



A white
start to
2021

Two new Christians!

**A history of the Loughborough
congregation**

**British Bible School launches
Evening Lectures Online**

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Front cover: snow in East Kilbride; above: an empty EK meeting place in snow



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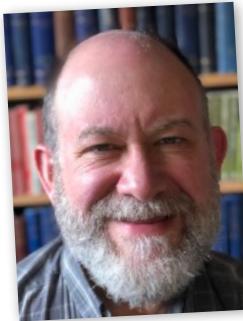
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MY PERSPECTIVE



Why does God send snow?

A white start to the year

I realise that not everyone likes snow, but I do. Moving to East Kilbride twelve years ago meant that I would get to see more of it than I had living in other places in the Glasgow area.

My love of snow undoubtedly stems from my childhood. I remember sledging and walking in snow as a young child in the mountains of East Tennessee. When at the age of 8 our family moved to Finland I was in my element! Our first snow arrived in October and there was snow continuously on the ground until May, getting to a depth of around a metre. PE classes at school centred on skiing, sledging, and skating. I understand that the winter of '68-'69 was an exceptionally snowy winter, even by Scandinavian standards.

Thus far we have been blessed with snow in 2021. We began the year with snow on the ground and there have only been five or six days when snow hasn't been on the ground in this area.

There are aspects of snow that are more difficult to deal with. As the snow begins to melt it freezes overnight leaving the paths that I walk each day sometimes a sheet of ice. Although I have only fallen once, it still means that it takes longer to complete my 3½ mile walk as I have to take more care. And then there is the slush! Fortunately we have had more ice than slush this winter.

Snow is something we read about in scripture. Most often it is used to identify something as very white:

"leprous as snow" (Exodus 4:6; Numbers 12:10; 2 Kings 5:27) or "whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7; Isaiah 1:18; Lamentations 4:7; Daniel 7:9; Matthew 28:3; Revelation 1:14) although there are references to snow being on the ground or on the mountains (2 Samuel 23:20; 1 Chronicles 11:22; Psalm 68:14; 147:16; 148:8; Proverbs 25:13; 26:1; 31:21; Jeremiah 18:14). Job contains many references to snow, leading some to conclude that being soon after the flood it reflected a cooler time for the Middle East due to an 'ice age' (Job 6:16; 9:30; 24:19; 37:6; 38:22).

But why does God send us snow? What good is it? We find some answers, I think, in a statement from Isaiah.

'As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.' (Isaiah 55:9-11)

Snow waters and enriches the earth. Scientists have discovered that snow in particular puts nitrogen back into the soil so that it is enriched to continue yielding good crops. In addition it helps to regulate the Earth's temperature as well as filling rivers and water reservoirs.

God blesses us in ways we often don't realise – and snow is one of those ways!

Jon



CONGREGATION UPDATES

Rejoicing in Edmonton, London

Please join the Christians in Edmonton to continue thanking the Lord for yet again adding two more souls to his kingdom at the end of the year.

Herve Alonge and Rosalinda Nyarko were joyfully immersed into Jesus on 23rd and 27th December 2020 respectively. Let us pray for them as they begin their Christian journey.

On behalf of the Edmonton congregation we wish all a Happy New Year.

Ofori Dwumah



Herve Alonge

Eric Daniell (Bristol)

We are sad to report the passing of our dear brother Eric Daniell. He was a much loved part of our congregation, having been baptised in 1956 at the European Christian Lectureship in Frankfurt, Germany.

Eric had been struggling with his health, especially for the last twelve months, and passed away on 23rd December. Our thoughts at this sad time are especially with his brothers John and Alan.

Geoff Daniell

Tom Blackmore Literature Fund

In 1987 our late brother Tom Blackmore set up a fund to give funds to churches of Christ to promote the teaching of Scripture. Tom was just an ordinary man who wanted to see the money he had worked hard for do some good. Over the years thousands of pounds have been given for Bibles, hymn books, Bible school materials. This has been a blessing to many in the UK and around the world. Over the past number of years interest from the banks has been negligible and the principal sum has now been used up and so the trustees have closed the account.

Tom had a vision and one which certainly lived on for many years after his death. All too often Christians want to do something for the Lord like Tom but either do not get around to it or fail to leave a substantial gift for a congregation in their will. Let me encourage brethren to think about their own finances and what they can do for their local congregation or the greater good of the churches both now and when they pass to their eternal reward.

Trevor Williams

A History of the Loughborough Congregation



The oldest continuous congregation of churches of Christ is Kirkcaldy being established sometime before 1798 making it at least 223 years old. Possibly the second oldest is Loughborough established in February 1841 making that congregation 180 years old.

Congratulations to both congregations and we wish you well for your future service to Jesus.

Trevor Williams

The beginning of the Loughborough congregation

In giving this historical outline, it is first necessary to refer to the church of Christ in Nottingham, as it was through the congregation there that the church in Loughborough came into being.

The cause in Nottingham began in 1836, in this way; in that year, there was a serious discussion amongst the Scotch Baptists there about the true import (sic) of baptism, and the operation of the Spirit of God in conversion. Through this discussion, a number of members left the Scotch Baptists, and on December 25th, 1836, fourteen met in an upper room at the warehouse of Jonathan Hine, Mount Street, Nottingham. This was the beginning of a New Testament church in that city.

The new cause made striking progress. By 1839, it had over 100 members. It then bought a large building, known as Salem Chapel, in Barker Gate. Progress continued and in 1841, membership was over 200. From this congregation others were planted – at Lincoln, Horncastle, Donnington, South Spilsby, Newark, Bulwell, and Loughborough.

There are few records of the early history of the church in Loughborough. It was formed in February, 1841 with a membership of 22, and reported to the first “General Annual Meeting” in 1842. In 1848 Brethren Mumby and Powers from the church in Barker Gate, Nottingham, visited the congregation here and wrote of the faithfulness of the brethren. Two brothers who long gave fine leadership to the church were J. Balm of Quorn and E. Snape of Loughborough. Both were well-known in the town for their good character and faithful service.

About this time a Bro & Sis Harding, of Mountsorrel, persuaded James Leavesley (of the same village) to attend the meetings of the church. James Leavesley was a well-known sceptic. Hearing, he believed and was immersed. At once he opened his home for Bible study, teaching and preaching, and soon a church was established in Mountsorrel.

Later James Leavesley's brother – a local preacher – came to hear what “this new doctrine” meant (it was new to him, as to many religious people in the locality, but in fact it was as old as the New Testament). At first, he opposed his brother, but he kept coming back for more. Eventually, he left Methodism and was immersed in the river Soar in the presence of hundreds of witnesses.

Bro. Mumby reported that because of trade depression, Thomas and James Leavesley went to live in Leicester. They found a mere handful of brethren meeting there. They brought new vision and enthusiasm to a somewhat discouraged group. A meeting-room was hired and meetings widely advertised. Capable preachers gave help (among them Bro. Blair and David King) and soon a flourishing work was under way. The church engaged the Lecture room of the Temperance Hall, and in meetings there, many were added to the Lord. Later they built a chapel in Crafton Street, where the church grew to be one of the largest in the district. From this congregation others were started at Andrews Street, Wigston and Evington Road.

The Loughborough church first met in Moira Street (now almost totally demolished); then in Odd Fellows Hall, Pinfoldgate. The present meeting house in Oxford Street, was opened in 1889. David King visited the church in 1892.

From the pen of Edmund Hill

Observations on the Above

1. Note the remarkable progress made by the church in Nottingham. In 5 years (1836-1841) it grew quickly from 14 members to over 200. Observe also that a number of churches quickly established in other places. *Question:* why does the church not grow so quickly today? Obviously, many reasons could be given; and obviously too the religious situation today is vastly different from the situation then. But here's something to think about: members of the churches of Christ at that time were well-known as “people of the book” – generally speaking they knew the word – they

“searched the scriptures daily” – they were skilled in using the “sword of the Spirit.” If more of us were more like them in this respect, could we not expect more progress than we ordinarily do?

2. Note the reference to the first “General Annual Meeting”. Students of the history of the “Restoration Movement” know that the departure from the New Testament pattern (finally resulting in “The Co-operation of the Churches of Christ”, a denomination among denominations) had a small beginning. An “Annual Conference” Appointed a “General Evangelistic Committee” to be responsible for training, supporting and directing evangelists. Other “Committees” quickly followed- Missionary Committee; Social Questions Committee; Sunday School Committee; Women’s Committee, and many more. Eventually a kind of super-committee was formed, called the “General Council”, to coordinate and supervise the work of all other committees. This Chosen departure from the simple organisation of the church as God gave it, along with modernistic teaching, has long since led those churches headlong into sectarianism. Let us heed the lessons of history, and hold fast to the simplicity that is in Christ. With the pioneers of the restoration we plead: for the complete restoration of Christianity as taught by Jesus and the Apostles – in faith, practice, organisation, worship and life.

Albert E. Winstanley





FROM THE ARCHIVES

Can you help identify these men from the past?



Stephen Daniell came across this photo recently and sent it to me. We thought it might be of interest to some. It would be good to identify all who are in the photograph.

The photo was taken in 1949 at Argyle Street, Hindley, and possibly represents those who were present at the Hindley Bible School or another study event.

Those who have been identified are as follows:

Back row from left: 1. ? ; 2. ? ; 3. Frank Worgan

Centre row from left: 1. ? ; 2. Albert Winstanley; 3. Len Channing; 4. ? ; 5. ? ; 6. ? ; 7. ?

Front row from left: 1. ? ; 2. Fred Day; 3. Stephen Winstanley; 4. ? ; 5. Walter Crosthwaite; 6. ? ; 7. ? ; 8. ?

If you can identify any of the others in the photograph, please send me the information by identifying the person by row and number (as we did to the left) at jdgalloway@mac.com. If we are able to identify others we will include an update in a future *Christian Worker*.

Stephen sent a second photo that he found which we plan to include sometime soon in these pages. It would be good to identify those who are in this photo as well.

Photographs contain good historical information. This one will be housed within the British Bible School Library.

Should others have photographs of similar events please send them to me – either a digital scan or the physical copy – at jdgalloway@mac.com or 4 Broughton, Valleyfield, East Kilbride G75 0JU.

Jon Galloway



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Evening Lectures Online

Ever since things ceased being ‘normal’ – sometime back in March last year – we have endeavoured to adapt and improvise as best as we can. It was always clear that simply trying to replicate normal activities online was never going to be a viable option, nor one that seemed particularly useful, so over the months we have introduced a number of initiatives to further our aims of helping equip the people of God for the mission of God through the Word of God.

Evening Lectures Online

Last weekend we launched our Evening Lectures Online which are scheduled for Saturday evenings, once every two months. They will be on a wide variety of subjects – many of which are not necessarily associated with other material being presented through our curriculum – and will be presented by both regular and visiting speakers.

The image shows a close-up of a stone relief sculpture from the British Museum, depicting a figure in a dynamic pose. To the right of the image, the title 'THE BIBLE IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM' is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below the title, a yellow sticky-note-like graphic contains the text: 'The first of our Evening Lectures Online' and 'To be repeated on Saturday, 20th February 2021 at 7.30 pm'. At the bottom of the graphic, it says 'All are welcome'. At the very bottom, it lists 'Presenter: Patrick Boyns' and 'Hosted by the British Bible School' next to the logo.

Our first event was “*The Bible in the British Museum*” and we were taken on a virtual tour of the museum with pictures and explanations of numerous artefacts illustrating aspects of the Biblical narrative. We were delighted to see so many attend this first event, and although provision for extra places had been made in advance, we were sorry that a significant number were unable to gain access.

In light of this we have decided to rerun this event on Saturday, 20th February 2021 and would be delighted to have you join us then. You can find more details on our website and on our Facebook page.

Other regular activities

Our Sunday Morning Messages are broadcast on YouTube each week at 10 o'clock. Our now regular Online Bible Classes are continuing each Monday and Thursday evenings on Zoom with studies on the books of Daniel and 1st Peter; and on Friday evenings we have our weekly, online quiz.

We are now well into the first term of our Online Extension Programme, studying our Module on “*The Authority of Scripture*”. We have a full class of a dozen students actively engaged in this first Module offered online, with more Modules planned for two more terms later this year.

Please follow us on social media and take a look at our website to see if there are any ways in which we might be of service to you at this time. We are so very thankful for all who continue to support the work we are doing – both in prayer and through regular donations.

May God bless us all in his service,

Patrick Boyns
britishbibleschool.com



"TAKE TIME OUT"

First and foremost, I send love and greetings to all our fellow Christians and congregations throughout the UK and worldwide. What an honour to be part of the body of Christ. It is such a blessing and encouragement to see the work that is ongoing. The coronavirus continues to take an effect on each one of us but I pray earnestly that the situation enables us to grow and become stronger and more stable in our faith than ever before. I am a strong believer that even trials are a blessing and if we allow God the opportunity, he will produce something special in our lives.

Take Time Out

We all live a very hectic and busy life. The world has taken such a strong hold that many of us are carried along like trees in a landslide. In some cases, our homes, relationships and Christian lives have become ensnared to the point that we are struggling to balance the scales. We have seen Christians failing to cope and marriages breaking down. We see how the heavy loads take such a grip and then Satan dives in using this to his advantage.

Many have been struggling mentally. I know of brothers in leadership roles including preachers and elders within the body who have been through struggles with health due to becoming overwhelmed by the loads they carry.



I have met up and sat with leaders in motorway service stations and seen tears of broken

men – it is the saddest situation to experience; some are undergoing counselling to help them cope.

The burden placed on many leaders can be overwhelming. We see mental health issues becoming more evident in general; we must not become complacent in assuming Christian leaders are excluded. Workplaces have support in place to provide help but within congregations many preachers and leaders are expected to cope and continue on their own.

The few full-time preachers I know are left to raise their own income with quite often a token given from the congregations they serve. Preachers are spending hours around the globe trying to obtain income to provide for their work. In the UK we see far fewer working full-time for the Lord because the task seems daunting, lonely and one sided. This in itself takes a great toll on our leaders and preachers – this is not a criticism but an observation for us all to consider.

LUKE 10:39-42 – This passage gives a record of an event that took place involving two sisters, Mary and Martha, who were with Jesus at home. We note in the passage that Martha was busy serving and Mary was simply sitting at the feet of Jesus listening. Martha was so frustrated that she turned to Jesus and asked if he did not care that Mary left her to serve him alone. Jesus calmly replied that one thing was needed and Mary has chosen that good part which should not be taken from her. Sometimes we can be so busy serving that we fail to see that at times Jesus simply wants us to sit at his feet, enjoy the fellowship with him and listen to his wonderful voice. Often being so engaged

"TAKE TIME OUT"

in the serving we fail to be recharged or energised and are unable to listen and hear God speaking.

Take Time To Hear God

Sometimes we need to hear how God feels about us. Nothing compares to the picture of a bride and groom, the beauty and love displayed by a wedding scene. The couple can't take their eyes from each other. Emotions flow as the beautiful bride walks towards her groom to be received in marriage.

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:14 – We see a God who sees each one of us and describes us as a dove. He wants to see our face and hear our voice. He says our voice is sweet and our face is lovely. It is possible to hate our own self and look at our messed-up lives. We can feel ugly and unworthy, but our Lord says, "He loves to see your face, He loves to hear your voice". We need to take time to be at his feet listening to him, talking with him and enjoying the relationship and fellowship that he desires so much.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17 – This passage reminds us that the Lord is in our presence. He is with us. The passage reminds us that he is the mighty one who will save. He is with us. With all our trials, busy-ness, stress and worries we are told he will quieten you with his love. God can rejoice over us with singing. What a thrill! We sing to God but now God sings to us.

However insecure we might feel, be assured: God finds you beautiful to see and sweet to hear. He is always with you. Only he can save because he is the mighty one and he, like any loving groom, is devoted to you. He rejoices by singing over you and wants personal time with you.

Take Time For What Is Within You

My prayer is that we all take time to look within ourselves. Our Christian lives involve serving and completing what God sets for us in our journey. But we need time out. Time to sit and listen. Jesus

often took time away from physical tasks to meditate in prayer and focus on his purpose.

1 SAMUEL 16:7 – The Lord told Samuel that He does not see the same way a man does. Mankind looks at the outward but the Lord looks at the heart. It is this that should help us to see how we can focus our lives to change and allow ourselves time to focus on what is within us. And this includes leaving the serving table to sit and be fed.

Exhortation

To all our Elders, Deacons, Preachers, and all those taking leadership roles within the congregations in preparing lessons, studies, worship, maintaining pastoral care, guiding God's people: let me encourage you. Remain strong so that we can serve our mighty God. Nothing is beyond him. Remember, we need to take some time from serving to sit, listen and meditate. We need time for ourselves. Often we will be praying over others, preparing lessons and studies to fulfil the needs of the congregation. Even those cooking the meals need to stop and eat. To Christians at large, please remember to encourage your leaders and pray for them daily. Let me also encourage our brothers to strive to seek to be overseers, shepherds of the body and watch over God's flock.

Let us care for one another daily in prayer and fellowship. May we be at peace with one another. May we learn to slow down and take time to sit, meditate and listen as we enjoy fellowship with our Lord and God to whom we belong. "For you were bought at a price: therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:20). Amen.

Paul Hill





Around the World

PHILIPPINES

A year ago, today (13th January 2020), Taal Volcano erupted less than twenty miles from my home here in Cavite. The Christians here were among the first to provide relief to hundreds of people displaced by this horrific event. How our lives have changed since then.

When we served these people for an entire month, little did we know that we would remain friends. Their love for life and their resilience enabled them to survive, not only that volcanic eruption, but this pandemic, as well as the typhoon after typhoon that struck the country.

Although they are doing much better now, they really have not fully recovered from the loss of livelihood. And so we continue to help them with what little we have.

Thank you for your faithfulness. You certainly have made a difference in the lives of so many. God bless you more each day.

Gigie Carranza

UKRAINE

Next door to Russia is Ukraine, a country with a chequered and often violently sad history. A couple of years ago I started to receive reports about some of the work among churches of Christ in this Eastern European nation.

Becoming an independent nation in 1991, this nation of 42 million is mainly 'Christian' under the teachings of the Ukrainian Orthodox church. In 1994 missionaries visited establishing a congregation where my correspondent Ivan Prokopchuk and his family gave their lives to Christ in baptism. The congregation grew but in 2014 the nation was in conflict with Russia and many of

the Christians dispersed across the country. Ivan and his family went to Kiev, the capital city, and serves God there.

Ivan's main work is now with orphans and children who are in difficult situations. The nation has a large proportion of orphans with about 48,000 without parental care. State orphanages only look after children until they are 16 years old and they leave without shelter or means of support. The result of this is that many turn to crime and prostitution resulting in a staggeringly high level of suicides.

This past year has been very difficult especially for children who are already isolated by not having parents or homes. Ivan writes that they try to help the children spiritually with Bible lessons and Christian fellowship. The children have a variety of needs including clothes, shoes and food. They are given fruits and vegetables to help vitamin levels, personal hygiene and disinfectant products. They need to be loved and so they have picnics together and even baking classes. Each of their meetings are accompanied by a Bible lesson and singing with lots of interaction resulting in joy and smiles.

The average family income in the UK is £2560 per month; in the Ukraine it is £220. If any of our brethren would like to have more information about the work contact Ivan (Usmishki@gmail.com) – he will send you a report known as 'Smiles monthly update'. If any would like to make a financial gift to this work please let me know (I have the necessary details). Please pray for this country and this beautiful act of love for Jesus.

Trevor Williams



"IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU"

Who would have thought a year ago we would be using words which have a new meaning of us. Words like 'lockdown' and 'isolation' were words I always related to those who were in prison. The words 'bubble' and 'tiers', were words I related to bath-time and cakes. Over this past year, we've been introduced to 'Zoom', which for many years I related to a song by Fat Larry's Band.

It's certainly been a different year. We have been challenged on how we worship God, meet together and the faith of some has been greatly tested. Most of us have gathered virtually on Zoom and greeted each other with the words, 'it's good to see you', and it meant more than before.

While we mourn with those who have lost someone during the pandemic, we thank God that most of our Christian brothers and sisters are still alive and well. We thank God for those we haven't seen in a while and we thank him for those from different countries whom we had not met before. We thank God for all the newborn babies and all the newborn Christians. It really is good to see them. It is wonderful that people

have taken time to present some kind of spiritual food for everyone to enjoy. It really is good to worship God, study his word and pray together with Christians from all over the globe.

I guess most of our congregations have now learned to adapt to our current situation. It's not ideal, but we've learned to praise God without physically singing; we've learned how to use new technology, not only to edify and encourage ourselves but as a means to reach out to the lost.

In a way, I hope things don't go back to 'normal'. I pray that we've had time to evaluate our relationship with God and each other, and to evaluate the way we worship. I pray we will look at different ways of presenting the good news of Jesus, different ways to reach the lost, and different ways to meet together.

Maybe breaking bread and singing together will have deeper meaning when this is over. Fellowship meals will be appreciated even more. We'll be more tolerant and forgiving of each other, especially of those who hold different opinions over certain verses of the Bible, and truly love each other as Christ loves us. We'll appreciate our freedom more, especially to worship God publicly and unashamed.



I believe when we eventually meet together physically, the words, 'it's good to see you' will have deeper meaning, accompanied with long hugs and the 'holy kiss'. Oh how we've missed that personal, physical contact with each other. May the LORD awaken us, rekindle the fire of his Holy Spirit in our souls, and bring a time of refreshing (Acts 3:19).

"IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU"

Imagine when we finally get to heaven and Jesus says to us, "Well done good and faithful servant". Maybe then we can sing that old song with a new word, "No TIERS in heaven, no sorrows given, all will be glory in that land..."

Mike Glover

Mike asked that we include this poem to go along with his thoughts.

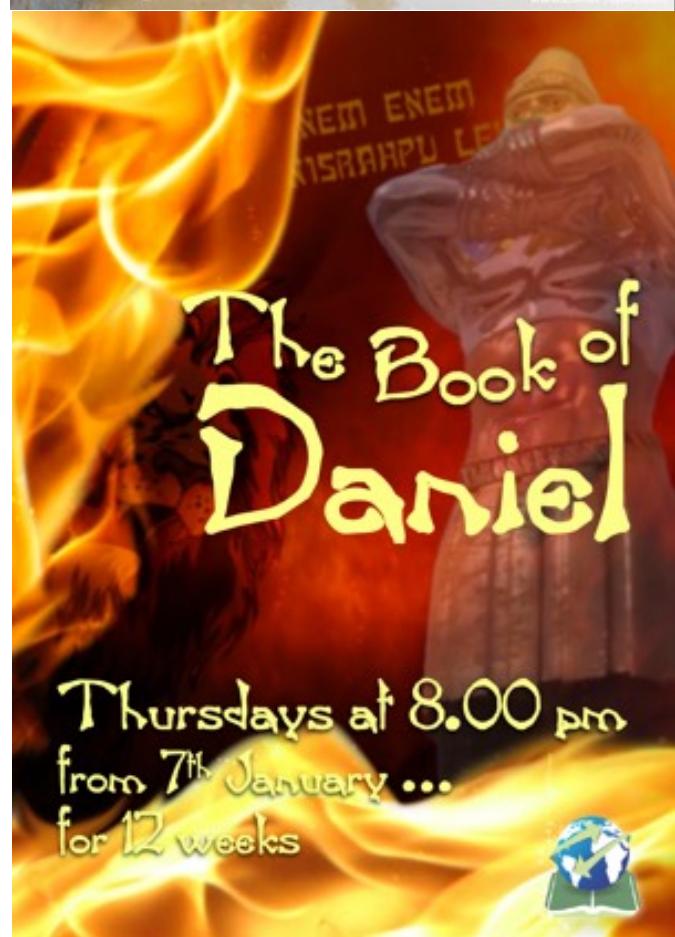
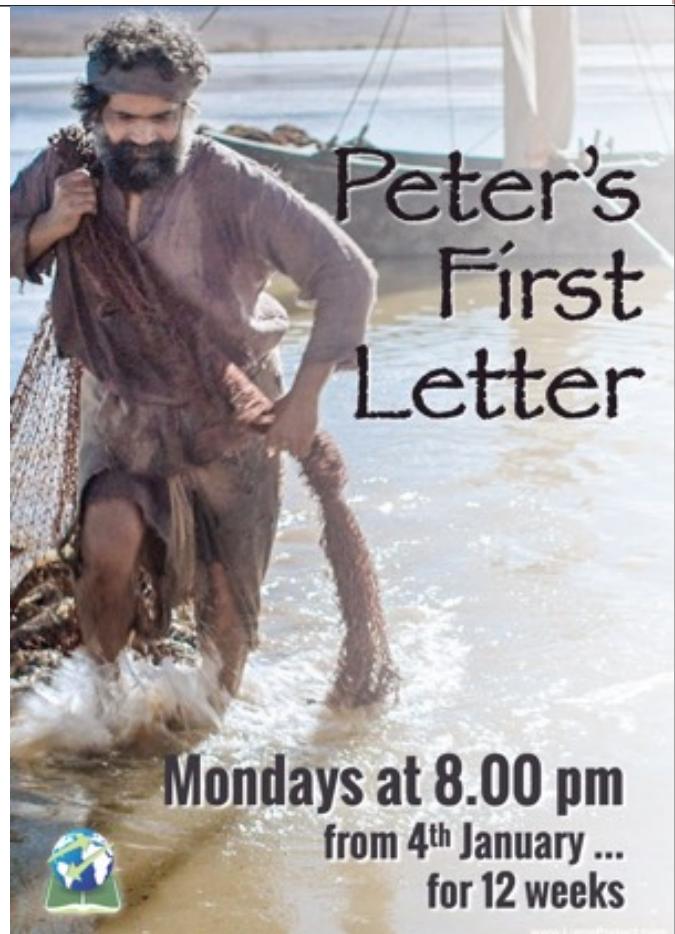
'Twas the night before Christmas and all over the land
This dreadful pandemic has changed what we planned;
But in order to save lives we've been put into tiers,
Some fear they'll lose their homes, others their careers.

Not much infection there, you're in tier one,
Not as bad as the others, but still not much fun.
The next town's in tier two, they're slightly less free,
But keep to the rules, or else...tier three!

Tier three is a bind, stay in, close the door,
If you dare spread the virus, you'll end up in tier four!
Whatever your tier, remember, be aware
It'll be better in heaven 'cos there are no tiers up there! (Revelation 21:4)

Stephen Daniell

Zoom links: <http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events> or on the BBS FaceBook page.





DIARY

February

1st – **British Bible School:** Evening Online Class – “1 Peter” taught by Jack Paton, each Monday at 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>).

4th – **Cumbernauld:** Winter Words – “Wall to Wall Workers” (Nehemiah 3), presenter: Scott Tominey, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

4th – **British Bible School:** Evening Online Class – “Daniel” taught by Jon Galloway, each Thursday at 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>).

4th – **Leicester:** Online Men’s Spiritual Leadership Series. Weekly on Thursday evenings, 8.00-9.00 pm. Contact: Paul Hill (paulh41@hotmail.co.uk).

11th – **Cumbernauld:** Winter Words – “Workers and Warriors” (Nehemiah 4), presenter: Patrick Sullivan, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

18th – **Cumbernauld:** Winter Words – “Stop! Thief!” (Nehemiah 5), presenter: David Murray, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

20th – **British Bible School:** “The Bible in the British Museum” – a repeat of the first of our Evening Lectures Online. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events/evening-lectures-online>).

25th – **Cumbernauld:** Winter Words – “We have heard the enemy and he is a liar” (Nehemiah 5), presenter: Robin Vick, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

March

4th – **Cumbernauld:** Winter Words – “V is for ‘Vigilance’” (Nehemiah 6), presenter: Mark Hill, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

11th – **Cumbernauld:** Winter Words – “The People and the Book” (Nehemiah 7), presenter: Jack Paton, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

Church of Christ Leicester
Presents:
Men's Spiritual Leadership Series 2021

Each Thursday evening,
beginning February 4th
8pm-9pm

Zoom ID: 840 6781 5690
Password: Lead2021

Join us on Zoom!

DIARY

18th – Cumbernauld: Winter Words – “Amazing Grace!” (Nehemiah 9), presenter: Michael Gaunt, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

20th – British Bible School: Evening Lectures Online. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events/evening-lectures-online>).

25th – Cumbernauld: Winter Words – “After we say ‘Amen’” (Nehemiah 10), presenter: Alex Gear, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

April

1st – Cumbernauld: Winter Words – “The shout heard ‘round the world!” (Nehemiah 11-12), presenter: Jon Galloway, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

8th – Cumbernauld: Winter Words – “Standing by our promises” (Nehemiah 13), presenter: Ian Starrs, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

27th – British Bible School: New Online Extension Programme term – “Parables”. Enrolment required. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/biblical-studies/online-extension-programme>).

May

22nd – British Bible School: Evening Lectures Online. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events/evening-lectures-online>).

July

31st – Edmonton (London): Singles’ Enrichment Programme, 3.00-10.00 pm, ages 18 and over. Theme: “Crossing Over From Single Life to Married Life – Get it Right”. Registration is required – contact: churchofchristedmset@gmail.com, Lloyd Agyemang (07833 296396), John ‘Nana Akwasi’ Asiamah (07908 725427), or Yaw Duodu (07462 080692).

European Events Calendar

February 2021

15th-21st – Gemünden, Germany:

Advanced Bible Study Series – online this year. Contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com).

26th-27th – European Ladies’ Retreat: Online International Ladies’ Fellowship. Theme: “The Pearl of Great Price” (Matthew 13:45-46). For further details please contact: elrorganizers@gmail.com or see our Website: <http://elr.yolasite.com>.

Singles’ Enrichment Programme

- ▶ Date: 31 July 2021
- ▶ Venue: Edmonton Church of Christ Worship Premises
- ▶ Time: 3.00 pm-10.00 pm
- ▶ Target Group: 18 years or above. Those who will turn 18 before/on 31 July 2021 are also eligible to register.
- ▶ There will be speakers from two sets of couples: a younger couple and an older couple
- ▶ THEME: CROSSING OVER FROM SINGLE LIFE TO MARRIED LIFE - GET IT RIGHT
- ▶ REGISTRATION
 - ▶ All who are interested in attending the programme are required to register their interest. Registration and attendance are free. To register, contact one of the following:
 - ▶ Email: churchofchristedmset@gmail.com
 - ▶ Lloyd Agyemang - 07833296396
 - ▶ John ‘Nana Akwasi’ Asiamah - 07908725427
 - ▶ Yaw Duodu - 07462080692
- ▶ Closing date for registration: 31 May 2021



THE FINAL WORD



Scripture and me

There are some passages of scripture that thrill me and touch my innermost soul. I am touched when I read of Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law, or when he told Jairus to give his daughter something to eat because she was twelve years old. I marvel at the love of Jesus as he hung on the cross to offer himself as a sacrifice to take away my sins yet cries out, 'Father forgive them for they do not know what they do'. I am amazed at the wisdom and wit of the Proverbs or the anxiety in the Psalms.

I love to read familiar passages since it is like taking a walk through a garden filled with the aromas of summer and a place often visited before. But there are only two passages that actually make me cry and I cannot read them without tears running down my cheeks. Passages which many may simply read over or think not so much of – but to me they have become sacred.

The first of these passages is Genesis 45:14-15 when Joseph met up with his brothers. We read, 'Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterwards his brothers talked with him.'

Somehow or other I can physically feel the emotion, the anxiety, the fear and also the release. Even as I write I have tears rolling down my face. For years Joseph had been pushed and pulled, rejected and finally accepted, his emotions had been stretched beyond the limits of human endurance but he never gave up on God. He was now at the centre of the world stage, his vision was saving nations from starvation even though he was starved of the natural love

from his family. In this verse a great river flows over the cliff edge into a waterfall of tears. Those who had rejected him were now in his arms and he was washing away the hurt with his tears.

The second is another weeping passage – this time Mark 14:72. 'Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him; "Before the cock crows twice you will disown me three times". And Peter broke down and wept'.

Poor Peter – who had seen the miracles of Jesus, heard him teach, seen Elijah and Moses, who did his best to walk on water, who was called over and over to greater things – was broken. His body was wracked in pain, every sinew ached with grief. He said he would never forsake Jesus and yet he did three times over. Peter showed his humanity and emptied his grief in tears.

Sometimes I feel just like Peter as I break my heart for my failures and weep. It is interesting to note in Mark 16:7 that when the women at the tomb had been told that Jesus was risen they were also told to 'go tell his disciples and Peter'. I wonder how long Peter wept and how often the tears flowed – did they come over and over again. I wonder if he could eat or drink, speak or even sleep. Poor, poor Peter.

Yet within weeks he was the lead preacher in the Temple courts and even the sick were healed when his shadow fell on them. Peter's tears broke him so that Jesus could make him.

How do the scriptures affect you?

Trevor