

the **Christian** worker MAGAZINE



December 2022 • Vol 54 No 12

BBS hosts study week in the Lake District

**"What is truth?" - a look at
Jesus' birth**

Ukraine update

**Speaking clearly about
Jesus**

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Front cover and above: BBS Residential Study week at Bassenfell Manor Christian Centre



MY PERSPECTIVE



Jesus
was
born to
be king

“What is truth?”

“What is truth?” This was the question Pilate asked of Jesus. It would seem that this is still the question that people are asking today. Our society often doesn’t seem to care about truth. Sadly, at times Christians seem to be less concerned about truth than they are about how people view them.

What prompted Pilate to ask this question? This discussion started when Pilate asked Jesus another question: “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus’ answer had to do with truth.

“Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.’ ‘You are a king, then!’ said Pilate. Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.’”
(John 18:36-37 NIV)

The reason for Jesus’ birth and his coming into the world was to testify to the truth. Although he doesn’t specify what ‘truth’ this was, there are many that would make sense. He came to show the truth that God cares for people. He came to show the truth that sin can be forgiven. He came to show the truth of God’s word. Centuries prior to this God had revealed that a Messiah would come to take care of the sin of all people. Jesus was here to testify to this truth – and to die to provide the way of forgiveness.

If we are on the side of truth we listen to Jesus, we listen to God’s word. It has always been a mystery to me how anyone can claim to be a disciple of Jesus and

ignore what he said. I’m more astounded when I hear of people – and sometimes even Christians – who acknowledge that they know what Jesus said but think that it somehow doesn’t apply to them. When I hear claims like this, I realise that they are not on the side of truth. They are not on the Lord’s side.

One truth Jesus testified to was the reason he was born: he was born to be king. He is the rightful ruler of all creation. Yet his birth was not what people would expect of the one who would be king.

We are familiar with the details of what happened. His mother was pregnant but not married. Joseph accepted her and they travelled to Bethlehem from Nazareth for the Roman census. But when they arrived there was no place for them to stay. They ended up sharing the place where the animals were kept – very likely a cave under a house. And there, the future king was born and was laid in a feeding trough where normally the animals ate. A hymn writer put it this way:

*No palace, no jewels, no kingdom to rule.
No crown of majesty.
No throne and no robe, no silver no gold.
No courts of royalty.
Yet the King of kings left heaven to become a lowly man.
He left all heaven’s glory to fulfil his Father’s plan.
He still came, just for me, he still came.
Knowing all he would endure he still came.
Disregarding every cost, from the manger to the cross, he still came just for me, he still came.*

May we be committed to knowing the truth and teaching the truth without compromise.

Jon



Helping prepare each other for service

Over the years, those of us familiar with these pages have known of a number of initiatives aimed at providing opportunities for followers of Jesus to engage in classroom-based, structured study of the Bible, in a more intensive fashion than is generally possible within a congregational setting. Some may recall the days of the Wembley Bible School at the end of the 1960s. And then came the North Ireland Bible School, from 1969 to 1979, followed by the launch of the British Bible School in 1979.

The importance of such initiatives is never simply to enable students to develop their knowledge and understanding of Scripture, but also to help prepare disciples for service and leadership among the people of God, and to help further the spread of the word of God among the people of this land – and beyond. It should be of immense concern to all who have come to treasure the good news of Jesus that it should be known and understood far and wide.

All of us reading this have lived through extraordinary times in which we have encountered unprecedented change in the social fabric of our communities. Never before has so much information been so freely available to so many as it is today. Never before have circles of so-called

friends and influence been so vast. Yet for all this so-called progress, we are living in a world in which ignorance and loneliness abound.

Perhaps the further our social circles and bases of knowledge expand, the more shallow might our experiences of them tend to become. Like pools of water spread over a vast plain, the depths of our experiences might not truly reflect the expanse of their initial appearance. Our ability to access vast amounts of information, particularly online, is a far cry from the absorption of knowledge and experience gained through conscientious devotion to study.

It is this need for a deeper knowledge and understanding of the word of God that led to initiatives such as those listed above. There was then, and will always be a need for indigenous training for home-grown teachers and leaders to take and teach the message of Jesus throughout our land. This is why, when a number of years ago our residential programme had to be suspended, a number of us were determined to continue with the work of the British Bible School. And the need for such an initiative has never been greater.



Jack Paton teaching at study weekend in East Kilbride

What are we doing?

Though our full-time, residential study programme has been suspended for a number of years, we are still determined to do all we can to provide opportunities for fellow followers of Jesus to engage together in times of structured study. Certainly, much can be learned in online classes and even in isolation online from our own homes, but one thing which seems to have become clearer in recent times is that there is so much more to be gained through in-person, collaborative classroom experiences.

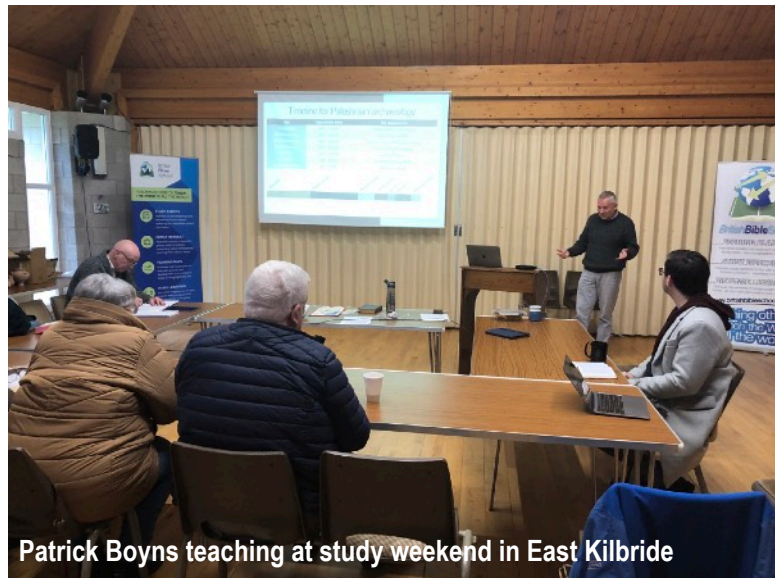
To this end we are so pleased to have been able to resume our Study Weekends, such as those held recently at East Kilbride on the books of Judges and Ruth. And we were thrilled to be able to be back at Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District for our Autumn Study Week, earlier in November, where we spent three intensive days working through the Gospel of John. There is always room for more students, whether you have years of experience or



Bassenfell Manor Christian Centre

are just starting out, so we want to encourage you in the following ways:

1. Plan to be with us for our Autumn Study Week 2023. We haven't yet finally decided which of our Modules we will be offering, but the dates are set as 30th October to 3rd November 2023. Do please make a note of this in your diary and encourage others to come along. More details will be available shortly.
2. Plan to host a Study Weekend at your location. With a good number of Modules on offer, we generally plan to conduct two study weekends, within a month of each other, in order to cover as much material as possible, and to enable students to work towards BBS awards. Please do get in touch to see how we might make this happen for 2023.



Patrick Boyns teaching at study weekend in East Kilbride

Weekend Family Retreat

On a less studious note, we still have some places available for our Mid-Winter Weekend Family Retreat at Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District. If you are wanting to be with us, do please get in your booking as soon as possible. Details can be found on our website.

We are thankful to all who continue to support this work in any way, and certainly encourage others to come on board as they might be able. May God bless you, and may we be found to be useful in his service so that Christ might continue to work through us to bring salvation to those lost in this life today.

Patrick Boyns
www.britishbibleschool.com

Lisbeth Lambie (Kirkcaldy)

1938-2022

On Tuesday 15th November 2022, family, friends and church family came together at Kirkcaldy Crematorium to celebrate the life of and bid a fond farewell to Lisbeth Lambie.

Elizabeth ('Lisbeth') was born in Alexander Street, Kirkcaldy, on 22nd April 1938, to Gregor and Margaret Steedman McIntosh (nee Fernie). Along with her older sister Betsy ('Betty') the family was complete.

Sadly, at only three years of age, Lisbeth contracted polio. Consequently, when she attended Dunnikier Primary School during the snowy winter months, she found walking outside rather difficult. Her cousin, Tom Steedman, used his sled to transport her there safely.

Lisbeth missed a fair bit of time at High School from July 1951 to April 1953 due to the time she spent in hospital and convalescing at home after having a pioneering operation to lengthen her leg. In fact, Lisbeth was the second person in Scotland to undergo this surgery.

With her school days behind her Lisbeth never allowed her early health issues to hold her back and she began working in a menswear store on Kirkcaldy High Street.

Lisbeth met the love of her life, William ('Bill') Lambie in Winifred Street, Kirkcaldy. Bill walked by her home each day and they would wave to each other. Romance blossomed and on 22nd July 1961 they were married in the Rose Street Chapel and briefly setup home at 31 Coal Wynd.

They then moved into 53 Winifred Street opposite her parent's house, where they would raise, daughter Margo and spend the



rest of their lives. Sadly Lisbeth lost Bill in October 2015 when he was 78 years old.

Lisbeth was kind and friendly to everyone she met and had a wonderful sense of humour. As a girl she attended Sunday school and then became a Sunday school teacher herself.

Lisbeth was an active, faithful Christian for well over sixty years, humbly serving the saints in a variety of ways. When the Annual Social came round Lisbeth could be found in the kitchen alongside Sheila, Nessie and some other ladies, until it was felt she was more needed in the choir.

Lisbeth played an active role with and for the Ladies' meeting, serving as Secretary, Treasurer and President. She and Joanne Mould were appointed to the ladies' meeting visitation team and, along with Faye Hughes, Lisbeth was instrumental in the fund-raising activities of the congregation for CHAS (Children's Hospices Across Scotland).

Lisbeth passed away peacefully with her beloved daughter and grandson by her bedside on Thursday 27th October 2022, aged 84 years.

Eric McCallum

Alan Cunningham (Livingston)

The congregation in Livingston is saddened to announce the death of our dear brother in Christ, Alan Cunningham. We also rejoice that Alan was faithful to the Lord right up until he passed away on 6th October.

Although he had been struggling with deteriorating health, especially during this past year, he was determined to be “in his place” when the congregation met for worship and Bible study. Just two days before he died, Alan drove himself and Mary, his wife, to the church building to attend our mid-week Bible study. What a wonderful example he set us in his love for the Lord and for his brothers and sisters in Christ.

He became a Christian in the early 1970s, responding to the gospel and to the good influence of Mary. He honoured the commitment he made to the Lord for the rest of his life.



Alan loved Scotland and all things Scottish, including old Scots words and phrases. When asked how he was keeping, he invariably replied, “Dae’in awa”.

We miss him in our congregation: a quiet, gentle man with twinkling eyes and a wry sense of humour. Above all, faithful unto death, and one who is now “in his place” with the Lord. We keep Mary and their son, Ritchie, in our prayers.

John Mooney

Royce Alfred Limb 9th December 1927 to 14th September 2022

Dad was born to Charles and Jesse Limb on 9th December 1927, in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire. He was the second of five children: his elder brother Ralph, his younger twins Eric and Nora, and youngest sister Glenys.

He left school in 1941, having attended the local Beauvale primary and Eastwood secondary schools, to start work for Heaths Garage in Langley Mill, learning the trade of the motor mechanic. He had developed an interest in motor engineering and mechanical things early on, and in his spare time would work on and ride various motorcycles. Due to his work being in ‘essential



services’ he was able to continue his apprenticeship in the motor trade throughout the

At rest

war, being granted a full driving licence with no test due to the circumstances of wartime activities.

Being born into a Christian household, Dad would attend chapel regularly at Dovecote Road, Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, and gave his life to Christ in his youth.

He married a young Christian girl, Hilda Wood, on 23rd June 1951 at the Christian's Meeting House, Beulah Road, East Kirkby, Nottinghamshire. He had travelled regularly to Fleetwood on his trusty motorbike, a Triumph speed twin (I believe this was his motorcycle of the day) in the pursuit of courtship, as Mum was studying shorthand and typing at the time and was in Fleetwood with her elder sister Aileen. Mum and Dad's honeymoon took place a year later at the Pack Horse Inn, Porlock, Somerset, travelling there on a Motorbike, of course (a Vincent 500 I believe). The delay was due to financial limitations, also wartime rationing did not finish completely until 1954.

1956 was the beginning of a series of big events in Dad's life – the first of four sons arrived, Andrew, to be followed by Mark two years later, Adrian a further two years later and then Steven in 1964.

Dad was now living in his father's former house on Newthorpe Common, Eastwood, where he built a workshop at the bottom of the garden and continued his extra work activities of renovating, repairing and making things, giving us all a hands on insight into 'how it all works' as we grew up. During this period, he worked on 'heavy earth moving plant' at the local Moorgreen Colliery workshops as foreman, Cripps of Nottingham and then returned to a less arduous work at Frank Caldwell diesel engineers on Mount Street, Nottingham.

At this point Dad, along with his family, was meeting at the new Christian's Meeting House on Seymour Road, Eastwood, which they had been doing since it was established in 1954.

Dad never saw himself as a teacher or a preacher as such, but he would undertake his duties at the

Lord's Table, read from scriptures and give lessons as and when required, always giving a very practical engineers/mechanical concept to his lessons. Whilst his father could give detailed information about the tabernacle and its purpose, Dad would give practical lessons on application of Christian principles.

1973 was the next big move for Dad and all the family, when he secured work at Nottingham City Sewage works at Stoke Bardolph, with a view to working on their six big Allen diesel engines powered by Sewage Gas (methane/natural gas) for the production of electricity to run the works. His interest in this was due to an open day back in the 1960's.

The move took us fifteen miles away from the congregation that we had attended all the time we were at Eastwood, but dad along with Mum resolved that as he had made the move, his commitment was to ensure that all the family attended the meetings as normal, sixty miles on a Sunday (for morning breaking of bread and then again for evening Gospel meeting) and thirty miles on a Thursday for Bible study, plus additional meetings and visits to congregations away. Each fifteen mile drive was approximately 30-45 minutes. Dad maintained this up until we were independent enough to make our own way. What a great example it was to us as teenagers that our parents had such commitment together to ensure that we continued in fellowship regardless of time or mileage. He also ensured that, as much as possible, he would take us all to visit congregations around the country: Dewsbury, Morley, Wigan, Ilkeston, Kirkby, Loughborough, Corby, Tunbridge Wells, Kentish Town, Peterhead, Dennyloanhead (and I am sure many more that I have forgotten). He was also appointed as an elder of the congregation during the 1970's.

Within a short time of setting up home at Stoke Bardolph he had another workshop in full swing, helping us all to maintain our vehicles, motorbikes and projects as we grew through our teens into adults. The workshop was used by all for college projects, household repairs, work for the new Concert Hall (being built in Nottingham at the

At rest

time) along with many other mechanical creations that Dad would turn his hands to. He had various jobs at the Sewage Works, concluding as area manager over maintenance.

Dad along with Mum moved to worship at Ilkeston for a while before their next big move which was to move home, during retirement, to Glen Parva, Leicestershire taking up fellowship with the congregation in Loughborough. Dad continued to serve the church, giving his practical lessons and serving the congregation as required.

Again, it wasn't long before dad had yet another workshop set up along with a converted garage, in which to undertake projects and make various items for friends, family and those in the local congregation.

When Mum passed away, Dad moved to Scotland and lived in a static caravan for over ten years, converting one of the bedrooms (yes, you've guessed it) into a small workshop where he could work happily in the cold months of winter. He also worked on bigger projects in the Garage/Workshop completing vehicle restorations, repairs and motorcycle restorations, the last one being a pre-war Velloctette. During this time, he built a scale model of a Tandem Snow Gas engine from scratch.

Dad achieved several awards for his projects, but his greatest reward will be his permanent home with his Saviour, having remained faithful to Christ up to his final day.

His father always said our Dad would die with an oil can and a rag in his hand – oil to make things work smoothly and a rag to wipe up any mess and to keep things clean.

Many people across the congregations benefited from Dad's assistance with motor vehicle problems, repairs or just helpful advice. He had a network of friends and colleagues that he communicated with on a regular basis, helping out wherever he could, either with advice on repairs, the ideal machine tool to help someone set up their workshop or just a friendly chat, which I understand from one of his

friends, was usually in excess of an hour. Dad's skill and knowledge was a great blessing from God, which was freely shared across three generations including his grandchildren in his later years.

As we grew up we benefitted not only listening to Dad's knowledge on mechanical things but also his support in spiritual matters, pointing us in the right direction, helping us make decisions, but always leaving the final decision up to us to find the solution from scripture if it was spiritual or from all the help we had been given over the years to learn how to make wise decisions.

As in mechanical things we need to spiritually run smoothly and cleanly. May we all be blessed by those that go before us in our spiritual journey.

As far as we know he passed away as he desired, quietly and it seems as he was going about his daily routine of starting the day. The family would like to thank all those that have passed on their condolences.

The funeral was held in Perth (Scotland) Crematorium on Friday, 21st October 2022. Afterwards there was a wake/refreshments held at The Gospel Hall, Perth.

We are planning a memorial service to be held in the Midlands, at the Christian's Meeting House, Seymour Road, Eastwood Nottingham, NG16 3ND, for those that have known dad but were unable to attend the funeral in Scotland. This is planned to be held on Saturday, 10th December 2022 at 2:30 pm. *This will be an interactive event (providing technology is kind to us on the day) for family overseas and for people who knew Dad and would like to attend but are prevented from doing so due to distance or other difficulties. Numbers may be limited for this facility for technical reasons but contact us if this would be of use.*

Adrian Limb
adrianlimb@aol.com



UKRAINE UPDATE

I would like to say that we are doing well. Due to the mass shelling, we have started to have big problems with electricity. We can go twenty hours a day without power. When electricity is out, mobile communication, water and heating is gone. But people can get used to any conditions.

want to let me go home until as late as 9.00 pm.

My friend who used to help us and cut hair for the children left Ukraine. Now I have to personally practice cutting hair. Mainly the boys were getting their hair cut. We had to do it outside because there was not enough light indoors and power was off.

One girl kept asking me to cut her hair for two days. I kept telling her “No”, because I had never cut a girls’ hair...but “give to the one who begs from you...” so I had to learn how to cut girls’ hair, too.

My family and all the children we serve are grateful for your support, prayers and the love you share.

Ivan Prokopochuk



During this difficult time in Ukraine, we continue our work with orphans. We use torches and a mobile gas cooker for our gatherings so we can drink hot tea and have warm fellowship. I want to mention that the lack of light has made our fellowship somehow special. For example, yesterday I arrived at the children’s house at 4.00 pm and they didn’t





APPEALS & UPDATES

PHILIPPINES

It has been three weeks since typhoon Paeng (international name: Nalgae) struck the country. Strong winds and heavy rains caused flooding, landslides and displacements in several regions all



over the Philippines. One of which was the town of Noveleta (less than an hour away from my home in Indang).

Days after typhoon Paeng ravaged the eastern and western parts of Luzon, cities, and municipalities in the provinces of Cavite, Laguna and Quezon were left with severe devastation with millions lost in property, livelihood, and agricultural crops. The municipality of Noveleta was among those who suffered the worst disaster.

“This is the worst flooding ever experienced by our town since typhoon Ondoy. The water level submerged the barangays near the river, and families were forced to get on top of the roof or seek shelter from neighbours who have two-storey houses,” said a municipal

officer. As the water receded, the aftermath of the disaster dawned on the residents with their houses and what was left

of their belongings buried in mud. “An estimated Php100M in livelihood was lost or damaged due to the flooding. Stores and commercial establishments could not operate because most of the merchandise is soaked, and covered with mud,” the Mayor stated.

Please help us help the hundreds of families still needing food, hygiene and medical assistance. Please give. And pray for other ways to bless those who are still in need.

Gigie Carranza

LEICESTER

Over recent months the congregation has grown to the point that our current premises is no longer able to safely accommodate our needs. We have been prayerfully searching for a building to purchase and found one in the city. It suits all our needs and even has a baptistry.

The owners have accepted our offer of £315,000 and we have therefore appointed solicitors to begin the process. We have a shortfall of £150,000 and so we are appealing for gifts or loans to help to complete the purchase.

We ask for your prayers! If you are able to help, please contact Paul Hill (07804 653690) or Emmanuel Uwujare (07448 244849).



Appeals & Updates

BRITISH BIBLE CAMP

British Bible Camp 2023: EPIC - the Greatest Fish Story Ever Told

5-12 August 2023

Lockerley Water Farm. (*New Location)
E Tytherley Rd
Lockerley, Romsey
SO51 0LW

Now appealing for Staff for the Summer

While we try to bring a great God-centred programme at a reasonable cost, the increase in the cost of living hits hard as campsites have raised their prices in recent years, alongside the increases in the cost of food and other amenities. We are dedicated to keeping Camp fees at a reasonable level, which is part of the reason we are moving to a new campsite in the south.

We would also like to appeal to the financial generosity of our fellow Christians. Before we release applications for campers in the New Year, we are asking for funds to help offset the rising cost of camp. If you would like to assist in this service financially, we are grateful to receive gifts by cheque or direct debit.

British Bible Camp
Sort code: **20-18-15**
Account number: **80013161**

68 Broadfield Road
Knowle Park, Bristol
BS4 2UL

For any other information, please contact Jason:
07795 560990 or Britishbiblecamp@gmail.com.

Please keep this in your prayers as well as the young people it serves.

Jason Snethen

Help wanted!

Are you in your mid 20-30's, a faithful and active part of a congregation, and interested in younger people?

We are looking for a younger generation of Christians who would like to set up a social media site for teens and twentys to connect them to each other, our fellowship of congregations and, of course, faith in Christ. Modern media is moving so fast that the current editors of the *Christian Worker* cannot keep up with it and we need someone or even two or three to work together to encourage the younger generation.

We would like you to work with us and have the blessing of your local congregation.

There is some funding, to help start up or running costs as necessary. We think you may be in your mid 20's-30's, male or female - though you may be younger or older, you must be regarded as a faithful and active Christian by your congregation's leaders and have a keen interest in this sort of programme.

Let me know your interest
twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

Trevor



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

For BBC Series on faith

We are looking for **Christian** couples who are getting **married** between **now and end Feb 2023** for a celebratory BBC1 series about how faith can guide us through life.

If you are getting married, please contact us for an informal, initial chat.

Rachel@milkandhoneyproductions.co.uk
or **Whatsapp: 07561324706**

Thank you!

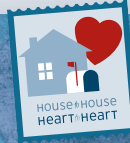
Rachel Millar

BBC SERIES SEEKS CHRISTIANS FOR DOCUMENTARY SERIES

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUNG CHRISTIAN COUPLES FOR A BBC SERIES ABOUT HOW FAITH GUIDES PEOPLE THROUGH LIFE EVENTS. WE ARE SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN YOUNG COUPLES WHO ARE SOON TO GET MARRIED (NOV-FEB) AND CAN TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AN INFORMAL CHAT CONTACT:
**RACHEL@MILKANDHONEYPRODUCTIONS.CO.UK OR WHATSAPP
07561324706
THANK YOU!**

NOTICES

Reach your neighbors with **House to House Heart to Heart**



2023 Topics

- JANUARY** • That Boring List of Names
- FEBRUARY** • Where to Turn When There Is Nowhere to Turn
- MARCH** • The King Who Was Born in a Barn
- APRIL** • Don't Play with Sin
- MAY** • Happy Are the Hungry
- JUNE** • The Churches of Christ Salute You
- JULY** • Why Me?
- AUGUST** • You Gotta Be Dumb to Believe the Bible, Right?
- SEPTEMBER** • Eight Wives of the Devil
- OCTOBER** • Finding the Treasure (Acts 8)
- NOVEMBER** • Three Attractions of the Cross
- DECEMBER** • Curiosity May Have Killed the Cat . . .

Interested? matt@housetohouse.com | get.housetohouse.com

Bible teaching materials available

It has been said, “The finest way to lead someone to the gospel is by taking him through a Gospel.” For this reason, a harmony of the gospels has been prepared so you can go out and share the gospel with your neighbours. This is designed to prepare teachers in each congregation to teach others the gospel by taking them through the life of Jesus.

Truth for Today World Mission School (TFTWMS) (Searcy, Arkansas, USA) are committed to equipping everyday Christians with the tools to bring out the extraordinary power of the Gospel. These tools make up what they are calling “A Teacher’s Box.” This box contains two sets of David Roper’s two-volume set entitled “*The Life of Christ, I & II.*” The box also contains two copies of *Salvation Insights* (providing a series of questions that walks a teacher and a student through a personal/evangelistic Bible study, getting right to the heart of salvation and living for Christ). Finally, it contains a small book entitled “*Teaching The Life of Christ I & II*” .

If you would be interested in obtaining a copy of these teaching materials, please contact Mark Hill at marks@uwclub.net. Alternatively, you can contact Nathan McVeigh at nmcveigh@biblecourses.com. The boxes will be posted free of charge beginning in January 2023.



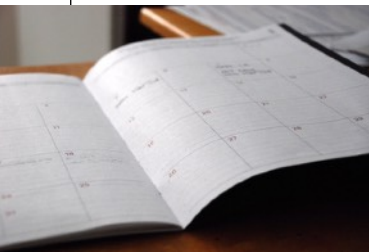
Appeal for news

We understand that several congregations do not let us know when people are immersed, but it is such a thrill to share with everyone - please let us all rejoice and tell us!

We want to hear about the activities in your congregation. We invite you to share your thoughts, your poems and if you are a hymn writer then please send in your work. If you wish to send in an article about 400-500 words is a maximum to read and for us to produce.

Please let us know you are there!

Trevor



DIARY

December

3rd December – East Kilbride: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Song leader: Edwin Offin; Devotional thought: John Welsh. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

10th – Great Barr (Birmingham): “Evening of Prayer and Psalms” on Zoom, 7.00 pm. Zoom ID: 879 9050 1513; password: 484833. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com)

January 2023

20th-22nd January – British Bible School Family Retreat at Bassenfell Manor. Register at our website soon: www.britishbibleschool.com.

28th January – Kirkcaldy: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Song leader: Alan Moyes; Devotional thought: Ian Starrs. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

February

13th-19th – Gemünden, Germany: Advanced Bible Study Series I and II. Contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com).

March

11th – Great Barr (Birmingham): “Bible Seminar”. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com)

25th – Brandon: Ladies’ Day. Contact: Rachael Sandison (rachael_sandison@hotmail.co.uk).

April

29th – Kirkcaldy: Annual Social Day. Speaker: Nick Wilson. Contact: Alan Moyes (alan.j.moyes@gmail.com).

August

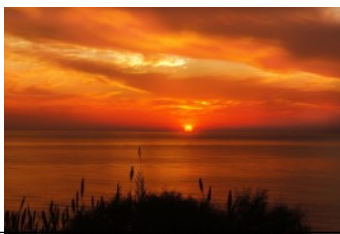
5th-12th – British Bible Camp: EPIC – the Greatest Fish Story Every Told. Location: Lockerley Water Farm, E Tytherley Road, Lockerley, Romsey SO51 0LW. Contact: Jason Snethen (07795 560990 or Britishbiblecamp@gmail.com).

Directory update

Thank you to everyone who checked their directory and told me of any changes. If your congregation failed to do this, please take the time and check it out now - www.churchesofchrist.co.uk. If you do not tell us, we do not know. If you use another language other than English in your worship, please indicate this as well. Please send all information to me

twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

Trevor



THE FINAL WORD



Speaking clearly the good news of Jesus

One of the strange things about travelling is the different accents that people put into common words or perhaps they abbreviate them (for example in Malawi L's and R's can be changed around, so a 'lorry' becomes a 'rorry'). In Australia many words are shortened: afternoon becomes 'arvo', sun-glasses become 'sunnies', swimming trunks becomes 'bathers' and flip-flops become 'thongs'! When I want to drink a latte, I have to add an r making a 'lartey'!

Of course in the UK we also have our fair share of the same sort of thing, e.g. we walk but say 'wark'! Then, of course, do we take a bath or a 'barth'? Do we cut the grass or the 'grarss'? With all our wonderful regional accents the way we speak is, to us, correct – or is it?

Over the last year or two I have noticed some language creeping into the vocabulary of Christians that is simply bad language. When I was growing up it was called swearing and resulted in a clip around the ear from my Mum. However this sort of language is used frequently in television programmes and on the radio. Are the things we say really the words that we want to say?

Even in worship we sometimes announce that 'we are going to have a quick prayer' – it may be a prayer that is short, but do we have to announce to one and all that because we are short of time, God can be reduced to just a few words? Does our Heavenly Father, creator of the entire universe really want us to put ourselves out so we treat him as someone that we may walk past in the street, with a cheery word that really does not amount to much?

In Galatians 4:4 we read that it was the right time for Jesus to be born. Throughout all of history God was working out the plan that was in his divine mind before there was a speck of dust. There was no rush in creation, nor has there been since that time. Jesus came when the world needed him, to start a fellowship of believers, to touch the hearts of lives of every soul on Earth.

That same message of love, hope and salvation still needs to be heard today. We must use a clear sound with no abbreviations, half words, or bad language. We have the good news of the Saviour born for all mankind. Lessons need to be preached with emotion,

teaching needs to be offered with motivation, our speech needs to be positive and filled with kindness. Our Saviour is among us.

For the life of Jesus we give thanks, for his birth, his teaching, his loving, his dying and his glorious resurrection. For the gift of Heaven given to all, we say, thank you. Amen.

Trevor

