

CHRISTIAN WORKER



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The *Christian Worker* is published monthly as a news magazine for Churches of Christ in the United Kingdom.



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Deadline: 21st of each month

July. Summer. School is out. Camps are in. And we remain as busy as ever!

We tend to live busy lives. It always seems busier than it used to be, but I wonder if that is because it is we who are busy now when it was others in the past. But in the midst of all of our busy-ness, make sure we have time for what is really important: God and his word, being with Christians, praising Jesus. Sometimes I wonder how much more we could accomplish if Christians took the same time for spiritual things that they spend on YouTube, watching football, or some other pursuit. Perhaps something to think about.

Looking at the 'Notices' page and the 'Diary' page, it looks to be a busy autumn! We are spoiled for choice with events that will help us grow in our knowledge of Jesus and will encourage us as we strive to live as he did. Why not try something you have never tried before? Go to a study weekend (or even a study week), attend a fellowship day, get involved in something that will make us stronger as Christians.

As you read about what has been happening, perhaps you will begin to think "that would be nice to do." Then why not do it? Make plans to visit the events and places that are mentioned – I am confident you will receive a warm welcome and you will benefit from being there.

Next month we look forward to reading about what the children have been up to at the various camps that have been held during the summer. We ask that those who have organised the camps to please send us a write-up of what took place (with pictures, of course!). With Camp Heatherbell, Camp Tayside, two weeks at Camp Maplewell, the British Bible Camp, and Camp Shamrock, children have been taught about Jesus and shown what it is to try to be like Jesus. Hoarse voices are already surfacing as our camp staff return home. We look forward to hearing more about what they were doing next month.

In the meantime, keep reading, keep studying, keep praying, and keep living for Jesus. Those around us need him more than they will ever know. It is our mission to let them know that he died for them and he still lives!

Jon

Spotlight: Christian Retreats in Europe

Central European Retreat – Czech Republic

When I think back to my first encounter with what was then Communist Eastern Europe, essentially shut off from the rest of the world and long before the days of internet, I remember the general sense of fear, the suspicion of those on the 'other side' and of what it meant to be so near and yet so terribly far removed. It seems an altogether different world into which one can now freely travel, and return, and in which men and women can freely confess to know and love the Lord Jesus.

My latest excursion into these parts took me to the Czech Republic where once each year is held the Central European Retreat. For a number of years this has taken place in a most pleasant rural setting at Dlouhý-Slavíkov, about 90 miles east of Prague. Arriving by train a couple of days early enabled me to sample some of the delights of the Bohemian capital, before heading east to the retreat.



Christian Conference Centre and Lake

The event itself is held in a Christian conference centre and organised by Matus Dedina and others from Prague. I counted representatives from at least eight countries, and though the programme is conducted in English – the language most common among those present – songs were sung in a number of different languages. I confess at times I struggled to match all of what I was hearing to the words printed in

the books but it was a true joy to hear songs of praise and encouragement sung by brothers and sisters from so many places.

Although there were Christians present from countries as far afield as Russia and

Hungary, most were from the Czech Republic and Slovakia where congregations are generally small and rather scattered. An occasion such as this provides much needed

encouragement and helps boost morale, bringing together a group much larger than the local assembly.



Christians singing outdoors

We had a couple of teaching sessions each day, with classes also organised for the children. There was plenty of time for singing, chatting and generally enjoying each other's company. The food was excellent and the accommodation most pleasant. One evening we enjoyed a barbecue and singing around a camp fire, and there was the beautiful lake on which one was free to row, or paddle, at any time.



If one ever goes to such an event with any sort of expectations, then those I had were far exceeded. It really was a pleasure to be among such lovely people and to share in what was a truly joyful family spirit, demonstrated by the common love among these fellow believers. The next retreat will be held from 21st to 24th June 2018. One never knows...I just may go back!

If you would like to know more details about this splendid event, please feel free to drop me a line (pkb@britishbibleschool.com).

Patrick Boyns

Omonia Christian Family Retreat – Athens

With many people able to travel let me recommend taking a break next year visiting Greece. For several years the

Omonia congregation in Athens has hosted a family fellowship retreat which is just excellent. The facilities are held in a beautiful hotel in Cenchrea right on the beach and has a huge swimming pool. Cenchrea is where the apostle Paul

took a vow (Acts 18:18).

The days consist of a morning lesson and devotional followed by plenty of time to relax and play. The day ends with an

evening meeting. Children are catered for and have a great deal of fun. The hotel serves beautiful food and we ate very well three times a day buffet style.



Whilst there we experienced a boat ride on the Corinth canal, originally started by the Emperor Nero. A trip to ancient Corinth, at one time the greatest military city in

the world, is much enjoyed. Although the site is not large it does have a very interesting museum.

Athens, of course, has an abundance of ancient sites to visit. Tourist hotels are reasonable, food is great and the Omonia Christians are more than welcoming. They are heavily involved in helping

people – particularly refugees – and it is so nice to talk to these people as they share their experiences.

On our first visit we took a one day boat trip to three islands, and a two day coach trip to see the monasteries at Meteora built on top of straight sided cliffs. This year we visited Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece. Sadly it does not have many ancient sites but we wanted to go there and see the place for ourselves. We then

went on to Kavala, a lovely seaside town and the landing place of the apostle Paul as he brought Christianity into Europe (it was then called Neapolis).



On Sunday morning we caught the bus to Philippi and there celebrated the breaking of bread, remembering the death of Jesus Christ. The city was devastated by an earthquake in the 7th century but the

outline of some of its great places of worship are easily identified as are the baptisteries that were used. In front of the

city built on the side of a great hill lies a huge plain which must have been the bread basket for this one time great Roman colony.



The retreat will be held again the third week in June 2018. We encourage

any Christians to make the visit.

Trevor Williams

Congratulations!

We are pleased to announce that **Kevin Doyle** was baptised on 1st July. Kevin is the husband of Janette (nee Jamieson, originally of the Eastside congregation in Belfast). He has been attending in Newtownards with Janette. After many months with us on Sundays and mid-week classes, Kevin gladly submitted his life to Christ. His new family here is delighted and wanted to share the news with you all.



David Dunn

Speaking up for peace

Do you think of yourself as a ‘pacifist’? Did Jesus advocate non-violence? What is the “gospel of peace”? Should all congregations be “peace churches”? A few years ago, I discovered a battered copy of the *Apostolic Messenger* newsletter for 1917 in our meeting place, and was intrigued by stories of brethren who were Conscientious Objectors during the First World War. It was this, amongst other things, that set me on the road to answering these and many other questions. Since then, I have been studying, writing and praying about peace, and also trying to contact likeminded people. But progress been slow and friends have been hard to find.

The churches of Christ have a long history of pacifism, but when I talk about it, the response tends to be that it is of little relevance today. Surely recent events ought to dispel us of this, yet I fear that many Christians don’t know what to believe or how to respond. As Trevor shared in June’s *Christian Worker*, I believe we need to be



building bridges, bringing much-needed reconciliation to our communities,

but we also need to know why.

I am making this appeal now because I would love to hear from anyone in our fellowship who shares my passion for peace, especially if you are doing something practical, or want to join in discussion, or simply want to know more about this seriously neglected issue. Please get in touch! You can read more on my attempt at a blog: <http://theploughshare.wordpress.com/> Alternatively, contact me by e-mail: perriman@tiscali.co.uk

Steve Perriman
(Loughborough)

[Note: *Historical Survey of Churches of Christ in the British Isles* edited by Joe Nisbet contains a few chapters on the conscientious objectors during the First World War. Copies are available from the British Bible School (study@britishbibleschool.com)]

The letter to the Galatians is amongst the very earliest that Paul wrote to the first-century churches. Although it may be one of the first of Paul's letters it still contains challenging teaching, questions, problems, excitement and most of all a sense of the presence and power of the living God who has set about changing the world through Jesus and the presence of his Holy Spirit.

Paul wrote to the churches in southern Galatia after establishing them with the help of others on his first missionary journey to Asia Minor. Paul's close relationship to these churches explains the strong tone he took with them from the very beginning of the letter. Galatians exhibits Paul at his angriest, as he risked his close relationship with the Galatian churches to make sure they were on the path of truth and not led off into deception. In fact, to emphasise the seriousness of his purpose, he took the pen from his scribe and wrote the end of the letter himself in large letters (Galatians 6:11).

Paul speaks with wisdom and clarity concerning the first real controversy that plagued the church in its early years, the relationship between Christian Jews and Christian Gentiles. It was of the utmost importance that the people embrace unity

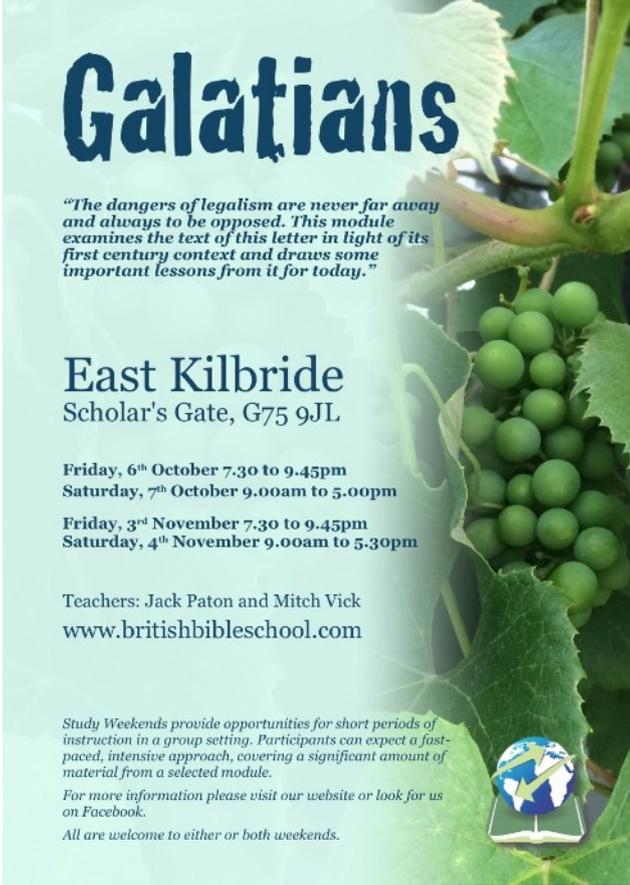
in Christ, no matter their ethnic background. For Paul this was no minor issue, as he went so far as to call the Galatians deserters of Christ, people turning from the truth toward a gospel contrary to the one they had received from Paul (Galatians 1:6–9).

Part of the problem that confronted the Galatians came in one of the arguments made by those who insisted upon a distortion of the Law; they were teaching that to live by grace and in freedom meant to live a lawless and therefore degenerate life. In the final chapters of the letter, Paul made clear that justification, an act of grace through faith, need not result in a sinful lifestyle. Because Christians have been freed from bondage to the sinful nature, we now have the path of holiness open to us.

To cover all that the Letter to the Galatians teaches us in two weekends is rather ambitious but it will provide a challenging introduction to those who are not familiar with it and an opportunity for deeper insights for those who are.

Jack Paton

[some text of this article is from <https://www.insight.org/resources/bible/the-pauline-epistles/galatians>]



Galatians

"The dangers of legalism are never far away and always to be opposed. This module examines the text of this letter in light of its first century context and draws some important lessons from it for today."

East Kilbride
Scholar's Gate, G75 9JL

Friday, 6th October 7.30 to 9.45pm
Saturday, 7th October 9.00am to 5.00pm

Friday, 3rd November 7.30 to 9.45pm
Saturday, 4th November 9.00am to 5.30pm

Teachers: Jack Paton and Mitch Vick
www.britishbibleschool.com

Study Weekends provide opportunities for short periods of instruction in a group setting. Participants can expect a fast-paced, intensive approach, covering a significant amount of material from a selected module.
For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook.
All are welcome to either or both weekends.

Appeals

Philippines: Yesterday was a good day with 'my' children. I am thankful that they continue to grow in number each week. We studied about Cornelius and Peter, made a craft, ate chicken congee and just had fun singing and playing games after our class – with lots of hearty laughter. I am grateful to be able to bless these children each week.

Traditionally, before they go back to school in June, after the summer vacation, I provide them with a school bag with school supplies. But because I have had two back-to-back mission trips, I completely forgot about my dates and missed out on helping the kids with these special needs.

While it is not too late yet, I am hoping to get you to share in this project. For a cost of £10, in each school pack a child receives ten notebooks, pencils and pens, paper and other school items (scissors, ruler, sharpener, art paper, coloured pencils and pens) as well as a raincoat (it is rainy season here!).

There are fifty children who come regularly to my Sunday class. Most of these are from the nearby village. Lately, I my next door neighbours have been sending their children to my class, too.

If this is something that you wish to be a part of, please do give. You may sponsor one or two children, ten children, twenty children, or even all fifty of them! Big or small, however much you can help will be great.

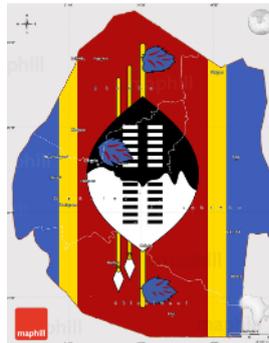
There is also something that I would like for you to pray about with me. I received information about a small community in the town centre, consisting of around forty to fifty very poor families. There are easily 100 to 200 children. This could be a great opportunity for the work I am doing. I

could do a weekly feeding programme so I can get them to sit with me for a VBS-type session. Please help me bless these people.

Gigie Carrenza

(Gigie is a graduate of the British Bible School and can be contacted at helengie@yahoo.com. Funds can be sent to Trevor at 195 Hickings Lane, Stapleford, Nottinghamshire NG9 8PJ.)

Swaziland: My wife and I have been engaged in building and running a clinic in



Swaziland for the past five years. Swaziland is a small mostly mountainous country with a population of 1.3 million people. The country is a Monarchy. There is a parliament but the king appoints the chief ministers. Criticism

of the way things are is poorly tolerated.

We built the clinic in a densely populated area and saw nearly 45,000 patients in the first two years. We came here in faith believing God was with us and that we would succeed. One of our goals has been to start a service for people who have HIV. We had thought we would get help with a government nurse coming to help us paid by one of the large NGOs in our area but, unfortunately, this has not happened and so we need to look elsewhere. ***We are appealing for a Christian nurse to come and join us.***

Conditions here are good with good roads and supermarkets like ASDA. Residence permits are easy to obtain. Anyone interested please contact me by email wrbobwhittaker@gmail.com and I will answer any questions you may have.

Bob Whittaker

Family News

Edmonton: On 8th July, we held a Men's Day with the theme "Breaking the Barriers to Congregational Collaboration" (Psalms 133:1). Gary Smith from the congregation in Leicester was our speaker. We then had discussions, made up of four groups and led by Dexter Joseph, James Obeng, Sydney Lewis and Eddie Fisher. 61 men, from fourteen congregations were in attendance. We were all encouraged by our study and being together.



Charles Banino

Around the World

Berlin was a city once divided and walled off, a place of narrow horizons. But the city is now one of the most diverse and dynamic cities in Europe. A new Berlin is taking shape (with ever-present cranes high above the city's skyline and building construction sites at every corner), a metropolis where people from many places come together – from those fleeing their homeland due to political instability, to professionals and students, and young families. People from many walks of life and cultural

backgrounds are making this city their home — and yet a cosmopolitan flair by itself cannot heal the lonely human heart or fulfil the deeper hope of a new Berlin,

the hope for genuine belonging that transcends differences of culture, class, creed, etc. We know that this hope can only be fully realised under God's reign, only among people who have been transformed, only among people who belong to each other because they belong to Jesus Christ.



Our vision came last September; we were convicted to serve this city by sharing the gospel in English to the many nationalities present here. We recognised God opening doors and gathering a global population in

Berlin and thus we were resolved that the Gospel of Christ really can *go into all the world*, reaching into every corner of the globe and every corner of this city. We have begun meeting in houses in February this

year. In May we found a suitable place to meet in a good location where we now meet each Sunday.

We are believers from many places, gathered for God's purposes in Berlin, breaking down walls between us with the aim of *making disciples from all nations*. We strive after what the first Christians experienced, those who *turned the world upside down*, crossed every social barrier, and launched the greatest trans-cultural movement that human history has ever seen. This power to redeem lives and transform society was unleashed in human history because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This is our Christian heritage and our vision for the future.

If you will be visiting Berlin, drop us a line – we will be happy to welcome you. We need your prayers that the Lord will further open doors and his name will be glorified in this city.

“...we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ...” Romans 1:5-6

Shadrach Appiagyei
shadrach@berlincofc.org
+49 160 3611815

(Shadrach is a graduate of the British Bible School).

Malawi: These are pictures of what was happening at the Kalanga congregation over the week from 11th-16th July.

Lungster Mlotha

(Lungster is a graduate of the British Bible School; photos – top left: Lungster involved in house-to-house outreach; bottom left: night preaching in the community; top right: women praising God; bottom right: Benjamin teaching (Lungster's co-worker))





KEYNOTE SPEAKER – Mark Adams (USA)

SONG LEADER – Alan Dod (Thamesmead)

SPEAKERS

Truitt Adair (USA)

Iain Cameron (East Kilbride)

Robert Daniell (Bristol)

John Griffiths (Wembley)

Andrew Marsden (Wigan)

Michael Strickland (USA)

Patrick Sullivan (Dundee)

Charles Yankiah (Liverpool)

COST – £150 (includes meals and accommodation)

You can book via our website:
www.europeanchristianworkshop.com
registration@europeanchristianworkshop.com
or contact Stephen Woodcock (01509) 768789

**Ladies Day
5th August 10 > 3
Leicester**

Mirror Mirror

**Speakers: Jean Eckman
Pauline Williams**

**Newfound Pool Centre, Pool Road,
Leicester, LE3 9GH**

Contact: Janet Hill : 0780 4685597

Hope you can join us.

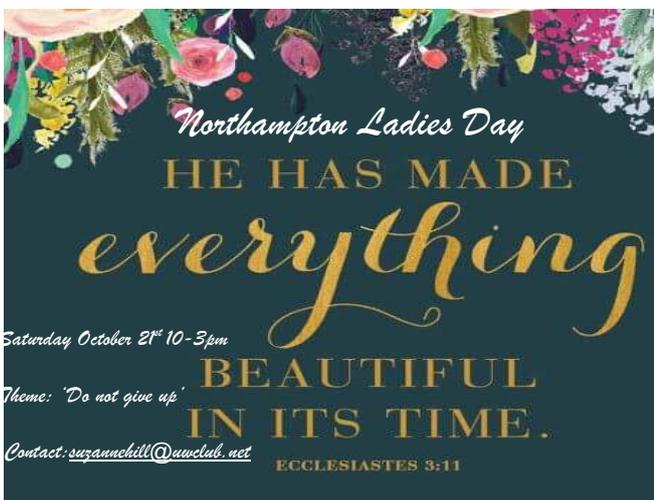


**Has God
called you?**

Have you been blessed by God with the talent and passion to *share your faith and reach the lost? Are you involved in making a difference in the lives of others in your community? Do you have experience in outreach and a commitment to teach and equip others?* If so, you may be the one we are looking for to join our spiritual family and work with us in reaching out to our community.

“Living and sharing the good news about Jesus Christ as one loving, spiritual family”

If you would like more information please contact Charlie Harding, Church Of Christ, Eliburn, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6RA Scotland. Email: Charlie@ChurchofChrist.co.uk



Ladies Retreat 2017

27-29 October 2017
Holiday Inn West, Peterborough

The Blame Game: Why Me Lord?



Never blame anyone
in your life.
Good people give
happiness,
Bad people give
experiences,
Worst people give a
lesson,
Best people give
memories.

Participant cost as follows:

- Single Package - £185.00pp
- Twin Package - £135.00pp
- £50.00 non-refundable deposit to be paid by 30th June 2017

Full payment by 1st September 2017

Account payment information:

Barclays Bank plc
Sort Code: 20-67-88
Account Number: 03980316
A/c Name: Ladies Retreat Church of Christ
Booking queries: Marsha Erysthee
01733-351192 or 07541333908 email:
merysthee1@aol.com



Leadership

Saturday November the 4th 2017
10am to 15:00
Tea and coffee on arrivals

Speakers:

Truitt Adair: President Sunset School
Tim Burrow : (director of international schools)
Brandy Kendall: (director of schools in Asia)

We hope you can join us for a great day of fellowship, talks, question times..

Church of Christ Leicester: Newfound centre, 39-45 Pool Road, Leicester, LE3 9QH
Contact: Paul Hill 07804 653690

Walking with God

British Bible School Autumn Study Week

Monday, 6th to Friday, 10th November 2017

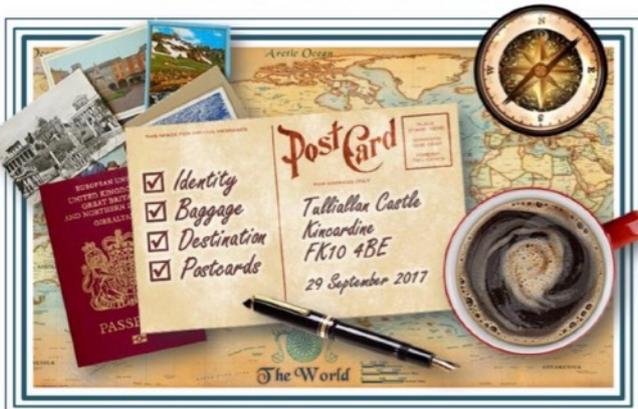
- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District

All inclusive cost: £150 per student

For full details visit our website: britishbibleschool.com

FIELD OF REFUGE WOMEN'S RENEWAL 2017



Date: 29 September 2017 for two nights
Arrival: Registration at 14:00
Cost: £95.00 per person (shared room with ensuite). Single occupancy is available at a higher rate. Cost includes accommodation and all meals. £35 deposit is required to secure your place.
Email: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com
Contact: 07450 296 427 (Yvonne Cass)

“Lift Up Your Eyes”

and See God’s Purpose in Europe

Mainz, Germany
October 4 -7, 2017

Registration - Oct. 4th

Group Sessions & Sharing
Oct. 5 - 6

Breakfast & Closing
Oct. 7th



Topics

- **Each Sponsor will update us on unique resources and tools for evangelism.**
- **God’s purpose in preparing leaders for the future.** To be intentional in identifying, mentoring, encouraging and leaders for the future of His church.
- **God’s Purpose at work in the next generation.** Examples of how best to dialogue with those who will be the future body of Christ.
- **God’s purpose among others who proclaim His name.** How to serve without compromising our core beliefs.

Keynote Theme— Lift Up Your Eyes – A reminder that God does have a purpose and we are not abandoned or forgotten in Europe

- **Update on outreach in Athens, Greece.** Athens is the location that many Muslim refugees have their “first contact” with Christians.
- **Examples of reaching out** to the refugee or immigrant population in a European context.
- **Methods and available resources** for effective teaching and training. How best to work in a changing “multi-cultural” European context.
- **Advice and assistance in understanding Islam** and knowing how best to communicate the love of Christ with our new Arab neighbors.

We encourage everyone to attend and to help your congregation we invite two members to be our guests. Lodging and meals for these two will be covered by the sponsors. All guests are responsible for transportation. (All are welcome to come but we can only cover the lodging for two, sharing a double room).

Sponsored By Your Friends at:



[To contact the organisers, e-mail Doug Reeves <dreeves@sibi.cc> or Jeff Rader <jrader@sibi.cc>. For further details you can also contact Trevor Williams <twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk>.]

August

July 30th-4th August – Camp Maplewell: “Fruition” (age 13+). Contact Guy Sandison (07791 101397 or guysandison@hotmail.co.uk) or Mark Hill (07434 956692).

5th – Leicester: Ladies’ Day – “Mirror, Mirror”, 10.00 am-3.00 pm, at Newfound Pool Centre, Pool Road, Leicester LE3 9GH; speakers: Jean Eckman and Pauline Williams. Contact: Janet Hill (07804 685597).

7th-9th – Sheffield: Vacation Bible Study for children. Contact 07454 884119 and 07508 033534 for more information.

12th – Mitcham: Ladies’ Day – “Let the beauty of Christ be seen in you”; venue: South Mitcham Community Centre, SMCA Cobham Court, Haslemere Avenue, Mitcham CR4 3PR. Contact: mitchamcoc@yahoo.com.

12th – Eastwood: Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus, the Messiah” (1–Prophesied, 2–Fulfilled); light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Jon Galloway. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

13th-18th – British Bible Camp.

23rd – Loughborough: Anniversary meeting – refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Ken Mullan. Contact: Jason Hill (j.hill147@hotmail.co.uk).

24th-26th – European Christian Workshop at Lancaster: *Shalom*.

September

15th-17th – Gemünden, Germany: European Singles Retreat. Information: <http://www.singlesretreat.net>.

16th – Great Barr: Annual Fellowship Day.

16th-17th – East Kilbride: Outreach meetings with Jack Paton; Saturday light refreshments at 6.00 pm followed by the lesson at 7.00 pm, Sunday 10.00 & 11.00 am.

23rd – Peterhead: Annual Social Day.

29th-1st October – Field of Refuge: Women’s renewal at Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine. Cost: £95.00. Information: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com or Yvonne Cass (07450 296427).

October

6th-7th – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Galatians” (part 1) presented by Jack Paton and Mitch Vick. Friday: 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-5.30 pm.

7th – Manchester (Stretford): Special meeting, beginning with lunch at 1.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon (dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

13th-14th – Wembley: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “The Letters of John” (part 1) presented by Steve Whitehead, John Griffiths and Patrick Boyns.

21st – Northampton: Ladies’ Day: “Do Not Give Up”, 10.00 am-3.00 pm Contact: Suzanne Hill (suzannehill@uwclub.net).

27th-29th – Livingston: Youth Weekend.

27th-29th – Sheffield: Gospel meetings – “Is the Gospel Really Good News?” Contact: 07982 906618 or 07508 033534 for further information.

27th-29th – Peterborough: Ladies’ retreat – “The Blame Game – Why Me Lord?” at Holiday Inn West, Peterborough. Cost: £135-185 (twin or single – full payment by 1st September). Contact: Marsha Erysthee (merysthee1@aol.com or 01733 351192 or 07541 333908).

November

3rd-4th – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Galatians” (part 2) presented by Jack Paton and Mitch Vick. Friday: 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-5.30 pm.

3rd-4th – Birmingham: British Bible School Study Weekend. British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “The Letters of John” (part 1) presented by Steve Whitehead, John Griffiths and Patrick Boyns.

4th – Leicester: Fellowship Day – Leadership, 10.00 am-4.00 pm; speakers: Truit Adair, Gary Walker, Tim Burrow. Contact Paul Hill (paulh41@hotmail.co.uk).

6th-10th – British Bible School: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Module: “Walking with God” presented by Patrick Boyns and Ian Starrs. Cost for the week (room and board): £150. To register, go to britishbibleschool.com.

10th-11th – East Kilbride & Clarkston: Annual Joint Glasgow-area Gospel Meetings – Friday at East Kilbride, 7.30 pm, Saturday at Clarkston, 7.30 pm, combined Sunday worship at East Kilbride, 10.00 & 11.00 am; speaker: Patrick Boyns. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com) or Jack Paton (jgpaton@glasgowalumni.net).

11th – Eastwood: Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus: Prophet, Priest and King” (1–Prophet, 2– Priest & King); light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Bob Eckman. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

17th-18th – Wembley: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “The Letters of John” (part 2) presented by Steve Whitehead, John Griffiths and Patrick Boyns.

24th-25th – Birmingham: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “The Letters of John” (part 2) presented by Steve Whitehead, John Griffiths and Patrick Boyns.

December

2nd – East Kilbride: An afternoon of song. 1.30-5.00 pm.

January 2018

19th-21st – Bassenthwaite Family Retreat at Bassenfell Manor (Lake District): “Anywhere with Jesus”. Organised by the British Bible School.

February

3rd – Cumbernauld: Men’s Day.

19th-25th – Gemünden, Germany: Advanced Bible Study Series. ABSS I Monday-Friday, ABSS II Friday-Sunday. For further information or to book your place, contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com or +32 488 481 082). (Follow group on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/697781630273815/>)

March

10th – Great Barr: Bible Seminar.

July

21st-25th – Commonwealth of Dominica: 8th International Women’s Lectureship – “Wise Woman, Hold On, the Best is Yet to Come.” Contact: eighthiwl2018@gmail.com

September

8th – Great Barr: Fellowship Day.

The Last Word: "Sarcasm"



"Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife, quarrels and insults are ended." (Proverbs 22:10)

Even amongst the best of friends sarcasm can have a sharp edge which in time cuts deeply. Most people enjoy a time when friends can laugh with them about something which has been done that is silly. It is always very useful to be able to laugh at our own strange ways but we need to be more than careful when we laugh at someone else's.

Sarcasm leads to mocking and many people can be deeply hurt by this. People who are different to our own selves are prime suspects for this sort of behaviour – someone who is taller, shorter, thinner, fatter, different coloured hair, eyes, skin or who have a need. This sort of behaviour is worse than childishness – it is twisted and evil.

Christians have the privilege of building people up, not tearing them down. The servants of Jesus are there to reflect the grace of God, to pour out his love to others, not to cut others down. Every mocking word can be like an axe to a tree. It may take many cuts but eventually even the largest tree will be destroyed. So it is with people. By constantly chipping away at someone's self-esteem or their character, you will destroy it. This is the work of Satan. Make sure you are not involved in it.

When mocking goes, quarrels and insults leave as well and what is left behind must be carefully nurtured back to good health. Everyone can be hurt through nothing more than harsh words. Far rather we should all be built up with kind words that restore our soul and our relationships so that each day may be a blessing to ourselves and to our God.

Trevor

Prayer

Lord help my tongue to speak kindly, even in difficult circumstances.

Help us to be rid of mocking and strife, quarrels and insults.

Let my mind, like my tongue be pure.

Because of Jesus.

Amen

if speaking kindly to plants helps them grow, imagine what speaking kindly to humans can do