



## Greetings From 'Bonnie' Scotland, May 2021.

We think our summer is just about to start. Trees are now in budding leaf and our spring flowers - daffodils and tulips - alongside the weeds - have bloomed. To offset this we are still experiencing overnight low temperatures and snow is still lying on some the hilltops and higher ground to the north of Perth.

Our UK lockdown was eased on May 17<sup>th</sup> but international travel is still banned to most countries – and allowed under strict conditions to others. Holidays abroad are discouraged and only allowed to ten named countries. Holidays taken in these 'green' countries incur no or a minimum of the fourteen day quarantine on return. The up side is that we have been able to visit our four grandchildren and their parents, for the first time in nearly a year, in Livingston – west of Edinburgh and just south of the main road to Glasgow. Our visitation ministry to the elderly and infirm lock-ins continues - but can now be indoors instead of from the chilly garden gates. We have been the only people the Surgeons have seen apart from their son, Graeme, who does their shopping. The large Glasgow metropolitan area is still the only place in Scotland where the moving restrictions of lockdown are still in operation. This has meant a further restriction on meeting for worship services in this area.



*Some of the locals that we love finding on our trips around the back roads in Perthshire*

Some of the church's smaller congregations have been able to congregate for their normal services if they can operate a two metres

distance between each other – and masks are worn and no singing. Others are waiting for the next relaxing of restrictions when we expect normal worship services will be allowed. So we are still meeting on Zoom. Maurice has continued to preach and has led at the communion table with the Newcastle and Dundee congregations. We have continued to enjoy listening-in to several congregational services in the USA. Polly continues to teach a lady in South Shields (in England) via the telephone and has stepped in to lead a ladies prayer group while the usual leader is in hospital.

We, and some of our Scottish brethren, have finished our studies and they were absolutely thrilled at the lessons given by Stuart Jones, Brian Garnett and Ed Wharton – faculty members of S.A.I.M. at Sunset International Bible Institute, in Lubbock. We are in contact with a brother in Christ who was graduated in the same year as Polly – Priestley Nkhonjero of Malawi. He was having a difficult time as most of his support had evaporated as his supporters lost incomes due to Covid. A few of our brethren in have undertaken to send \$20 - \$25 per month to help buy basic essentials.



Last week we had our first meal out in over a year, as restaurants lockdown restrictions had been lifted – to celebrate having had our second vaccination against the Covid virus. Maurice missed his last ‘*procedure*’ appointment as the details of his medication control had not been given to him. However, he has appointments for a Covid test on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May, a blood test on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and the next stage of his ‘*procedure*’ is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Thank you again for all your support and prayers for our work in Scotland.

Maurice and Polly Charlton