

12. **“Body Building” sessions** Nothing to do with weight-lifting or taking steroids! Just sessions for “building up” the body of Christ, as Ephesians 4:12 puts it. The minister is keen to run these sessions particularly for those who are younger in the faith - ie have been following the Lord for a relatively short time, regardless of age! Others longer on their spiritual journey will be welcome too, but the sessions will focus on bringing on less experienced Christians in their relationship with the Lord and with the world. The first session will be on Wednesday 1st September and thereafter there will be a session following the prayer meeting each week it is in the hall - so, every four weeks or so, to begin with at least. We hope to cover such topics as: getting the best from the Bible; prayer; what it means to be a communicant; the structures of the church; evangelism and mission; politics and social action; worship and witness. So sharpen your pencils and your minds!

13. **Programme** BBC Radio nan Gàidheal marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Free Church camps with a special programme, which will be broadcast on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 9am exploring the history of the camps and the camp experience in 2010. This documentary offers a taste of camp life 21<sup>st</sup> century style, visiting this years’ Gaelic camp which took place at Badenoch Christian Centre during the Easter break, led by Ruairidh Maclean, minister of Harris Free Church in Leverburgh. This programme celebrates the 50 years of the Camps and tries to discover what, in a largely secular society, is the continuing attraction of these holidays to both young people and the adults who help to organise them. The programme will inform some, enlighten others, provide a nostalgic moment for those who have taken part in previous Camps and perhaps inspire others to participate in the future. Presented by Màiri Macaulay, the programme was produced by Eyeline Media for BBC Radio nan Gàidheal and funded by MG ALBA.

14. **Digital Switchover** For any who need help with the change from analogue to digital TV, or know of anyone who needs help, leaflets are available in the hall. Please take and use if you need them.

# Knock Free Church

## Intimations and Sermon Notes

22nd August 2010

Welcome to our services today. If you are a visitor or unfamiliar with our services we use the English Standard Version of the Bible in our English services. We also use a combination of traditional metrical psalms (The Scottish Psalter) and a more recent rendering of metrical psalms (Sing Psalms). Both renderings are combined in one Psalm Book, copies of which can be found on the shelves at the back of the hall and at the entrance to the main church. For our Gaelic services copies of the Gaelic Bible are available in the same locations. Our practice at all services is to stand for prayer and sit during the singings.

1. **Fire Drill** There will be a fire drill today after each of the services in the morning, simulating a fire in the hall kitchen. You are asked to listen out for the fire alarm and then take note of the directions given by those in charge. Please leave the hall by the emergency door, NOT by the main door into the hall, as quickly as possible - ie as you would in the case of an actual fire! Those in the Sunday School must leave by the main door of the church NOT by the hall door. All should then leave the premises (including the car park) immediately, again as would be the case in a real emergency, so no stopping for talking in the car park today! A report will be given in the evening as to how the exercise was carried out. Your cooperation in this is appreciated. It is important for the safety of everyone and for the training of those in charge.

2. **Evening Service** The service this evening will be in English at 6.00pm, in the church. The sermon will be from Isaiah chapter 1 verse 18, entitled "*Grace's Invitation*".

3. **Point-2-Life** The Point-2-Life meetings will begin again this evening at 8.30pm at the Aird Community Centre. All young people of Secondary School age and upwards are welcome. Tonight will be an informal get-together just to start off the new session. New faces will be very welcome.

4. **Prayer Meetings:**

Wednesday, 7.30pm - meeting for prayer and Bible teaching at Aird.

Saturday, 7.30pm - no English Prayer meeting due to the Stornoway communion. The meeting will be resumed after our own communion in November.

5. **Services next Lord's Day:** Services will be as follows:

10.30am - English service in the hall. Sunday School meets at the same time.

12 noon - Gaelic service in the hall.

6.00pm - English service in the church

6. **Crech** The list of names for the creche rota is completed up till the end of September. Next Sunday (29<sup>th</sup>) the supervisors will be Mary Bell Macleod, Mairi Macleod and Catriona Dunn. Those who help with the creche are asked to keep adding their names at appropriate dates on the sheet so as to make sure the rota is filled well in advance. A copy will be available in the hall and at the main door of the church for reference.

7. **Rev Alistair Begg at Knock Free Church** We expect to have Rev Alistair Begg preaching at Garrabost on Sunday 26th September. We will have two services that day, both in English, at 12 noon and 6.00pm. Alistair Begg has been Senior Pastor at Parkside Church, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, since 1983. You can find their website at [www.parksidechurch.com](http://www.parksidechurch.com). This again will be a great opportunity to invite people to church and we will make up some leaflets to hand out nearer the time. Meantime please pray and let people know of the visit.

8. **Discussion Conference on Worship** The Board of Trustees as instructed by the General Assembly has arranged a conference for ministers and elders to take place at Dingwall Free Church 23rd to 24th August. No decisions on the church's worship will be taken at the conference; it is meant to prepare the way for the Plenary Assembly which will decide this issue in November. Please remember this conference in your prayers.

9. **Lending Library** A small lending library of books has been set up in the side room on the Garrabost side of the church. We hope to build up the stock of books over time, as well as other materials such as Christian DVDs and CDs. There is a notebook to use in signing out books when borrowed. Just sign your name in the book whenever you take one out and the same when you take it back. Also a donation is asked for when you borrow the book, which will go towards WFM funds. Just put your donation in the box. Please use this facility and if you have any books that you think might be suitable for the library please bring them along to the room and Christine will see to them.

10. **Fencing manse glebe** The Deacons' Court decided to fence the perimeter of the manse glebe seeing the current fence has become so dilapidated over the years. Most of the fence along the roadside has disappeared altogether. It was agreed to ask the men of the congregation to volunteer their services for this work, probably over a couple of Saturdays after the materials have been purchased. Callum Campbell will coordinate the work so if you can help please let him know, even if it's just for part of the time required. No doubt he will be head-hunting people in any case!

11. **Minister's Visits** The minister will be carrying out general visitation again this week on Thursday in the Flesherin, Portnaguran area.

## Morning Service 22nd August 2010

### The Life of David (9)

#### Sermon Title - David's "Yes" to God's "No"

Passage to read - 2 Samuel chapter 7

Sermon from: 2 Samuel chapter 7

Psalms:

89:1-6 - (page 344 - Scottish Psalter - Common Metre)

89:19-24 (page 346 - Scottish Psalter - Common Metre)

89:25-29 (page 347 - Scottish Psalter - Common Metre)

- How God's promise to David in this chapter could be said to be the "summit" of the Old Testament.

#### 1. GOD'S HOLY REFUSAL OF DAVID'S PLANS

*(a) David's Concern* - to build a house for God

- David lives in his palace and does not see it fitting that the ark is not housed
- note that this took place at a time of peace and rest - why is this significant?
- how do we use the "quiet times"?
- David is not motivated by selfish ambition - see 2 Chronicles 6 v. 7-9

*(b) God's Response* - he will build a "house" for David! (v.11)

- God's refusal was not punishment but a question of what was fitting
- when God changes our plan it is because he has a better plan for us!
- God promises David a son through whom he will establish David's throne
- how this refusal and information was a test of character for David

#### 2. DAVID'S HUMBLE ACCEPTANCE OF GOD'S PLANS

*(a) his first step* - he sat before the Lord

- it seems that this was before the ark - he sat as a pupil and servant
- how we should make this our first step - the example of Gideon and Jesus

*(b) his praise of God* - there is no sign of the slightest disappointment!

- confession - v.18-21
- adoration - v. 22-24
- petition - v. 25-29

*(c) his encouragement of Solomon* - see 1 Chronicles 22

- this is what proves that David genuinely accepted God's plans for him

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## Evening Service 22nd August 2010

### Sermon Title - Grace's Invitation

Passage to read - Isaiah chapter 1

Sermon from: Isaiah 1 verse 18

Psalms:

25(2) - (page 233 - Scottish Psalter - Common Metre)

51 (page 67 - Sing Psalms - 878777)

32:1-5 (page 243 - Scottish Psalter - Common Metre)

130:- (page 173 - Sing Psalms - Common Metre)

- an invitation to Buckingham Palace - no great damage if you cannot go
- not so with the invitation in the text! - the consequences stated in v. 19-20

### 1. AN UNEXPECTED INVITATION

*Because of the sinfulness of the people* - described in v. 2-17

- includes rebellion, ignorance, idolatry, injustice - summed up in v. 5-6!
- v. 2-9 - the scene is a courtroom with summons and charges presented
- v. 11-15 appear to make the sentence of the death penalty inevitable!
- instead there is the invitation of v. 18! - how this is the heart of the gospel
- what are we being invited to do? - to "reason together" with God!
- this does not mean we can make demands of God, yet we may discuss with him!

### 2. AN UNCOMPROMISING INVITATION

*Because of the sovereignty of God* - see v. 1, 4b, 9a, 10a and 20

- the invitation comes as a command - God will not compromise his position!
- pardon exists but God will not give away his rights to offer it or create it
- how this is achieved through a Mediator - how different to a Facilitator
- the greatness of Christ in representing both God and sinners fully!
- how this makes the invitation here all the more wonderful!

### 3. AN UNSURPASSABLE INVITATION

*Because of the scope of forgiveness* - note the terms "though...yet..."

- "scarlet" describes the depth of sin's guilt and defilement
- the impossibility humanly speaking of extracting all of sin's colouring
- God's pardon leaves no trace of sin's guilt! - the same true in sanctification
- hence the offer in this invitation is unsurpassable - not even God can improve on!
  
- have you come to accept this invitation to a new beginning and new identity?
- are you before God "red like crimson" or "white as snow"?

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