

August 2022 • Vol 54 No 8

Report from Ukraine and update on refugees

One new Christian!

Christian writers recently published

Appeals from Ukraine & Pakistan

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Front cover and above: Feeding displaced people in Ukraine



EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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Ukraine Updates

Report from Kiev

Greetings and love from Kiev, Ukraine.

The director of the orphanage we work with contacted me and told me that they are planning to bring the children back to Kiev in September (all the orphans we helped with are not in Ukraine at the moment). But the prerequisite is that there needs to be a bomb shelter at the facility we use. There is an old bomb shelter there, but it needs to be repaired, so I will spend all the funds we recently received from the UK to repair the bomb shelter in the orphanage.

My family has been in Poland since March and they returned home at the beginning of July – I am very happy to have my wife and children with me.

In the central and western parts of Ukraine people are used to the air alerts and do not pay much attention to them and try to live a normal life. But after some rocket attacks, like the one in Vinnitsa, people have become scared of air-raid alarms again.

So life goes on...people are getting used to the war...but still everyone prays for an end to this madness.

The northeast, east, and south of Ukraine continue to be in the flames of war. All people in Ukraine are

more united than ever and do everything they can to achieve peace and the end of the war. War is the worst thing that can happen to us because it not only takes away our material things, but every day Ukrainians lose their lives. Our hearts suffer for it.

The displaced people from the eastern part of Ukraine, where the fighting is going on, keep coming to Kiev. My wife and I have taken several contacts of mothers with children from Kharkiv and are helping them with food.

All of us are able to stand up to aggression and trials only because so many people outside of Ukraine are doing their best to help Ukrainians.

We are grateful for the help, not only in Ukraine, but for the support and help of Ukrainians who are scattered all over the world. We greatly appreciate and thank you for the financial support you send. Your support allows us to visit each week and provide assistance to refugees who have left their lands and lost their homes. We spend time with these people, bring them what they need, pray, sing together and tell Gospel stories about Jesus and his love for their comfort. Some families have suffered doubly – they have lost their homes and their children have been wounded at the front.

Sometimes we wonder how many people can endure such suffering?

Now in Ukraine there are very popular billboards with large signs that say "God help us" and "Jesus is our Saviour" – it shows that more and more people are calling on God, hoping for his help, mercy and grace. And you are God's guides, through whom this help finds its recipient.

Ivan Prokopchuk

Bibles in Ukrainian

Through the generosity of kind hearts the Bible Society has provided Ukrainian Bibles free of charge. We have 29 New Testaments and five illustrated children's Bibles. A big thanks to all who gave, whoever you are.

Trevor Williams

From a refugee host

We are happy to report that our Guests have settled into a routine with us after just ten days. The initial applications for mother and thirteen-year-old son's visas started on 1st April and did not come through completely until 1st June. (They lost link between mother and son.)

They travelled on the 8th from Cologne after living in German refugee camps since March. They are from the Donbas and Dad is living away from their home in Western Ukraine. They hid all the valuables they couldn't transport in their basement by burying them. They feel that they are unlikely to ever go home to their house.

Their experience of living in Germany for so long is not a happy one. They struggled with Wifi as they filled in online forms. They were moved weekly at first from one leisure centre to another. They were eventually moved to a hotel and were happy to have a bed after sleeping on camp beds for weeks. It was

beautiful there as it was in the mountains but wifi was worse and travel difficult. They are grateful to Germany for their help, but as in all countries they were not prepared for the numbers that needed asylum.

One of the first things Haylna did was make borsht and she thanked me for this privilege as she has not been able to make it since leaving the Ukraine. We were just happy to eat the lovely meal. Although she cried a little her determination to find work and make a new home for her son is astonishing.

The family are not Christians but they came to church on Sunday with us and both Mum and son have expressed their thanks that we can hold hands as we thank God for our food. The person who recommended the family used to buy Halyna's free range chicken. Life amazes us all sometimes and connections are certainly the most important. But for the chickens and our faith we would never have met. May God bless our connections so that we can express our love and concern as he would want.

Ruth Winstanley

Peterhead Ukrainian Hub

We had a great week at our hub last week at the Peterhead church of Christ. We are so grateful to the Child Smile Team and the Community Health Team for visiting and speaking with our families. The advice, help and support was great and the families were very grateful for the support.



Peterhead Hub

Without the support of the Strachan family and the congregation at Peterhead, the Peterhead hub would not be possible. Thank you so much!

The hub is open every Thursday for Ukrainians arriving in the northeast of Scotland. We have clothes, toiletries and food. If you are in need of something please let us know.

Peterhead Hub



PUBLISHED CHRISTIAN WRITERS

Tiffany Yecke Brooks is the lead or contributing writer on more than two dozen books, including eight *New York Times* bestsellers. She has also published articles in numerous peer-reviewed journals and the *Smithsonian*.

She is the coauthor of *Fear is a Choice: Tackling Life's Challenges with Dignity, Faith, and Determination* (with NFL running back James Conner); *Limitless: The Power of Hope and Resilience to Overcome Circumstance* (with Paralympic gold-medalist Mallory Weggemann); and the narrative non-fiction historical thriller *Espionage and Enslavement in the Revolution: The True Story of Robert Townsend and Elizabeth* (with historian Claire Bellerjeau).

Her newest book, *Gaslighted by God: Reconstructing a Disillusioned Faith* was released in May from Eerdmans. It offers hope and healing to people who are considering giving up their faith due to abuses committed in God's name.

Tiffany holds a PhD from Florida State University, where her dissertation covered, in part, cultural adaptations of stories from the book of Genesis, and an MA from the University of Bristol, where her thesis examined cultural influences and literary techniques in the Gospel of Luke. She holds a BA in English and Theatre from Harding University.

A popular speaker for student groups, faith conferences, and academic lectureships, Tiffany has taught literature and writing at

Abilene Christian University, Harding University, McMurry University, and the University of South Carolina - Beaufort.

Simon Peter Broughton was born in Bedford, England in 1960. He attended the British Bible School and graduated in 1985. He moved to the United States with his wife, Terrie-Lyn. They have two children and two grandchildren.

For many years his wife and coffee club friends encouraged him to write a book. This is the result, his first ever published work. It's a brand new murder mystery set in Victorian, England. It teaches moral and spiritual life lessons.

Don't Go Chasing After Waterfalls deals with a woman in a man's world. Chief Inspector Daisy Magee must solve the mystery of why young ladies are being left out at different waterfalls. Clues lie within colour schemes, riddles, nursery rhymes, and a nose-stud with a hidden code in this cat-and-mouse game. Some characters have interesting names.



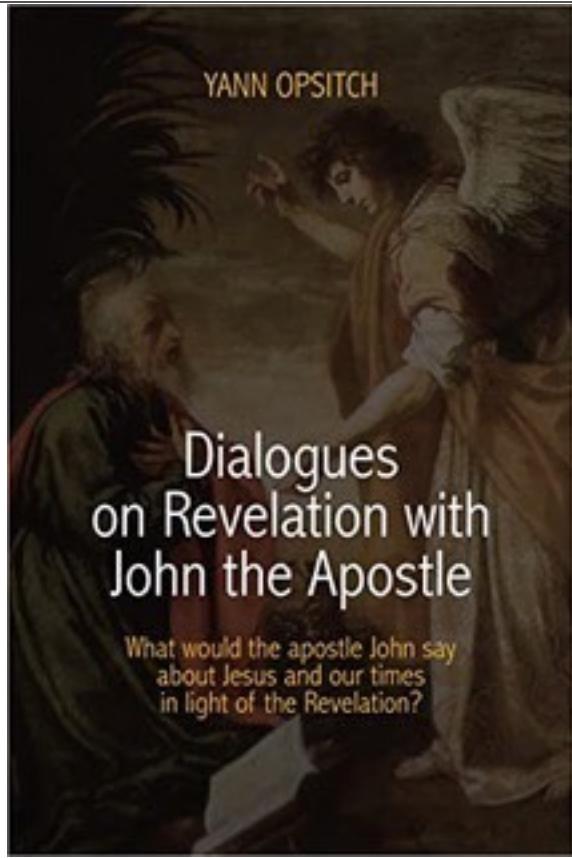
Published Christian writers

Simon-Peter hopes you enjoy the read. You can contact him at LionheartAuthorship@gmail.com

Trevor Williams

Yann Opsitch recently published a book based on the book of Revelation: *Dialogues on Revelation with John the Apostle*. Published by Sulis International, this book examines what the apostle John would say about Jesus and our times in light of the book of Revelation.

Yann is a graduate of North Ireland Bible School and taught at Abilene Christian University in the United States. He can be contacted at yjo00a@acu.edu.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Rejoicing at Wembley!

On Saturday 2nd July **Princess Opoku-Adutwumaa** was immersed into Christ. Princess lives near the Wembley church building and recently started attending our worship assemblies. Several members of her family came along to witness her baptism. We rejoice with Princess in her decision and pray that God will bless her as she grows in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

John Griffiths



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

In the Summertime

Summer time is generally a quieter time for many schools, at least once term has ended and the long holidays begun, but things are somewhat different for those of us involved with the British Bible School. Where once we more or less followed something that resembled a regular academic year, that is really no longer the case. Indeed, in many ways we have become as much of a resource provider as we are a teaching establishment.

Our regular Online Bible Classes are continuing on a weekly basis – each Monday and Thursday at 8 o'clock. You are always welcome to join us and you can find details on our website. We are currently working our way through the Gospel of Luke and Paul's letter to Colossae. You should be able to find past classes on our YouTube channel.

We are nearing the end of our Online Extension Programme classes on Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus, but another term of these will begin on Tuesdays in October when we'll be

taking a close look at the Book of Psalms. You will be able to find out more about these shortly.

At home and abroad

A number of those involved with teaching at the School are also involved with various summer youth camps throughout the UK and beyond. Two of us will shortly be travelling to Croatia to teach at a family camp being held there by the Adriatic.

On a similar theme, our own autumn Weekend Family Retreat will be happening in Norfolk in September. This event is growing with each year, though there are still a handful of spaces available. If you would like to join us for a delightful weekend in the presence of lovely people – in a beautiful part of the country – then do please book in as soon as you can!

Look out for more...

With our regular weekly 'Something to think about' YouTube broadcast – shortly to made into a podcast – and more regional events in the planning, do

please follow us on FaceBook or Instagram to keep up to date with goings on. And if there is any way in which we might be of service to you, please do get in touch.

Thank you, and may God's blessings go with us all.

Patrick Boyns
britishbibleschool.com

Autumn Weekend Family Retreat

Friday 16th to Sunday 18th
September 2022

at Letton Hall
in Norfolk



WALKING WITH JESUS

one step at a time



THE HUSBAND OF BUT ONE WIFE

We live in a world of equal opportunities. I am pleased that women can rise to a high position and certainly believe that equal pay for equal work should be recognised everywhere. In our church fellowship, however, many would view us as a male dominant church and therefore certainly not equal. Over the past months I have been reading and re-reading my Bible trying to view the ministry of women in our churches.

In Acts 2:17-18 we have Peter quoting from Joel 2:28ff. Here we find that, 'your sons and daughters will prophecy; your young men will see visions and your old men dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women I will pour out my Spirit in those days'. I am aware that Peter uses the phrase 'men of Israel' in v.22 and 'brothers' in v.29 but we have to ask ourselves was the message only to males? I have never met anyone who believes that and so the message to accept Christ on the basis of repentance and baptism would be for both men and women (Acts 2:38).

If this is the case what ministry was in the minds of the writers of the New

Testament? For some reason or other generally, as a group of self-governing churches, we have been reluctant to appoint Elders and Deacons in our assemblies. It may be that some have set the bar so high that no one can attain this ministry. Yet when we study passages such as I Timothy 3 we find nothing that would be unusual for a faithful man and his family to follow. The work of an Elder is clearly stated to be a capable teacher and defender of the faith (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9). But also he is to have only one wife! Therefore no polygamy is allowed, which was common among many peoples and not uncommon in the Old Testament.

Now comes the ministry of the elder's wife, the Deacon's wife and dare I say the Evangelist's wife. If those family blessings for the men are necessary for the male then it is obvious that his spouse, partner in life and co-worker needs to be his equal, i.e. able to teach and to defend the faith. Those serving in this way certainly cannot manage their own household, be hospitable, etc, if their wife is not working alongside him. Thus by inference the elder's wife needs to be a support, prayer partner, guide when necessary, etc. In my own ministry I realised that it was impossible for me to minister without the aid of Pauline who, as a woman, can see and hear things I do not. Men and women view things differently (hurray!), but together their views and thinking opens up far more.

Certainly there are certain matters which the Elder must keep entirely to himself. This is really a priestly ministry and a sacred responsibility, but many things will be shared with his wife and very often will end up with her needing to do something. I cannot remember the times



The husband of but one wife

that people have come to our home needing guidance in some way. We have had people come frightened to face life because of family difficulties, or life threatening illnesses. I remember one young man coming and telling me he had just been diagnosed with AIDS and needed to go home and tell his wife. My reaction to this was to throw my arms around him and cry with him, pray and tell him of the Saviour's love and our support. That was just one of many instances when my Christian wife was there to help and support me.

I may share other thoughts about the ministry of sisters in the church but for now let me encourage the wives of church leaders. You ladies have an amazing ministry to your husbands and in the church. It is my belief that the wives of church leaders should have equal respect by the church members.

If anyone would like to read my thoughts about sisters' ministry or would like to share your thoughts with me please do contact me. My e-mail address is on page 2.

Trevor Williams



Let's Talk About Life!

The Aughton congregation in association with the British Bible School warmly invite you to attend our weekend of friendly discussions about 'LIFE'.

Saturday 3rd September 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday 4th September 10:00 am to 12:00

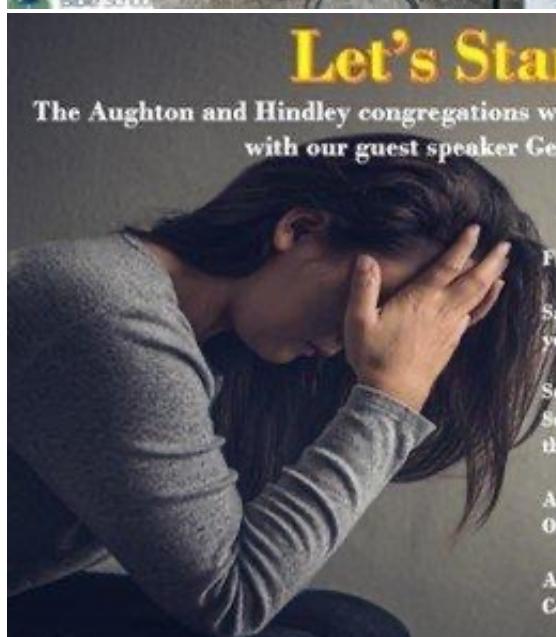
Address: Aughton Village Hall, Wimifred Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 5DH

Contact: Tony 07473970143 / tonytyson66@yahoo.co.uk

Accommodation: If anyone would like to stay over on the Saturday night we have limited accommodation available. Please contact Tony for further details.

Available On Zoom: 844 4710 9568

British Bible School



Let's Start Talking!

The Aughton and Hindley congregations warmly invite you to attend our weekend of talks with our guest speaker Gert-Jan Van Zanten (Holland).

Friday 26th August 7:00 pm Venue: Aughton. Topic: Loneliness.

Saturday 27th August 2.00 pm Venue: Hindley. Topic: The best is yet to come. Is there something missing from your life?

Sunday 28th August 10:00 am Venue: Aughton. Topic: Stress.
Sunday 28th August 6.00 pm Venue: Hindley. Topic: Why do good things happen to bad people?

Address: Aughton Village Hall, Wimifred Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 5DH Contact: Tony 0747 397 0143

Address: 41 Argyle Street, Hindley, Wigan, Lancashire, WN2 3PH
Contact: Fred 0742 314 4155



APPEALS

UKRAINE APPEAL

Please accept my humble thanks for the generosity of Christians throughout the UK who continue to give for Ukraine. We currently have twenty refugees placed with Christian families and there are eight on their way. But we have now just about run out of host families. If you would like to help, please let us know, because we are still being asked for help. We need more homes.

Financial help is still going to Ukraine as well as five European countries to help with the refugee crisis. On average between £5000 and £6000 each month is being sent. The funds are getting lower and we would encourage congregations and individuals to assist if you can. Please talk to me if you would like more information. Many thanks.

Trevor Williams

PAKISTAN FLOODS

I would like to request that you please consider supporting our Pakistani

brothers and sisters in our difficult time of flooding. The rains and floods have destroyed many areas in our country. Our situation just now is very difficult.

Naeem Sabir



Donations for Pakistan can be sent to:

Barbara Fisher (Pakistan Account)
5 Portway
North Marston
Bucks. MK18 3PL



FAMILY NEWS

ILKESTON



On Sunday afternoon, 24th July, Ilkeston held a 'Summer Sounds' town event. The congregation had a stall there, sharing games with children and passing out text cards. We were able to talk to many that passed our way. The 'Major' encouraged a collection from the crowds and nearly £300 was given in a matter of minutes as a gift for Ukraine. It was so nice to be among the people.

Trevor Williams



DIARY

August

6th – Northampton: Story of Redemption Faith Sharing Seminar, 11.30 am - 4.30 pm. Speaker: James Noted. Venue: Christian Fellowship Centre, Shadowfax Drive, Northampton NN3 8DB. Contact: Mark Hill (mark@uwclub.net).

14th-19th – British Bible Camp: “Mapping Your Journey”. Viney Hill Christian Activity Centre. Cost for campers ages 8-18: £120. Contact Jason (07795 560990) for details or to request an application form.

26th-28th – Aughton & Hindley congregations: “Let’s Start Talking”, speaker: Gert-Jan Van Zanten. Friday, 7.00 pm at Aughton; Saturday, 2.00 pm at Hindley; Sunday 10.00 am at Aughton and 6.00 pm at Hindley. Venues: Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk L39 5DH and 41 Argyle Street, Hindley, Wigan WN2 3PH. Contact: Mike Glover (mike97glover@gmail.com).

September

3rd-4th – Aughton: “Let’s Talk About Life!” with British Bible School. Saturday 10.00 am-4.00 pm; Sunday 10.00 am-12.00 pm. Venue: Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 5DH. Contact: Tony Tyson (07473 970143 or tonytysone66@yahoo.co.uk).

5th-15th – Trip of a Lifetime to the Bible Lands of Israel & Jordan. Contact: Ian Starrs (jes22ian@msn.com).

16th-18th – British Bible School: Weekend Family Retreat at Letton Hall – “Walking With Jesus...One Step at a Time”, Norfolk. For details and registration: britishbibleschool.com.

October

1st – East Kilbride: 50th Anniversary meeting: “Into the Future with God”. Guest speakers: Patrick Boyns, Mark Hill, John Mooney and Ian Starrs. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

4th-6th – European Vision Workshop in Rome. Theme: “Those who were scattered”. Registration will open soon at: <http://www.sibi.cc/evw>. For further information contact Douglas Reeves: dreeves@sibi.cc

22nd-23rd – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. All day Saturday and Sunday class and worship. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

31st-4th November – British Bible School Autumn Study Week at Bassenfell Manor: “Gospel of John”. Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Steve Whitehead. Cost: £150 all inclusive. Further details and registration will be on our website soon, but make plans now.

November

25th-26th – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. All day Saturday and Sunday class and worship. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.



THE FINAL WORD



The Bloodline of Jesus

I am constantly fascinated by the lists of just about everything in the Bible, whether it be genealogies, the making of the Tabernacle or the Temple, lists of apostles or lists of Christians mentioned in the letters. Most of all I am fascinated by the genealogies of Jesus in Matthew 1 and Luke 3.

Dr Luke traces the lineage of Jesus right back to Adam who is declared the son of God. Sometime ago I did one of those tests to tell me what sort of nationality I have – 76% English/Welsh and 34% Scottish/Irish was the result, which I guess makes me British.

But I ask myself about my ancestors: Who were they? Where did they come from? Why did they come to these islands and how? Then I think what their life was like when they lived and in a way I am sad because I cannot know them, what they accomplished or how they coped with everyday life. Then I wonder were they people of faith, these people whose blood runs in my veins.

The scriptures tell us of the lineage of Jesus, the stylised ‘kingsly’ line of his earthly father in Matthew and the more than likely female line in Luke. For all the importance of the father of a child, the Jewishness of a woman was of greater precedence.

Jesus the Son of God had no physical descendants. Isaiah 53:8 notes ‘and who can speak of his descendants?’ Yet when we visit Galatians 3:26-29 we joyfully discover that we belong to Christ, we are Abraham’s seed and we are the sons of God through faith in Jesus. Through the blood of Jesus we are justified (Romans 5:9), redeemed (Ephesians 1:7), and reconciled (Colossians 1:20). Our conscience is cleaned (Hebrews 9:14), and we are made a kingdom and priests (Revelation 1:5). The lists go on.

Each physical generation changes the next, one way or another, as the genes of generations are passed on. But our spiritual genes are from our God and passed through Jesus into us. We have the blood of Jesus around us and within us. Without boasting, we are in the bloodline of the Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Father God, whose mercy and love know no bounds; grant us, your children, the ability to really appreciate that you are our Father and that the sacred blood of Jesus binds us together as the greatest family on Earth. We praise you and love you. Amen

Trevor

