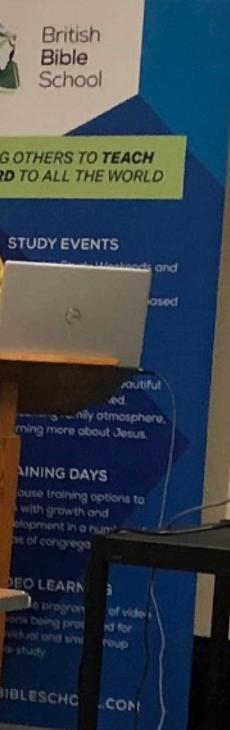
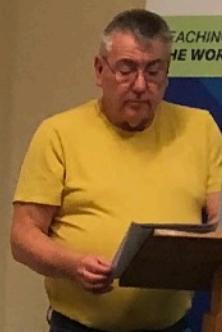


December 2023 • Vol 55 No 12

BBS Residential Study Week



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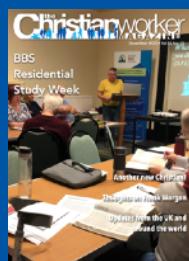
Another new Christian!

Thoughts on Frank Worgan

Updates from the UK and
around the world

CONTENTS

- 3 MY PERSPECTIVE**
The end of another year
- 4 CONGRATULATIONS**
 - New Christian in Buckingham Park, Aylesbury
 - Update on Janet Hill
- 5 BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES**
BBS Residential Study Week
- 6 A PERSONAL NOTE ON THE LIFE OF FRANK WORGAN**
by Ruth Winstanley and Margaret Griffiths
- 7 AT REST**
 - Joe Daly (Summer Lane, Birmingham)
 - Geoff Ellis (Kirkby-in-Ashfield)
- 8 FAMILY NEWS**
 - Summer Lane Shoebox Appeal
 - Leicester Brother's Day
 - Singing Weekend in Ilkeston
- 9 AROUND THE WORLD**
 - Update from Ukraine
 - Update from Lungster Mlotha in Malawi
- 10 NOTICES**
- 11 DIARY OF EVENTS**
- 12 THE FINAL WORD**
Missing people



Front cover and above: BBS Residential Study Week at Bassenthwaite Manor



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Editor-in-Chief: Trevor Williams

twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

(0115) 837 6895

195 Hickings Lane, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8PJ

Production Editor: Jon Galloway

jdgalloway@mac.com

(07906) 060618

5 Aikins Lane, Netherburn, Larkhall ML9 3FH

Treasurer: Jenny Sparks

Website: Emmanuel Uwujare

Header Design: Kevin Nicholson

UK Congregation Directory Online: www.churchesofchrist.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk

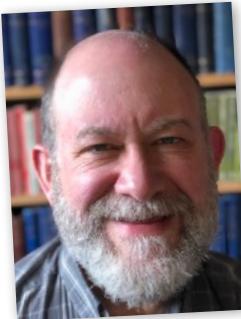
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MY PERSPECTIVE



Who will we reach in 2024?

The end of another year

As the year draws to a close, it is hard to believe how quickly life seems to go past. The Christmas holidays are approaching and we are making plans not only for the big day but also for events with family and friends. Sometimes it is hard to figure out how we are going to fit it all in!

In Scotland and other areas we have had the first snow of the year (although not much in our area at least you can see it). And it is cold! As I sit typing this in a restaurant in northern England Christmas songs are playing in the background. Where did the year go?

For me, this time of year draws my thoughts to think about the past year – what was accomplished and what is still undone. Could I have done better? Could I have accomplished more?

Most Christians I know are frustrated over a lack of growth in our local assemblies and possibly a lack of involvement by so many. Some of us in Scotland have been getting together to discuss some of these things and try to come up with answers. We realise there is no quick solution, but perhaps it has been of some comfort to realise that this is not a unique problem that we are facing in our country, but something all religious groups are currently struggling with.

It has been useful to see from demographic studies what are some of the challenges we face. These are challenges that all groups, businesses, and churches are having to face as they change the way to reach out to people or even advertise their products.

We realise there has been a shift in the world in the past twenty to thirty years. The current generation does not interact with the world the way that mine did. Easy access to the Internet and information has influenced everything from how they get information to how they view life. There is so much misinformation out there that it is impossible to counter it all! So what do we do?

We need to continue to proclaim the truth – and proclaim that there is something that is called ‘truth’ for everyone! That truth is found in the person of Jesus and in the book he revealed to us that we call ‘The Bible’. We can know what God wants of us. We can change our lives to follow him and truly find what is real life.

As we look for ways to reach others we need to learn that the Internet and mass advertising is not going to do it. It seems to me that people today, more than ever, want a quick-fix solution or a formula that really doesn’t involve them. I’ve been asked so many times: what is it that we can do that will bring in new families?

There is only one way this will happen. We see it in what the first Christians did. *“And wherever they were scattered, they told people the Good News”* (Acts 8:4 NCV). It really is that simple. People have to tell people the good news of Jesus. That is what we see throughout the book of Acts. That is how people became Christians. And that is what we must be doing today.

What are we planning to do in 2024 to reach someone with the good news?

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!



New Christian at Aylesbury (Buckingham Park)

Sunday 5th November is a day that Emily Cooper will never forget as that was the day she made public her faith in Jesus as Lord and was immersed into Christ. Her grandfather Brent did the dunking and it was great to have other members of Emily's family present to witness her decision. We are grateful to our friends at Northampton for the use of their baptistery and to Kunle in particular who was there to let us in. Please pray for Emily as she continues her walk with Jesus as it can be tough to be a Christian at school.

Steven Whitehead

Thank you from Paul & Janet Hill (Leicester)

We would like to express our sincere thanks for the many calls, messages and prayers, Janet lost her memory, ability to walk or talk and was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Having received eight hours surgery at the Nottingham Queens medical, the tumor was fully removed, recovery will take around six months but everything is going in the right direction, please accept our sincere thanks for the love and support and prayers from you all.



Psalm 145

I will extol You, my God, O King;
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
² Every day I will bless You,
And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
And His greatness is unsearchable.



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor

It was a wonderful week spent around God's word in a most beautiful setting. Eighteen students came to the Lake District the first week of November to study God's word.

We studied the first half of the module on The Kingdom of Israel. The lessons were led by Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Mark Hill. Our studies concentrated on the events leading up to the first king of Israel and then various aspects of the reigns of Saul, David and Solomon.

This year there was an adjustment to our daily schedule which was felt to be an improvement and less taxing on those not used to intense study through an entire day. Three classes were taught each morning. After lunch the afternoons were free to explore the area, visit with each other, do further study, or even sleep. There were then two more teaching sessions, one before the evening meal and one after the evening meal.

This was the largest student group we have had since beginning the residential study weeks. We had Christians from all ages and backgrounds who came together with one common goal: to study God's word. Several

were those who had attended past study events but there were also some who came for the first time.

A ramble was organised for one afternoon which many enjoyed. Many also spent afternoons visiting the coffee shops in the area. One evening was devoted to the annual Bible quiz, which all enjoyed and learned from.

The cost of the week covered all meals, a bedroom in the Manor, as well as a book for further reading and study. The teachers have also offered to share the presentations to help in further study.

We are already planning next year's residential study week, which should begin in late October 2024. Announcements should come out soon as to the exact dates and the module we plan to study. Make plans to join us for what will definitely be an excellent week of study and fellowship.

There are also study weekends planned at various congregations through the year – we hope to see you at one of these!

Jon Galloway

britishbibleschool.com





A PERSONAL NOTE ON THE LIFE OF FRANK WORGAN

My earliest memories of Frank and Isobel Worgan were when our family met with the congregation in Ince, Lancashire, in the early 1960's. Frank was our evangelist and Isobel was my Sunday school teacher and I loved her gentleness. She brought all her class children a silk handkerchief from Texas with cowboys on it after their visit there. That gift very was special to me.

Margaret and I were six and four years old when the Worgan family came back from Holland – I have memories of a snappy dachshund when we visited their home. We remember fun times on Sunday School outings together, too. Our best memories though, when we reminisced on the day of his funeral, were of Frank's sermons which were clear and interesting to our young ears as we grew up in Lancashire. We were allowed to colour and read until a certain age during worship, but those ears heard the gospel message too. Don't think your children aren't listening.

We missed the Worgan family when they moved to Corby; our family moved to Wales around that time. But we soon saw them again when Frank brought to Camp Heatherbell. Each year during camp we would climb Tinto (using the easiest route). That year Frank (then about 50 years old) decided to take some up a more adventurous route, the hard way, and ran to the top. We were still huffing and puffing climbing upwards when they were running back down! Both Frank and Albert Winstanley were fit and competitive!

In our home Dad would have Frank's recorded messages and studies playing as we ate our porridge in the morning. One series of studies that impacted my teenage life was on Genesis and the earth's beginnings.

When we shared Frank's passing recently with my brother Tom his memory of Frank was as a mediator. Congregations had

many problems to face and Tom was in the thick of controversies in the early 1970's when even growing a beard wasn't the thing to do. Frank was there for Tom.

Then later John and Margaret Griffiths spent time in Corby at the British Bible School studying with Frank, Joe and Albert and all the other great teachers. What a valuable vision those men had to develop the British Bible School where many men and women gained biblical knowledge over the years.

David and I spent time in Canada and – surprise, surprise – Frank came as a visiting speaker there, too! Beryl Limb often reminisces about the time Frank went to Grand Cache, where it is often 40 degrees below zero during the winter, with snow on the ground sometimes from November to April. Grande Cache is miles from anywhere so Frank spoke to just a few people, but it didn't matter.

Later he visited Wawota, Saskatchewan on the prairies where the wind defiantly blows. Cameron and Margaret Husband (nee Limb) talk about sharing warm boots and an extra coat to keep Frank warm as he hadn't quite come prepared for those temperatures. His sermons always warmed their hearts and so many remember his visits and his Message. Frank spoke at the Edmonton Fellowship weekend in Alberta with maybe 500 in attendance, when we lived there, and all the Christians and visitors loved his talks and his faithfulness.

What an amazing sharer of God's word! We learned at his funeral that a congregation in Odessa, Texas, faithfully supported Frank for 70 years. Thank you Odessa – your steadfastness used a great man to spread the Word to so many ready hearts all over the world.

Ruth Winstanley and Margaret Griffiths
(daughters of Bill and Kath Hurcombe)

AT REST

Joe Daly (Summer Lane, Birmingham)

We record the passing of our brother Joe Daly from the Summer Lane church in Birmingham.

Trevor Williams

Geoff Ellis (Kirkby-in-Ashfield)

We also note the passing of our brother Geoff Ellis from the Kirkby-in Ashfield congregation, on 18th November.

Trevor Williams

In the News

Both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York are agreed that by 2025 same sex marriages will be available in the Church of England. Those who want a same sex marriage will be able to do so in stand-alone services from next year.

Following the debate, the Rev John Dunnett, the national director of the Church of England Evangelical Council, said the organisation was 'grieved and saddened' by the decision and described it as 'a watershed moment...it appears that the Church of England no longer sees Scripture as our supreme authority'.

via Premium Christian News



New website for our spiritual retreats!

- Are you, or someone you know, in need of a pause, to refocus or redirect?
- Are you experiencing a time of doubt, lack of clarity for the way ahead, or even exhaustion from your daily life?
- Have you reached a turning point in your life, but are hesitant to move forward to the next step?
- Are you seeking clarity of purpose in Christ for the changing seasons of your life?

A time to reflect and refocus will strengthen your faith, and can be crucial before moving forward.

If you are over 18 join us for a session. Sessions are available in one week modules

All the details are at our website:

faithworks-laChapelle.com



FAMILY NEWS

SUMMER LANE (BIRMINGHAM)

We recently had a shoe box appeal to send to children in need. We raised enough to supply 25 boxes for children. They have been delivered for distribution.

Trevor Ralph



Christians at Summer Lane with Shoe Boxes

LEICESTER

We wish to thank all who were able to attend our first Brothers' Day. The day was wonderful with great singing, study, and fellowship. Our theme was 'Spiritual Growth'. It was so encouraging to be together! We look forward to many more events in our building, God willing.

Mike Wilson from the USA joined us to give some insight to the Leicester Bible



Brothers's Day at Leicester

teaching programme. Mike is the link between Sunset and the congregation here. Our programme is coordinated by ourselves including exams and memory work. The purpose was to show the process of enrolment and daily support. Currently we have just under thirty students from the UK and more applications are coming in. The courses are fully financed and free to all UK students. Please contact me for further details (churchofchristleicester@gmail.com or 0780 4653 690).

Paul Hill

ILKESTON

Mark in your diaries 23rd-24th March 2024 for a singing weekend at Ilkeston. Alan and Sarah Dod will lead the occasion and everyone is invited to join in.

Exact times and further details will be announced but please mark the weekend in your new diaries.

Trevor Williams

I had a request for the October and November printed issues of CW to be sent to someone in Scotland. I am sorry that I have mislaid the address but I do have the printed copies for you. Please let me know where to send them. - Whoops, sorry!

Trevor



AROUND THE WORLD

UKRAINE

On your behalf I have been able to send a further £500 to Ivan in Ukraine to help with his orphanage work. He tells me that since the times of the USSR Christmas was banned – the government said that God does not exist. The people could put a fir tree for New Year's Day and have a big red star on the top of it. Grandfather Frost would also make a visit on New Year's Eve. Because of this those who are not believers in Christ have been scarred because God has been removed from the country. All this was done to encourage people away from faith in Christ.

Ivan further writes that he 'and other brothers and sisters from Ukraine are trying to show that God is there! And he lives neither in churches, nor in icons, nor in the letters of the Bible... He is alive! And He is among us! And He knocks on everyone's heart! And you, brothers and sisters help in this! Therefore we thank you very much for your love!'

Trevor Williams



MALAWI

The work of the Lord is going on well from Jomo as well as from other sister congregations. I have been helping them from 25th October to 14th November. I was able to visit and teach in fourteen congregations. It was a very big encouragement to the Christians.

During this time two graduate preachers were restored after staying away from church services for two and half years with their families. One person was immersed. Two of the congregations had a lot of misunderstandings but praise God all were resolved and they are worshipping well.

I praise God for the courage he gave me for all these days. Though transport was a big challenge all things went very well.

I continue to encounter problems due to limited resources. I have not been able to keep up the same schedule of teaching and visiting. I have also not been able to visit the animal projects. It does not help that our money has been devalued by 40% which has resulted in an increase in the cost of goods.

Therefore I would like to ask you if there could be a family, a congregation or an individual who could help. Your consideration is highly appreciated.

Lungster C. Mlotha

Notices

Bristol's New Year's Eve Youth Lock-in **2023**

*Sunday 31st December
5pm arrival
12 - 18 years*

Concludes with a New Year's Day service for all ages
Monday 1st January 10.30am

R S V P Jason: 07795560990



Up on the Mountain

**Mid-Winter Family Weekend
Retreat**

**Friday, 19th to Sunday, 21st January 2024
at Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District**

www.britishbibleschool.com



Field of Refuge Women's Renewal 2024

*"From His abundance we have
all received one gracious
blessing after another"
John 1:16 NLT*

Venue: Tulliallan Castle, Alloa FK10 4BE
Theme: New Beginnings, when Grace abounds

Date: 19th - 21st April 2024
Arrival time: 16.00 pm (no earlier)

Price: Single room £170.00
Double room £155.00 per person
Deposit: £45.00 (non-refundable)

Should you require registration forms, please feel free to contact
us via : Fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com



DIARY

December

1st – **British Bible School quiz night**: a light-hearted, educational Bible quiz hosted by Steve Whitehead, the first Friday of each month from 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the quiz can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

4th – **British Bible School evening class**: “The Lord Roars from Zion” (a study of Amos, Joel and Obadiah) taught by John Griffiths each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm; last class will be 18th December. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

7th – **British Bible School evening class**: “The Story of the Bible” taught by Patrick Boyns each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm; last class will be 14th December. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

16th – **East Kilbride**: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

17th – **Livingston**: Carol Service, 6.30 pm. Contact: Mark Montgomery (daytimer73@gmail.com).

31st – **Bristol**: New Year’s Eve Youth Lock-in for ages 12-18 years. Arrive at 5.00 pm. We will conclude with a New Year’s Day worship for all ages at 10.30 am on 1st January. RSVP: Jason (07795 560990).

January 2024

5th – **British Bible School quiz night**: a light-hearted, educational Bible quiz hosted by Steve Whitehead, the first Friday of each month from 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the quiz can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

13th – **Livingston**: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

19th-21st – **BBS Family Retreat** at Bassenfell Manor. Theme: “Up On the Mountain”. Cost for adults: £75 per person (discounts for children). To register: <https://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/bassenfell-manor-family-retreat-2024/bassenfell-family-retreat-registration-2024>. For further information: see our website (<https://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/bassenfell-manor-family-retreat-2024>).

February

19th-25th – **Gemünden, Germany**: Advanced Bible Study Series I and II, Keynote Speaker: Jeremy Barrier. Contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com).

29th-3rd March – **European Ladies’ Retreat**. Contact: Bernadine Wells (BERN.WELLS@hotmail.co.uk).

March

1st-2nd – **Hyvots Bank and Kirkcaldy**: Joint gospel meetings, speaker: Daniel Chapman. Contact: Nick Wilson (nick-donelda@blueyonder.co.uk) or Alan Moyes (alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com).

23rd-24th – **Ilkeston**: Singing weekend with Alan Dods. Contact: Trevor Williams (twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk).

29th-31st – **European Lectureship 2024**. Venue: Verona, Italy. Contact: Kojo Mensah (kojom262@gmail.com).

April

19th-24th – **Field of Refuge Women’s Renewal**: “New Beginnings, When Grace Abounds”. Venue: Tulliallan Castle, Alloa FK10 4BE. Cost: £155 per person sharing a room (£170 for a single room); £45 deposit on booking. Contact: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com.

May

11th – **Kirkcaldy**: Annual Social Day. Venue: Hayfield Community Centre, Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy KY2 5DG. Speaker: Jon Galloway. Contact: Allan Hughes (allan580@virginmedia.com).



Missing people

According to the UK Missing Person Unit over 170,000 people go missing every year, about 97,000 adults and 70,000 children. That is one person every ninety seconds. Many are found within 48 hours but 5,200 seem to be lost forever.

It is reckoned that each missing person affects at least twelve people directly being family members and friends. This is a number over two million in total. The heartache is indescribable. Some people are never found and sadly only the remains of a person is occasionally found.

Lost is a heartbreaking word. Jesus talks about it and the joy of restoration in Luke 15 when he mentions a lost lamb, a lost coin and a lost son. Our hearts go out to those who are suffering because of a missing person in their family.

In a world which seems to make more people isolated it is easy to forget older relatives or those in the outer reaches of our families. It is certainly easy to forget people who no longer attend church services. Some people seem to leave before they have settled into church life – some because they feel their face does

not fit, some who see other Christians acting or speaking inappropriately within the congregation, and some it seems come in through the front door and out of the back door. And they are forgotten, they become missing persons to us. But are they to God?

Sadly, at this time of the year many people will miss out on at least one person that they could rekindle a friendship with and that is Jesus who came as Saviour and light of the world. Oh, I know that Jesus was not born on the 25th December and so do most other people – but sometimes some of our churches go into overload about this with no carols, no nativity readings, and nothing to brighten up the most dismal part of the year. We miss a wonderful time to share the gospel of good news that Jesus came to earth to bring hope and joy, kindness and forgiveness.

The world will again go into debt, probably drink and eat too much getting into festive mode, but the world has always done that. What we can do is to open our church doors to our friends to welcome them to share the brightness of our souls and reveal Jesus who came as a baby, to be a brother to all mankind and came not to be forgotten. That is why we have communion every week. Don't let Jesus be a missing person in your Christmas.

*Lord let those who are lost be found,
those who grieve be comforted,
those who have lost their way find it again.
And those who do not know you
rejoice in finding Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

Trevor

