



## SCOTLAND FOR THE LORD

FEBRUARY 2018.

We send our Greetings, (New Year and all others) from a very chilly, snowbound, Scotland. The winds, for a change, are coming from the east – all the way from arctic Siberia. Very little snow, as yet in Perth, but plenty is forecast for later this week with some low temperatures of -7 at our lower altitude down to -14 up in the hills. Add the wind-chill factor and, as one brother at service yesterday said, “It’s a wee bit haarie (cold) but its fresh and keeps you lively.” Our postman must be of the same mind, as he is still wearing shorts on his delivery round.

Arriving at Lubbock airport last January 16<sup>th</sup>, to begin our journey back to Scotland, we found that our connecting flight to Dallas/Fort Worth airport, was cancelled twenty minutes before its flight time. The ‘knock on’ effect with our two later flights, to London and then on to Edinburgh, meant that we arrived back in Perth with just enough time to drop Maurice off at home with the luggage -- and to switch on the heating. Polly needed to be the adult lady chaperon-carer, for the young girls, and went on straight to the Wednesday evening youth club. Scott Tominey, our young co-worker, had been kept posted on our arrival time and had met us at Edinburgh airport. Phew!!



After having a recuperation day, following our arrival in Scotland, we visited with some brethren who are “shut-ins” and then had a great visit with our family at Livingston -- on the south side of the Firth of Forth (about 25 miles west of Edinburgh). Tuesday Bible studies resumed – with Maurice starting an eight week series on the strength of church unity (local and beyond) and what its meaning is for the Christian. Our Wednesday Bible noon study continues in the “*Blend Coffee Shop*”.

Polly's weekday studies with Norma (50 miles north of Perth) and Annette (in Perth) have restarted after the winter school holidays.

Lawrence Orakafor, the Best Man at our wedding, paid us a surprise overnight visit and went with us to a *Robbie Burns* (a celebrated Scottish poet) *Supper* hosted by Scott. His appreciation of his first taste of Haggis was similar to that of Maurice's earlier introduction to this traditional meal – "You wouldn't want to spoil the anticipation of it by having it *every year*."



Polly's birthday, in February, was celebrated with ten Christian brothers and sisters, at a lunch in a Chinese restaurant – with a lot of fun and banter. Most of them, of retirement age, cannot often have a 'get-together' like this. It was wonderful to see the relaxed contentment on their faces.

Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, saw the annual *Men's Day* at the Cumbernauld congregation. Two speakers, either side of lunch, presented four very uplifting talks. These opportunities to meet with our brethren from other parts of Scotland, gives us great opportunities to encourage, and be encouraged, in our daily walk in Christ.

We lost the use of our 17 seater bus for a week -- as it had to undergo its annual government systems tests. Work was needed to bring the vehicle back up to required safety standard. Polly loves to drive this vehicle as it seems to bring back fond memories of similar vehicles that she drove in her days of Postal Delivery.

We attended a couple of Gospel meetings at Hyvots Bank, just outside Edinburgh and then at Kirkcaldy, 50 miles south-east of Perth on the following evening --16 & 17 February , it was great seeing all our friends from different congregations. The following weekend four of our 13+ year olds from our youth club were taken by Scott to a youth camp hosted by the Cumbernauld congregation. For one of the girls, Abbie Robertson, it was her first camp and she was very impressed by the young Christians that she met and talked with. Our Abbie brought Abbie Robertson to our worship service in Perth on the Sunday following - along with another young girl, Roberta, from Maurice's Wednesday Class. (Cumbernauld is the congregation that Polly and Maurice attended before going to study in Lubbock. Scott (now 26 years old) is a product of that congregation's youth programme.)

Polly's medical appointment produced the wonderful news that her left hip does not need to be replaced yet. Maurice's right knee problem needs a further review at a later date – while his asthma coughing is causing some concern and a further appointment has been made in March.



We continue to think of, and thank, our sponsoring congregation Hermleigh, all our supporters and friends for the support and prayers that you provide. Without this and God we would not be able to do this work here in Perth. May God continue to bless you in all your supporting endeavours.

In the service of Christ,

Maurice and Polly