

## Weekly Newsletter: 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### Reflection: This is the Way

By Lorna Ferguson

*“And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.” Isaiah 30:12*

In Japan if you ask someone for directions, there is a good chance that rather than just explain the way, the person will actually take you there themselves. Similarly, if you ask a shop assistant where an item is, they will go with you and point the item out. No need to listen to and remember directions - just go with the person.

One of David’s favourite Bible verses (and perhaps one of yours too) was Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Do you feel that your paths are straight? I have to admit that mine rarely feel that way, so at times I have wondered what this verse means.

A few years ago I was taking Alistair to football practice in a neighbouring city one evening. We didn’t have a car so I borrowed OMF’s large 8-seater van. The main road went round 3 sides of a square so, being sure that there must be a more direct route, I consulted Google maps. And sure enough, there was a road that looked like it went straight from our apartment to our destination. So off we drove with my phone beside me calling out directions.

Whilst we do have some broad highways in Japan, there are also a lot of extremely narrow roads which wind their way through houses and other buildings. Well, it turned out that this “straight” road was one of the latter. “In 50 metres turn left”, “in 80 metres turn right”, “in 40 metres turn slight right” – the Google map app on my phone barely paused to take a breath. It was dark (streetlights in Japan are few and dim) and I had no idea where we were. At least once we met a car coming in the opposite direction and I had to reverse up against a wall to let it past. I thought about turning back, but there was no room to turn either. My only choice was to continue following the instructions coming out of my phone and wind my way through these narrow roads. And eventually we did indeed arrive at our destination.

From my perspective as a driver, this road was anything but straight, yet from the zoomed-out perspective of Google maps, it did indeed look straight. It struck me that perhaps this is what the paths of our lives are like. From our perspective they don’t seem straight at all, yet from God’s perspective they are. If I wanted to reach my destination safely the only choice I had was to follow the directions being given. I had no idea

where I was or whether there was any other way to get there. I just needed to keep obeying the voice from my phone. And so it can be with God's guidance. We might not be able to see where we are going, or know how to get there. What is important is that we don't lean on our own understanding but rather trust in Him, submit to Him and keep going.

During David's initial diagnosis he had a PET scan to confirm if he did indeed have lymphoma. Because of public holidays it took about 10 days to get the result. During that nervous waiting time I sensed God say to me, "This is the way, walk ye in it". I don't usually hear God's voice, but this was amazingly clear. There was a path, a way mapped out for us. We were to walk in it. In the rollercoaster of the following 12 months with the ups and downs of chemotherapy, and sometimes-good sometimes-bad test results, the path seemed anything but straight, but that verse never left me. This was the way we were to walk. God was the One who was directing our paths and we trusted that from His perspective they were straight. And God was not just giving us directions, but was in fact walking with us the whole journey.

An alternative translation of "he will make your paths straight" in Proverbs 3:6 is "he will direct your paths". Whether we feel that our paths seem straight or anything but, there is a way for each of us to walk. And as we do so, we can trust in the One who not only directs our paths, but also goes with us on the journey.

## The Summer Appeal 2022 – Now closed

It is with thanks to God for the generosity of His people in Holyrood that the Summer Appeal now stands at **£14,173.75**. The Appeal is closed and will be divided between the Sorsamos, Lorna Ferguson and James Stewart.

We have received this thank you from Wycliffe for the Sorsamo's gift – 'Thank you so much for informing us of the generous donation given by the Church. We are so thankful for your faithful support. Please do thank the Holyrood Evangelical on our behalf.'

## My Favourite Books – This Sunday @ 5.30pm

By Joe Barnard



I'm inviting members to a one-off book club in the church this Sunday (14th) at 5.30pm.

This event is open to all ages, men and women. In fact, my hope is to make this an annual event. Each year I'll pick one book that has had a significant impact on my thinking and invite people to come on a Sunday evening for discussion. The book this year will be *Till We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis.

## Church Barbecue – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Save the date! We'll be having our annual church barbecue on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September at the Newlands Centre in Romanno Bridge, Peeblesshire, EH46 7BZ

## Sound Survey – Thank You!

The AV Team want to pass on their thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the sound survey. It was a helpful exercise and we are very thankful to the AV for all their hard work each week.



## Edinburgh Korean Grace Church – Picnic in the Park

It is great to have the Korean Church using our building on Sunday afternoons. On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August we are hoping (weather permitting!) to have a picnic and time of fellowship with the Korean Church over in the park after our morning service. The Korean Church are planning to join us for our morning service that Sunday. Please keep the date free and come along with your picnic!

## Act Like Men, Hope Church Bingham – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August



Joe is speaking at a city wide event 'Act Like Men' on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August from 7pm until 8.45pm. All men in the church family are invited to attend and the aim of the conference is to 'encourage each other to live for King Jesus in Edinburgh and beyond.'

There will be music from 20schemes Music and a book stall run by the Faith Mission.

Speak to Joe for more information.

## Speak out against censorship of pro-life views – Christian Institute

Scottish Green MSP Gillian Mackay is holding a consultation on her proposal to introduce censorship zones around all abortion clinics in Scotland. Her Bill would criminalise handing out information leaflets or offering help to women, as well as banning entirely peaceful demonstrations. The closing date for responses is **Thursday 11 August**. Please respond today [here](#). The Christian Institute have produced a briefing which is available [here](#).

## Origin Scotland – Symphonic Praise, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September



'In Symphonic Praise we both perform and join with the congregation in singing some of the greatest hymns ever written. It will be led by the Origin choir and orchestra, guest soloists and will feature brand new arrangements of great hymns, written specially for this night.'

**When?** Saturday 24 September, 7.30pm

**Where?** St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh

**Ticket price?** Voluntary donation

**Booking?** Please book your tickets online [here](#)

## Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting on Zoom at 7pm
- Sunday:
  - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching. Please contact Liz by 12 noon on Thursday if you would like a socially distant seat.
  - Bible Class Lunch at the manse
  - My Favourite Books by Joe Barnard at 5.30pm in the church building



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