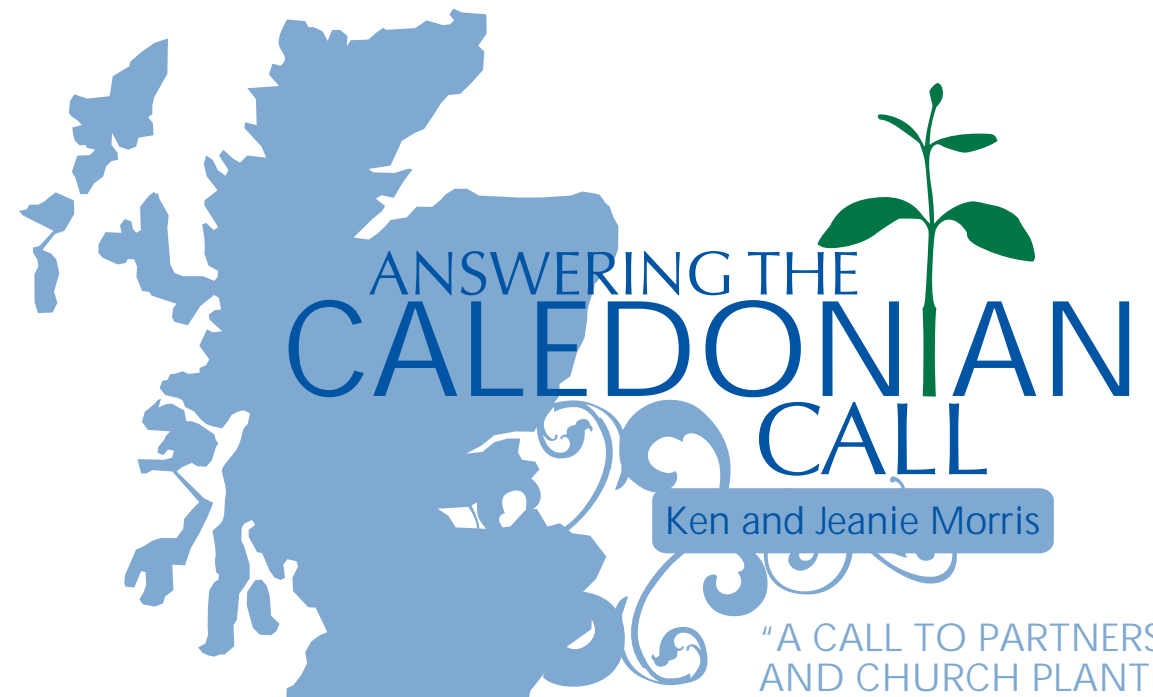


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This Month's Update

November 2009

Making a Milestone

Warm greetings to all our friends back in the USA and all our nosy friends in Scotland reading over the internet! Today's job is to write a newsletter... your mission, should you accept, is to read it! I've have always been amazed that it takes me days to put these things together and my readers approximately 10 minutes to read it! Nonetheless, here's a go at our update!

I am now in the celebrated position of being free to produce one informative newsletter after another. No church to look after... no responsibilities... no staff... no calendars... no elders ... just my wife... a mocha latte... and laptop!

The age of Sat-Nav

We live in the age of the Sat-Nav, those gadgets which reach out into the sky, contact a satellite and tell you where you are and hopefully, where you want to go! Sometimes they work! Several hundred years ago, before the use of street signs, we relied on landmarks and milestones...

Landmarks are found as far back as the time of Moses. In

Deuteronomy we hear the stark warning about tampering. "You shall not remove your neighbour's landmark, which the men of old have set..."

These had been established to give guidance, direction, clarity, and permanence to assist in settling disputes that may arise down through the years. Maybe it was a rock, a fence, a creek or river, a tree... but the message was hands-off!

Milestones are found as far back as the Roman Empire. In ancient Rome, Emperor Augustus placed a gilded marble pillar at the centre of the Forum, it was called, the Millarium Aureum (pictured). This marked the starting point for an elaborate system of roads, all of which led to the Eternal City, thus the



saying, "all roads lead to Rome." In London, this special spot is Trafalgar Square. In Washington DC, it's the White House.

They had several purposes:

Travellers knew that they were on the right road, a Roman road. Travellers knew the distance between points. Travellers knew where they were in relation to Rome.

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