

the Christian worker

MAGAZINE

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Front cover and above: a frosty morning in Netherburn, Scotland.



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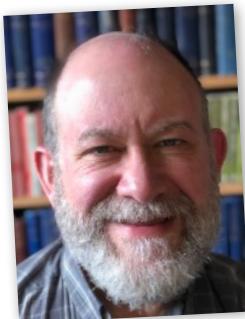
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To receive *The Christian Worker Magazine* as a free pdf, send your e-address to jdgalloway@mac.com. Professionally printed copies are available at cost. Please contact Trevor for details – twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk.



MY PERSPECTIVE



The storms of life

Last weekend saw a devastating storm in central Scotland. The Met Office issued a rare red warning for wind, with the rest of Scotland under an amber warning, as well as parts of England – Northern Ireland was also hit very hard.

We had already planned to spend last weekend visiting our daughter and her family in Wallsend. They had wind, but nothing like what our area of Scotland had. When we returned we saw the devastation: many trees toppled, one house in our village lost half of its roof, and the houses across the street from us all had tile damage to their roofs. Fortunately our house escaped any damage. About ten miles south of us was recorded a wind speed of over 100 mph.

The storm we went through was severe with serious consequences for many. But our lives also have ‘storms’ with consequences that are also severe and can be devastating. How do we cope with the storms of life?

I try to read from the Psalms each day. What has amazed me is all that David went through in his life (at least the Psalms to which I am referring are attributed to David). Even reading the accounts of his life in 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles also lets us know that his was not an easy life. He knew what storms in life were all about. Here are something that I read recently:

“The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground; he makes me dwell in the darkness like those long dead. So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed.” (Psalm 143:3-4 NIV)

How are we to face storms in life? What can we do to get through them? Notice how David coped with what he went through:

“LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief. I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done. I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land...Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. Rescue me from my enemies, LORD, for I hide myself in you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.” (Psalms 143:5-6,8-10)

That is the solution, isn't it? We need to take our concerns and problems to God. We need to ask God for his help and remember who he is and all he has done. God is there for us! But notice, as well, the need to do God's will and recognise how God leads us.

If David was able to rely on God for his help and strength, how much more can we rely on him who have his son as our high priest:

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Hebrews 4:15-16)

When the storms of life descend on us we have help *“in our time of need”*. Jesus knows and understands – after all, he truly experienced life and hows what we go through.

Jon

CONGRATULATIONS!



Another new Christian in Cumbernauld!

More great news to start 2025! On Monday, 20th January, **Blair** gave her life to Jesus after studying for some time. We are so excited to celebrate this decision with our new sister and rejoice with the angels as he welcomes another soul to the family.

Nicole Barr



Daniel with Kunle

Rejoicing in Northampton!

On Saturday, 25th January, we rejoiced as **Daniel Abegunde** put on his Lord in baptism. Not so long ago the family visited our worship service and his parents Debo and Azarat were immersed. We are so happy for them that their son has now joined them in the faith.

Mark Hill



Blair with Edwin Offin

At a crossroads in your life?
Don't know which way to go?

A THE WAY IS
CHRIST



FRI 28TH FEBRUARY HYVOTS BANK
SAT 1ST MARCH KIRKCALDY

Speaker: Joe Scobbie (Dundee)

→ 28.2.25 – 7.30PM
HYVOTS BANK CHURCH OF CHRIST

48a Gilmerton Dykes Drive, Edinburgh EH17 8LB
www.churchofchrist-edinburgh.co.uk

1.3.25 – 7.00PM ←
KIRKCALDY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hayfield Community Centre, Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY2 5DG
<https://m.facebook.com/kirkcaldychurchofchrist>



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

**Being
certain of
our faith**

Plans are underway for our spring teaching weekends at various locations throughout the UK. We are currently working with local congregations to come up with sessions that will be useful for their needs.

In Northampton we are planning to examine “Christian Apologetics”. Because of the constant attacks on belief in God and the Bible, Christians need to be certain of their faith and to *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”* (1 Peter 3:15-16 NIV)

The BBS module on Christian Apologetics is designed to help us to defend our faith. We will be looking at evidence for the existence of God, the reality of Jesus, and the reliability of the Bible. We will then spend time contrasting what we find in the Bible concerning Creation with what most believe that science indicates: the Theory of Organic

Evolution. Not only will we see how the Bible harmonises with scientific fact but also how the Theory of Evolution is not good science and often contradicts scientific fact.

Jon Galloway and Mark Hill will be presenting this module at Northampton over two weekends: 15th-16th March and 29th-30th March. Join us if you can for two weekends of what we anticipate being stimulating teaching and discussion that is designed to build us up in our faith.

Study weekends are also being planned for Aberdeen and Wembley. We do not yet have dates nor the modules we will be covering.

British Bible School Study Weekends are designed to give Christians more in-depth study on Bible texts and relevant topics. Time is provided not only for teaching but also for discussion. Come along to a study weekend near you or contact us if you would like to host one at your congregation.

Jon Galloway

britishbibleschool.com

Christian Apologetics

Examining evidence for God, Jesus and the Bible
Examining the Theory of Evolution in light of the Bible & Science

GENESIS

The beginning
1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
3 And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light ‘day’, and the darkness he called ‘night’. 6 Evening passed and there was morning – the first day.

Northampton

Shadowfax Drive NN3 8DB

Saturday, 15th March, 9.00am to 4.30pm

Sunday, 16th March, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Saturday, 29th March, 9.00am to 4.30pm

Sunday, 30th March, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Teachers: Jon Galloway & Mark Hill



A British Bible School Applied Biblical Studies Module

All are welcome to either or both weekends
For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook



AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THE MEANING OF LIFE

The opportunity to explore the meaning of life is what is offered by people taking what is known as “The Alpha Course”. It is an evangelistic course that seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. They are run in churches, homes, workplaces, prisons, universities and a wide variety of other locations around the world. When it began, I went along to see what it was all about. Much was good but in some vital teachings it was not. However, it has grown and is used around the world – people’s lives have most certainly been changed by it.

I wondered what it would be like to have a course like that yet was true to scripture in its teaching of how a person is saved from their sin, is placed in Christ and receives the Holy Spirit. Something that could be used locally and around the world, to lead people to Christ.

Right now, there is something, it is free to use individually and with groups. “Next Generation Ministries” have made available the resource of “Story of Redemption Films”. This began as evangelistic leaflets written by James Nored. They were then scripted to be used on the radio. From there short films were made from them to

be presented on television. Now they are accessible to anyone on the internet and the number of films is growing. Many people have already come to the Lord and have been saved by being able to watch and then discuss the films.

When I was asked to be a representative for making these films known in the UK, I had no hesitation – it is what I had been waiting for. Now we are building a team to reach out locally, nationally and around the world with the good news of Jesus with the help of these films. This may not be for you. You may be happy with the way things are. On the other hand, you might be ready for something that can assist our effectiveness in reaching out. Can you honestly say you are satisfied that collectively we are doing as much as we can to reach out to those who are lost? We have tremendous potential, and this provides us with a tool suitable for our modern-day technology. It is already happening in the UK. This is an invitation to reach out further than we ever thought possible in active service for Jesus.

Our aim is to equip people in our congregations who have a firm resolve to offer the good news of Jesus with every person in their locality. The Word of God is powerful – people just need to be exposed to it. Those we reach out to will be transformed by Christ as we have been. But they will be able to immediately share their faith in the same way it was shared with them. They can then study further and deeper with the resources provided by the British Bible School. No



**The STORY of
REDEMPTION
FILM SERIES**

**A FAITH
JOURNEY**
FOR SEEKERS & BELIEVERS!

FILMED IN ISRAEL
& AROUND THE WORLD!

www.StoryofRedemptionFilms.com

An Opportunity to Explore the Meaning of Life

congregation will need to be dependent on having someone locally to conduct the studies. Those invited can tune in to studies taking place on Zoom, so help is available.

Our numbers can and will grow like the first century church when it was also not limited by any barriers of economic or social standards nor by the walls of any building or even by the language we speak. I will only be proved wrong if you do not respond to this call to action.

To watch samples of the films go to “storyofredemptionfilms.com”.

Contact me:

- If you would like to be a leader of a study in the UK locally or on Zoom.
- If you would like to be involved in a study internationally on Zoom.
- If you would like to take part in a mission trip in the UK.
- If you would like to take part in a mission trip in Europe.

Email me on “storyofredemption@uwclub.net” or call/text me on 07434956692 and let's talk.

Mark Hill

Liverpool Young Adult Fellowship Weekend
Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th April 2025
Arrival Saturday 5th 10:00am-10:30am

**Influencer or Follower?
Which ONE are you?**

Ages: 18+



Address: Liverpool Church of Christ, Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH
RSVP to Bro. Rexford by email on rboahen@outlook.com or through Eventbrite link

What would Jesus do?

*A message of Jesus on how we
are to treat others.
Brought to you by Calum Hill*



**Church of Christ
Shepshed
Youth day
8th february 2025**

10am - 4pm
St Botolphs, Church Rise
Shepshed
LE12 9RL



HEALTH AND WELLBEING - It's Everyone's Interest

Saturday, 15th February 2025 – 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Speakers:

Ngozi Njoku: Director of Bonny-Ike Cancer Foundation (UK & Nigeria)

Topic: Cancer Prevention & Early Detection “Our Mission”

Dr Sullivan Greenway: Professor of Nursing Education

Topic: M. A. R. C.

Shonette Norville: MscN, PCH-Nurse Practitioner

Topic: Women's Health; A Look At Menopause

Questions & Answers

Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3I7aets>

Meeting ID: 681 623 4697

Passcode: DOCUKlm21

Contact: docuklm@2021



FAMILY NEWS

CORBY

Reflections on 2024

The past year has been a year of growth, both spiritually and numerically for our congregation. We have welcomed new families into our fellowship: Ogo & Obed Asiegbu and their children Chinua & Ugonna; Ernest & Victoria Boateng and their children Janette, Gabriel and Makayla; Penny Murewa, the wife of Joe; Richard Makota and twin sons Gabriel and Michael; Kate and Nigel Hardy, Anita Morrison, daughter of Graeme; Josceline Sikade and Jennifer Idenyi. We are blessed with their presence and fellowship.

We are about 30 in number now and have several regular visitors who enjoy being with us and are learning about Jesus. We have been blessed by visiting speakers throughout the year enabling us to have rich and varied lessons.

There have been many joys and some sorrows too, all part of family life. Fellowship has been an important part of our Christian life – fellowship with God and with each other and he with us.

Part of our growth is the need for us to be a family and get to know each other.

Opportunities for Fellowship have brought about a strengthening of our fellowship

providing a warm and safe place where we can bring in our visitors. One of our women, Petra, opens her home for regular weekly Bible studies and a Saturday night

games evening. The ladies have enjoyed afternoon teas where they can invite friends. We are having regular fellowship meals. A new venture is to focus on regular congregational prayer as we seek to be a force for good in Corby and to tell the good news.

We enjoyed three work days de-cluttering and redecorating our building to make it better fit for our purposes. We were able to fit new windows and a new roof. Graeme Morrison has particularly worked so hard on refurbishing many areas and for this he blesses us all. All of these activities strengthen our bonds of faith as a family.

We have worked hard on establishing a Sunday School with a teaching programme “Through the Bible” and we have two classes. A few of the Sunday school teachers enjoyed a whole day session with the Northampton Sunday School Teachers in July learning how to teach our children more effectively – **Gina Nored** from **Mission Bible Studies** led the sessions which left us feeling inspired and excited about our teaching and value for this important role.



A huge thank you goes to **Annie Carscadden** who, after over 47 years of teaching the children in Sunday School, has now retired – the children presented

Family News

her with many gifts of love and thanks and permission to put her feet up!



Marriage Blessings to Josphat "Pa Jo"
Taruvinga who married Penelope (Penny) Murewa on the 7th February 2024.
"Pa Jo's" daughter Kudzai set out in November

on a challenging, extraordinary and life-changing trek to the Himalayas in memory of her mum Christina who passed from cancer several years ago. She raised over £4,000 for the Coppafeel charity but was also able to experience the awesomeness of God's creation as "honestly the most incredible sight...I have never seen anything like it". Here she is...well done Kudzai your mum would be proud of you as are your family and us!



Welcome little one – Neriah Awura Afia Rowso Ansah was born to proud parents Anthony and Beatrice and sister Atarah, on 18th October. The Corby sisters held a baby shower for her and are

looking forward to a celebration and naming ceremony of blessing later in January.

A memorial evening was held for our sister **Susan Morrison** – around 100 people gathered to celebrate her life and share memories, with many people travelling far to be with the family. Sad as it was, the evening was also uplifting. We enjoyed having Pauline with us. She is the youngest daughter of Graeme and Susan – she came from Australia for about ten weeks to be with her dad and sisters, Petra and Anita.



Charitable Status – we continue to work through the requirements to gain this status and ensuring we comply with the many legal aspects such as Safeguarding and Data Protection, to name but a few! We are thankful to David Harland and others who show leadership and expertise in this area... but it really is a big undertaking for such a small congregation.

Iris Tinto

DUNDEE

Christians: 35 **Children:** 10

Meeting place: Barnhill Community Centre, Campfield Square, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD5 2PU
Sunday meetings: Bible Study 10.15 am, Worship 11.00 am

Contacts: Patrick Sullivan (07904 451577), Aubrey Boyns (07502 220902) a.boyns@gmail.com.

Family News

SHEPSHED (LOUGHBOROUGH)

Our congregation held a gospel meeting on Sunday evening, 12th January. We had the pleasure of Mark Hill (Northampton) as our speaker who spoke on the topic, "Too bad for Heaven, Too good for Hell." After his message, various homemade soups with rolls were served and we are thankful to those who made the soups and provided the rolls.

We are also thankful to those who supported us from our sister congregations: Buckingham Park, Corby, Eastwood, Ilkeston, Loughborough, Northampton and Stapleford. We want to thank Mark for preaching the gospel in an interesting and clear manner.



We also want to remind everyone about our Youth Day on the 8th February (please see advert elsewhere in this *Christian Worker*). If you require more information then please contact us at
stephen.woodcock@hotmail.co.uk.

Stephen Woodcock

Three Minute Videos by Tony Coffey

Being Different (1)
<https://youtu.be/fkyZTq4HCT8>

Being Different (2)
https://youtu.be/34ec_4GwsEU

Winter Warm Space

Winter can be a difficult time for many. Cold, dark, damp days can feel long and lonely. We are offering a warm space, with plenty of warm drinks, a light lunch and friendly faces.



EVERY MONDAY FROM
2 DECEMBER-24 FEBRUARY

11AM-3PM
(COME AND GO AS YOU WISH)

Adam Street church of Christ, Ilkeston, DE7 5BE
(Bottom of Nottingham Rd
between Zebra Musik and Lobinas)

European Youth Lectureship LONDON 2025

YOUTH EUROPEAN ANNUAL LECTURESHIP
2025

Theme: **REMEMBER** Your Creator

25TH - 27TH JULY

EARLY BIRD ACCOMMODATION & ATTENDANCE £120
ATTENDANCE ONLY £40

STANDARD ACCOMMODATION & ATTENDANCE £180
ATTENDANCE ONLY £60

HOST: EDMONTON CHURCH OF CHRIST
LIEUTENANT ELLIS WAY, CHESHUNT HERTS EN7 5FB

SPEAKER 1: LIAM BATES (LOUGHBOROUGH,UK)

SPEAKER 2: BRO. BLESSEN OPOKU (LEYTONSTONE,UK)

SPEAKER 3: BRO. JOSHUA AGYEMANG (EDMONTON,UK)

FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE TEXT BRO JOSHUA AGYEMANG +44 7780 917590



AROUND THE WORLD

MOLDOVA

As you may already know from the news, the worst expectations concerning the situation in Transnistria and the rest of Moldova came true. On 1st January Transnistria stopped receiving the 'free' natural gas that had been coming from Russia through Ukraine.

The Transnistrian authorities rejected the offers of help with purchasing natural gas from the European markets – either because they don't have enough money, or in hope that Russia would change her mind, or because they are not allowed by Russia, or because of all of that simultaneously.

Whatever the reason, the people in Transnistria (including the saints) must face lots of terrible consequences: no natural gas (except for cooking in apartment blocks, but even that is to be over within a week), no central heating (in the coldest time of the year!), and no sufficient electricity (there are at least eight-hour blackouts daily, and if the things are not changed, there will be no electricity at all in about a month or two!). In

addition to that, the activity of all businesses and governmental institutions (except for those that are of vital importance) has stopped, and there is a big question about where and how people will get money to get by, and what will happen to their local currency in the nearest future. As for the rest of Moldova, so far, the most visible effect is the doubling of electricity prices.

Amid this humanitarian disaster the saints in Transnistria continue faithfully worshipping God and helping one another. The saints in Chisinau (Moldova) generously help them by providing with heaters and money for medicine and medical treatments, being ready to continue helping for as long and as much as it takes! I am also very grateful for the funds that I received in the past from the saints in the States and in Europe that can be used for helping the needy ones (including from among the visitors and just unbelievers in desperate situations). So far, I don't know about any urgent need that we cannot address by ourselves, but, of course, things may change in the near future. So, please, keep us in your prayers!

Serghei Corcimaru



INDIA

This year, South India faced severe natural disasters, including back-to-back cyclones, floods, and mudslides which caused widespread devastation. Thousands of families across the region suffered great losses, with the Vijayawada and Khammam areas in our state being among the hardest hit. Within hours, floodwaters destroyed homes, leaving families with nothing.

Around the World

Utensils, clothing, beds, books, certificates, household appliances, vehicles, and more were swept away.

After the initial rescue phase, we launched our relief initiative, “Joining Hands to Help and Serve,” to provide aid to affected families. Prayerfully, we decided to focus on offering maximum support to fewer families, rather than spreading limited resources thinly across a larger number. By prioritising areas where we had strong local connections, we ensured that our efforts were meaningful and impactful. We visited and helped these places from September until the end of October.

Our first phase of relief began in Pedana, where we assisted 125 families from Pedana, Pedana Main Road, and Gudlavalleru. Families received rice, groceries, hygiene kits, blankets, bedsheets, and towels to help rebuild their lives.

In Ibrahimpatnam, Kavuluru, and Indiranagar, we supported 75 families, providing them with relief kits as well as monetary gifts for the preacher’s family and 25 additional families. In Reddypalem, financial assistance was extended to the local congregation.

In Singh Nagar – one of the hardest-hit areas – we provided rice, groceries, clothing, blankets, bed sheets, towels, packaged food, and vegetables to 75 families. We also committed to revisiting selected households to offer additional support.

In YSR Colony and Jakkampudi, we extended relief to 60 families, distributing rice, groceries, blankets, bed sheets, towels, and vegetables. In the later phase of our efforts, we partnered with a sister

organisation to send monetary aid for relief programmes in Khammam and other parts of Telangana, allowing us to focus on Andhra Pradesh.

We also returned to the Vijayawada area to provide monetary support to selected families, enabling them to purchase essential household items. Tragically, in mid-October, one of the preachers we worked with in Singh Nagar was involved in a serious accident. We provided financial help for his medical and family needs during this difficult time.

In total, 523 families were supported through our relief work, excluding the preachers’ families, whom we helped monetarily. Each family received kits containing 22 to 30 essential items, depending on their needs.

None of this would have been possible without the prayers and generous support of many individuals and organisations. We are deeply grateful to the Pasir Panjang congregation in Singapore, as well as many congregations in the UK through Tony Tyson, congregations in Gollaprolu and Pithapuram, and Tony Coffey. Your unwavering support allowed us to serve the Lord by reaching out to those in need during these challenging times.

Many thanks to all those who sent help for the flood victims. We received a total of £5909.

Joel Madiki, Tony Tyson and Mike Glover

UKRAINE

An update video link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rJjG2KyO5kBCEBcBr9CLzVY8s0hdFiqs/view?usp=sharing> – Ivan Usmishki



Around the World

PHILIPPINES

Over a month ago, in Mindanao, local Christians were travelling in a mini-bus on their way home from visiting gospel meetings and other Christians along the way when, tragically, they had a horrible accident. They were struck by a pickup truck which killed three of them instantly. A fourth brother succumbed to his injuries eleven days later. Only four were without serious injury. To date three are under close care pending more crucial tests and possible surgery.



Of the three seriously injured, Feliciano Blen has been in and out of the hospital since the tragedy. He has six broken ribs, a broken collar bone, a deep

wound due to the insertion of a tube to drain fluids (blood and water) from his lungs, and constant pain all over his body. He is unable to stand or walk without any pain. He is



Delia being cared for by her nurse/daughter

far from a complete recovery from his injuries. Today is his scheduled follow-up checkup with his doctors. His wife Delia has a fractured shoulder. She needs CK-MM (Creatine Kinase-MB) and MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) which are not available in any hospital in her home town. The nearest facility with such tests is eight hours away by bus.

Francine Duque suffered from back injury. Her orthopedic doctors recommend surgery.

Sonny Tobias, the driver, is facing a legal case for the deaths and injuries caused by the accident. He was briefly taken into custody after the tragedy.

At a time like this, we, the body of Christ, pull together to help each other. It does not matter if we do not know the affected families personally or not. We help because we care. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for coming to our aid. Thank you for digging deep into your pockets to give sacrificially. Above all, we need your prayers more than ever especially for Feliciano, Delia and Francine. They are far from being 100% well. Please continue to pray for the families who lost their loved ones and for Sonny who is in such profound trouble as the van driver. Sonny also lost his son Sam in the accident. Sam spent days in the ICU before he died.

God bless us all as we face personal tragedies in our lives.

“...but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” (Romans 5:3-5)

Gigie Carranza

A note of thanks was also received from Lemuel Caba Blen in response to the donations. His parents are still undergoing treatment.

“On behalf of my family! I thank you with the deepest in my heart. You saved the lives of my mother and my father. Your love kept our faith strong in God in the midst of our difficult moments. In Christ, your brother, with love, Lemuel.”



SONGS WITH GRATITUDE

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." (Colossians 3:16 NIV)

How much money can any one song be worth? For decades musicians and singers have combined together for the perfect song which, when released to the world, will bring fame and fortune. Every now and again a song will be so loved that it goes from one generation to another, but in reality most do not even have a moment of glory.

The Christian does have a special song; its words can vary and its tune can alter daily, but it is the song of gratitude. Thank yous can be said in many ways – a written message, a gift, a hug or smile – the best are said with real meaning. Our text suggests that we have songs of gratitude or, to turn it the other way around, thank yous that make you sing.

This particular passage may well be encouraging that act of public worship that

thrills the hearts of the congregation, when each one joins in a combined force to praise the God of all creation. But having the word of Christ dwell in us is not going to be of much use if we can only use it when in the church assembly. Rather, psalms, or any other Bible text for that matter, hymns and spiritual songs are going to affect the individual to overflow with gratitude in our hearts to God and each other.

Singing motivates, strengthens, teaches and inspires. Christians cause and need new songs, as the psalmist encourages 'sing unto the Lord a new song'. Old hymns can be loved but even they were new at some time or other. We need to sing as individuals and as congregations we need to open our hearts and voices as we encourage each other.

It sometimes seems as if the angels themselves sing along with us – and why not? The Lord God reigns in majesty and he himself joins in with singing.

Trevor Williams





DIARY

February

3rd – **British Bible School** evening class: “Titus and 2 Timothy” led by John Griffiths each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks on Zoom. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

6th – **British Bible School** evening class: “Isaiah” led by Patrick Boyns each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks on Zoom. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

8th – **Shepshed**: Youth Day – “What Would Jesus Do?”; speaker: Calum Hill. Contact: Stephen Woodcock (stephen.woodcock@hotmail.co.uk).

8th – **Cumbernauld**: Men’s Day – “Together”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm. Speakers: Charles Takyi, Mark Hill, Charles Yankiah, Leigh Halliday. Venue: 2 Carron House, Town Centre, Cumbernauld G67 1ER. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

15th – **Daughters of Christ UK**: “Health & Wellbeing”, 1.30-5.00 pm. Venue: Zoom (<https://bit.ly/317aets>; Meeting ID: 681 623 4697; Passcode: DOCUKlm21. Contact: docuklm@2021.

17th-23rd – **Gemünden, Germany**: Advanced Bible Study Series I & II, in person and on Zoom. Presenters include: Jim Baird, Amanda Nichols, Jeremy Barrier, Jerry Ross, Robin Barrier, and Trina Ross. Cost for ABSS I is €144 and ABSS II is €72. Contact: Paul Brazle (abss.gemunden@gmail.com).

28th-1st March – **East Coast Gospel Meetings**: Friday at Hyvots Bank (Edinburgh), 7.30 pm, and Saturday in Kirkcaldy, 7.00 pm; speaker: Joe Scobbie. Contact Nick Wilson (nick-donelda@blueyonder.co.uk) or Alan Moyes (alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com).

March

15th – **Brandon**: Ladies’ day. Contact: Marie O’Donovan ([07545 119486](tel:07545119486)).

15th-16th & 29th-30th March – **Northampton**: British Bible School Study weekends. Module: Christian Evidences; teachers: Mark Hill and Jon Galloway. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

April

5th – **Kirkcaldy**: Social Day, 1.30 pm. Venue: Hayfield Road Community Centre, Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy KY2 5DG. Contact: Allan Hughes (allan580@virginmedia.com). As the venue has limited numbers, contact Allan ASAP with numbers for your congregation.

5th-6th – **Liverpool**: Young adult fellowship weekend – “Influenced or Influencer? – Which one are you?”, Ages 18+. Arrive 10.00-10.30 am on Saturday at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. RSVP to Rexford (rboahen@gmail.com) or use the link.

June

7th – **Northampton**: Youth Day. Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net).

July

4th-11th – **Camp Heatherbell**: Theme – “Transformed.” Cost = £185. Venue: Compass Christian Centre, Glenshee Lodge, Blairgowrie. Contact: Adam Barr (07889 631218), Graham McDonald (07748 787744), or email info@campheatherbell.org.uk for more information or to request an application.

12th – **Edmonton (London)**: Men’s Workshop. Contact: info@edmontonchurchofchrist.org.uk.

25th-27th – **Edmonton (London)**: European Youth Lectureship – “Remember the Creator in the Days of Your Youth”. Venue: St Mary’s Church of England High School, Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, EN7 5FB. Speakers: Liam Bates, Blessen Opoku, and Joshua Agyeman. Contact: Joshua Agyeman (07780 917590).

27th-1st August – **Camp Tayside**: Contact: Aubrey Boyns (07502 220902 or a.boyns@gmail.com) for more information or to request an application.

August

3rd-8th – **British Bible Camp**: Theme – “Building on the ROCK.” Ages: 8-18. Camper applications open on 10th February. If you would like to apply, please fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/KnpmGjBMyS>. We are already taking staff applications. Anyone 18+ wishing to apply as a member of staff, please fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/kzVs9JCdwm>.

Contact: Jason Snethen (07795 560990).

October

31st-2nd November – **Peterborough**: Ladies’ retreat. Contact: Marsha Erysthee (merysthee1@aol.com).



THE FINAL WORD



What will we look like in Heaven?

Many years ago, I knew a lad about the same age as myself. We would only see each other occasionally but always got on quite well. I always admired his blond, curly hair and thought how nice it would be to have hair like that. We did not see each other for many years but, when we did meet up, the first words out of his mouth were: you know when we were kids, I always thought your hair looked so nice because it was black and straight. It is so strange when we realise that what we have is what someone else wants.

In a recent Bible study, we looked at Mark 12:18-27 – the theme developed into a discussion on ‘will we know each other in Heaven’ and, naturally, there was a variety of thoughts. But one thing has been on my mind since then is, will we know our own selves? In 1 Corinthians 15:35 we read that someone may ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will

they come?’ Verse 51 reminds us that we shall all be changed. Death, our perishable bodies, our mortality shall all be changed. Will we see others but not as they are now? Will we know people who we know now? Will we know our parents, our children? Will we have any memories of our life here on earth?

If we do not know what bodies we shall have, will we get to choose? When any baby is born, there is always the conversation that this part of the child looks like Dad and the other bits like Mum or Grandma or aunt such and such. It is certainly true that there are often distinguishing features that run through families – this can be so strong that children can be the total image of a parent. In my wild imagination I can think of us going through the pearly gates to a shop so we can choose what we will look like – height, size, distinguishing features, etc. – but will we look like ourselves? And at what age will we appear in this new-look body, and will we age with time? The thoughts run away with us and become wilder with thinking about it.

I have always found it easier, and I feel safer, when dealing with the future to simply say, ‘I do not know and furthermore I do not really care’. Whatever God wants us to be will be well thought-out and will satisfy our souls. To that end, I bow out of the conversation but look forward to having a knee replacement, knowing that in our new bodies such things will not be necessary.

Lord, we place ourselves into your loving hands of mercy believing that whatever will be given to us will be blessed and designed by you. Thank you. Amen.

Trevor

