

BALLYNAHINCH PRAYER WEEK: A matter of concern.

This 'flyer' relates to events from 1st – 8th March 2020

Your kingdom come!
24/7 PRAYER
1-8 MARCH 2020

Sunday 1st – 6:30pm @ St. Coleman's
Prayer Week launch with Alain Emerson

Sunday 10pm – Saturday 12 midnight
24/7 prayer room @ Space for Grace

Monday to Friday at 12pm
Lectio Divina gathering @ Space for Grace

Wednesday 4th @ 1st Presbyterian
Day of fasting with Communion at 8pm

Sunday 8th – 6:30pm @ St. Colman's
Worship and Celebration at 6:30pm

So, what are the concerns?

1. The speaker at the launch is ALAIN EMERSON who is lead pastor at Emmanuel Church in Lurgan. The article on this link will explain why I have concerns and also shed light on this '24/7 prayer initiative' - <https://protestantrevival.wordpress.com/tag/emmanuel-church/>

Some people may not be overly happy with the ministry that I have just directed you to (because of its 'forthrightness') BUT, whether you warm to their 'style' or not, the factual information they provide is more than helpful.

I also had occasion to mention ALAIN EMERSON in an article sharing concerns about Redeemer Central Church in Belfast. The reference to Mr Emerson is on page 2 of the article found on - <https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2019/January/Redeemer-Central-Church.pdf>

2. The launch is organised by Grace Fellowship and this is the link to their web site <https://www.grace-fellowship.co.uk/> They formed a few years ago when they moved away from Ballynahinch Baptist.

For a number of years Ballynahinch Baptist had pursued a rather charismatic and ecumenical path under several pastors and then, probably to the surprise of many, they appointed an orthodox and reformed pastor – through time it would appear that proved to be too much for some and so they left and formed Grace Fellowship.

This week of prayer was mentioned on their Facebook site and this was the preamble to the 'flyer' shown above –

<p>'24/7 PRAYER WEEK: 1 - 8 March Your Kingdom Come! Grace Fellowship and 1st Presbyterian Church will be uniting to spend a week devoted to seeking God for renewal in His church and revival in Ballynahinch, in our families, schools, workplaces and across this island'.</p>

3. On the Grace Fellowship Facebook site there are details of a gathering known as NUA to be held in Newcastle (29-31 May) and to which they are encouraging people to go. This is the link to their Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/grace.fellowship.ni/> and the short video promoting NUA was posted on 20th February. If you listen to the video you will learn that two of the speakers for the event are ALAIN EMERSON mentioned in point 1 above and DAVID LEGGE.

I have previously mentioned my concerns about David Legge in my article on this link - <https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2014/October/David-Legge.pdf> In addition there is another factually helpful article about David Legge on this link - <https://protestantrevival.wordpress.com/2019/09/07/the-ecumenical-nature-of-the-anti-abortion-for-the-soul-of-the-nation/>

My major concern of course is that if 'unwary' folks decide to attend this 'Week of Prayer' they may then be brought under the 'wayward' influences of Alain Emerson and David Legge.

4. The 1st Presbyterian Church in Ballynahinch - web site on <https://www.firstchurch.co.uk/> was also mentioned as being involved and their main 'contribution' is listed for the Wednesday on the 'flyer'. Again the 'pedigree' of this church would give cause for concern. Apart from the fact that their previous minister was a woman, Mairisíne Stanfield, during her time there she and her husband (David) acted for a time as 'agents' for the Alpha Course. This link takes you to their church bulletin for 23rd February <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c1a6a111137a6b01c11d41b/t/5e53fb4faa141e15afe93d81/1582562129018/23rd+February+2020.pdf> and, apart from mention of the upcoming Prayer Week, you will see references to 'growing in anointing' , 'releasing the 'anointing' and 'Discovering your Gifts – The Gifts of the Spirit' – clearly charismatic terminology.

5. The 'flyer' then makes reference to LECTIO DIVINA – Monday to Friday @ 12.00 pm in 'Space for Grace' – this is where Grace Fellowship normally hold a midweek meeting and it is below a keep-fit facility on the Belfast Road. So, what is LECTIO DIVINA – well, quite simply it is a mostly Roman Catholic 'meditative practice' that should be avoided as the details on this link will show <https://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/lectiodivina.htm> It was promoted at the Summer Madness event back in 2007 and I warned about it in this article - <https://www.takeheed.info/beware-of-lection-divina-at-summer-madness/> Another helpful article is located on <https://www.gotquestions.org/lection-divina.html?fbclid=IwAR3CJWG9jUx9nYXSI6mvByOJ7BiCtXY0ayGG1smj4mMfv0yIXStjTCutbq8> Quite simply, this is unscriptural and dangerous.

In closing, the aims of this venture are honourable 'seeking God for renewal in His church and revival in Ballynahinch, in our families, schools, workplaces and across this island' but we must approach God in prayer as He has decreed – with clean hands and a pure heart (Psalm 24:3-6). The matters of concern I have identified would appear to make that approach currently 'untenable'.