

# CHRISTIAN WORKER



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2018 has started off, at least for me, as being a busy year! January has been filled with activity and it doesn't look like it will let up anytime soon.

I've written a bit about the start to our year under 'Spotlight' this month. Arlene and I, along with Ian & Barbara Starrs, joined a group of 20 students from Freed-Hardeman University and 18 Christian adults and toured the Bible Lands from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> January. It was a wonderful experience! Even several weeks later we are still trying to process all the many things we saw and experienced. But what a wonderful way to start a year! The problem now is it seems we have had the highlight of the year at the beginning. But we look forward to continuing to serve the Lord throughout this year.

We have enjoyed the last several years being part of the Bassenthwaite Family Retreat organised by the British Bible School. This, too, is a great way to start the year and places something to look forward to in the calendar during the cold dark month of January. It was good once again to have all 69 spaces taken. The lessons this year were presented by Mark Hill, Patrick Boyns and myself. It was good to be challenged as we look towards the year ahead.

There is just one bit missing from this issue of the *Christian Worker* – there were no reports of anyone becoming a Christian. This is the first time in the months that Trevor and I have been putting this together that there have been none. We hope that some did obey the gospel and that they will be reported on in the months ahead of us.

Many thanks to the response last month to my suggestion that we put together a complete collection of the issues of the *Christian Worker*. Ken Lewis has sent several boxes to me and Bob Eckman says he has some of the earlier ones in his loft. We have been encouraged to not only assemble this collection, but to also make it available as a digital library so it can be an historical reference. But that will be a project for the future once we have the physical copies together. If you have old copies of the magazine filed away that you would like to get rid of, please contact me.

Jon

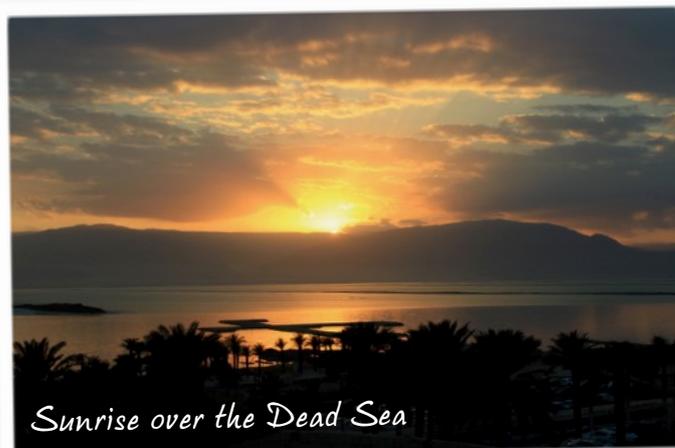
## Spotlight: A visit to the Bible lands

This year began in a manner quite unlike any other I can remember – we started the year with a holiday! On 2<sup>nd</sup> January we met Ian and Barbara Starrs and flew to Istanbul and on to Tel Aviv in Israel. There we met a group of 38 fellow Christians with whom we spent the next ten days touring the Bible Lands. This tour was organised by Freed-Hardeman University and led by Mark and Dana Blackwelder (Mark is a professor of Bible at FHU).

I've been asked many times since our return what was my favourite thing to see. To be honest, I really don't have a favourite – I just liked it all! The first day of our tour we travelled from Tel Aviv through Jerusalem and down to the Dead Sea – and yes, you go *down* to the Dead Sea, being 1400 feet below sea level. The descent from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea is around 3900 feet. Although exhausted, we visited Qumran and Masada before arriving at our first hotel on the shore of the Dead Sea.

From the Dead Sea we travelled north to Galilee, visiting the Jordan River and Jericho. We based the next two days from Tiberias as

we toured up as far as Caesarea Philippi and Tel Dan, as well as around Galilee. Seeing the ruins of Capernaum and experiencing a small storm as we stood on the shore of the sea of Galilee were highlights of this part of the tour. The next day (with the storm gone) we had a cruise on the Sea of Galilee after visiting Caesarea Maritime.



*Sunrise over the Dead Sea*

One thing that impressed me was how some have a very 'western' view of what the Bible lands look like. I used to be amused at the Renaissance painters who depicted Biblical scenes with a landscape from Italy. But I discovered that I do the same thing today! Often some imagine the sheep, the hills, the shores of Galilee, the fields, the terrain to be what we are used to, but it really is quite different. The shore of



*The shore of Galilee*

the sea of Galilee is quite rocky. There isn't white sand on the seashore but black rocks and pebbles. Quite a contrast to the picture I had in my mind!

Another highlight was being able to worship on Sunday with the congregation in Nazareth. Their evangelist, Maurice Jadon, is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman. Nazareth is an Arabic town so the congregation is composed of Arabic Christians. Their hymn book has the

hymns (with music) in English on the left and the words in Arabic on the right. We were able to sing together, each in our own language! The congregation made us welcome and served us Arabic pastries and Arabic coffee after worship. Both were an Arabic treat!

The last half of the tour was based in Jerusalem itself. Although standing on the Mount of Olives and looking over the Kidron Valley at the Dome of the Rock was impressive, I was more impressed visiting the scale model of first century Jerusalem at the Israel Museum. It was impressive being able to see Jerusalem as it was when Jesus visited.

As we visited various sites associated with Jesus, we were saddened that we could not see what it would have been like in Jesus' day. The sites have chapels built on them and often landscaped around them. This was done long ago in order to preserve the site, as others wanted to own the land to prevent Christians from visiting. But you really did not get a sense of what it would have been like.

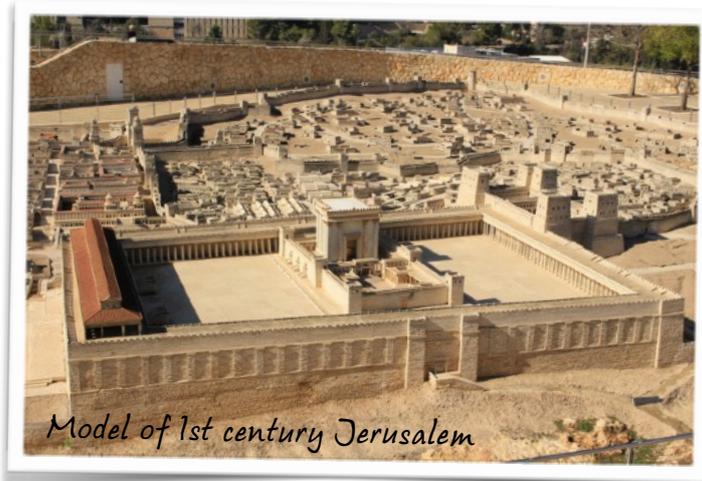
In Jerusalem, we visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is said to have the site of both Golgotha and the tomb where Jesus was buried.

I was more impressed seeing several first century tombs that weren't shrines – one in the church itself and the other at the 'Garden Tomb.'

There was so much to see in Jerusalem: the Western Wall, the Western Wall Tunnels, the City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel, the Pool of Siloam, the Pool of Bethesda, Temple Mount, Gethsemanee...and the list goes on.

It was enlightening to sit outside the Hulda Gate and see the mikvehs that have been excavated around the wall. These date

from the first century and were used by the Jews to immerse themselves for ritual purification. As was pointed out to us, these could have served as pools to immerse the first Christians!



I would encourage all Christians to visit the Bible Lands if you possibly can. To see where Jesus walked and to see where the events in the Bible took place is an experience you will never forget!

*Jon Galloway*

# British Bible School Notes

## Anywhere with Jesus

Weekends are, quite simply, not long enough. From the moment we arrived on Friday afternoon/evening until departure on Sunday there was never a dull moment. There may have been full tummies, puzzled minds and hoarse voices, but certainly no dull moments.



This was the third winter Family Retreat we have held at Bassenthwaite in the northern Lake District and for the second year running we were full to capacity. People travelled from both north and south to be a part of what has become something of an annual fixture in many of our diaries. With the majority being return guests, we were delighted to welcome along a few newcomers to share together in an encouraging and relaxing time away from it all.



Our focus for these family retreats has consistently been on Jesus. As our teacher and our guide to life, we want to be growing to know him more fully and to understand his ways more perfectly. Starting our days with morning devotions, we had a couple of teaching sessions on

Saturday morning, lots of singing, plenty of eating, and even more chatting and enjoying time together.

Saturday's Mystery Evening proved to be slightly more of a mystery to some than to others, but it was different, thought provoking and possibly a little educational. A small group spent the free afternoon ascending the northerly, snow-covered fell of Binsey, whilst others enjoyed the warmth of the manor and afternoon tea.

If you have not yet been on one of our Family Retreats, you still have an

opportunity to join us in Norfolk in September when we shall be hosting our first late summer event at Letton Hall. Please see elsewhere for details.

## Funding

We are thankful to all who continue to support this work, both in prayer and through gifts. To those who have recently begun to contribute – thank you and welcome aboard. God's blessings.

*Patrick Boyns*

[www.britishbibleschool.com](http://www.britishbibleschool.com)

## Rose Payne (1938-2017)

*Kentish Town*

Rosabelle Margaret Payne, affectionately known as Rose, was born 24 May 1938 to Leslie and Eunice Payne in Tilehurst, a suburb of Reading. Eleven years later she became big sister to Lorna. Her extended family included 10 aunts and uncles, and 20 first cousins.

When Rose was 13, the family moved to a home in Southcote, where she resided until her passing. At the age of 22, she was immersed for the remission of sins at the congregation in Reading, where Rose worshipped with her mother and other members of the congregation until around 1990.

When the congregation dwindled down in size to only Rose and her mother, the pair continued to hold a small service every Sunday in the family home (Eunice had grown too elderly to travel elsewhere) until 1996, at which time Eunice was moved to a nursing home and Rose began attending Sunday worship at Kentish Town in London, where she was active and served as the congregation's secretary for more than 20 years.

Rose was reminiscent of Dorcas as described in Acts 9. When creating the artwork for leaflets and posters advertising special meetings of the assembly at Kentish Town, she was a consummate editor, meticulously searching for misspellings, identifying and standardising variant spellings of words, and amending incorrect grammar and syntax in source documents.



She was assiduous in looking after the Kentish Town congregation's accounts and other records, and in the care of performing the many administrative tasks for which she had voluntarily taken responsibility. She also did administrative work for the Scripture Standard, including serving as treasurer, managing the subscriber list, and contributing a number of articles of encouragement.

Rose was similarly tireless and diligent in her work for Graeme Morrison's various Bible resource and correspondence course websites, and in her private historical research into Churches of Christ, which involved correspondence with individuals and assemblies across the UK and around the world. All of this selfless and generous background work was very much in keeping with her quiet, modest, reliable, unassuming, and understated character. Rose was a believer in simply "getting on with it," without fuss or bother, and did not seek to be the centre of attention.

In the workplace, Rose was highly regarded for her skill, diligence, organisational ability, and dedication. Trained as a shorthand typist at Reading Technical College, she served as a typist for local rural councils and the Reading Borough Council. Eventually becoming a skilled word processor, Rose was later afforded an opportunity by the Reading Borough Council to continue her education part-time at Reading College of

Technology, where she earned an HNC in Business Studies in 1980. Following her retirement, Rose continued to use her talents in other arenas, demonstrating the same commitment that had characterised her professional life in all these subsequent activities.

Early on in her retirement, as her mother's eyesight failed, Rose volunteered with the Reading Blind Society, creating computer-based databases of their clients and supporters. For the last 15 years of her life, Rose dedicated much time to the Southcote IT Experience (SITE), based near her home, where she volunteered both as secretary and as a tutor in computer and internet skills to those over 55 years of age living in the Southcote ward. She will be much missed by her colleagues at SITE, who have described her as tenacious, loyal, well-liked, a true friend, strong, determined, persistent, and proactive.

Rose's hobbies included travel – she frequently went on holidays throughout the UK and in Europe – gardening, cats, and conducting genealogical and historical research. A history lover (especially the social history of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries), Rose participated in local history projects and conducted extensive research into her own family history. She dug up and donated artefacts (flint tools found in her garden) to Reading Museum, contributed local and family historical research materials to BBC



Archives, and conducted in-depth research into the history of Churches of Christ in the UK.

A loving daughter, niece, sister, aunt, and great-aunt, Rose remained close to her immediate family throughout her life. During her later years, Rose regularly spent time with her sister, Lorna; niece, Mandy; nephew, Alasdair; great-nephew, Bobbie; and her aunts, Joyce and Irene. She also maintained an extensive and regular email correspondence with extended family and other contacts.

Although Rose will be terribly missed (several people have described Rose and her contributions as “irreplaceable”), our consolation is that her faith was firm in her relationship with our heavenly Father. By the example of her life in Christ, Rose will continue to inspire us. She demonstrated Christ in her life not only to her fellow Christians, but to all who knew her – family, friends, acquaintances, and even those with whom she had the most tenuous of interactions. One of those who had the privilege of knowing Rose well spoke for many when she volunteered that “Rose was one of the kindest people on earth.” We are confident that she has now gone to share in a heavenly reward which is far greater than any bounty on offer here on earth.

*Compiled by the assembly in Kentish Town with the assistance of Rose's family and friends.*

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Peter and Lisa Hunt**, formerly of Bristol, who were blessed with a daughter **Zoey Grace** born 29 December.

# Family News

**Bristol:** December has been a very busy month for Bristol, with plenty of activities.

It all started on 10<sup>th</sup> December with our End of Year party and fellowship meal. The theme for the children's party was the Penguin Ball. Fellowship meals are always well attended and the party was a good time for some seasonal fun. Afterwards, the chapel was decorated with the penguins that were made by the children, and the 'big children' who helped them.

We did some street carolling in the local neighbourhood, handing out leaflets. This is always well received, some even complaining one year when we were not able to do it. The leaflets advertised our Evening of Carols, Christmas Community Dinner and New Year's Day Service.

The Sunday evening after our street carolling, was our Evening of Carols. We had a lovely response from our neighbours, and our young children sang "Away in a Manger" to everyone. After the service there were mince pies, yule logs and all manner of cakes and snacks to enjoy, so we could get to know our guests.

In the lead up to Christmas, we made our annual donation to St Mungo's. This is a charitable organisation that provides residential support for woman and families

who are in distress. We filled 48 stockings with gifts, toiletries and other items, one for each of the residents. We also provided some financial support from additional donations we received.

Last year, we opened our doors on Christmas Day, not just for our Sunday worship, but followed by a Community Christmas Dinner. Due to its success, we did it again this year. We were pleased with the response we received. Two of the visitors were new to the area, having only moved in a few weeks before. We are pleased that we have seen some of them again at other meetings. Please pray for

each of our visitors, that they will come to recognise the warmth that is in Christ and his saving power.

New Year's Eve was a Youth Lock-in. There was fellowship with the congregation

until midnight and games were played all night. There were some very tired young people the following day – but it was worth it!

New Year's Day is always a great time to get together and worship. Is there a better way to start a new year than in praise to God? We had a great response from the local area, as well as from other local churches. There was great singing and an inspirational message for the year ahead.

We have lots of plans for the year ahead and would ask for your prayers for the



work that goes on in Bristol. If you're able to join us on a Sunday, or for any of our others events, we would love to see you.

*Robert Daniell*

**Stapleford (Nottinghamshire):** In recent months, the congregation has built up a good relationship with one of our area Tesco stores. This is mainly thanks to a

Christian

here

Rebecca

Gamble.

Rebecca

has worked

with Tesco

for a

number of

years, and

she is the

mainstay

in *Space!*,

our weekly

youth club. Knowing about her work with

the club, as well as her involvement in the

congregation's mission trips to Honduras in

in 2013 and 2015, they have given her a

number of items that she can use in *Space!*,

including a smoothie maker. Just before

Christmas, they

asked her to see if

the congregation

could do with a new

vacuum cleaner, and

gave us a lovely

Dyson!

Back in November,

she approached the

store to see if they

would let a group do

some bag-packing at the store one Saturday

to raise funds for *Malawi 2018*, a mission

trip being organised for this autumn



between the Loughborough and Nottingham congregations. Several from both congregations turned up and had a lot of fun raising around £250 which will go towards supplies needed for *Malawi 2018*. They also allowed us to put up a display of both *Malawi 2018* and our two Honduras mission trips, which attracted a lot of attention.

*Bob Eckman*

**Kirkcaldy:** The first Sunday in January marked the fiftieth year the congregation in Kirkcaldy has been meeting in their building on Hayfield Road. To celebrate this event, they held a special day on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> January.

With around 140 in attendance, the day was

a great celebration. Singing groups from Kirkcaldy and Hyvots Bank, as well as 'Solus', presented programmes of songs. Ian Davidson from Motherwell gave humorous yet encouraging anecdotes. The main

speaker of the

day was Alan

Moyes, from

the Kirkcaldy

congregation.

His lesson

was about the

altar built by

the tribes east

of the Jordan

– and he

worked in

quite a bit of the congregation's history, as well. Overall, an excellent day!

*Jon Galloway*

## Around the World

**Malawi:** Congratulations to **Lungster Mlotha** who was married at the end of December. Here are several photos of the happy event. Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Mlotha!

*Trevor & Jon*



**Greece:** Because of the acceptance of the Gospel of love of Jesus among our refugee friends, members and visitors, we decided to work on this year's retreat under the main title: "THE HARVEST". The sub-title will be: "From every nation, tribe, people and language..." (Revelation 7:9).

The dates are: 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June. The cost of €180 per adult reflects group price with a

full three-meal-a-day, all-you-can-eat menu, with all other services included.

Why not create a little group from your congregation and surprise us with your presence and blessings! For further information and to contact us: [amelirry@aol.com](mailto:amelirry@aol.com)

*Alexander and Eleni Melirrytos*

## Directory Update

**BRIGHTON (Sussex)**

Christians: 11 Children: 5

**Meeting place:** 11 Oxford Street, Brighton BN1 4LA

**Send post to:** meeting place or contacts

**Sunday meetings:** Sunday School 9.30 am, Breaking Bread 10.30 am

**Midweek:** Tuesday Bible Study 7.00 pm (please contact for confirmation)

**Contacts:**

**Stephen Daniell** (w. Sheila). ☎ (07929) 263021 📧 [stephen.daniell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stephen.daniell@hotmail.co.uk)  
**(remove Stephen's landline)**

**Ken Peters.** ☎ (01323) 460945 ☎ (07561) 507081 📧 [kennethp2@talktalk.net](mailto:kennethp2@talktalk.net)

# Appeals

**Akanimo Ekanem**, a ten-year old boy in year eight at a private school in Ibadan, South-West Nigeria, and the first of two children of his parents, developed abdominal pains in the last week of October. He was previously in a very good state of health.

In addition to the abdominal pains, he also reported difficulty passing stools despite the frequent urge to. An abdominal USS done three days after the onset of the pain revealed a mass in the pelvic region. A CT scan of the abdomen performed the next day confirmed the mass which was thought to be malignant (cancerous) and also showed it caused obstruction to urinary outflow and compressed the rectum.

Eleven days after the onset of the pain he had a colostomy and some tissue from the tumour was sent to histopathology for special tests. The bulk of the tumour is inoperable.

After the surgery he suffered a kidney failure but the doctors were able to manage this conservatively over a few days. His blood pressure rose significantly and the abdominal pain and distension worsened from his intestinal obstruction. Eight days after the first surgery, he had a second surgery to relieve the cause of the intestinal obstruction.

Results from the pathology tests stated he had a rare type of cancer called Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumour.

In Nigeria, there is limited experience in the management of this condition as well



as its attendant complications. The decision was, therefore, made to seek further care abroad. Several hospitals were contacted especially in the United States and most of the doctors agree he needed to be treated urgently. He has started treatment at a hospital in the U.S. reputable for the treatment of this rare tumour.

Akanimo is quite ill. He currently has marked swelling of his abdomen and lower limbs from the pressure effect of the tumour on the abdominal organs and blood vessels. His blood pressure is elevated and it has been a battle controlling it. There is residual renal (kidney) dysfunction too. Due to the aggressive nature of the tumour, it divides rapidly, getting larger in size. Every passing day is critical to preserving his life and giving him the best chance at a cure of this very rare clinical condition.

We solicit your kind help in saving this boy. I know the boy and the father. I grew up with them back in Nigeria. His estimated cost of treatment at renowned paediatric oncology centres in the U.S. is about a little over \$1 million. It would involve several courses of chemotherapy, a major surgery and possibly radiotherapy over a 9-12 month period. There would also be treatment for complications that arise either from the primary diagnosis or from adverse effects of the treatment protocol.

Please visit the link below for further information. All donations are online. <https://www.gofundme.com/akanimo-Ekanem>

*Emmanuel Ujujare and the Leicester congregation*

## Evangelist wanted for Livingston

Are you passionate about preaching the Gospel and sharing your faith? Would you be keen to make a difference in the lives of others in our community? Do you have 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 about this position as a full-time evangelist, please contact Church of Christ, Eliburn, Livingston, Scotland, EH54 6RA  
email: [Charlie@ChurchofChrist.co.uk](mailto:Charlie@ChurchofChrist.co.uk)



## Back to BASICS

LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR FAITH

Friday 16th Feb  
7.30pm

Back to Basics  
ABC

Hyvots Bank  
church of Christ  
48a Gilmerton Dykes Drive,  
Edinburgh  
EH17 8LB  
0131 664 5505

Saturday 17th Feb  
7.30pm

Back to Basics  
123

Kirkcaldy  
church of Christ  
Hayfield Road,  
Kirkcaldy KY2 5DG  
[facebook.com/  
kirkcaldychurchofchrist](https://www.facebook.com/kirkcaldychurchofchrist)

Speaker **David Murray**



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## DIGGING DEEPER



16TH - 18TH  
AUGUST 2018

**For More Information  
Contact us at**

**Registration@EuropeanChristianWorkshop.com  
or on 01509 768789**

**Payment Plan Available to Help Spred the Cost**

## Evangelist wanted for Wiesbaden, Germany

The congregation in Wiesbaden, Germany, has a free apartment with 2-3 rooms and kitchen in its church building. We are looking for faithful Christians, who would like to live and work with the congregation in Wiesbaden and live in the building.

Please contact Monika Meyer ([monikameyer55@googlemail.com](mailto:monikameyer55@googlemail.com))

# Advanced Bible Study Series

Join us in Gemünden, Germany...

## 19-23 February 2018

### ABSS I – Monday pm to Friday noon

Keynote speaker: Darryl Tippens (USA); other speakers: Jordan Arnold (Slovakia), Max Dauner (France), Patrick Boyns (UK), Robert Limb (France)

### ABSS II – Friday pm to Sunday noon

Speaker: Darryl Tippens (USA)

To request complete programme information or book your place, contact ABSS Coordinator:  
Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com)

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> - SATURDAY, JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2018

Adults and children over 12 yrs.: € 180

Children 6-12: € 90 - Children 6 yrs. old or younger: Free

(Price per person reflects full board in double occupancy room)

Please contact:

ALEXANDER MELIRRYTOS

[amelirry@aol.com](mailto:amelirry@aol.com) (6944) 83 65 79

ELENI MELIRRYTOU

[emelirry@aol.com](mailto:emelirry@aol.com) (6945) 01 43 85



## Autumn Family Weekend Retreat

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>  
September 2018

at Letton Hall in Norfolk

# I want to know JESUS

... learning to know Jesus, not just about him



# Diary

## February

3<sup>rd</sup> – **Cumbernauld**: Men's Day.

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> – **Cumbernauld**: Youth/Young Adult Retreat at Rowerdennan Youth Hostel (G63 0AR); Theme: "Keeping Up With Christ." Cost: £35 for two nights or £40 for three nights. To book your place contact: Nicole Barr ([nicole8barr@gmail.com](mailto:nicole8barr@gmail.com)).

10<sup>th</sup> – **Eastwood (Nottinghamshire)**: Quarterly Outreach meeting: "Jesus – the Light"; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Graeme Morrison. Contact: Adrian Limb ([cofceastwood@aol.com](mailto:cofceastwood@aol.com)).

16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – **Hyvots Bank and Kirkcaldy**: East Coast Joint Meetings, 7.30 pm (Hyvots Bank on Friday and Kirkcaldy on Saturday). Speaker: David Murray. Contact: Alan Moyes ([alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com](mailto:alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com)) or Nick Wilson ([hnwilson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:hnwilson@blueyonder.co.uk)).

19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> – **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](mailto:brazle.paul@gmail.com) or +32 488 481 082). (Follow group on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/697781630273815/>)

## March

2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> – **Aberdeen**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Galatians" (part 1) presented by Jack Paton and Mitch Vick. Friday: 7.00–9.00 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.15 pm.

10<sup>th</sup> – **Great Barr**: Bible Seminar.

16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – **East Kilbride**: Outreach meetings with Robin Vick; Saturday: light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; Sunday at regular meeting times. Contact: Jon Galloway (07906 060618 or [jdgalloway@mac.com](mailto:jdgalloway@mac.com)).

23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> – **Northampton**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "The Letters of John" (part 1). Friday: 7.00–9.30 pm; Saturday: 9.00 am-5.15 pm. Contact: [study@britishbibleschool.com](mailto:study@britishbibleschool.com)

24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> – **Ilkeston**: Outreach meetings with Jon Galloway. Contact: John Bullock (01158 543471 or 07986 562930 or [john.bullock@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.bullock@ntlworld.com)).

31<sup>st</sup> – **Liverpool**: Men's Fellowship, 9.30 am-3.30 pm. Contact: Charles Yankiah ([cyankiah@hotmail.com](mailto:cyankiah@hotmail.com) or 07891 262910).

## April

13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> – **Aberdeen**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Galatians" (part 1) presented by Jack Paton and Mitch Vick. Friday: 7.00–9.00 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.15 pm.

20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> – **Northampton**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "The Letters of John" (part 2). Friday: 7.00–9.30 pm; Saturday: 9.00 am-5.15 pm. Contact: [study@britishbibleschool.com](mailto:study@britishbibleschool.com)

21<sup>st</sup> – **Liverpool**: Ladies' Day (jointly hosted with Skelmersdale), 9.30 am-3.30 pm. Contact Maria Appiah-Anane ([mgvaa5@google.com](mailto:mgvaa5@google.com) or 07505 158004) or Funmi Glover ([fynejp1@aol.com](mailto:fynejp1@aol.com) or 07915 389552).

21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> – **Stapleford**: Weekend meetings with Ken Mullan. Saturday: 7.00 pm; Sunday: 11.00 am and 6.00 pm. Contact: Bob Eckman ([bbobeckman@aol.com](mailto:bbobeckman@aol.com) or 07714 207279).

### May

**12<sup>th</sup> – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire):** Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus – the True Vine”; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb ([cofceastwood@aol.com](mailto:cofceastwood@aol.com)).

**25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> – Northampton:** Youth weekend. Contact: Mark Hill ([marks@uwclub.net](mailto:marks@uwclub.net)).

### June

**7<sup>th</sup> – Wembley (London):** Ladies’s Day – “Love in Action,” 10.00 am-3.30 pm. Contact: Anne Airebamen (020 8205 8218 or 07415 135166 or [Anne-andrew@live.co.uk](mailto:Anne-andrew@live.co.uk)).

**23<sup>rd</sup> – Liverpool:** All Day Fellowship – “The Love of God,” 9.30 am-3.30 pm; speaker: Tony Coffey. Charles Yankiah ([cyankiah@hotmail.com](mailto:cyankiah@hotmail.com) or 07891 262910).

### July

**14<sup>th</sup> – Edmonton (London):** Men’s workshop.

**20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> – Camp Heatherbell:** Auchengillan Outdoor Centre (Allander Chalet); theme: “5G”; Contact: Adam Barr ((07889 631218), Graham McDonald (07748 787744) or email [5G@campheatherbell.org.uk](mailto:5G@campheatherbell.org.uk) for more details and camp forms.

**21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> – Commonwealth of Dominica:** 8<sup>th</sup> International Women’s Lectureship – “Wise Woman, Hold On, the Best is Yet to Come.” Contact: [eighthiw12018@gmail.com](mailto:eighthiw12018@gmail.com).

**29<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> August – Camp Tayside:** Douglaswood Scout Camp, Dundee. Contact: Contact Aubrey Boyns (07502 220902) or [camptayside@gmail.com](mailto:camptayside@gmail.com)

### August

**11<sup>th</sup> – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire):** Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus – the Way”; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Jon Galloway. Contact: Adrian Limb ([cofceastwood@aol.com](mailto:cofceastwood@aol.com)).

### September

**8<sup>th</sup> – Great Barr:** Fellowship Day.

**14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> – Letton Hall Family Retreat** in Norfolk (IP25 7SA). Theme: “I Want to Know Jesus.” Cost: £70 per person. Organised by the British Bible School. To book, visit the BBS website: <http://britishbibleschool.com/upcoming-events/letton-hall-family-retreat-2018>

### October

**8<sup>th</sup> – Great Barr:** Fellowship Day.

**13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> – Stapleford:** Weekend meetings with Paul Hill. Saturday: 7.00 pm; Sunday: 11.00 am and 6.00 pm. Contact: Bob Eckman ([bbobeckman@aol.com](mailto:bbobeckman@aol.com) or 07714 207279).

### November

**5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> – British Bible School:** Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Module: “The Conquest and Settlement of Canaan – a study of the book of Joshua”. Contact: [study@britishbibleschool.com](mailto:study@britishbibleschool.com) or visit: <http://britishbibleschool.com/upcoming-events/autumn-study-week-2018-the-conquest-and-settlement-of-canaan-joshua>

**10<sup>th</sup> – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire):** Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus – the New Beginning”; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb ([cofceastwood@aol.com](mailto:cofceastwood@aol.com)).

## The Final Word: "Christian Marriage"



An age of equality sounds like a wonderful gift for humanity. Scripture reflects this with these beautiful words: *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus"* (Galatians 3:28). Fantastic news and an argument for discussion amongst those who believe that both men and women can preach and that same sex marriage can be ordained by God. Currently here in Australia, where we are visiting family, going to a gay wedding is something to be encouraged according to TV and newspaper adverts. The firework display in Sydney to herald the New Year was in honour of same sex marriage. My question to this was when were the fireworks set off for heterosexual marriage And of course they never have been.

Newspapers and TV news have promoted same-sex marriage as an ideal arrangement and are looking for churches to endorse this idea of love with a spiritual blessing. This is not what the blood of Jesus was shed for. Many countries now have voted for marriage being the partnership of two people and this can be male and female, female and female or male and male. Society has changed the rules but the scripture stays the same. Perhaps it is time now for Christians to be more careful with the words they use. When we talk about marriage we mean '**Christian Marriage**', the union of a man and woman who wish to live together according to the divine pattern and will of God revealed in the Bible. **Christian Marriage** has more to do with what God wants rather than the laws of mankind. Sooner or later a congregation will be asked to host a same sex marriage and we need to be ready with a simple and definite answer. Each congregation needs to work out a specific statement which does not offend those who ask but offers an opportunity for sharing the gospel of Jesus. Christians never have a reason for rudeness but we do need to offer a reasonable answer of the hope that is within us. It is well worth reading 1 Peter 2 as a guide line when thinking of these things.

**Christian Marriage** should be looked on as a blessing from God and a blessing to his people. Note Ephesians 5:22-33. Marriage is the right way and yet there is in scripture no organised form of marriage. God in his wisdom does not put a form of words to say but every society knows and understands what marriage is. For the Christian, **Christian Marriage** needs to be a time of rejoicing and seeking the will of God.

Living together as if married, be they male and male, female and female, or male and female is **not Christian Marriage**. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 is a strong statement about relationships – all of these are lifestyles which need to be far from the Christian. Now read on to v.11 – Christians are washed, sanctified and justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. We are washed in the blood of Jesus to be free from sin; sanctified by the Holy Spirit to be holy; and justified by the grace of God offered through the cross.

This is not about pointing the finger at anyone but an appeal to share the relationship which Jesus wants us to have with himself.

*Trevor*

*Bless us with yourself Jesus and let our deepest human feelings be shared with you.*

*Understand us as we try to understand you so that our union with you may be the sweetest bond on Earth and in Heaven.*