

Precept Ministries Scotland Training Weekend in Thurso, Scotland 17-21 January 2019

And He said to them, 'Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men' Matthew 4:19

In July 2018 two ladies returned from the Scottish national Christian conference (Refuel) in Elgin to their home town of Thurso, right up on the north coast of Scotland.



Thurso, North Scotland



These two ladies had attended a Precept seminar at the Refuel Conference and started telling the church secretary of Thurso Baptist Church, **Morag** (photo above right), about Precept and inductive study. The more Morag heard the more she wanted to know. Morag emailed the Precept Scotland office making enquiries about the ministry and the method. Following conversations with Morag on the phone she was even more interested to find out more and start to study herself. Two months later Morag attended the inaugural Precept Bible School in Scotland, studying PUP Titus. During the intervening weeks Morag had conversations with the deacons of Thurso Baptist Church to invite Nigel and Molly to run a training weekend at their church in January 2019.

The week before we travelled, the Lord prompted Nigel to invite a friend who he is mentoring called **Justin Sheppard** (photo to the right). Justin came across Precept in March 2018, has attended two Precept Bible School courses and is extremely keen to continue studying and growing in his knowledge and understanding. Sandy Muirhead, one of the PM Scotland trustees very graciously agreed to drive 5 hours from Dunfermline up to Thurso, to help with the training and run the Precept book table.



Nigel, Molly and Justin travelled to Thurso, driving to Bristol Airport, flying to Inverness and then hiring a car, arriving in Thurso around 7:30 pm. Nigel and Molly stayed with **Guy and Jennifer**. Guy is a vet and Jennifer a primary school teacher. Their 19 year old daughter Cara was home from university (see photo to the left).

They are a very talented family and are part of the leadership team in the church.

On Friday morning we met up with the two ladies who had been at the Refuel Conference and had introduced Morag to Precept.

At lunchtime on the Friday we took **Reverend** (photo to the right) out for lunch. It was an important opportunity to start building a relationship with him and learn more about his church. That evening we had a meal with Stuart and his deacons in the church, after which Molly led them through an introduction to Inductive Bible study (photo below) so that the leadership had a greater understanding of the method before we started using a study the next day.



Kitty, Ricky, Stuart, Hazel and William are in the leadership team and were amongst those who attended the Friday night session.



Kitty and Ricky



Stuart and Hazel



William

Others included Stuart, William the treasurer, Guy and Jennifer, their daughter Cara, Justin and Sandy. Kitty was particularly challenged having done the training on the Friday night and commented *'I really enjoyed this method of learning about the Bible. I loved it!'*

On Saturday Nigel led a training day using 40 Minute Being a Disciple Counting the Real Cost, which was open to the church members and other churches. At the start of the day we asked them why they had come to the training and what they hoped to achieve during the day. These were some of their answers: *'I want to know the Bible better', 'I want to know the Lord', 'I want to disciple others,' 'I am here because of Morag's enthusiasm and leadership'*.



After leading them all through Lesson 1 we split them down into small groups to have a go leading themselves.

There was also a couple who travelled by ferry from the Orkney Islands to attend the training. This was a big effort involving an early ferry crossing that morning. The photo to the right is one of **Justin** leading a small group with the couple from the Orkneys (lady and gentleman at the bottom of the photo). The other ladies are 19 year old **Cara** and a lady originally from Brazil.



During the day and after the training people were very enthusiastic about Precept and the inductive study method. A lady called **Hannah** who had done Precept in South Africa for many years said, *'This is the best way to study the Bible.'*

We heard from **Les**, a 72 year old man who had never studied the Bible, let alone led a study. Les told us he wasn't really looking forward to the day and thought it was going to be boring. He said *'There are not enough hours in the day'. 'The time went so quickly. I loved it!'* Les' wife **Pam** was delighted. Both were grinning from ear to ear by the end of the day (photo to the right). On the day we left we heard back from Morag that Les had made a prayer of commitment to Christ at the end of the Precept weekly study which they had just started.



Isobel who is deaf (lady on the left of the photo) was amazing and was following along very carefully. **Marjorie** who had done a bit of Precept study was helping her throughout the day. Marjorie later commented that the day had been, *'very enjoyable and informative. Very thought provoking.'*



Cara was very excited to be able to introduce this to her friends at university. She said, *"I loved it! I've never felt so engaged in Scripture. I love that we learn about each passage without the necessity for knowledge of obscure verses from Leviticus or Greek! But the fact that we could go into these things too and learn more together was so interesting."*



Cara's mother **Jennifer** will be starting to lead a new 40 Minute study in her home and her husband **Guy** (photo to the right) will also start a separate group in their home. Each will have 7 people in it.



Jennifer is also going to start the small youth group going with the 40 Min studies too. We were able to put Jennifer in touch with our friends, Pete and Ruth in the Shetland Islands. Ruth has led many youth groups using the 40 Minute studies so will be able to help her as she starts.

It was wonderful to hear that **Audrey** gave her life to the Lord at the end of the day's training! **Morag** was brilliant with her (photo to the right). Audrey said, *'A worthwhile course for a complete beginner who has never read the Bible.'*



Trudy said, *'An excellent workshop. Thank you for travelling all the way up here.'* Trudy wants to become a financial supporter of Precept Ministries Scotland.



Morag leading a small group



Jennifer leading



Stuart the pastor leading

Sue (photo to the right) who has supported the ministry over a number of years said,

'Thanks for being here. It is an answer to prayer over many years. May the Lord bless the seeds sown to bring in His harvest,'

After the training we returned to Guy and Jennifer's home who had invited some of the church members back for a meal and to get to know each other better.

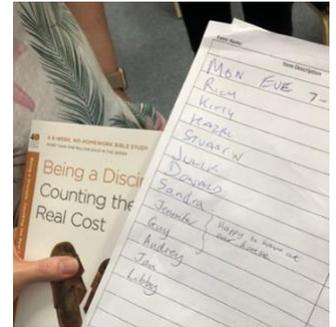


The following morning Morag interviewed Nigel, Molly and Justin before the congregation after which Molly led them all through a lightning study to encourage anyone new to join a new Precept study starting the next day. There were at least 4 people who signed up (photo to the right) to attend the new group who had not been able to attend the Saturday training.



As a result of Morag's enthusiasm and Guy and Jennifer's willingness to start a new study, there will now be three Precept groups running on a Monday; one during the day led by Morag with 12-14 in it, and two in the evening, led by Guy and Jennifer in their own home with 7 people in each group. Jennifer will also start a new group with the youth.

There was a real buzz after the service and a hunger to continue studying inductively.



Thurso Baptist have a very good relationship with Wick Baptist Church about 30 minutes away. Bob and Rhona, friends from Salisbury (photo to the right), attend Wick Baptist and asked the church if we could speak in their evening service which we did. After the service we spoke to the 3 deacons about Precept. Guy and Jennifer from Thurso Baptist know the Wick deacons well and offered to encourage them to start Precept studies themselves.



Although Thurso is at the most northerly point in the British Isles. Morag did a brilliant job galvanizing the church leadership who responded very positively. There is also a strong chance that there may be an opportunity to return to do some training with Wick Baptist Church in the future.

The day after we got back to Salisbury Morag phoned and said, *'There is a buzz here and it is bringing unity. This brings such a joy to my heart. It's brought life to this place. I am in awe of God. I thought we might get 5-10 people. I never expected that so many from our church would come, or new people too. Two people (Audrey and Les) were saved. We have new groups starting. Praise the Lord.'*



The beach at Wick, just along from Thurso, in North Scotland



"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me". Matthew 10:40

This was our experience as we ministered to Thurso Baptist Church over the weekend of 18-20 January 2019