

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

### **Where is our Faith - a reply**

So Murray Mathers has decided or should I say decreed, that this congregation, has - to put it more politely than he did - a couldn't care less attitude to prayer and faith because of poor attendances at the prayer meetings.

Surely only God knows our innermost thoughts and feelings. As I cannot claim to be omniscient, I can only speak on my own behalf.

It's true I do not attend the prayer meetings on a Sunday morning, but every day at any time and in any place I can have my own prayer meeting with God. Jesus often prayed alone and I cannot think of a better example to follow. I do not regard prayer as a virtue, it is a privilege granted to us by the Grace of God.

As for faith, each time I pray, for help or in thanksgiving, my faith assures me that I am in the presence of God, even although I am not in the presence of Murray!

*Molly Banks*

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### **Where Is Our Faith?!**

With reference to the above article of last issue and to Murray's comments.

Yes, - Communal worship and prayer is very important you are right, and must be invaluable to God, when he says "Where 2 or more are gathered in my name I shall be in their midst"

But please do not write off those who pray in private (ref Jerome's recent talk) i.e. "When you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you!!"

Persons who, at times, are not able to attend or be part of group worship or prayer need not feel left out!

After all, What is the definition of faith but the belief in the things promised, the reality of which cannot be presently held.

In other words, it is a blind faith, in effect. If you could see it, it would not be faith. So let's keep on believing, not only in what we can readily see, but what we do not see, but trust in the reality of, without seeing at this time.

*Roddy Taylor*

### **Boys' Brigade Standard**

During 1992 I started attending Polmont Old Parish Church. During quiet moments, my eyes often strayed to an old Standard of the Boys' Brigade displayed near the organ in full view of the congregation.

Lately I've noticed it has either been shoved into a corner or hidden behind the screen.

I would like to know the history behind this standard and perhaps a more fitting site be found for it.

Can someone oblige?

*Lyn Mc Quaker*

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In the last edition of "Twinspire", the editor asked for comments on Murray's article. My own thoughts are that perhaps he was a wee bit harsh in his comments. As a relative newcomer to Polmont Old, I have been very aware of the deep and sincere faith of so many folk, and I am sure these are all people of prayer. We are Presbyterians – so we are naturally reticent about praying aloud at a meeting. Instead, we tend to do what Jesus taught, and go into a room, close the door and then pray to our Father in heaven. However, perhaps we should be less afraid of what others think of us, and what we are saying, and more responsive to the leading of the Spirit. Maybe we should make the effort to attend the prayer gatherings on Sunday mornings – where it is quite acceptable to sit and pray quietly, and it can be very uplifting to share the fellowship of prayer together.

Regarding the Healing Services, the attendances were low – but it could be that we are a healthy lot here in Polmont! Personally, I found the services to be beautiful and very meaningful and was so glad to be able to share in them. Again, I am sure that most of us do believe that our God can do anything, but perhaps that Scottish reticence takes over and we do not want our neighbour to know that we are in any kind of need!

Murray has certainly shaken us into thinking about our response, and that can be no bad thing. How we respond is likely to reflect our relationship with the One we seek to serve and follow in our daily lives.

*Doreen Baxter*