runners through to people in their 60s who want to be active in their retirement.

‘Training other people presents an excellent opportunity to live out my faith by example in terms of how I prepare for races and doing the right thing. I love running but it is not what defines me and I’d like to think the people I train see that in the way that I work with them.’

So on and off the track – spiritually and sportingly Donnie is enjoying ‘running with endurance the race set before him.’

# Other ministries

compiled by Ruth Hodgson

**Phil and Emma Copeland** have now been working in **Christ Church Harpenden** for a year. They are enjoying it and are really encouraged that the young people seem keen for bible study and have now started to invite their mates along to the youth group. They have regular trips back to Glasgow where Phil continues with the Cornhill Pastors' Training Course.

**Scott Hamilton** has started as a Cornhill student and is doing an apprenticeship in St Catherine Argyle Church in Edinburgh. He is already involved in working with teenagers, students and seniors there and so far, is thoroughly enjoying it.

**Jonathan Keefe** was encouraged by the recent eight-year review of the Robroyston Church by the 'Emerging Ministries and New Charge Development Committee'. Leaders and members were quizzed and it seemed to highlight for

Jonathan just how far they had come and grown as a fellowship in knowing and loving God and each other.

The new **Trinity Church, Aberdeen** is almost two years old and we are so pleased to hear that **Peter Dickson** is recovering well and gradually taking on more in his leadership and development role. The youth group is growing and more new people are beginning to attend church services. They look forward to **Andy Gemmill's** visit for their church weekend away next month.

**Murdo Maclean's** churches in Mount Vernon and Carmyle continue their outreach work in the area with some input from **Matthew Todd** who runs a junior choir in the church for local children. There is the possibility of some help from a group who have been working with Niddrie Baptist Church in Edinburgh.

Murdo, along with Matthew, continues to be encouraged in his work in the prison.

**Kenny McKie** is SU Scotland West's Team Leader and divides his time between managing and supporting staff in his area and also working with a host of Regional volunteers to ensure that the work in schools, weekends away and national camps are staffed and taken forward, and that appropriate training is given.

**Alex Bedford** has many significant and fruitful conversations with people through his open-air work and street ministry in city-centre Glasgow. He is conducting a follow-up CE course in Kilmacolm and has several preaching engagements but the long-term for Alex and **Catherine** and the girls is as yet unclear



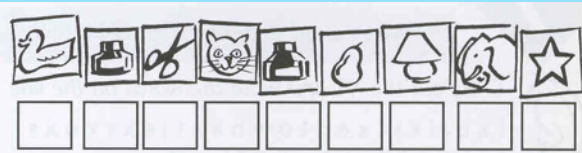
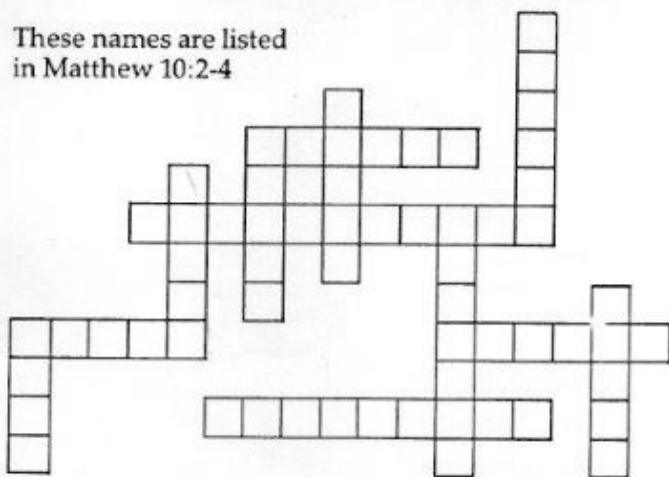
## Jesus calls people to follow him

When Jesus was beginning his work on earth he chose a group of men to be his followers. He taught and trained them so that they could share his message with others. They were to become known as his ....

Can you fit the names of all the disciples into this grid?

ANDREW	JAMES	MATTHEW	SIMON
BARTHOLOMEW	JOHN	PETER	THADDAEUS
JAMES	JUDAS	PHILIP	THOMAS

These names are listed in Matthew 10:2-4



Use the first letter of the name of each picture to put in the boxes underneath

Peter, Andrew, James and John were the first disciples. Read the bible verses to find out what Jesus asked them to do.

Read **Luke** chapter 5 verses 1-11

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