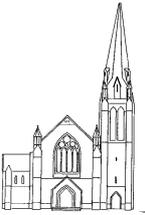




THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND NORTH PARISH CHURCH, GIRVAN AYRSHIRE.



August Newsletter for Girvan North.

Dear Friends, I thought this month I would speak about the valuable work of the Scottish missionary Mary Slessor. Mary Mitchell Slessor was born into a working-class family in Aberdeen on the 2nd of December 1848. In 1857 the family travelled to Dundee to look for work. Although Mary's father repaired shoes, he also battled with alcoholism, which made it difficult for the Slessor family. Mary, her older brother Robert, and their mother, had to search for work to support their large family of five younger siblings. They lived in poverty in Dundee. The poverty Mary endured gave her the determination she needed to succeed in her missionary work in Africa.

Mary worked in the Baxter Brothers and Co. Ltd. Lower Dens Mill. Her employer gave her an education, as he should do, through the Education Act of 1872. This meant six hours of schooling for Mary after a long shift of work. Mary became a linen power loom weaver by the age of 14, and like David Livingstone, loved to read.

Dundee, like so many places, experienced a huge increase in population as a result of industrialisation. Those keen to work however had to endure poor sanitation. Many people tried to gain respectability by going to the pawn shop on the Saturday night before attending the church on the Sunday morning.

In her twenties Mary taught in a Dundee mission in Queen Street. She led a Bible study and took youngsters out into the country to give them respite from their daily lives. Her sense of humour and down to earth nature made her very approachable. Mary's mother understood the importance of mission although she also realised that missionaries tended to come from wealthier families. Her family were devout, attending the United Free Presbyterian Wishart Church in the Cowgate area of Dundee. The Wishart Church was linked to the Calabar Mission in West Africa which we now know as Southern Nigeria. Mary was accepted to begin her missionary work after three months of training in Edinburgh. Although she became highly skilled, there were a lot of misconceptions of missionary work which she soon discovered.

Calabar was obviously much warmer than Dundee was, and Mary quickly got used to this. Mary was working with a lot of other missionaries, and she started to learn the local language Efik so she could communicate with the locals. She changed what she wore, cut her hair short and started to eat the local food. She sent money home to her family. Mary had to quickly adapt to the warmer climate, the wild animals, the local customs, tropical diseases, unfriendly tribespeople and tribal disputes. Alcoholism was also rife, and slavery persisted. Mary disliked the hierarchical nature of mission work and transport became difficult. Travel was either by foot or by canoe.

Missionaries had to live with the superstitious practices of the locals of Calabar. Witch doctors were prevalent and brutal "justice" was administered. Poison was given to the

accused. They were considered guilty if they died and innocent if they brought up the poison. Mary did her best to stop the killings and resolve disputes. Frequently she risked her own life in the process. Mary's greatest legacy in Africa was to stop the brutal murdering of twins due to the outrageous belief that one was the "devil's child". Mary adopted some of the abandoned twins despite the mission leadership discouraging this. They received a particularly good education from Mary. They were taught to read and write and learn passages from the Bible.

Mary suffered from serious bouts of malaria and other tropical diseases at Calabar. She would return to Dundee to aid her recovery. Often during this time she would talk about her experiences to raise money for missionary work and to recruit others to the cause. As a result of all the tropical diseases and bouts of Malaria Mary suffered from, she died aged 66 on the 13th of January 1915 in the village of Use Ikot Oku. She was revered by the locals and given a state funeral by the British at Calabar. She was much more than a missionary. She was a teacher, a carer, a nurse and a resolver of local disputes.

Jesus was also much more than a missionary. He was a teacher, a preacher, a miracle-maker, a conciliator as well as a visionary leader. Like Mary he was revered during his lifetime, and his legacy has stood the test of time. We are also inspired not just to spread the Word but communicate the Gospel message clearly to others. We should care for others less fortunate than ourselves. This is particularly important during these uncertain times. Mary said: "There wasno fretting over what may be. Each day's duties were done as each day brought them, and the rest was left with God". We should never be overawed in these uncertain times but do our best to accomplish our daily tasks as God and Jesus are always there to lead our way.

Kind regards, Glenn.

At the Home of Mary & Martha

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41-42 (NIV)



Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

sister	village	chosen	work
better	upset	woman	worried

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At the Home of Mary & Martha

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



As _____ and his _____ were on their way, he came to a _____ where a woman named Martha opened her _____ to him. She had a sister called _____, who sat at the Lord's feet _____ to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my _____ has left me to do the _____ by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are _____ and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is _____, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42 (TNIV)

better	home	listening	sister	work
disciples	Jesus	Mary	village	worried

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At the Home of Mary and Martha

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The puzzle is based on Luke 10:38-42 (NIV).

G J N K K K W M Q Q E A P A I
M Y E W M R I O Z W X E D G E
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U C S T K S E Z R K I P K T R
I I R A H N E E D E D E R H E
S J T D L A U P S E T Y D I P
B D I S C I P L E S R V T N A
E F R R V U N R E M A D E G R
T E W H H I C H O S E N D Q A
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E S S L Q U M L F G D C O G I
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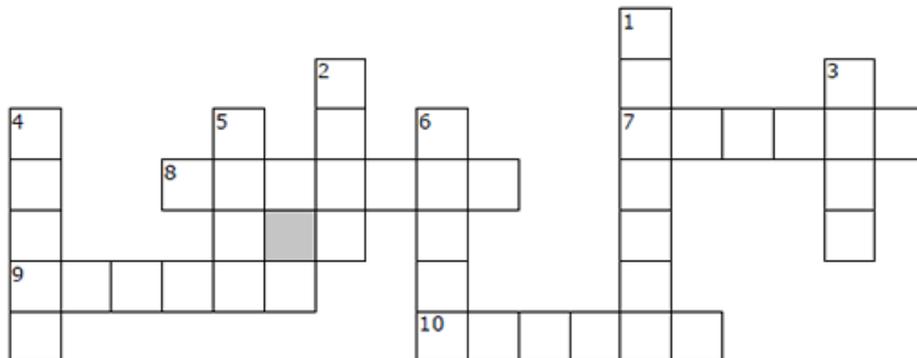
VILLAGE	THING	MARTHA	FEET	HELP
SISTER	PREPARATION	WORK	NEEDED	BETTER
WOMAN	UPSET	JESUS	TAKEN	NEEDED
DISCIPLES	WORRIED	MADE	MARY	CHOSEN

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ACROSS

7. To pay attention to what someone says
8. To be concerned about something; to be troubled
9. A spoken or written reply to a question
10. A female having the same parents as another person

DOWN

1. A very small town
2. Activity, such as a job, which a person performs; labor
3. To give assistance to someone
4. An adult female human
5. The place where a family lives
6. The son of God

work	worried	Jesus	sister	village
answer	help	listen	woman	home

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