

March 2022 • Vol 54 No 3

Congregation merger one year on



One new Christian!

Article by Gary Burke

**Appeals (and update on
Ukraine)**

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

The Christian Worker Magazine is published monthly as a news magazine for Churches of Christ in the United Kingdom. The first issue was published in January 1969.

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All articles and news items should be sent to **Trevor Williams** by the 21st of each month. Late items may be accepted until the 25th. Publication is the first day of each month.

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.



Front cover and above: Worship at EK during after the merger during restrictions



MY PERSPECTIVE



**"Blessed are
the
peacemakers,
for they will
be called
children of
God."**

The need for peace

The war in Ukraine is dominating our news headlines as Russia continues to invade their small neighbour. Such aggression fills us with dread – and rightly so because we realise that this is not the way of God and his people.

Peace. Contentment. Joy. Aren't these what we want in our lives? Aren't these even what people who do not know the Lord want in their lives, too? When we see aggression of any form it is rightly condemned.

It is easy to identify a lack of peace in the world around us. But what about our own lives? Are our lives characterised by peace? Do we strive to live at peace with those around us? Is the Christian family of which we are a part peaceful?

Throughout the pages of scripture we read about the peace we can have as Christians. Jesus spoke about the blessing of being a peacemaker, someone who was not only peaceful but sought to bring peace to others. Notice that he said that they would be called 'children of God'. This tells us that this is a characteristic of our heavenly Father. As his children it should also characterise us.

In his letter to the Christians in Philippi Paul wrote about "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding" and how this "will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". That is a good description of the peace God brings to us, isn't it? It transcends all understanding. If we learn to think about the good that we have because of

Jesus, Paul wrote, "the God of peace will be with you".

We often sing about peace, don't we? Mary A.S. Barber got it right when she penned:

*"Prince of Peace, control my will,
Bid this struggling heart be still;
Bid my fears and doubtings cease,
Hush my spirit into peace."*

If we want to have real peace in our lives we have to submit to the Prince of Peace. We are not going to be able to bring this about by our own will power. If we want peace it is because we – and others – have a relationship with Jesus.

*"Peace, I ask, but peace must be,
Lord, in being one with Thee."*

If we want peace we must think about others and not ourself. Paul wrote about this at the beginning of Philippians 2. When we make what we want the centre of our lives there can be no peace. When we submit our will to God's will we find peace.

*"May Thy will, not mine, be done,
May Thy will and mine be one;
Chase these doubtings from my heart,
Now Thy perfect peace impart."*

Are we at peace? If we aren't, we need to fall at the feet of our saviour, realising that he is "my life, my God, my all". If Christians can be at peace with themselves and each other, perhaps we can show the world there is a better way.

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!

New Christian in Northampton

The congregation in Northampton rejoiced as we witnessed the new birth into Christ of **Angelo**

Darko. It was a thrill to be with her parents George and Charity on Sunday 30th January as we met for worship on the occasion.

Having seen Angelo grow from a small child into a lovely young woman we are thankful she is now our sister in Christ.

Mark Hill



HEALTH AWARENESS DAY -Health Is Everyone's Business

Saturday March 12th, 2022 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM UK Time

Mercy Asiamah - UK NHS Clinical Sister/ Care Business Owner
Topic: Diabetes Awareness

Pontiana Bruno - UK NHS Registered Nurse
Topic: Spotlight on Men's Health

Dr Sharmen Thompson - Mental Health Facilitator
Topic: The Importance of Self Care

Mistura Yusuf - Nutritionist, Diabetes Champion, Health Educator & Trainer
Topic: Nutrition and Wellbeing

Questions & Answers

You must register your attendance: <https://forms.gle/2DG7GF5TLdQcRvud7>

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3s5EVZu> Meeting ID:681 623 4697 Passcode: DOCUKlm21

East Kilbride: Two congregations became one



At the end of this month the congregation in East Kilbride will celebrate one year since the merger of the two former groups of Christians. We have been asked how the progress has been as two congregations have become one. It has also been suggested that it would be good to give an update as there are other congregations in a similar situation who are considering the possibility of merging.

As we reported last year, it was the end of March 2021 that we came together for the first time as one congregation. There has been no looking back. All plans and considerations have been made on the basis of our being one congregation of the Lord's people.

We realise that may sound too simplistic, but the reality is that we were all determined that this was the way forward, that this was the Lord's will for his people in this town. So, from our first meeting together, we have done everything as one body of Christians. It was no longer a case of 'them' and 'us' but 'we'.

We immediately began to try to do what we could to involve everyone in all aspects of the work we are trying to accomplish for the Lord in East Kilbride. Men's meetings and congregation meetings were organised involving everyone. We reorganised who was looking after various aspects of the congregation's work and life. It really was a starting over as a new congregation.

If we were to put it in scriptural terms, although we did not consciously do this, it was very much what Paul wrote to the Christians in Philippi.

"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others...forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 2:1-4; 3:13-14 NIV)

It is by having "the same mindset as Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5) that Christians can come together and work as one. This is not unique to a congregation merger but is something we must all have in the life of any group of Christians.

Ideally, we would have begun with fellowship meals together as well as other 'social' activities to help us get to know each other better. One of the best ways to get to know people is to share a meal and to spend time together. Sadly, the restrictions we've had to live under for the past year did not permit this to happen, at least indoors – and living in Scotland has meant



that outdoor events are very few and far between. We were able to have an outdoor barbecue last summer which was an enjoyable time together, a foretaste of what life without restrictions can be like.

Because we could not have shared times in large groups in our building, we have encouraged families to get together in their homes, whenever the restrictions for this were lifted. It has been good to see families getting together for an evening for the purpose of sharing time together and getting to know each other. We have also had a few Sundays where several met together at a restaurant after worship to share time together over a meal.

We started a weekly breakfast for anyone to come to at a local restaurant. Although initially it was the two evangelists and sometimes their wives, this has grown to include other families who have the time to come along – work schedules obviously prevent some from joining in but it is good to see more and more taking advantage of this time of fellowship.

In reflecting on what we have tried to do, it really isn't any different from what all congregations have been experiencing during the past few years as we have had to curtail many of activities that we were used to doing. We all need to be thinking of ways we can bring Christians closer together as we face the future. We are where we are due to the events of the past few years – the real question is where do we want to be in the next few years and what are we willing to do to get there?

As we look forward to this year we are anticipating a year with less restrictions. We are planning to have more activities to not only bring the congregation together but to involve those who are not yet part of

the body of Christ. We also want to be more active with other congregations as we encourage each other around God's word and in our lives together. Although we are now blessed with several who can bring lessons on Sundays we still try to involve guest speakers from other congregations to help us strengthen our ties together in Jesus.

This year (2022) will be the 50th anniversary of the East Kilbride congregation. We are planning an event to mark fifty years of Jesus being proclaimed in this town with a day in October. But it really won't be a day to look back at the past but a day to look to the future and to rejoice that Christians are still in East Kilbride faithfully proclaiming God's word. It isn't about what we have done but what God is doing.

What does the future hold? That, we realise, is in God's hands. Undoubtedly there will be challenges. We know that Satan does not like it when Christians harmoniously work together. But as long as we face the future with our faith in God, looking forward to an eternity far better than anything we can imagine, we know that nothing that happens can shake our faith and our determination in Jesus to be his united people. That our future is not yet written gives us the challenge to face whatever happens with confidence.

God has blessed our efforts to come together to proclaim his name in this town. We rejoice that together we can go forward in him, realising that the best is yet to come.

May we take courage from the words that Paul wrote to the Christians in Ephesus:

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:1-6).

We are thankful for the encouragement of so many throughout this country over the past few years and look forward to our continued fellowship in the Lord.

Jon Galloway and Alex Gear



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Allowing God to speak

It's not our job to tell people what to believe. It's not even our job to tell people 'what the Bible says'. We're really here to help others discover the truth that God has revealed in Scripture.

I suppose it's somewhat like being asked for directions. One could simply tell another where to go, by giving them a set of directions, or one could show them how to use a map so they could discover for themselves. The next time they might be coming from a different direction, but they would still be able to discover the way.

No right to dictate

The thing is, no group has the right to dictate a single interpretation of Scripture – that is the domain of the cult. One example of such authoritarianism insists that "The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone." (*Catholic Catechism*, para. 85). That is simply unacceptable.

So when asked: "What does your church teach about such-and-such", my initial response might be that firstly, I don't have a church, and secondly, I wouldn't

care what it taught even if I did. The thing is that although I do, of course, care about what others teach, no group has the authority to determine what is a correct interpretation of Scripture.

I will believe what I believe, because I believe it is what Scripture teaches – and certainly not because someone else has told me what it teaches. This is such an important principle when it comes to understanding the Scriptures. Nobody, no group, no organisation has a monopoly on the truth. Indeed, no group has a monopoly on the pursuit of truth.

"Nullius in verba"

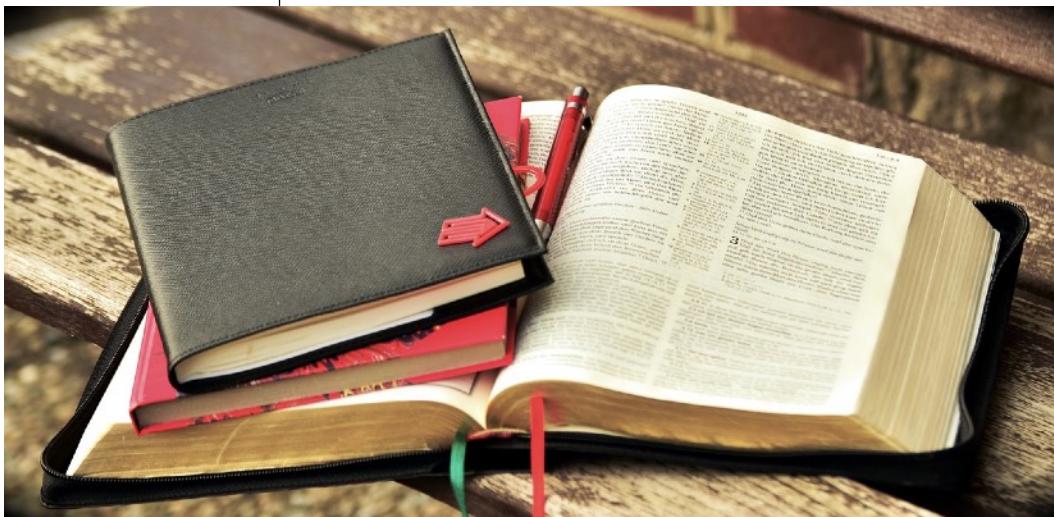
This is the motto of the Royal Society, and it means "on no one's word." In modern parlance we might say – "take nobody's word for it." This is such a vital lesson in Biblical interpretation, that we should never let anyone tell us what the Bible says. Remember this in all your studies – even if you remember nothing else.

Only God has a monopoly on truth – listen to him!

Of course we all need help in our pursuit of truth – it was never meant to be a solitary journey. The Scriptures were

revealed in the context of relationships and it makes sense that they should be understood in that context also. But don't ever let anyone tell you what the Bible says – let them show you, and then you work out just what it actually does say.

Patrick Boyns
britishbibleschool.com





"JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN"

In the third episode of the first season of "The Chosen" ("Jesus Loves the Little Children"), early in his ministry Jesus develops a relationship with a few small children. The star of this episode is a little girl named Abigail, who first discovers Jesus camping not far from her town and eventually introduces six of her friends to him. Earlier, at the end of the first episode, the writers introduced Jesus as he heals Mary Magdalene of her demon possession. Then in the third episode Jesus tells the children she is a friend he had who would soon be traveling with him and some others.

Here in these encounters Jesus shows his utter comfort level with females, be it little girls or adult women. This is in marked contrast with the customs and rules of the day that prevented girls such as Abigail from studying the Law in the synagogue school.

These fictional interactions have the ring of authenticity in them from what we

read in the Gospels. Consider the following points:

- Mary Magdalene did, in fact, travel with Jesus in his evangelistic work (Luke 8:2), and she stayed with him to the end (John 20).
- The fact that Jesus welcomed children into his presence is noted in the Gospels, which make no mention of their gender. They were just children.
- Jesus defended women against men who bullied them (Luke 7:44-50, 13:10-17; John 8:2-11, 12:4-8), even when it was his own disciples doing it (Matthew 26:6-13).
- Jesus was so aware of the women around him that on at least two occasions he noticed nameless women in a crowd with many things going on around them (Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4, 23:27-31).



"Jesus Love the Little Children"

- Jesus' teaching about sexual lust against women (Matthew 5:28) signalled to his male disciples that it was possible to work closely with women without sex being a problem.
- Unlike the other rabbis of the day, Jesus had close contact himself with women, both touching them and allowing them to touch him.
- In his strict stance on divorce, Jesus opposed the prevailing Pharisaic practice of allowing men to divorce, and therefore abandon, their wives for almost any reason (Matthew 19:9).
- Though he opposed divorce, he upset the male monopoly on it by indicating that men and women were on an equal footing in their ability to get a divorce (Mark 10:12).
- In spite of the fact that the prevailing view among the Pharisees was that adultery occurred when a woman violated her marriage vows, he taught that the same applied to men violating theirs as well (Mark 10:11).
- Unlike the Pharisees' practice of having only male disciples, Jesus counted women among his closest disciples, and he showed no reluctance to share with them some of his most important teachings, in some cases for the first or only time in the Gospels or the only time in the Bible.
- Perhaps most significant of all, Jesus entrusted the announcement of what would become the most fundamental tenet of the Christian faith—that Jesus had been raised from the dead—to Mary Magdalene, a woman. Mary was the first at the tomb (John 20:1), the first to proclaim the empty tomb (20:2), the first to see and converse with the resurrected Jesus (20:14-17), and the first to bear witness to the resurrected Jesus (20:18), having been commissioned by Jesus himself to deliver the news to the disciples (20:17).

Why does all this matter? It is because by his example Jesus was modelling the type of community his apostles were going to set up after he was gone, and he was indicating how central women were to be in the spread of the good news about him. We only need to read Acts and the letters of Paul to see how fully all this played out in the first decades of the church.

In Paul's relationship with women we see strong echoes of Jesus' example. Paul had close female friends, and he interacted freely with them. He was quite inclusive of women as evangelistic co-workers whom he treated on a par with himself and any others (Romans 16:3, 6, 12; Philippians 4:3). Not only was it expected that women be taught (1 Corinthians 14:31, 35; 1 Timothy 2:11, 5:4), they were also to be teachers (Titus 2:3-5; cf. Acts 18:26).

He paid high compliments to various women, including one who was his benefactor (Romans 16:2), another who had risked her neck for him (16:4), and one who had shared prison with him (16:7). He referred to women in the warmest and most affectionate terms: "outstanding" (Romans 16:7), "beloved" (6:12), and "my (surrogate) mother" (16:13). These sisters in Christ were integral to the spread of the Gospel and service to the church, just as the male disciples were.

The path Paul laid out for the church in both his attitude and actions toward women looks remarkably similar to that of Jesus. Do we exhibit the same attitude toward our sisters today? The question deserves a thoughtful answer.

Gary Burke

Gary is a preacher and elder at a congregation in the USA as well as a writer of several books.

(Photo from "The Chosen" Press releases – <https://www.press.thechosen.tv/>; "The Chosen" is a crowd-funded television series available for free on the Internet depicting the life of Jesus.)



APPEALS

UKRAINE

Everyone will know that there is confusion and fear among the people of Ukraine and, because of the anxiety, people in our own country are asking what can they do.

We know a few Christians in Ukraine and are in contact with congregations in Poland, Romania and Moldova. We are waiting for further news.

One brother in Ukraine – his name is Ivan – works with 100 orphans. In Poland church facilities are being prepared for refugees and they are needing help to purchase food.

Congregations or individuals can send money into the CW account and funds will be sent out as best we can. Should anyone be able to house refugees let me know – some have already offered.

Funds should be sent to HSBC account 91058533 sort code 40-45-03 and made to The Christian Worker. Cheques may also be sent to our home address: 195 Hickings Lane, Stapleford, Notts NG9 8PJ. Please phone me on 0115 8376895 for latest updates if wanted.



May we all seek peace and pursue it with faith in Jesus our Lord and Master.

Trevor

APPEALS

MALAWI DISASTER

Several of us support Greya Ngulube in Malawi. Below is an email I received from him.

Dear Brothers,

With a great sympathy we would like to inform you about tropical cyclone Ana which has affected 2,000 households. And among them 150 households are Christians whose houses have been destroyed. As of now they don't have food, shelter or housing needed to survive. Therefore, it's a plea to everyone who can afford to give any help on this great problem of our fellow brethren at Kamwe who are in a great need.

Patson Longwe (elder); Joshua Mphande (elder); Daniel Nyirenda (secretary)

I would be happy to receive and account for any monies contributed. Please contact me at:
dhdunn55@gmail.com.

David Dunn



Flooding in Malawi



Storm damage in Malawi

AFRICA MEDICAL PROJECT

Greetings! Following on from last month's appeal I have requested to publish an appreciation letter from one of the hospitals in the central region of Ghana so that you can see the difference that your support is making.

Again, I would like to thank congregations and individual Christians for their generous contributions these past few years to support the Africa medical project.

Below are photos of some of the help this project has been able to give.

Photo 1: A 37-year-old man receives lifesaving treatment after developing cardiac tamponade from tuberculosis infection. The pericardiocentesis pack had been donated to the cardiology department at Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital weeks before. Another touching story was a vagrant whose life was also saved using a new set of pericardiocentesis pack completely free of charge.

Photo 2: Donated ECG machine and bedside monitors on display at the emergency ward at Port Harcourt university teaching hospital, Nigeria.



APPEALS

Photo 3: Staff gathered around to receive boxes of essential medical items.

Your continued financial help is needed to sustain this project. Several boxes of medical items are waiting to be shipped to the various countries and the cost of shipping items has of course recently increased! Donations from congregations or individuals to make this possible will be greatly appreciated.

I would be grateful for donations to help this project.

There is potential for this work to expand even further, and I'd be interested to hear from individual Christians or congregations interested in learning more and perhaps working with us in the future.

For further information please contact:

Julius Donkor: 07495 154255 jdonkor@gmail.com



GOMOA - FETTEH
A SUBSIDIARY OF VILLAGE OF HOPE
A PROJECT OF CHURCH OF CHRIST
Member, Christian Heath Association of Ghana (CHAG)
P. O. Box GP 18169, ACCRA - GHANA, WEST AFRICA
Tel: (+233) 024 694 6434 / 050 302 3191 / 050 767 2461

2nd August, 2021.

Julius Serebor Donkor,
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary,
UK.

Dear Julius,

LETTER OF APPRECIATION.

On behalf of Hope Christian Hospital and the entire Village of Hope, I would like to express our heart-felt gratitude to you and other donors for your generous donation of medical items to us. We received a number of self-inflating bags, laboratory sample bottles, scissors, gloves, masks, intravenous canulae, infant milk formula, defibrillator and patient monitor (on behalf of Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital Neurosurgery Unit), and many more.

Indeed, the items are a big blessing to us. Village of Hope is a non-for-profit organization that takes care of the underprivileged, marginalized, abandoned, destitute, poor child by rescuing, repairing, preparing and propelling them for a decent and hopeful life. By extension, the Hospital is non-for-profit and takes care of over 50,000 people living in very deprived areas of the Central Region of Ghana.

The Hospital has grown over the years through the generous donations of people with kind and warm hearts like you. So, for every patient that walks into our hospital for care and gets treated but goes home without being able to pay for the services, note that you made it possible.

Special thanks goes to the Church of Christ at Aberdeen and the whole of the United Kingdom for the support given to Julius over the past years as he brightens his corner by improving the healthcare system in Ghana. Your generosity is incomparable and we appreciate you so much.

Many thanks go to Geraldine Stevenson of Aberdeen Maternity Clinic. Your enthusiasm to help has been told us and we are very much appreciative of your kind gesture. Our babies at the

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit are warm because of your beautiful clothing. The malnourished children are enjoying the milk and recovering well.

We look forward to collaborating more in the years ahead to bring quality healthcare to the people of Central Region of Ghana.

Thank you and God bless you richly.

Sincerely,

PEASAH-KOSUAH, ALEX (DR.)
(Medical Director)

Julius Donkor

When Julius began this project he was working at a hospital in Aberdeen and worshipping with the congregation there. Now living in Northampton he works at a local hospital and worships with the congregation in Northampton.

NOTICES

An invitation to join us on a...

TRIP OF A LIFETIME

...to the Bible Lands of Israel & Jordan in 2022



Have you ever wanted to visit the land of the Bible, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus?

A visit to the Bible Lands can be a truly life changing experience. With your newfound geographical, historical, and archaeological context the scriptures will come alive as you read the stories told there.



We are planning a trip to Israel and Jordan, Lord willing, in 2022. This will be our fifth Bible Lands trip and will be drawing on our past experiences and the evaluations gathered from previous groups. Together this has helped to polish an inspiring, educational, and spiritual itinerary.



You will see many of the major sites in Israel and Jordan. In addition to this we will see large parts of the country and the people as we drive from place to place.

Whilst there you will benefit from the information and insight of an experienced local guide.

Added to this you will have the opportunity to ask questions, contribute with your own Bible knowledge and experience, and participate in devotional and worship times. You will no doubt take many pictures while you are there as a record and reference to the places visited. You will be able to utilize and benefit from this first-hand knowledge for years to come.



We guarantee that you will never read the Bible in the same way again should you decide to join us.

"This truly is a trip of a lifetime!"

What's included:

- Pre-departure preparation and study guide
- Travel from Edinburgh to Tel Aviv including airport and local taxes
- 10 nights in 4-star hotels including breakfast and buffet dinner
- 9 lunches. One of which is a special lunch in a fish restaurant by the Sea of Galilee where they serve tilapia, often referred to as Peter's fish
- One bottle of water per day
- Local English-speaking guides
- Personal headset system linked by Wi-Fi to the guide's microphone
- All in-country transport in an air-conditioned coach
- All entrance fees to sites
- All tips including portage at hotels in Israel
- Boat trip on the Sea of Galilee

What's not included:

- Passport fees - visas are not required for UK passport holders
- Personal travel insurance (a must!)
- Personal spending - souvenirs, bottled water, snacks etc.

Notices



We would love for you to join us on this trip. The group will be made up mainly of Christians from around the UK. Many of you will know each other already. Our experience of these trips is that you will deepen friendships and make new lifelong friends as you live through such a faith building experience together.

For further details and costs please call or email me.

We look forward to travelling with you, and God bless you.

Ian Starrs

Contact details

Ian Starrs

01577 861 238 or 07960 150856

jes22ian@msn.com

A playlist of the eight three minutes lessons, entitled, '**A Letter From A Roman Prison**' is available on this link. I

hope you
enjoy them.



A Letter From A Roman Prison
Part 1 Tony Coffey

Tony Coffey

3:52



A letter from Roman Prison Part 2
Tony Coffey

Tony Coffey

2:50



A Letter From A Roman Prison
Part 3 Tony Coffey

Tony Coffey

3:03



A Letter From A Roman Prison
Part 4 Tony Coffey

Tony Coffey

3:01



A Letter From A Roman Prison
Part 5 Tony Coffey

Tony Coffey

3:11



A Letter From A Roman Prison
Part 6 Tony Coffey

Tony Coffey

3:07



A Letter from Roman Prision Part
7 Tony Coffey

Tony Coffey

3:19



A Letter from Roman Prison
(Concluded) Tony Coffey

Tony Coffey

3:15

[https://
tinyurl.com/
ybbbkoer](https://tinyurl.com/ybbbkoer)

Tony
Coffey

Invitation to Great Barr Bible Seminar

Date: Saturday 5th March 2022.

Time: 10.00 am (Zoom opens from 9.45 am)

Theme: 'The beginning of all things'

We are planning two 45 minute lessons.
There will be group discussion, Q & As and aBible Quiz.

"The universe in the beginning" (Genesis 1) – Graeme Morrison (Corby)

"God's grace and lovingkindness from the beginning of time" (Psalm 136)
– Mike Glover (Aughton)

Invitation to Great Barr Quarterly Psalms & Prayer

Date: Saturday 12th March 2022

Time: 7.00 pm (Zoom opens from 6.45 pm)

(For details contact Sola Adeosun – sola.adeosun@gmail.com)



DIARY

March

3rd – British Bible School Evening Class: “More Than Happiness – Exploring the Letter to the Philippians”, 8.00 pm on Zoom, each Thursday. Teacher: Jon Galloway. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

4th – British Bible School Monthly Bible Quiz on Zoom, 8.00 pm. Quiz master: Steve Whitehead. For links and details see the BBS Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

5th – Great Barr (Birmingham): Bible Seminar – “The beginning of all things”, 10.00 am on Zoom. Speakers: Graeme Morrison (“The universe in the beginning”) and Mike Glover (“God’s grace and lovingkindness from the beginning of time”). Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

7th – British Bible School Evening Class: “Proclaiming the Unknown God”, 8.00 pm on Zoom, each Monday. Teacher: John Griffiths. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

12th – Great Barr (Birmingham): Quarterly Psalms and Prayer, 7.00 pm on Zoom. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

12th – Daughters of Christ UK: Health Awareness Day: “Health is Everyone’s Business”, 1.00-5.00 pm on Zoom. Details on page 4. Contact: Bernadine Wells (BERN.WELLS@hotmail.co.uk).

26th – British Bible School Online Lecture: “The Fall of Jerusalem” with Steve Whitehead, 7.30 pm on Zoom. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

29th – Encouraging One Another: An online time of encouragement and prayer hosted by Tony Coffey, 10.00-11.30 am on Zoom. Thoughts from Jack Paton and Tony Coffey plus prayer and discussion. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88063346670?pwd=Kzc3QlZaUi9XbHBLVjYzWURvRWIvUT09> (Meeting ID: 880 6334 6670 Passcode: Edify). Contact: Tony Coffey (tonycoffey@gmail.com) or Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

April

4th – British Bible School Evening Classes: Two new classes begin on Monday and Thursday evenings at 8.00 pm on Zoom for the next twelve weeks. Teachers will be Patrick Boyns and Mark Hill. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

May

6th-7th – Northampton: British Bible School Study Weekend – “Ezekiel” (part 1). Teachers: Patrick Boyns and John Griffiths. Friday evening and all day Saturday. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

20th-22nd – Northampton: British Bible School Study Weekend – “Ezekiel” (part 2). Teachers: Patrick Boyns and John Griffiths. Friday evening and all day Saturday. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

September

5th-15th – Trip of a Lifetime to the Bible Lands of Israel & Jordan. Contact: Ian Starrs (jes22ian@msn.com)

October

22nd-23rd – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend – “Contemporary Christianity” (part 1: the history of British congregations). Teachers: Jon Galloway and Mark Hill. All day Saturday and Sunday class and worship. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

31st-4th November – British Bible School Autumn Study Week at Bassenthwaite Manor: “John’s Gospel, part 1”. Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Steve Whitehead. Cost: £150 all inclusive. Further details and registration will be on our website soon, but make plans now.



THE FINAL WORD



Soldiers of Christ, arise!

Many years ago in Sunday School I was fascinated by the story of Gideon. First of all, he was in a troubled position and was really scared when the Lord called him. I was really pleased that 32,000 men went to follow him but then those who were not happy about being there went home. Then there were 10,000 but only 300 were chosen because they scooped up water into their hands and lapped the water out. Ever after this if I ever had to drink water using my hands I lapped it out and remembered Gideon.

What a thrill when with some tactical manoeuvres they attacked the enemy and with Almighty God as their leader gained the victory. ‘Yes!’ I shout out, ‘Well done Gideon, you are a hero!’ My boyhood thrill of this story has never abated.

Rereading this passage again I had forgotten what happened after the

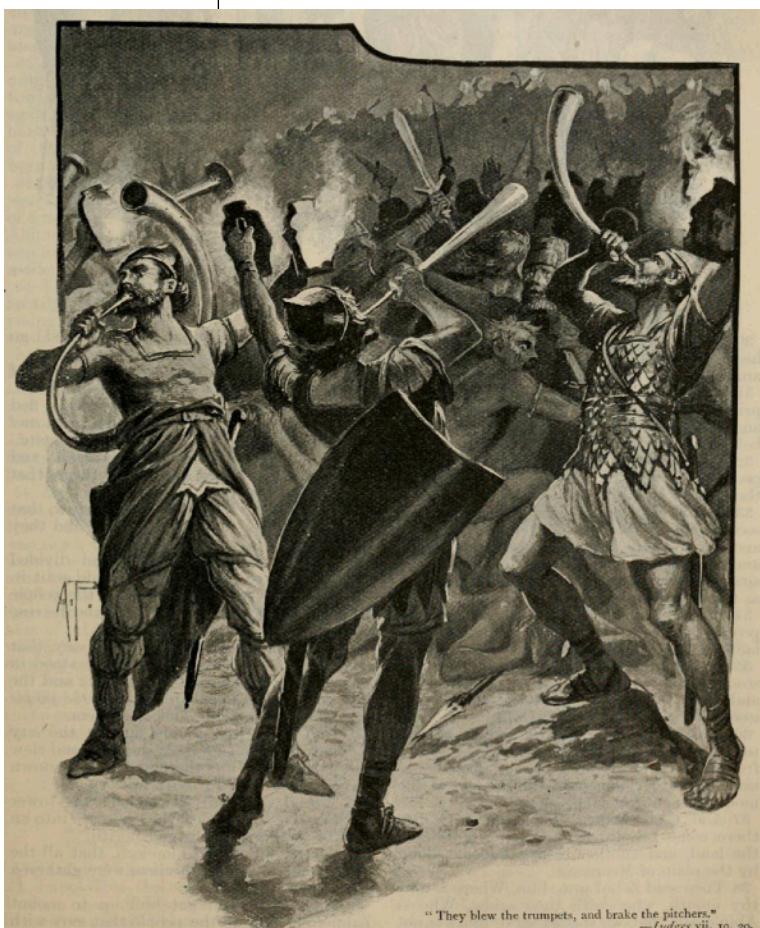
battle. The Ephraimites were called out to join in the consuming victory. They caught the kings that had been causing trouble in the land and then the trouble started. They were all conquering heroes but they started to complain and they criticised Gideon (Judges 8:1). ‘Oh no!’ my soul cries. ‘Why can’t you be happy?’ Why pull the good guy down? All he had done was to follow the Lord’s instructions. Why did they have to be like so many today who take great delight in complaining about church leaders, teachers or preachers?

Over and over again throughout the Bible we read of good people reaching out, believing the message given to them by God and ending up being pushed down and sometimes pushed out. I do not believe I know anyone who stands in their own strength to proclaim the gospel of salvation – to preach, to teach, to serve in whatever capacity is done with fear and trembling because they love Jesus.

The servants of God do not need to be kicked down but lifted up. It is a fearful thing to speak or lead in the church and many anxious moments are felt during their presentation and afterwards. Over and over in Scripture we read of God’s leaders who are complained about and grumbled over. Of course we may not have the greatest presenters but they do their best. Give them a hug, discuss what they said and please remember to say ‘thank you’. Soldiers of Christ, arise!

Lord should you call us to follow help us to listen. When you give instructions help us to follow. When you ask us to go, help us to know where. Grant us vision to see, tongues to speak and hearts to love. Amen.

Trevor



“They blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers.”
—Judges viii. 19, 20.