





You may recognise the featured image which was taken at the finish line of the 2016 Triathlon World Series. The Olympic gold medallist brothers, Alistair and Jonny Brownlee, made headlines as they missed first place in the final race of the series. Jonny (L) was set to win the race until in the last couple of kilometres he became severely overcome by heat exhaustion. Before Jonny collapsed, just shy of the finish line, his brother propped him up and pushed him over the finish line for a second place finish. I was reminded of this event when I saw a post that Louise had shared headlining a similar athletic situation.

Such stories attract a lot of attention because they seem so counter cultural. Indeed, they stand in stark contrast compared to the prevalent contemporary culture of competitiveness and individualism. Perhaps, for Christians such acts of love shouldn't seem too surprising after all we are called to love one another as Jesus has commanded us. The apostle John says:

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. (1 John 3:16-18)

As we continued in our Choose Your King series last Sunday we were reminded of how David, before he was crowned king of all Israel, consistently loved his neighbour. Despite all the adversity that David faced he continued to treat his adversaries with honour and respect. Today, the culture of individualism and competition is coming out more and more both in the US elections and in response to the coronavirus. Perhaps, we can demonstrate a different way, a way that rather than pushing people away from the finish line we prop them up and cross over it together. As we run our race, let us not forget to help the others who are running beside us. It might just turn out that helping them over the line was the race we were actually running.

When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. (1 Corinthians 9:22-26)



What's on September

Wednesday 9th 7.30pm – Worship, Prayer and Bible Study (Hall)

Discuss the most recent Sunday message, pray and worship together. We will be meeting every other Wednesday alternating with the Thursday worship service for September.

The latest study questions can be viewed at:

<https://dunfermlinewest.org/links/biblestudy>

Sunday 13th 11am – Live Service (YouTube/Facebook)

Anthony will be reflecting on "listening as an act of discipleship."

Thursday 17th 7pm – Church gathering

Alan will be leading us as we gather together in the church for a time of worship and reflection.

Sunday 20th 11am – Live Service (YouTube/Facebook)

Tune into our live worship service on Facebook or YouTube as we gather together digitally.

Wednesday 23rd - Worship, Prayer and Bible Study (Hall)

Discuss the most recent Sunday message, pray and worship together.

Sunday 27th 11am – Sunday Worship (Online/Church)

Join us at the church or on YouTube/Facebook as we worship together. Note: to be confirmed, based on installation of an internet connection at the church. More information will be provided closer to our first Sunday back together in the church.

Please read the latest guidance on meeting physically with us:

<https://dunfermlinewest.org/assets/files/reopening-guidance.pdf>

Our **next live Reflections in the Psalms with Prayer** will be on Wednesday 7th October.

Sharing In and Out Together

World Mission: Iranian Christians in Prison

Iranian Christians knew the meaning of isolation long before the pandemic arrived in their country. The danger of house churches being infiltrated by informers and the risks of arrest, job losses and of young people being expelled from school or university because of their faith is ever-present. In a recent episode of a Sat7 broadcast, Farshid, who spent five years in prison for his faith, shared a remarkable perspective of experiencing God behind bars.

At first Farshid was held in a hall housing a number of prisoners of conscience and said he thinks 'this was the first time that a number of believers jailed for their faith experienced living in Christian community in prison. There we had the opportunity to spend two or three years living together'. He said they no longer met in a 'house church,' but a 'bed church', meaning that on a Sunday four other Christians would come to his bed, the only private place, sit on the bed and sing worship songs they remembered, and studied their Bibles. Toilet duty was another fellowship opportunity! On one occasion all four people who went to clean the toilets were Christians. For 40 minutes they sang, prayed and interceded. It was not the most hygiene place but they cleaned joyfully and Farshid

discovered something that was new to him which he described as 'lovable pain'.

Farshid spent 361 days in solitary confinement but even in this dark period, he developed a different kind of relationship with God, who gave him the deepest sense of encouragement and peace and he tasted grace in a new way which strengthened him. Another was the prayers of the support of fellow Christians. He says 'sometimes in my cell although nothing specific had happened, all of a sudden, I felt a surge of intense joy, as if a cool breeze just flowed within me and I knew someone, somewhere on this earth was praying for me'.

Farshid has now been released but there are others who are still held in prison. May we be grateful for our own freedom and pray for those who are still suffering because of their faithfulness to God.



Generosity

We would like to thank all of you for your generosity in continuing to give to the church during this time. We appreciate that these are uncertain times and are grateful that many of us are still able to contribute to the mission of the Church. You can find further information on how to give to the church via bacs (preferred), cheque or cash at: <https://dunfermlinewest.org/giving/>

Sunday's Message

If you haven't had a chance to watch the message from Sunday or would like to watch it again you can watch it at:
<https://youtu.be/KxQ66bilseU>

Buddy Groups

Keep up to date with prayers for our community at
<https://dunfermlinewest.org/prayers>.

Connecting with us

You can connect into each of our services via <https://dunfermlinewest.org/online> and also via telephone using our latest stay connected details at:
<https://dunfermlinewest.org/assets/files/dwbc-stay-connected.v6.pdf>

Subscribe, Like and Invite.

Please do regularly keep up to date with the churches news on Facebook and YouTube and interact with its content:

- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7BuBS_TUKDMvu5Wcpg9PAg/
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dunfermlinewest>

Worship Group

As we are creating new songs we are adding them to a YouTube playlist which you can listen to whenever you like at:
<https://dunfermlinewest.org/worship/playlist>

Let us continue to stay in touch, to pray for one another and to not lose hope.

Your brother in Christ, Anthony