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Field of Refuge Women's Retreat



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Front cover and above: Field of Refuge Women's Retreat



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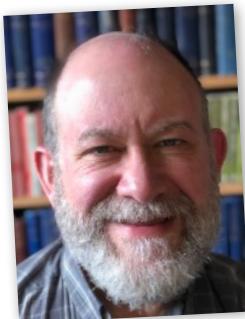
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MY PERSPECTIVE



The turmoil around us

"I've said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world." (John 16:33 CEB)

Distress, turmoil, trouble, suffering – they are all around us. Whether we are thinking about the elections that are happening in France, the United States, or here at home or the wars that continue in Israel and Ukraine, as well as other parts of the world. The world is tumultuous!

Although that is the way it is today, it seems in many ways it has always been that way. We look back on earlier years of our lives and often talk about how much less stress people had and how much better a simpler, uncluttered life was. Yet we can find people writing in every generation about how bad and stressful life was. It is a matter of perspective.

Even the context of Jesus talking to the eleven apostles before his crucifixion speaks of turmoil.

"I have said these things to you so that you won't fall away. They will expel you from the synagogue. The time is coming when those who kill you will think that they are doing a service to God. They will do these things because they don't know the Father or me. But I have said these things to you so that when their time comes, you will remember that I told you about them. "I didn't say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you." (John 16:1-4)

He was warning them of the trouble that was coming so it wouldn't surprise them and, especially, so that it wouldn't drive them away from Jesus. Bad times were coming for them! They would be expelled

from Jewish life and even hunted down to be killed. On top of that, those who did it would think they were serving God by killing them. Does that sound familiar?

Despite all that was happening and would happen to them, Jesus could still say that in him they could have peace. That tells us that the peace Jesus gives does not insulate us from bad things happening to us. But he is saying that, despite the turmoil around us, if we are in him we can have peace.

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27)

What Jesus offers is real peace. This is not peace based on treaties and compromise. This is peace that we can have despite what goes on around us.

Perhaps our problem today is that our hearts are fixed more on this life than looking forward to the next. As a result when things aren't going well in the world we allow this to steal our peace. We become upset when our party or candidate doesn't win an election. "Everything is going to fall apart!" we may say. Yet the world goes on and in another few years we will replace those political leaders, as well.

The world around us is constantly changing. One certainty we can have in our lives, an anchor against the storms, is Jesus. *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"* (Hebrews 13:8). The peace he gives us will always be there. The certainty we can have about the future – the real future with him in eternity – is something we can always rely on.

Jon



New beginnings
when Grace
abounds

Field of Refuge 2024



Field of Refuge Women's Retreat 2024

The weekend of 19th-21st April saw the return of the *Field of Refuge Women's Renewal* at Tulliallan Castle – the first *Field of Refuge* retreat since Covid. The weekend allowed women from across the country a chance to meet, rest and renew their faith, focusing on the theme of 'Grace'

Cinde Cesone and Chrissy Vick delivered encouraging and challenging lessons on God's grace and the grace that we should show others. On Sunday, morning Fenella Strachan led a thought-provoking and poignant Lord's Supper message on *The Lamb of God*, reminding us of the depth of God's grace.

The weekend also allowed plenty of time for fellowship – for old friendships to be renewed and new ones to be formed. The time between lessons was filled with an abundance of cakes, tea, laughter, and some tears, and there is no doubt that God was present in these conversations filled with love and friendship.

Once again, the planning team went above and beyond in making this retreat a place for all of the women to feel safe and loved.

The time and effort that was put into planning and preparing for the weekend is the greatest act of service, and it is difficult to leave the retreat without feeling incredibly grateful and blessed by the love that is poured out on you.

We are counting down the days to the 2025 retreat.

Sarah Haddow
Dundee



The *Field of Refuge* team hosted a grace-filled experience... From the moment we arrived to the moment we left we experienced a beautiful grace-filled weekend.

We reflected on what grace is and enjoyed two lessons on God's grace to us and his Holy Spirit working through us in offering grace to others. Through singing, prayer, blessings, and art using the weekend image of the dandelion reminded us we accept the seed sown in our hearts of God's grace to us, our roots grow deep in Christ and all areas of our life can be used by him. We bloom where we're planted and we are all at different stages in our Christian growth. And when we offer grace to others, like the blowing of a wish on a dandelion, it reminds us that we may never know how it travels or lands with the wind. We pray and hope, like our final reflection time on 2 Timothy 2:25, that our grace for others leads people to accepting God's grace.

Thank you *Field of Refuge* team for all your hard work and creativity in creating a grace filled weekend.

Marianne Dale
Livingston



Are you planning to be with us this year?

Bookings are now open for our
Autumn Weekend Family Retreat at
Letton Hall from 13th to 15th
September 2024.

If you are wanting to join us this year then please let us know as soon as possible! Numbers are limited and places are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. In light of there not being an event at Bassenfell Manor next January, due to renovations being carried out, we anticipate places filling up quickly!

Details can be found on our website: <https://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/letton-hall-family-retreat-2024>





BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Walk in the light

Have you ever tried to walk on an unfamiliar path when it is dark? I can tell you from experience that it isn't easy. Over the years I have enjoyed hillwalking. Sometimes we might set out a bit later than planned, or perhaps underestimated the time it would take us to complete the day's walk. As the sun set we would still be on the hill. Descending a hill in the dark on a rough, unfamiliar path can be difficult. It always helped to carry a torch, in our backpacks to use if we ended up being out after sunset. The light would illuminate the path.

This is the same condition we find ourselves spiritually when we are without light. Notice how this is described by the apostle John.

"This is the announcement which we have heard from him, and we are proclaiming to you: God is light, and no darkness is in him at all! If we say that we have fellowship with him, while we are walking in darkness, we are lying, and we are not practicing the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son keeps on cleansing us from every sin." (1 John 1:5-7 McCord)

Spiritually we have a light and it is God himself. God illuminates our path of life – in fact, he is the only one who can illuminate it. With God as our light we do not have to worry about darkness because God knows nothing of darkness. There is no darkness in him at all. If we are with God we have the light to see as we walk through life.

It isn't enough to 'say' we have God with us. Anyone can claim anything, but claiming it doesn't make it true. We can claim we are following God but if we aren't following him our lives are still in darkness and we are stumbling around. We need to truly have God with us in life.

Notice how John described this: "we have fellowship with him". The idea of fellowship

is that of both parties participating together. To have fellowship with God means that he is part of our lives. We are working and living with him.

When we have fellowship with God because we are living by his light two things happen. The first is that it gives us fellowship with each other. We are no longer alone. We are surrounded by others who have the same goals, the same aspirations, who are trying to live the same lives in God's light as we are. This can be a great encouragement to keep us "walking in the light".

The second is that Jesus' blood continues to cleanse us of our sin. We often think of the cleansing of Jesus' blood when we become a Christian, but we realise that we continually need this. Living in fellowship with God means that when we sin Jesus' blood continues to cleanse us. What a blessing we have in walking with God!

Over the years as I have walked up the hills and mountains in Scotland I have mainly walked with other people who also enjoy hillwalking, although occasionally I have gone out on my own. What is the difference? When I am on my own if the path gets difficult I may decide to turn around and go back. But if I am with others, when the going gets tough we encourage each other and as a result we are able to complete the walk we had planned. Sometimes there are obstacles that make the path difficult. When I am with someone else it is easier to work out the best route around the obstacle.

As we walk in God's light we need others around us to help us keep going. And we need Jesus' continually cleansing blood to keep us free from sin. Walk in the light!

Beginning on Thursday, 4th July, at 8.00 pm will be lessons on 'The Letters of John' – join us if you can!

Jon Galloway



FAMILY NEWS

LEICESTER

Updated information:

Christians: 38, Children: 12

Meeting place: Christian Meeting House,
9 Sanvey Lane, Leicester, LE2 8NG

Sunday meetings:

Bible classes – 10.00 am

Worship and Communion – 11.00 am

Midweek: Wednesday Bible Class 7.00 pm

Contact: Paul Hill (01509)

554995 or (07804) 653690

info@leicesterchurchofchrist.co.uk

Website:

www.leicesterchurchofchrist.co.uk

Dylan Mathias

HUDDERSFIELD

I worship with the congregation in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. This congregation began meeting about seven months ago, December 2023. We are in need of hymn books to either purchase or if anyone has spare books and could donate them to us, we would sincerely appreciate it – these will aid our worship to God. You can reach me on (07823) 683111.

Alexander Bamiduro

bamiduroalex@yahoo.co.uk

GREAT BARR (BIRMINGHAM)

The Great Barr congregation in Birmingham recently held a Bible Seminar at their meeting hall and the theme was ‘Devotion to Fellowship’.

Stephen Woodcock from Shepshed presented the first lesson which highlighted practical ways to make fellowship effective in the 21st Century. With reference to the Acts of Apostles, he explored specific examples of first century Christians and suggested practical things

that could help congregations in modern times to strengthen the bond of love within our fellowship. He lamented the widening lack of inter-congregational co-operation but encouraged Christians to make significant efforts in attending programmes organised by other congregations.

The second lesson was presented by Mark Hill from Northampton. Having identified the flaws among Christians in the first century, he applied the twelfth chapter of Paul’s letter to the Romans to suggest practical ways by which we can overcome barriers to sustainable fellowship in the 21st century.

In addition, we had an insightful question and answer sessions which further explored the lessons of the day in greater depths and details.

Our thanks to Stephen and Mark for making themselves available and for their efforts in putting great lessons together and also to all those who encouraged us by attending the programme.

Sola Adeosun & John Onyebuchi

READING

You are cordially invited to our ‘Songs of Harmony & Joy’ Song Fest on Saturday, 21st September, at Earley Crescent Resource Centre, Warbler Drive, Reading, RG6 4HB. Lunch will be served at 1.00 pm with singing starting at 2.00 pm. We’ll then have dinner together around 5.00 pm. There is plenty of free parking onsite. We look forward to seeing you all. Please let us know if you are coming for catering purposes, we were quite full last year!

Heidi Stevenson

message4heidi@outlook.com

Family News

ILKESTON



Adam Street, Ilkeston building opening, c.1974.
Left to right: Dan Booth, Albert Gregory, Albert Winstanley,
Geoffrey Lodge and Bob Eckman.



Emmanuel Kabalo

LIVINGSTON

The Livingston congregation hosted a Youth Day on 8th June focused around the Fruit of the Spirit. Fifty-two young people attended the day from Livingston, Cumbernauld, Kirkcaldy, Dundee, Clarkston, Stirling, and Falkirk.

The lessons were brought to those attending by young men from Livingston. It's always so encouraging when you hear and see young men step up and serve in this capacity. **Emmanuel Kabalo** spoke about 'Self-control', **Finlay**

McCready spoke about 'Patience', **Tristan Cass** brought a lesson based on the importance of 'Faithfulness', and **Cameron McCready** spoke on the topic of 'Love'.

The day was filled with excellent lessons, laughter, rekindling friendships, making new connections, fun and games, and time spent outdoors enjoying the sunshine with various activities. Thank you to all who were able to join us and we look forward to our next youth day!

Yvonne Cass



Singing together



Fun and games

Family News

Thoughts from Geoff Sheldon

To the front of us, and our backs – either side of us,
Over our heads, under our feet...

Wherever we are
Younger, older, richer and poorer,
Near, far, growing, shrinking...

We exist in the state that our heavenly Father has made for us.
As Biblical creatures, we survive at our Lord's behest.

What we await is beyond our dreams –
Constituents of Eternity...Citizens of Heaven
Fixed, immovable.

The Eon's man invades for knowledge and understanding – just 'Evade' him...
Because, as we know, those realms are God's which one day we will enter, when we will see and understand.

As the creatures we are we can not apprehend the on-rushing certainty...
But that is where our Father will place us...
And, presently, we are well on our way.
We see through the glass darkly...but then...
Face to face...

Mere Man can not translate nor understand our journey because the wiles of Satan blank the spiritual – spread the seeds of doubt...

Forthcoming spiritual glory we are partakers of.
Earth is our cage, Heaven our eternal freedom, accessible only through our unquestionable faith and trust...
Lip-serving (followers) are on the cusp of this and are at loss...because they have failed to...
"EXAMINE, THAT THESE THINGS ARE SO".
The FUTURE HAS 'ITS' FUTURE (what Scripture tells us), but...
Beyond that which 'HE' is providing, "There is a Habitation."

Geoff Sheldon

Geoff from the Kirkby-in-Ashfield Church sends out some of this thoughts by email. Geoff is experiencing a number of health problems but wanted to share his faith with others. Those who would like to hear from Geoff please write to him at geoff.sheldon@yahoo.co.uk.

Double honour retreat week in France

Calling all couples serving the Lord!
Come and enjoy a four night break for FREE! 2nd-6th September
All meals and accommodation included.
Travel reimbursement of \$150 per couple.

The retreat schedule is very relaxed. Other than the Encouragement Sessions, the rest of the retreat time is free, allowing guests the option to withdraw and rest, enjoy a night with their spouse, or participate in recreational group activities and dinners.

This is an opportunity for any couples who can possibly go. It makes time to talk or be quiet. The food is great – I know the chef very well indeed! The journey is easy. Let me tell you more about the plans.

Trevor Williams

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE DEITY

When we come to talk about the three-fold nature of the One God we soon run into problems of language. For example, the word ‘Trinity’, while often employed in theological discussion, is not a word that ever appears in Scripture. The Old Testament part of the Bible was written in Hebrew and the New in Greek so the word ‘trinity’ (with or without an initial capital letter), being derived from Latin, would not have been known by the writers. In older English Bibles the Greek word theotes is translated as ‘Godhead’ (see Acts 17: 29, Romans 1:20 and Colossians 2:9 in the King James Version). In my experience ‘Trinity’ is better-known amongst my friends and acquaintances than ‘Godhead’; therefore when describing the three-in-one nature of God, my personal preference is to use ‘Trinity’; but everyone can use whichever term they prefer.

Although it pains the historian in me to say it, we know little about the beliefs of those Christians who lived in the years following the death of the last surviving eye-



witnesses to the life of Jesus. They believed that Jesus was Lord and Messiah, although these words in English might not carry precisely the same meaning as they did to those that spoke Greek and Aramaic. While the church grew as Christians shared the good news further and further afield, it took longer for this good news to be recorded in writing. Eventually the twenty-seven books that we call the New Testament came to be seen as truly breathed out by God and other writings – some of which can still be read today – may be of interest but were not of God. Before the New Testament was universally recognised and sufficient copies made so that enough believers could say with confidence that “this is what the Scriptures say”, summary statements of faith were drawn up to help instruct new believers in what it was that they were signing up for. These documents are now known as creeds, from the Latin *credo*, ‘I believe’, the opening words in almost all the creeds that became accepted as reliable statements by the majority of believers.

‘I believe in One God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And of all things visible and invisible’

is an example, this one, being the start of what today is known as the ‘Nicene Creed’, a document compiled at the oecumenical (meaning worldwide) church council held at Nicaea near Constantinople in AD 381.



Some Thoughts on the Deity

Over the years, some Christians had questions about the nature of God the Father, Jesus his Son, together with the Holy Spirit and how they related to one another. It was and is difficult to find the right words and the best analogies to make clear what can sometimes seem obscure. The teachers and preachers who tried to answer these questions could sometimes overstep the mark and be considered to be beyond the pale of the true faith. So, for example, Arius answered the question as to how Jesus could be both human and divine by saying that Jesus was and is the greatest part of God's creation but not actually God Himself. For Arius the Word was 'with God in the beginning and the word was a god.' The list of questions about Jesus is too long for me to summarise them all but if you want to browse in a reliable reference book such as *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* you might like to look at Adoptionism, Doceticism, Donatism, Eutychianism, Nestorianism, and Theopashitism for starters. These questions were answered, often followed by a new or revised creed to take on board the latest definition of what God and Jesus are and are not. As I have raised Arianism as an example, I should briefly outline what came to be the standard response, first put forward by the Egyptian bishop Athanasius (c.296–373) available (in translation) in his *On the Incarnation*. Athanasius points out that if Jesus were not truly human then his moral example is just a sham and if he is not truly God his sacrificial death cannot save us. *QED*, although there is more to it than that.

Having gone through so many arguments about how to correctly define the true nature of Jesus as

'the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
Very God of very God,
Begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father,
By whom all things were made.'

the next generation of theologians followed the same lines of reasoning to explain how the Holy Spirit was both God and yet separate.

In the version of the Nicene Creed I have open before me, there are twelve lines dedicated to Jesus, some of which I have quoted above. The Holy Spirit gets three lines:

'And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and
giver of life, Who
proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who
with the Father
and the Son together is worshipped and
glorified, Who spake
by the prophets.'

(As an aside at this point, I prefer to describe the third person in the Trinity as the Holy Spirit as I find the older translation of Holy Ghost gives the mistaken picture in some minds that he is dead and only comes out at Hallowe'en. However, I remember one of my Eastern European students telling me that in his language 'Spirit' only carries the meaning of strong alcoholic drink so he always used Holy Ghost in his preaching.)

The key sentence in the creed I have just quoted is that the Holy Spirit is 'worshipped and glorified'. The early Christians already knew about the Holy Spirit: he spoke throughout the pages of Scripture and his presence was experienced in the collective life of the church and within the individual experiences of believers. Thus the creeds do not attempt to explain who the Spirit is and how God exists as three persons and yet is an undivided One. Perhaps this does not sit comfortably with the modern 'enlightened' world view that demands explanations for everything, to which we might reply that Jesus wants his people to have a child-like trust and not a childish demand to be told how everything works.

Steven Whitehead



AROUND THE WORLD

PHILIPPINES

After four days in the island province of Masbate, I am back home feeling blessed and grateful for the service we did in the villages of Caitingan and Molo. We were honoured to have served more than two thousand villagers who received medical, dental and optical assistance as well as counselling and prayers.

While we were in Masbate, Mount Kanlaon in Negros Oriental (500 km south of Manila), an active volcano, erupted. Thousands were displaced. Properties were destroyed. Thankfully there were not many casualties. Meanwhile, Taal Volcano (less than half an hour from my home in Cavite) had a stream-driven or phreatic eruption. I appreciate your prayers for those

residing near both volcanoes, including my family and me.

Gigie Carranza



People waiting for medical consultations



Building Effective Communication In Churches (Ephesians 4:29)

2024 in-Person Men's Workshop

Hosted & organised by Church of Christ, Edmonton

Venue: 201A Bury Street, Edmonton N9 9JE

Date: Saturday, 13th July 2024

Main Speaker: Bro Manny Ebony, Nigeria

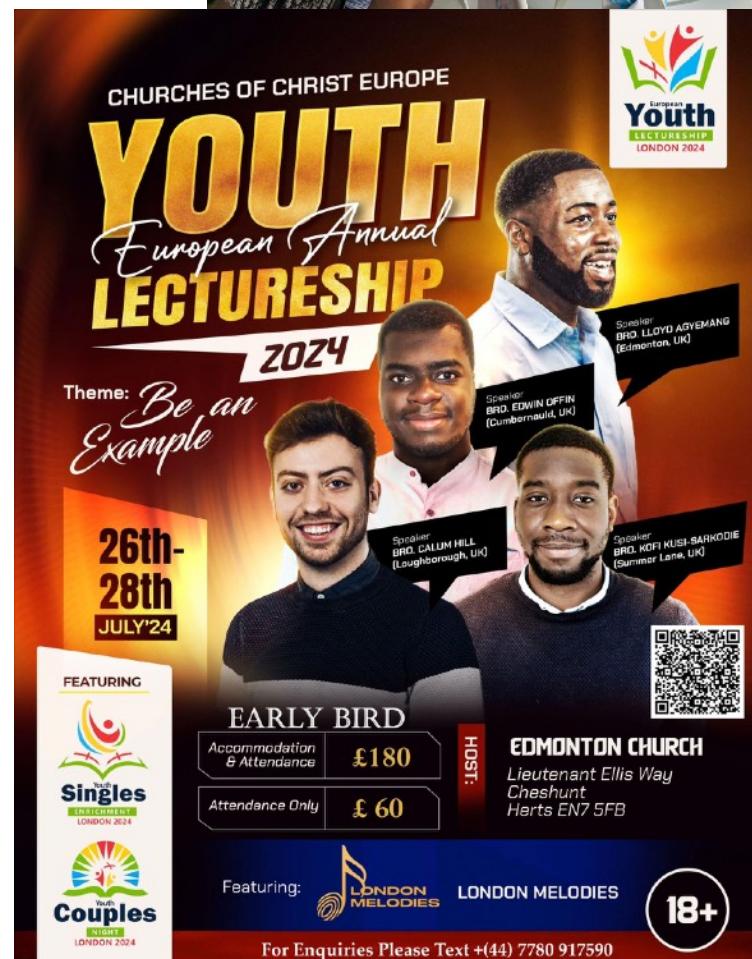
Discussion Group Leaders

Group 1: Bro Sydney, Lewisham – Practicing Effective Communication

Group 2: Bro James, Edmonton – Ways to improve decision making

Group 3: Bro Trevor, British Bible Sch. – Bringing Churches Together

Contact: Deacon Maxwell Adu-Yeboah - +44 7983 435054



CHURCHES OF CHRIST EUROPE YOUTH European Annual LECTURESHIP 2024

Theme: Be an Example

Speakers:
BRO. LLOYD AGYEMANG (Edmonton, UK)
BRO. EDWIN OFFIN (Cumbernauld, UK)
BRO. CALUM HILL (Loughborough, UK)
BRO. KOFI KUSH-SARKODIE (Summer Lane, UK)

FEATURING:
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Attendance Only £ 60

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For Enquiries Please Text +(44) 7780 917590



APPEALS

UKRAINE

We are looking for partners. We plan on having two camps in August and are in a great need of your support in this! We have two important goals this summer: to meet new children and to meet new families who'd find out about the Ukrainian congregation we started three months ago through this project.

We want to have two camps, with forty children in each. The first one will be for teenagers from 12 years and older. The second camp is for children up to 11 years old.

The cost of the camp per child is US\$85. As of now, we have US\$1,239 to begin with and two different teams of workers who are ready to invest their personal time with these children and work at these camps with us. We are US\$6,260 away from our goal.

These projects are always on demand. Many people already know about our camp, and every year we are able to reach more young people. If you feel able to support our outreach to Ukrainians in the Netherlands, please,

support participation in the camp for one, two, five or maybe more children.

Please, contact us if you are able to help:

nikolaenkosasha@gmail.com

WhatsApp – +31611569975

You can watch this video from last year camp: https://youtu.be/yN1RLgBu_7Q?si=RmPpGjoOJWiw9Di6

Nikolaen Kosasha

PHILIPPINES

DOCUK&INT'L (Daughters of Christ UK and International) was approached recently by Gerry Collado from the Benteng congregation in the Philippines for assistance in relation to their various outreach works. One of their main concerns is getting reliable transport to reach congregations for their outreach programme. Gerry wrote this:

"I send you this message to update you of what the work for the Lord's vineyard is going on here. Many of the congregations here are struggling from lack of funds but we are continuing the programmes of evangelism, edification and benevolence. In January this year we hosted a care group programme for the whole province and, as a result, not only we were able to edify and strengthen camaraderie of all who attended the event, but it also resulted seven souls who accepted the Lord through baptism. Our next event will be on the last week of June."

"The last weekend of March we were invited to conduct an evangelism outreach in an indigenous community about 300 kilometres from our congregation. We did a gospel sharing to the adults and spiritual encouragement and singing to their children. These ethnic community are indeed craving for



Workers for the Ukrainian Camps

Appeals



Outreach meeting in the Philippines

both physical and spiritual information. We did a feeding programme and distributed some of their basic needs.

"Our funds are very limited which is why through this letter I would like to appeal to you all to help us, not only in prayers but possibly with funds so that we can continue the outreach we have just started. We need to take advantage of good weather because when the rainy season comes it would be very risky to get to this area due to a dangerous zigzag and rough road and also the possibility of their being isolated during the rainy season.

"Our plan is to give them some more basic commodities like rice, salt, sugar, noodles and canned goods. We would also like to give them vegetables seeds so that they can grow food for their tables.

"The congregation here still has a lot of needs of our own, especially to in the fixing of our meeting place and we badly needed vehicles we can use in going to outreach programmes".

DOCUK&INT'L sisters and the Wembley congregation have already made a joint donation to the Banteng congregation for their evangelism and benevolent



New Christians in the Philippines

work. If any congregation or individuals would like to help support the work of this congregation please email: docuklm2021@gmail.com.

Please see the following links for some of the work this congregation is doing:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/qRGW7qYsRYHaHTSJ/?mibextid=fxF2i&mibextid=xFxF2i>

<https://t.ly/paPjH>

Anne Airebamen

CW ACCEPTS FUNDS FOR APPEALS

Can you help? Sometimes we do not have a direct bank account to some of the appeals that go into the CW. Rather than send cheques please send your very generous gifts through *The Christian Worker* bank account (HSBC 40-45-03, account 9105833). By sending out a collective sum of money it becomes cheaper and easier to send to either to a bank account or via Western Union.

In last month's CW we let you know that one of the orphanages in Ukraine needed help with their building and that Davison needs bicycles for local preachers in Malawi. The bulk of the money had been raised for this project in Malawi apart from extra funds for maintaining the bike. Help continues to be needed in Ukraine and to date £500 has been sent out.

Can you also help us out by using the directory of churches. Our website www.churchesofchrist.co.uk contains the list of congregations that I have received. Once again please check that your congregation's address, contacts, and other information is up-to-date. I know that some are not. At least once a week I get emails or phone calls asking for someone's details that are in the directory.

And PLEASE send in your news reports – we love you – please help out.

Trevor

twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk



DIARY

July

1st – **British Bible School** evening class: “Life Lessons in the Gospel of John” led by Jack Paton each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

4th – **British Bible School** evening class: “The Letters of John” led by Jon Galloway each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

6th – **Aughton**: Family Fun Day, 12.00 to 5.00 pm, at Aughton Village Hall, Winfred Land, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 5DH. Contact: Mike Glover (mike97glover@gmail.com).

13th – **Edmonton (London)**: Men’s Workshop – “Building Effective Communication”, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Contact: Maxwell Adu-Yeboah (07983 435054 or info@edmontionchurchofchrist.org.uk).

13th – **British Bible School** evening lecture: an exploration of Pontius Pilate presented by Steve Whitehead. Links to join this Zoom lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

20th – **Daughters of Christ**: 3rd Anniversary programme: “Looking Ahead – Rebuild and Restore”, 2.00-5.30 pm on Zoom: 681 623 4697 Passcode: DOCUKlm21; speaker: Dorothy Nelson. Contact: Docuklm2021@gmail.com.

26th-28th – **Edmonton (London)**: Youth Lectureship – “Be an Example” (including a Singles’ Enrichment programme and Young Couples Night); ages 18-35. Early bird price (until 31st March): £60 for attendance only and £180 for attendance and accommodation. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/european-youth-annual-lectureship-tickets-741443757237>. For further information text: 07780 917590.

27th – **East Kilbride**: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Contact: east_kilbride_coc@outlook.com.

August

24th-25th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend. – The Gospel of John (part 2). All day Saturday and Sunday Bible class and worship. Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

September

7th-8th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend. – The Gospel of John (part 2). All day Saturday and Sunday Bible class and worship. Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

13th-15th – **British Bible School**: “In Christ Alone” – Autumn retreat at Letton Hall. For details, see our website: britishbibleschool.com.

21st – **Reading**: ‘Songs of Joy and Harmony’ Song Fest at Earley Crescent Resource Centre, Warbler Drive, Reading, RG6 4HB. Lunch at 1.00 pm, singing at 2.00 pm, dinner at 5.00 pm. Send numbers attending to: Heidi Stevenson (message4heidi@outlook.com).

21st – **Great Barr, Birmingham**: Fellowship afternoon, 3.00 to 6.00 pm, at The Pheasey Community Hub, Hillingford Avenue, Birmingham B43 7HN. Contact: Sola (sola.adeosun@gmail.com) or John (johnonyebuchi321@gmail.com).

21st – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting (6.00 pm-8.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyanikiah@hotmail.com.

28th – **Shepshed**: Youth Day. Contact: Stephen Woodcock (shepshedcoc@outlook.com).

October

19th – **Peterhead**: Social Day. Contact: Michael Gaunt (01779) 476170 or michael_gaunt@hotmail.com.

26th – **Liverpool**: Evening of Songs (6.00 pm-8.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyanikiah@hotmail.com.

28th-1st Nov – **British Bible School** Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor: “The Divided Monarchy”. Info and registration will be available at www.britishbibleschool.com. Contact: Patrick Boyns (pkb@britishbibleschool.com).

November

4th-12th – **Trip of a Lifetime**: Seven Churches Tour of Turkey. Info: ianstarrturkeyitinerary.pdf. Contact: Ian Starrs: jes22ian@msn.com or 07960 150856.

23rd – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting (6.00 pm-8.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyanikiah@hotmail.com.





Your Election

Since the time that I was allowed to vote there have been fourteen general elections with twelve Prime Ministers. The first official General Election in Great Britain was held in 1802 but, of course, there were many Parliaments before that. The story of 10 Downing Street is quite fascinating and worth a read online. The famous letter box at the front is inscribed not with 'The Prime Minister' but with 'First Lord of the Admiralty'

I am writing these thoughts before leaving to work with the Omonia congregation in Athens and we will arrive back on 4th July, the UK election day. At the present time many are expecting a change in Government.

Looking back at General Elections they have been 'see-saw' occasions, with only the occasional second or even third return of the same party. As we consider past elections, it seems to me that leaders of nations endeavour to promise almost everything they can think of to the public. Would I be unfair to say that the Pied Piper of Hamlin could come to mind? Far

be it from me to say that politicians and Prime Ministers are in the job for their own benefits but sometimes their huge falls from grace have done their positions no benefit – this equally applies to governmental leaders around the world. Undoubtedly there are many who are good, honest and hardworking people, but the programmes they offer at election time are introduced sometimes with their own personal agenda (e.g. same sex marriage was never a manifesto promise).

The newly elected Members of Parliament will have to face untold world events that could never have been thought of: wars, worldwide economics, and tragedies of nature that were never envisioned. It is certainly not a position that I would ever consider.

I have long said that anyone who does not vote has no right to complain about their government. A similar situation lies within congregations. No Christian has the right to complain until they have tried to do better. But then it would be presumed that where there are difficulties in the House of God then petition would have been made to the owner of the House, God himself. Being active within a congregation is not an optional extra. Every Christian is responsible to attend the Lord's Table, to support spiritually, physically and, where possible, financially the work that the church is involved in.

Christians are God's elected people, not by vote but by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. If we pray for the church, we should also pray for those who govern our nation and see what God can do there as well.

Trevor

