



Spring 2026, ISSUE 45

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”

Colossians Ch4 Vs2

CONTINUE, WATCH AND PRAISE!

There is just something about reading about prayer that almost makes us switch off - I think it's because we become overfamiliar with this discipline of the saint. Every believer is going to say "I know a Christian needs to pray. I know God always hears our prayers; I know God answers prayer." Then why is it so difficult? Paul here really tells us why.

Continue: This is vital teaching on prayer that we need to assimilate. You are going to be prone to stop, to convince yourself that five minutes of "thoughts" is praying, that going to a prayer meeting ticks a box, that listening to praying is praying. When Christ was praying in Gethsemane the disciples fell asleep - we are like them. But Paul reminds us to "continue", day after day - even for the same things. It's having an attitude of "God consciousness", all the time. Make it habitual, common to every situation.

Watch: I think what Paul is pushing towards is pray specifically with details, then you are able to "watch" for the answers. If you are praying for someone, gather some information about how to pray specifically, then enquire about results a few days later. Are we really trusting God through prayer if we don't?

Praise: If you pray with detail, watch for answers, then you will have myriads of praise points and reason to thank God. If we don't watch for the answers maybe we have subconsciously assumed our prayers won't have any effect.

International Promotion: I suppose this title makes it sound grander than it actually was. We have a long-standing connection to a church in Indiana, USA. They have been interested in our ministry for quite some time ever since I connected with the lead and assistant pastor in the online world of video games. As we gamed night after night we would chat for hours about ministry, theology, doctrine, application and family; those were great days. Since then, our video gaming habits have changed but our interest in one another has not. At the turn of the year, I received one of those intermittent messages from Pastor Robinson to ask if we could record a 10-minute video about our family and ministry so they could play it as part of their morning service to their congregation. As a church they felt compelled to increase their monthly support toward us in Armagh. We are deeply grateful to those who are helping our financial shortfall from overseas.



Local Promotion: Every year we take the opportunity to set up a stand in Lurgan Baptist to represent the mission, alongside a host of other organisations. I am sure we could draw a list of pros and cons for this type of meeting. It consists of 5 sessions of mixing and mingling, while trying to strike up meaningful conversations. Some years it can prove to be really "fruitless" - but this year we had good opportunities to chat with a bunch of young people regarding Junior camp and CYIA week. We managed to recruit 3 new junior helpers for camp and 1 new recruit for CYIA. Our mission is built upon the foundation of faithful volunteers yet it's becoming increasingly more difficult to get people to commit, hence a trending decrease in all ministries across the board. That's why this conference was a highlight!

Good News Clubs: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are the three busiest days of our week usually just popping into our house for an hour to grab a quick bite of food, and then straight back out again. Why? Because of staff meetings, prayer meetings, school assemblies, Good News Clubs and running Teaching Children Effectively courses – all crammed into 3 busy days. The Good News Clubs will be finished for the season by the time you are reading this. They have been a great source of Joy as we went from 2 benches, then 3 benches and finally 4 benches to accommodate all the children who came to the Drumhillery after school club. Their enthusiasm was palpable and it was with sighs of sadness that we ran our last day of club. Many of them are booked into junior camp, so it will be great to catch up with some of them in the summer. The P1-P3 club in Hart memorial primary school done extremely well at learning John 3:16 word perfect, along with the 11 Makaton signs to accompany it – Principal Frizzell was amazed to see their efforts.

Teaching Children Effectively: Twelve weeks and 44 classes later the “Serve Youth” TCE1 course as well as the “Christ Encounters Tabernacle” Module 1 course have finally come to a conclusion. The 10 students in total, across both courses, have done extremely well and should be proud of themselves. They have heard a lot, discussed much, overcame nerves and have now earned a welcomed break. Each student could recount how much time and effort they had to put into every assignment preparing themselves to demonstrate a visualised memory verse, a mock counselling scenario (which requires a good knowledge of the gospel as well as knowing your way around Bible passages) and the dreaded Bible lesson. But the weekly systematic teaching removed the fear and replaced it with knowledge. Now they are all set to teach more effectively at home, and for some overseas at planned summer mission trips. We pray that they might know the help and enablement of the Lord as they utilise the obvious gifting that God has given them in the advancement of the Gospel.



Junior Camp: No room at the inn was the message given to a very heavily pregnant Mary in Luke 2:7. As of today our junior camp in Armagh Baptist church is **FULLY BOOKED**. We have started a short waiting list in case anyone needs to pull out closer to the date due to sickness. But for now, we are left with the difficulty of how do we squeeze everyone into the space that we have available. Thankfully I grew up playing Tetris, creating with Lego and building Jigsaws – they might also be camp activities.

Online Ministry: Remember we still put content online twice per week. We are blessed to watch our subscriber count increase weekly. It was of great encouragement to hear from a local GB group that they were incorporating some of our Makaton signs into their parents’ night service.

Cook Required: We have a big need at the minute for a cook for Inters camp, 16th – 21st August in the Faith Mission Centre, Portadown. Could you help ? ? ?

Personal Visits: Thankfully I can say that after a recent personal visit to a local minister we might be looking to help launch a new Good News Club in October of this year. We have also heard of another Prayer group continuing.



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Ministry Priorities:

- **Prayer:** “Without God we can do nothing”
- **Connection:** “Without help we can do little”
- **Training:** “Without training we become stale”
- **Evangelism:** “Without a vision people perish”
- **Rest:** “Without rest we are prone to exhaustion”

Gareth & Lindsay Gwynne