

MINISTER'S LETTER

Hello Folks,

"Who despises the day of small things, for they shall rejoice and the plumb line will be in the hand of Zerubbabel." (Zechariah 4: 10)

I have been thinking on this phrase when I look back on the past year at Cumbernauld Old and all that has happened within it. The phrase comes from the Book of Zechariah and describes a time when the remnant of Israel return from exile to find the city and the temple in ruins. A man called Zerubbabel decided to rebuild the Temple, a massive undertaking, requiring the organisation of many people, a huge amount of hard work.

He started and experienced so many set-backs and so many difficulties, that in time he gave up in despair. The Temple foundations had been built but not the rest and it lay open to the elements and a reminder of broken dreams. Everything stopped for 16 years until Zechariah stepped forward and made the prophecy found in ch4 v1-10. It basically said that the Temple will be built not by the strength of people but by the power of God. In verse 10 we see the words which gave Zerubbabel such hope. The Temple was built with God's power and support, and all that had gone before, the foundations in place, the people who had helped in the past, the lessons they had learned, the small beginnings made, all had come together to take them through and succeed.

I feel that we in the church have had a year of "small things"; events which have worked so well and some which have not been as well as hoped. Small lessons learned as we have moved along, the necessary jobs which needed to be done and sometimes only discovered as each week comes along. The fact that we have had several different preachers throughout the year has been illuminating and has allowed us to see that there is no one way to do things.

Yet much more interesting has been the involvement of people from the congregation and so many have used talents they did not even know they had. Often small beginnings lead to something bigger and those who read the lesson or lead prayers are being developed by God for His purpose. We are all being developed by God for His purpose and He has our best interests at heart always. He is preparing the person who will come and lead this church into the future and He is preparing us also maybe in small ways but we remember the lesson from our quote today, it is not by our power that a new minister will come, it is through God's good grace and His power.

May God Bless you throughout the year to come and always,

Grace Saunders