

November 2023 • Vol 55 No 11

Joint outreach meetings in the Glasgow area



Ten new Christians!

More thoughts an 'Refresh,
Reset, Reignite'

Updates from the UK and
around the world

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"A people of peace"



Front cover and
above: Mark Hill
speaking at Clarkston
and East Kilbride



EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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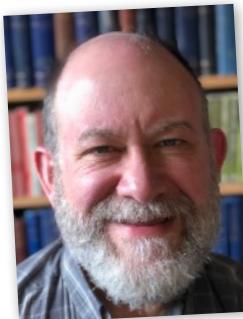
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MY PERSPECTIVE



"Inwardly
we are
being
renewed
day by
day"

The brevity of life

"All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures for ever." So wrote Isaiah (40:6-8), and quoted by Peter (1 Peter 1:24-25). What is the point? In a nutshell it is this: life is brief.

As I get older this comes home to me more and more. I remember Albert Winstanley often saying to me that in his mind he felt he was still a young man but his body told him he no longer was that young. And then he would quote this scripture: "*Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day*" (2 Corinthians 4:16). I am learning more and more what Albert meant.

These past few months have seen many Christians throughout the country leave this life and go on to their reward. It is sad for us who are left behind in that we no longer can talk with them and be taught and encouraged by them. However we are not sad for them: this is what we are living for as God's children. This is the day we truly are freed from this life and can go home. I read somewhere that the Christians in the first few centuries didn't mark birthdays but the day of someone's death. The reason was they could celebrate that they had now gone home.

I am discovering as we get older that there are more and more funerals to attend. Perhaps this is due to knowing more people as we get older or maybe it's simply the generation before us reaching their allotted time, and we need to realise it won't be long before our generation (whatever than happens to be) will be the next to reach the end of the line.

We do mourn the loss when someone has left this life, especially if they have been close to us. But our mourning is different from those who aren't Christians. As Paul wrote, "*If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied*" (1 Corinthians 15:19). Yet that is how most people around us live: get what you can now because they think this is all there is. Yet there is so much more! Some even reject becoming a Christian because, they say, what if there is nothing after this? They think that they would have missed out in this life if they followed Jesus and it wasn't real. How sad!

Death is, of course, part of life. Despite continual research in working out how to live longer death will come to us all, so our emphasis in this life must be to get ready for the next – because the end could come at any time. Jesus came to let us know that there is something better waiting for us. After all, he conquered death! "*Death has been swallowed up in victory.' Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'... But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1 Corinthians 15:54-55,57). Because Jesus came back from the dead we know there is something awaiting us after death.

So, how should we live? Notice how Paul concluded his discussion to the Christians in Corinth: "*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain*" (1 Corinthians 15:58). As we often say, we need to "keep on keeping on", remembering that we are living for eternity.

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!

Three become Christians in Motherwell

It is with great joy that we report three baptisms in Motherwell on the same evening. The **Chukwukadibia** family arrived in Coatbridge some weeks ago from Nigeria and the congregation have been working hard to see them settled in. The Christian parents with their children have been faithfully attending the meetings from day one. All three children then decided to be baptised and the baptisms were carried out at the meeting house on Monday, the 9th October. They are: daughter **Belia** (17) and sons **Charles Jr.** (15) and **Jubilee** (12). We thank the Lord for this proof of the power of the gospel message and we pray that these young disciples will grow in His grace and in his knowledge under the guidance of their faithful and loving parents and support of all the saints in Motherwell.

Ian S. Davidson

Six become Christians

Augustine Nyamatore started to teach a number of teenagers on Zoom during Covid days. This has led to five being immersed at the Northampton chapel: **Tavonga Nyakudya** from the Stapleford congregation, **Kevin Yusufu, Kudzwaishe Nyahora, Atipaishe Mangwiyo**, and **Tinodiwa Nyahora** from the congregation meeting in Mandeville Road, Aylesbury.

Takunda Nyamatore, known as TJ, was also immersed at the Adam St, Ilkeston chapel.

Trevor Williams

Rejoicing in Stirling



Saturday, 14th October, saw around forty gather at East Kilbride's meeting place to witness a new birth. **Aleah Chapman**, third daughter of David and Deborah Chapman, was immersed into Jesus for the forgiveness of her sins by her father. It was wonderful that her grandmother Irene Renwick and great-grandmother Jean Davis were able to be present.

A large number of Christians from many congregations were present and enjoyed a time of fellowship afterwards with pizza.

Keep Aleah in your prayers as she begins her walk as a Christian.

Jon Galloway



REFRESH, RESET, REIGNITE – FURTHER THOUGHTS

In July this year, at the invitation of the Kirkcaldy elders, a group met at Balmule House to ‘Refresh, Reset, and Reignite’ (see August 2023 *Christian Worker* for a full report). The discussions at the retreat led by a team from Nolen Hills church of Christ centred around ‘Evangelism – An Ancient Method in a New Time’. It became apparent during the various sessions that some things needed to change if we were to move forward. So, as we left to go back to our home congregations and consider what congregations needs to go forward, we agreed to meet for a follow-up and share our reflections on what was discussed, and what we had or planned to implement.

Of course, each congregation has its own needs, but here are some general thoughts:

1. We must make an honest appraisal. Ask. Do we need a reset? Do we need a *radical* reset?
2. We must be willing to change where appropriate. Insanity has been defined as, “*Keeping doing the same things over and over and expecting a different result or outcome.*” It would be foolish to be asking God to make changes while still doing the same things!
3. We must trust in the power of God.
4. We must believe that he empowers us.
5. We must have bold and focused leadership with a vision that breathes new life into the congregation.
6. We must all capture that renewed vision.
7. We must appreciate that a radical reset of a congregation won't always be easy – change can be difficult. There may be resistance. Some may be happy with the status quo – happy where they are.
8. We need to be amazed and excited about what we have in Jesus. Without

that, any gospel movement – taking the good news to others – will likely be unsuccessful because *we aren't sold on what we are offering*. Without this amazement we won't build an effective community of Christ-followers.

9. We must make disciples and not simply converts.
10. We must build connections with new people. We don't need more programmes but more disciples. We must get to know a person individually. Each individual must feel valued. Being together more often is vitally important. Sharing experiences and reaching out in love with genuine kind spirits.
11. We must ‘Pray! Pray! Pray!’
 - Bold and focused prayers for all in our community. Having identified a specific need, then begin an intentional “40 days of prayer”, using prayer cards. These cards are an easy way to pray for a specific event, neighbours, co-workers, family members, friends. You get to choose. An example of these prayer cards can be sent to you. Email alan.j.moyes@gmail.com
 - Bold and focused prayers for those aged 20 to 35. This age group is missing in so many of our congregations today. We must connect with the younger generation.
12. We must have a focused vision and act on it – ‘*Each One Reach One*’.

This is by no means a complete list, but we pray that some of the points mentioned will be helpful and be a way for all of us to *Refresh, Reset and Reignite*.

Alan Moyes and Eric McCallum



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Friends for life

Friendship is so very important. Solomon wrote about this: “*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no-one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken*” (**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NIV**). I think most of us realise the need for friendship, with perhaps your ‘best friend’ being your spouse, the one you share your life with.

One of the great friendships in the pages of scripture is that of Jonathan and David. They have always been of interest to me because my parents chose to name me after them. Yet, like many friendships, we might wonder why they became friends.

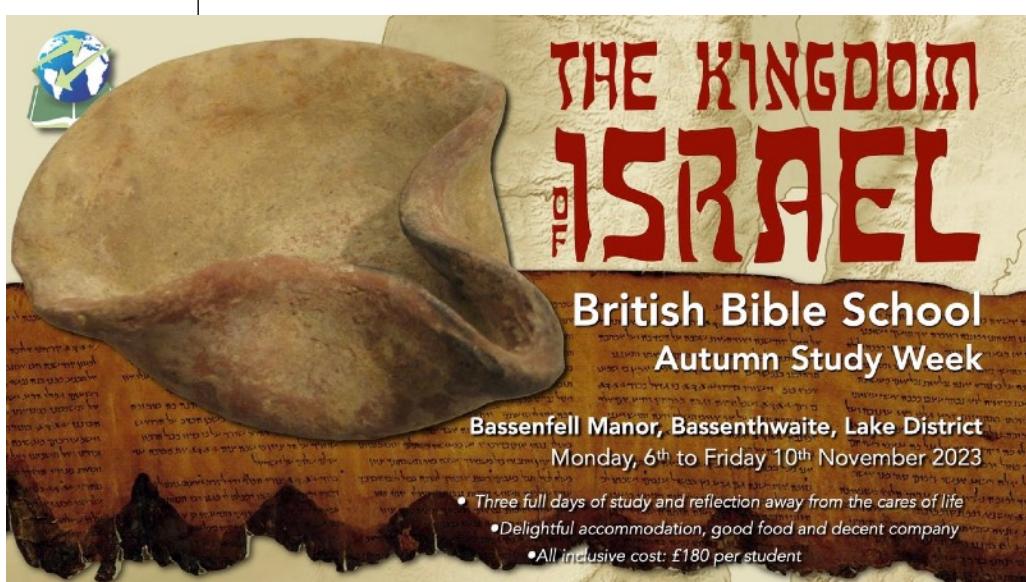
Despite the depictions in our Sunday School materials, they were not that close in age. In fact, it would seem that Jonathan was old enough to be David’s father! How do we know this? By looking at what they were doing in 1 Samuel. Just after Saul became king we find Jonathan was one of the commanders in his army. We don’t meet David until towards the end of Saul’s reign. As Saul reigned for forty years (**Acts 13:21**), then it would seem that Jonathan was at least twenty years older than

David – and some commentators suggest it could have been 25-30 years older. Yet despite their age difference, Jonathan saw something in David and “*became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself*” (**1 Samuel 18:1**).

It might be surprising to us that they became friends because David had been designated by God to be the next king. We do not know at what point Jonathan discovered this, but we know he was aware of it when David was on the run as an outlaw and was being chased by Saul and his forces. Jonathan would slip away to meet up with David to encourage him. He told David this: “*Don’t be afraid. My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You shall be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this*” (**1 Samuel 23:17**). That he would not be king does not seem to have bothered Jonathan, even though as the eldest son of Saul he would most likely have expected to be king. He knew that David trusted in God as he did.

Isn’t this is what friendship should be? People who are there to encourage each other when life isn’t going well, but especially in their service of God. People who are devoted to the other despite what life might throw at them. We see this so well in the lives of Jonathan and David.

We are looking forward to studying more about “The Kingdom of Israel” next week at the BBS Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor. There is a good number already enrolled. If you can’t join us this year, think about setting time aside next year to further explore God’s word.



Jon Galloway
britishbibleschool.com

Carol Anne Duncan-Farrell (Kirkcaldy) 1965-2023

On Wednesday, 4th October 2023 many family, friends, colleagues and Church family, each wearing a splash of colour, came together to celebrate a life well lived and bid a fond farewell to Carol Anne Duncan-Farrell.

Carol was born on Saturday, 27th March 1965 to proud parents Pete and Jan Duncan. She was the first of three children. She grew up initially in Dundee but the family moved in 1968 to Glenrothes.

The family journey with the saints at Glenrothes began in 1970 with Carol and her brothers attending Sunday school at the Tenants' Meeting Rooms. Paul McGregor invited Jan and Pete to come along too. Her parents were immersed in 1974 and a little later Carol also became a Christian.

In the early days the church met for worship in the Cullen Club rooms then Woodside Community Halls and finally in 1974 at the newly built Glenrothes church of Christ building in Pitteuchar, Where Carol's mum and dad were both baptised that same year and remained faithful, active members of the congregation. Carol and her brothers continued to attend Sunday school and later they enjoyed Youth Weekends, Camp Heatherbell and the Christmas parties especially when Pete played Santa. A little later Carol, too, was baptised.

After school was over Carol enrolled at Woodmill College, Aberdeen, to study physiotherapy. This led to a career as a physiotherapist and eventually specialist posts at various locations.



It was while working as a physiotherapist that she met Colin Farrell, who became the love of her life. Both shared the same love of travelling, motorbikes and live music.

Sadly, in 1996 Carol contracted M.E. (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). She returned to the family home in Glenrothes and with medication and determination. Her health improved and she secured a Specialist Physiotherapist post in Fife, which led to further promotions. On Saturday, 20th February 1999 Carol and Colin were married and one year later their daughter Molly was born.

In 2006 cancer was diagnosed but after treatment Carol got the all-clear. In November 2019 her cancer returned and in 2020 she retired. She remained very positive throughout her life in good times and in bad and she demonstrated her unwavering faith in God. With all treatment avenues exhausted a friend invited her on one last road trip to the Isle of Lewis.

Carol passed away on Wednesday, 13th September 2023, at 11.15pm in Stornoway with her husband, Colin and daughter Molly by her side.

Eric McCallum

At rest

May Wilson (Slamannan)

30th August 1929-15th September 2023

We chronicle the death of our sister May Wilson, who passed away on 15th September aged ninety-four. She had been a faithful servant of the Lord for eighty-one years. She leaves six children and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

The writer conducted the services at William Scott's Service Room in Falkirk and at the cemetery in Slamannan. The numbers at both services reflected the esteem in which she was held by family, relatives, friends, neighbours and brothers and sisters in the Lord. She was a widow for the last eighteen years of her life and her beloved



husband Peter's faith was also highlighted on the day. We say of this lovely lady: "Earth's loss is heaven's gain".

Ian S. Davidson

Lorna Glendinning (USA) 1953-2023

Lorna Glendinning (age 70), beloved wife of Raymond Glendinning, went to her eternal reward on 7th September, after a year long fight with cancer.

Lorna was a faithful woman who loved her Lord and served him alongside her husband in his work for 48 years. She will be solely missed. Raymond and Lorna would have shared their 52nd wedding anniversary on 25th September. Raymond's address is:

3272 N. OHara Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65803
USA
raymondglendinning@sbcglobal.net

Raymond Glendinning

Ken Lewis (Wales)

We mark the passing of our brother Ken Lewis on 9th October. Ken met his wife Freda at an anniversary meeting in Ilkeston when he drove a coach filled with locals Christians to the occasion.

He was always wanting to see more evangelism in our country and enjoyed sharing 'Fact and Faith' films, distributing leaflets, and visiting people, as well as using their home for Bible studies. He lived in south Wales for many years.

Trevor Williams

Maurice Charlton (Dundee) 1943-2023

We also mark the passing of Maurice Charlton on 6th October. Maurice lived an adventurous life but was devoted to telling others about Jesus. We hope to have more details of his life soon. Keep Polly and the family in your prayers.

Jon Galloway



FAMILY NEWS

KIRKCALDY

We were pleased to welcome two more Christians into our fellowship in September: Judith Aitken (Judi) and Dawn Aitken. We look forward to their being part of God's family here.

Allan Hughes

EAST KILBRIDE & CLARKSTON

For several years congregations in the central belt of Scotland have been joining

together to have a series of joint gospel meetings. This was curtailed during COVID but we are happy that we have been able to resume these activities.

East Kilbride and Clarkston jointly hosted meetings the last weekend in October. Mark Hill was our speaker and presented three excellent lessons. "Why?" on Friday evening at Clarkston looked at the need for

God's existence. "Why not?" was on Saturday evening, looking at the existence of Jesus. Sunday morning was a joint period of worship at which Mark presented the final lesson: "Why not now?", looking at the need to follow Jesus. There were visitors from the communities for the lessons.



Mark Hill speaking at East Kilbride

congregations attended and were encouraged by meeting about ninety Christians from around Europe and America. Albania went through years of domination and segregation and is now a developing country. Among the population of three million there are thirteen congregations from churches of Christ, with each having a national preacher to assist. The country is beautiful with rolling mountains and a Mediterranean climate.

A vast array of lessons were presented including: spiritual and mental health for church leaders; looking at the real meaning of some Greek words in the Pastoral Epistles; developments in outreach for the blind; news from Healing Hands International and its development for water and food relief; as well as plenty of teaching and preaching encouraging all from the Scriptures.

Among those we met was Oleksander Nilolaienko a Ukrainian preacher who, after being bombed out of several places, now serves in The Netherlands working with Ukrainian children trying to help them normalise their situation. I just can't imagine what those children are going through losing their home, school, friends, family, language, foods, etc. On your behalf I left £500 to help this brother's work from the Christian Worker funds.

The next EVW will be held in the same place next October and I encourage others from the UK to attend and to realise that we are part of a far greater Christian movement and to be encouraged about the faith of many others. Please talk to me about this for more information.

EUROPEAN VISION WORKSHOP

The 2023 European Vision Workshop was hosted in Shengjin Lezhe, Albania, from 3rd-5th October. Five representatives of UK

Trevor Williams



AROUND THE WORLD

FRANCE

We are aware of how important it is to build up people's faith. We believe that we can have a very important service in edifying and clarifying the Christian faith. We have probably experienced ourselves, or met someone who is unsure of what their path in life should be. Perhaps they have reached a turning point in their lives, maybe at the end of their formal education, but are hesitant to move forward to the next step. LIFE can be daunting. Many have fears, doubts, and uncertainty as to the direction God has for them. A time to reflect and refocus will strengthen the faith and can be crucial before moving forward.

How can that be done? La Maison de Perrine offers a welcoming, Christ-centred environment where a person can come and participate in a balanced, structured rhythm of devotion, work, rest, and study. Each module of three weeks, is an opportunity to devote more time to seeking God's will, by directed study of the Word; work on service projects; daily devotional time; enriching local tours; and creative workshops.

These affordable sessions will be offered in April, May, July, and September 2024. God has provided the facility, the

resources, the experience, and talents to do this valuable Kingdom work.



An 18th Century banquet with Aggies for Christ

This past year we have welcomed several groups who spent time with us. The Harding University Choir was with us for a few days in May and presented two excellent performances. 'Aggies for Christ' were with us for the third time to help with service projects. In July fifteen high school students joined us from California. Last month twenty Augustinian monks came for tea. We made a visit to them to learn of their monastic lifestyle. We were also blessed with visits from Trevor and Pauline Williams as well as Reed Rogers.

This past month we have had to replace the roof on two areas of our building, the chapel and

library wings. Originally we were set to just replace one roof, but we noticed that the roof on



Harding University Choir



Repairs to the roof

Around the World

the library wing was in very poor state. It was more economical to have both roofs replaced at the same time. This major repair work, by a very well respected local roofer, will cost \$96,000 and should last for a century.

If any would like to help in any way, please contact me: elite.not.elitist@gmail.com.

Jerry Jones

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Coming up soon... !!

NORTHAMPTON LADIES DAY

Theme – SPREAD THE NEWS

Sat 4th November - 10:00 - 16:00

Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th November



Join the Bedminster Church of Christ in Fellowship, Growing and Learning together

Arrival from 1830 on Friday, evening meal provided

PRIME TIME
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2023

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For Brothers and Sisters 40 and over

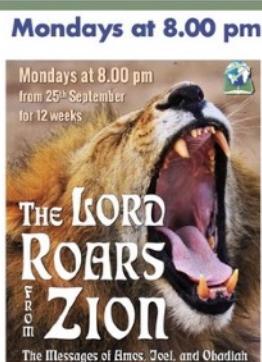
SALVATION FELLOWSHIP UNDERSTANDING

please stay for a Fellowship meal after Sunday service

Contact Martin Nelson at Martin.p.nelson4@gmail.com or Tel 07786157417 for bookings or more information (Please leave a text during the day)
Or email bedminstercoc@gmail.com

Online Bible Classes with the British Bible School

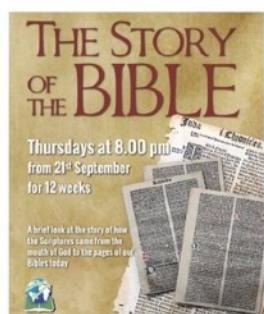
For twelve weeks commencing 21st September 2023



The three prophets Amos, Joel, and Obadiah proclaimed the coming of the day of the Lord for Israel, Judah, and Edom. What message did these prophets have for the people of their day? What made them necessary? What relevance do their messages have for us today?

Presenter: John Griffiths

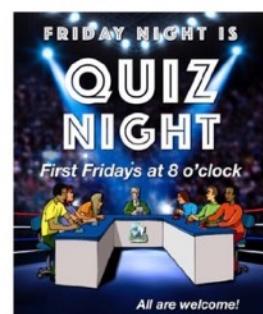
Thursdays at 8.00 pm



The story of how the Scriptures came from the mouth of God to the pages of our Bibles today is fascinating and, at times, most perplexing. In this brief summary we will meet some jolly interesting people and highlight significant events and developments along the way.

Presenter: Patrick Boyns

1st Fridays at 8.00 pm



Some light-hearted, educational, entertainment for everyone – nothing too testing (promise!). And you might want to have a pen and paper handy – plus a box of choccies to award yourself if you happen to win – or even if you don't. Please check dates on social media.

Quizmaster: Steve Whitehead

FOLLOWING AND WORSHIPPING GOD

It took Solomon seven years to build the temple for God. He began it in the fourth year of his reign and completed it in the eleventh year (1 Kings 6:37-38). He also built a palace for himself which took another thirteen years to build (1 Kings 7:1-12).

Once the temple and all the items to be used in the worship of God were completed, Solomon brought the Ark of the Covenant to be placed in the inner sanctuary. Israel's elders, tribal leaders, and all the men of Israel came to witness the transfer of the Ark to the temple.

Solomon then blessed the assembled Israelites and offered a prayer to God. The prayer is rather long as it is recorded in both the Kings and Chronicles, but there are themes which are worth our attention.

"O Lord, God of Israel, there is no god like you in heaven above or on earth below! You maintain covenantal loyalty to your servants who obey you with sincerity...Now, O Lord, God of Israel, keep the promise you made to your servant, my father David, when you said, 'You will never fail to have a successor ruling before me on the

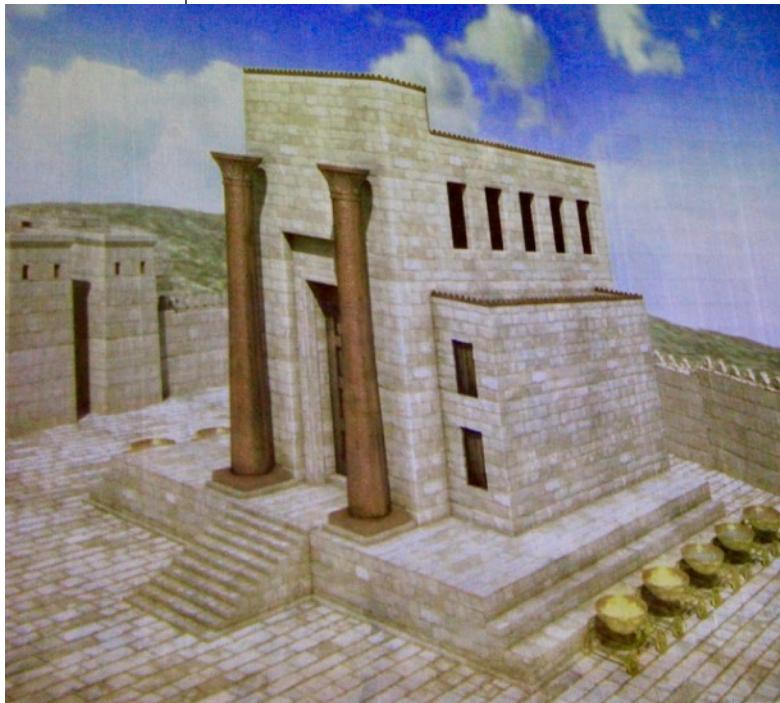
throne of Israel, provided that your descendants watch their step and serve me as you have done.'" (1 Kings 8:23-25 NET)

There was no god like YHVH, the God of Israel! God had promised that the line of David would always have a king on the throne of Israel. But notice that there was a condition placed on this: provided that they were faithful to God and served him. Today there is no throne in the land of Israel. No descendant of David reigns on a physical throne. But there is one of the lineage of David who is reigning: Jesus the Messiah. His throne isn't a physical one nor is his kingdom physical. He told Pilate, "*My kingdom is not of this world.*" This is the kingdom we are part of as Christians.

"God does not really live on the earth! Look, if the sky and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this temple I have built!" (1 Kings 8:27)

The temple Solomon constructed, from its description, was a building of beauty with the walls covered with gold. It was impressive! But Solomon realised that it could not contain God. In fact, the earth cannot contain him nor can any other part of Creation. The God we serve is so much greater than anything on the earth.

Solomon realised that having a temple would not keep the Israelites faithful to their God. He said, "*The time will come when your people will sin against you (for there is no one who is sinless!) and you will be angry with them and deliver them over to their enemies*" (1 Kings 8:46). He appealed to the people to be faithful but when they sinned to repent and come back to God, asking for forgiveness. The same is true today. We need to realise that we are not sinless and make sure we ask our Father in Heaven to forgive us.



Following and Worshipping God

Solomon realised that God was faithful. He said, “Not one of all the faithful promises he made through his servant Moses is left unfulfilled!” (1 Kings 8:56). Sadly many today are looking for God to still restore a physical kingdom in Israel to fulfil his promises to Moses. Yet time and again in scripture we read that God fulfilled all his promises. Joshua was aware of it (Joshua 23:14) and we see Solomon emphasising the same thing. God fulfilled all his promises to Israel.

May we learn the lessons that Solomon was trying to get his people to understand. “May he make us submissive, so we can follow all his instructions and obey the commandments, rules, and regulations he commanded our ancestors” (1 Kings 8:58).

Jon Galloway

**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

THE STRATFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST LONDON,
Invites learners to Our:

Pre-Baptism and Newly - Baptised

CLASSES: GROUP 1 - SUNDAYS 6 PM UK TIME: PRE-BAPTISM CLASS
GROUP 2 - SUNDAYS 6 PM UK TIME: NEWLY BAPTISED YOUTHS
GROUP 3 - MONDAYS 8 PM UK TIME: NEWLY BAPTISED ADULTS

TEACHERS
JAMES TAMBE | EMMANUEL BOATENG | ALVIN FRASER
KWAKU TWUMASI | FRED QUAYE

zoom ID: 8540976249 | passcode: sc2020



29 FEB 2024 AT 16:00 – 3 MAR 2024 AT 11:00 UTC

European Leadies Retreat 2024

Private · Event by Anina Lisa Good - Zingg and The European Ladies Retreat

Notices

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

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For more information on hosting and to discuss contact:

Alan Dod 07779 606568
Bernadine Wells 07904 303347





DIARY

November

2nd – British Bible School evening class: “The Story of the Bible” taught by Patrick Boyns each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

3rd – 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.

3rd-5th – Bristol (Bedminster): Prime Time – “Mind the Gap”. For the over 40s. Arrival from 6.30 pm on Friday, evening meal provided. Contact: Martin Nelson (Martin.p.nelson4@gmail.com) or 07786 157417 or bedminstercoc@gmail.com.

4th – Northampton: Ladies’ Day: “Spread the News”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm. Contact: SuzanneHill2019@outlook.com.

4th – East Kilbride: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

6th – 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. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

6th-10th November – British Bible School Autumn Study Week at Bassenfell Manor: “The Kingdom of Israel.” Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Mark Hill. Further details and registration can be found at <https://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/autumn-study-week-2023>.

25th – Castlemilk (Glasgow): Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

December

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).

January 2024

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

19th-21st – British Bible School Winter Family Retreat at Bassenfell Manor: “Up on the Mountain”. Registration on our website: <https://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/bassenfell-manor-family-retreat-2024> (general registration open soon).

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).

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.



THE FINAL WORD



A people of peace

By the time our readers receive this I have no idea what situation the nations of the world will be in. War is the greatest folly of mankind. We can search the stars yet cannot understand the thinking of nations around us. All over the UK we have memorials to those who died in battle in one war or another. We also wear poppies and have Remembrance Sunday. Visiting the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent, is a moving and sobering reminder of the heartache of war, yet it continues.

On our national news we hear of the headline atrocities – today it may be the current Hamas-Israel aggression; yesterday it was Russia against Ukraine, but that yesterday is still very much today's news, if you are Ukrainian. Then there is civil war in Myanmar, Afghanistan, Columbia, Ethiopia, Mali, Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria. There is also Terrorist insurgency in DR Congo, Iraq, Burkina Faso and Nigeria – at least these and maybe more.

Jesus said that there would be wars and

rumours of wars and we know only too well that bad news travels fast. There are some who are rooting through Scripture to find Biblical

prophecy in support of Israel. But wars have always been and, until all fall at the throne of God acknowledging that Jesus Christ is Lord, we may presume there always will be.

Even in the church of the Living God among those who proclaim the resurrection of Jesus there is division. Then in our own church fellowship there can be division and one brother looking down upon another. This is just as much war as taking a rifle and shooting the enemy. I know that I have been called a liberal and a false teacher because I did not meet someone else's standard of thinking. To be called false hurts, to be called liberal thrills me because I have read in the gospel records of the most liberal man of all. Jesus broke conventions one after the other. He made friends of the sick, the adulterer, the broken-hearted, the unthankful, and the destitute.

We are called to be a people of peace because Jesus is the prince of peace. We are called to wash one another's feet, to hold on to those who are slipping away from the faith, to pray without ceasing, and to remember that there is no other name given among men by which we must be saved. Yes, pray for the peace of Jerusalem but never forget the cities, towns and villages of every nation on Earth that are facing the backlash of hatred, violence and discord. Jesus said, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you' (John 15:27).

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us bring love.
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord,
And where there is doubt, true faith in you.*



Trevor