

August 2010

Dear Family and friends,

As usual we have been busy and WOW is the best way to describe the summer season we have had... The norm is to go through a summer slump, but we have had anything but that.

School got out on 1 July and we geared up for our VBS program. We had a great week with 28 children involved plus workers. Each evening we had activities with a Teen Time Discovery on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We started with 6 on the Monday and ended with 22 teenagers. 39 folk came Tuesday evening and over 80 for our Thursday night BBQ. My old pastor used to say you could tell how good the week was by how tired you are at the end... Well we had a super FANTASTIC week—we were so tired we couldn't see straight. Then it was topped off in the Sunday Family service with at least 75 folk... a new record for us!

We have had 32 different visitors since Easter, several of whom are now coming on a regular basis which has been a real encouragement. Some are families who had not been attending church anywhere. Now they are asking questions about what is being preached and taught. It is an interesting challenge to preach and teach in this time as there is a level where it has to be very basic yet I still need to serve a bit of meat for the more mature to chew on.

Along with all these blessings, we have had some of the most trying times in our ministry. We have had weeks when it seems like we are counselling one heartache after another. There have been several days when one person hasn't left before the next one is in the door. We continually point them to the ONE who can solve their problems, but it still takes the energy right out of us and we find ourselves exhausted! The effects of sin are ugly.

In our last 'Bridge' I asked for prayer for health, especially mine and Judi's. Thank you for your prayers. My health has been better this summer, but still not where I want to be. Judi has had a good summer and seems to have more strength as the days go by. The girls started back to school, so our prayer is that Judi will be able to handle going to school full time. Please continue to pray for our continued health, strength and energy so that we can accomplish the work ahead.

The building is making slow progress. As you can understand, baby Christians have not learned to tithe and so, although the work continues, funds are quickly running out and we will have to stop renovations for a while. Our five year permit will be up in April for our building change of use, so there are some things that we must complete before that time. At present we have estimated that we need about £20,000 to do the projected projects. Pray with us that we will find ways of fund raising to come up with the moneys needed to finish these. If we do not have these done in the allotted time, we will have to reapply for these permits again.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support. We are so thankful for each of you keeping us in your prayers. We truly understand that without you, we would not be able to stay here!

Your Bridge to Brechin,

Jon, Ruth and Family