



Weekly Newsletter: 7 January 2025

Update from the Kellard Family

It's been a joy to get to know the Kellard family on Sunday evenings as they've worshipped with us. Here's their latest update and ministry plans for the future –

A Twenty-Year Aspiration

It is late 2004. I (Joshua) am sitting in my Dad's study at our home in Shillingstone, a village in Dorset, south-west England. My eyes are trained on the computer screen, eagerly scanning the course lists of seminary programmes. I look at offerings from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—Master of Divinity programmes, theology PhDs—scanning, searching, and printing a few course lists. I may have been twelve, but twelve-year-olds can dream!

Stopping Short

The desire to study theology and, with it, to write and teach, has never quite left me. Twice in my adult life I have seriously pondered doing a theological degree, but have stopped short, for different reasons. Looking back, I am glad that I did not pursue theological study aged 22 or even 29. At 22 I lacked the maturity and life experience to make the most of the opportunities that a season of study affords. At 29 I did not have a clear sense of ministry direction, and was dealing with disappointment from hopes deferred in our previous work in Cambridge.

In 2022, the Lord graciously opened the way for us to move to Scotland, and I began work with the Banner of Truth Trust, a publisher dedicated to serving the church and its ministers with books, a magazine, and conferences. We joined The Livingroom Church in Wallyford, a congregation with a real heart to be a witness in the community, and Dilara and I began to serve in different ways. In this new life setting, enjoying the stability of a good job in a wonderful organisation, a new desire began to take root.

A New Direction

Although I grew up in a pastor's home, have nurtured a desire to teach and write, and have seen my life's work in terms of ministry, I have not, until recently, had a strong desire to be involved in church work. But this has changed since we came to Scotland

Over the course of the last two years, a desire to preach and to minister in a church context has been taking root in my heart. Working at the Banner has, under God, served to stimulate and encourage this desire. Towards the end of 2023, I began to think about praying into the matter. Yes, *think* about praying. To be honest, even praying about going into ministry seemed like a big step. At the end of 2023, a good friend

asked about our future. Somewhat reluctantly, I felt I had to share the stirrings in my heart with him—they were getting harder to ignore! Not long after, another friend, a local pastor originally from America, asked me point blank if I had considered ministry. In March of last year, Dilara and I started to pray specifically about my going into ministry.

Just three weeks later, I had the chance to spend some time with the Chancellor of Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS—a school I've known about for a long time. I used to listen to their mp3s as an undergraduate in China!). He listened carefully as I shared about my growing desire to preach and minister, asked good questions about our situation and prospects, and affirmed my desire to undergo training.

Master of *What*?

While seminary isn't a necessary qualification for ministry in the church, I personally feel a deep need for the depth and breadth of training—in handling the Bible, in theology, in practical ministry—that a programme like the Master of Divinity offers. Many pastors testify that their time at seminary has set them up for a lifetime of ministry, providing a solid foundation that is difficult to attain otherwise. It has fed them, and set them up to feed others for many years.

In the 9 months since April, we have talked with our church elders, who have been supportive of our trajectory. I've met semi-regularly with Joe, the pastor friend who challenged me about ministry, for fellowship and to discuss C. H. Spurgeon's '*Lectures to My Students*'. In late October, Reformed Theological Seminary offered me a very generous majority scholarship to study for the Master of Divinity programme. We are very grateful to the Lord for His gracious leading and provision, and to RTS for their generosity and welcome.

What Next?

So, time for the big news (!): Lord-willing, we will be moving as a family to **Charlotte, North Carolina**, in the second half of 2025. Charlotte brings us closer to two of Dilara's sisters (one in South Carolina, one in Virginia) as well as our good friends at Triad Church in Greensboro, NC, and many friends Dilara made during her time living in Wake Forest, NC.

We anticipate Joshua's MDiv studies will last 3 to 4 years, during which time we hope to be part of a new church plant in the Myers Park area of the city of Charlotte. Alongside seminary study and church involvement, we'll continue to educate Caspian, Hadassah, and Aidan, linking up with the strong home educating communities in Charlotte. Our hope is that longer term we will be moving back to the UK to pursue church ministry.

Needless to say, we are very excited. There is much to be done, and much to work out, but we wanted to let you know our 'big news'. Please do pray for us - for peace, wisdom, and joy in the moving process.

With much love, Joshua, Dilara, Caspian, Hadassah, and Aidan

Women's Bible Studies

We're looking forward to getting together on Thursday mornings for the next six weeks from 10:30am – 11.30am to study God's word, pray and enjoy fellowship together (and one or two scones!). Please join us if you can!

Thanksgiving Services - George Paterson and Margaret Johnstone

We were saddened to hear of the passing of George Paterson and Margaret Johnstone and are remembering their families in our prayers.

George's funeral will take place on **Friday 10 January**. There will be a private burial and then a Celebration of George's Life at 11.30am at Whyte's Causeway Baptist Church, Kirkcaldy KY1 1XF. Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards.

A Thanksgiving Service for the Life of Margaret Johnstone will take place on **Wednesday 22 January** at 2.30pm at Meadowbank Church. Everyone is welcome to both these services.

Christmas Appeal 2024

Thank you to everyone who has given generously to our Christmas Appeal. **The current total is £14,099** and this Sunday (12 January) is the last day of the appeal.

We're supporting the following projects this year-

- Onesimus Fund – Cornhill Scotland. Helping to train useful gospel workers for Scotland and Beyond
- Delhi Bible Institute – supporting DBI's 'Loving The Poorest' appeal
- Merchant City Church Plant – supporting Neil Longwe and David Trimble as they plant a church in the Merchant City in Glasgow
- Bethany Christian Trust – supporting their Buy-a-Bed campaign
- Friends International – to help provide trips for international students in 2025
- Sparkle Sisters – a Christian led charity born out of the desire to share the love of Jesus and enhance the lives of women, of all faiths or none, who have in some way been affected by homelessness and/or abuse. See their website for more details - <https://sparkle-sisters.org/>

holyrood evangelical church Details in the newsletter Christmas Appeal 2024

Merchant City Church Plant Neil Longwe and David Trimble church plant in Glasgow

Cornhill SIMUS Fund helping to train gospel workers for Scotland and Beyond

Contributions by bank transfer, offering box or cheque - all marked 'Christmas Appeal'

sparkle Sisters share the love of Jesus & enhance the lives of traumatised women

Delhi Bible Institute dbi 'Loving The Poorest' appeal

Bethany Buy-a-bed Campaign Edinburgh Welcome Centre emergency accommodation

Bethany Christian Trust

friends Friends International to help provide trips international students in 2025

Cornhill Scotland and Delhi Bible Institute with each receive 30% of the total raised. The remaining 40% will be split equally between the other projects. There's one week left to give, you can transfer money directly into the church bank account <https://holyroodevangelical.org/giving/> or place donations into the offering box marked Christmas Appeal. Thank you!

Book Group

This month's book group meets at 3.30pm on **25 January** at 9 Craigentiny Avenue and we are reading To a Different Drum by Pauline Hamilton. For more information speak to Anncris Roberts.

Home Groups and Prayer Meetings

This Wednesday some of our Home Groups are meeting and we're continuing our studies in the Sermon on the Mount. Our Home Groups meet on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Please contact Liz@holy-roodevangelical.org if you're not in a Home Group and would like to be.

We meet to pray on the 1st, 3rd and 5th (if there is one) Wednesdays of the month at 7pm in the church. We're planning to have a meal together at 6pm before the prayer meeting on the following dates –

- Wednesday 15th January
- Wednesday 5th February
- Wednesday 5th March

SU Scotland - Quiz Night

On **Saturday 1st February** at 7.30pm the es-team from SU Scotland are holding a Fundraising Quiz Night at a Ferniehill Evangelical Church, Edinburgh EH17 7AA. Suggested donation of £5 per person. Refreshments included and contact Alasdair Roberts if you're keen to attend or for more details.

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Home Groups across the city
- Thursday: Women's Bible Study at 10.30am in the church
- Sunday:
 - Morning service at 10.30am – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
 - Evening service at 6pm – Sam Allen preaching (live streamed)
- Monday:
 - Baby & Toddlers Group 10am – 11.30am
 - Warm Space 12 noon to 3pm



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