

Weekly Newsletter: 13th June 2023

Reflection: Do you remember?

By Lorna Ferguson

"I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds." Psalm 77:11-12

Last week marked 25 years since David and I arrived in Singapore to attend OMF's Orientation Course before heading to Japan a few weeks later. I wrote a Facebook post to mark this anniversary but commented that I couldn't remember the exact date we left. On seeing this my mother (in her 80s) promptly got in touch not only to confirm the date but also with a story of me losing an earring at the airport! I have to admit that I have no recollection of this; in fact, I have very little memory of that day. While my memory works reasonably well for facts and figures, unfortunately it is not so good when it comes to people and events – quite a disadvantage when you are a missionary, regularly meeting people and attending different events.

The Bible places great emphasis on remembrance. In the Old Testament God instigated several festivals to help the Jewish people remember various events in their history. Passover reminds them of their miraculous deliverance from Egypt. The Festival of Booths (or Tabernacles) is a reminder of the fact that their descendants lived in temporary shelters after leaving Egypt. Purim (the Festival of Lots) recalls how God, through Esther and Mordecai, delivered His people from Haman's decree to destroy them.

In the post-Enlightenment West, we often think of remembering as a cognitive act- bringing past events to mind so that we don't forget them. But if we consider these festivals, we can see that they are much more than that. At Passover the Jews were to sacrifice an animal and eat unleavened bread. During the Festival of Booths they were to live in temporary shelters for seven days (Leviticus 23:42). When Jewish people celebrate Purim they read the book of Esther, celebrate with hamantashen (triangular biscuits named after Haman), exchange gifts and give money to the poor. Remembrance is not only calling to mind what happened in the past but also experiencing it in some way in the present.

This is true of the Lord's supper as well. We are not only to remember what Jesus did for us in our minds, but in eating the bread and drinking the wine, we are to experience it. At communion this month at my church here in Japan, just as the minister was about to say "This is my body, which is for you" the building started shaking- an earthquake. It wasn't a big one, and once the shaking stopped the minister continued with the service. But I found it a significant experience. Matthew records that there was an earthquake both at Jesus' death and at His resurrection. Experiencing an earthquake during the Lord's supper helped me to think more deeply about what it must have felt like to be there as Jesus died.

As Christians we are not just to remember God's works on special occasions or at the Lord's supper. We are to meditate on them in our daily lives. In the Japanese Bible, the character most often used as part of the word for 'remember' is 思. This character means to 'think' and is made up of two parts. The bottom part is 心 – the character for heart, showing the involvement of our emotions and not just the rational mind.

When we "remember the deeds of the Lord" we should do so with our hearts, engaging our emotions along with our minds. I've noticed that many Japanese Christians cry when sharing their testimonies, showing the emotional connection they experience as they remember what God has done for them. In Psalm 77 the Psalmist is crying out to God in his distress, but then decides to remember God's miracles and mighty deeds. And, as in so many other Psalms, through this act of remembrance he gains a fresh perspective, a confidence that God is also with him in the present, and hope for the future.

May this be our experience too as we make remembrance with our minds and hearts a regular part of our lives.

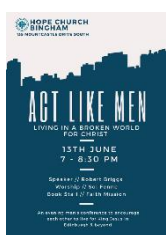
Eddie Little

Eddie Little passed away peacefully at home on Sunday 11th June. His funeral service will take place on Tuesday 20th June at 3.30pm at Meadowbank Church. The burial will be at 2.30pm at Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery. Please pray for Edna and the family.

Pickleball and Table Tennis – this Tuesday

The church will be open on Tuesday evenings at 7pm for anyone wanting to play pickleball and/ or table tennis. Everyone is welcome and if you've never tried pickleball, come along and have a go at one of the world's fastest growing sports! Contact Joe for more details.

Act Like Men – this Tuesday



All men are invited to this evening conference to encourage each other to live for King Jesus in Edinburgh and beyond.

It's on **Tuesday 13th June from 7- 8.30pm** at Hope Church Bingham, 135 Mountcastle Drive South. The speaker is Robert Briggs and Sol Fenne is doing the music.

The Scottish Bible Society Appeal – Birifor Bible Translation



We have been praying for the Birifor Bible translation over many years. The Scottish Bible Society's latest appeal 'Hope for the Fearful' is for the work of translating the Old Testament into the Birifor language. If you would like to make a donation, go [here](#) or contact The Scottish Bible Society, 7 Hampton Terrace, Edinburgh EH12

5XU or phone 0131 347 9801. Many thanks.

Church Barbecue – this Saturday

Last call! Please sign up [here](#) or contact Liz by Wednesday at 5pm if you're able to come so that we can plan for catering.

We're looking forward to getting together as a church family for a time of fellowship, food and fun! There will be team games, races, a tug of war and hopefully some sunshine...

We're back at the Newlands Activity Centre, Romanno Bridge, West Linton EH46 7BZ on **Saturday 17th June from 12 noon until 4pm**. Food will be served around 1pm.



If you need transport, please speak to your home group leader to make arrangements in the first instance and contact Liz (Liz@holYROODEVANGELICAL.ORG) if there are any problems or you need help organising a lift.

Plans for the summer

Joe and the family will be away in the US from Tuesday 27th June until Wednesday 26th July. Here are the plans for our services:

Date	Morning service	Evening Gathering
2 nd July	Neil Longwe	Neil Longwe
9 th July	Neil Longwe	Neil Longwe
16 th July	Bob Akroyd	No service
23 rd July	Bob Akroyd	No service

Neil and the family will be on holiday on 16th and 23rd July and we're delighted that Bob will be taking our morning services. The prayer meetings will continue on Wednesday evenings as normal at 7pm on Zoom and in person on 5th July.

For any pastoral matters when Joe is away, please speak to Neil, an elder or a member of the Pastoral Care Team (Alison Nelson, Alasdair Roberts, Elaine Harley or Liz Scott).

Book Group

The book group this month will be discussing *We need to talk about race* by Ben Lindsay. Hazel Sorsamo will be leading the discussion and so the meeting will be on Zoom rather than in person. Please note that the meeting will be on 1 July. For more details speak to Anncris (anncris@gmail.com).



Summer Appeal 2023



Summer Appeal 2023

Hannu & Hazel Sorsamo
Finland

Lorna Ferguson
Japan

James Stewart
Singapore

To contribute please use the bank details on holyroodevangelical.org (use reference 'Summer Appeal'), send a cheque to our treasurer, Nick Archer, or speak to your elder.

The summer appeal is now open for 2023 and will go towards the support of our three missionaries – the Sorsamo family in Finland, Lorna in Japan and James in Singapore.

The church bank details can be found [here](#) and please use the reference 'Summer Appeal'.

Cheques (made payable to Holyrood Evangelical Church) and cash in an envelope marked 'Summer Appeal' can also be placed in the offering box or given to Nick Archer.

Bethany Christian Trust - 40th Anniversary Praise Night



**Bethany
Christian
Trust**

Over the course of the year Bethany are marking their 40th year of service in various ways. We are invited to join them at 7:30pm on Thursday 22nd June, for the Bethany Christian Trust 40th Anniversary Praise Night.

The Praise Night is purposefully planned as a service of thanksgiving and praise for God's faithfulness and leading over the last 40 years, and to commit Bethany Christian Trust afresh to the purposes and love of God in the fulfilment of our mission. Registration for the event is free but please register if you plan to attend- <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/AnniversaryPraiseNight>

Time & Date: 7:30pm – 9:15pm, Thursday 22nd June 2023

Venue: Ps & Gs Church, 46 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3HP

Everyone is warmly invited to this evening of worship & praise, testimonies of God's grace and a message of hope.

Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Monday:
 - Baby and Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am
 - Warm Space from 12.30pm- 4pm
- Tuesday: Pickleball and Table Tennis at 7pm
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting at 7pm on Zoom with Rachael from Bethany Christian Trust
- Saturday: Church Barbecue from 12 noon until 4pm
- Sunday:
 - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Equip at 6pm (and live streamed)



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