

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

July 2021 • Vol 53 No 7

One new Christian!

Article by John Griffiths

Jerusalem: today and yesterday

Appeals and updates

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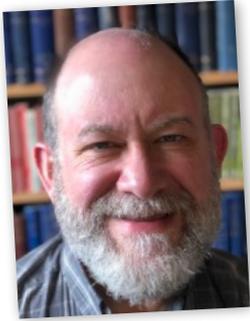
To receive *The Christian Worker Magazine* as a free pdf, send your e-address to jdgalloway@mac.com. Professionally printed copies are available at cost. Please contact Trevor for details – twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk.



Front cover: wild flowers near East Kilbride; above: socially distanced worship in East Kilbride



MY PERSPECTIVE



Reflections on having to wait

Patience

One aspect of the current restrictions that we are living under that I have struggled with is patience. I suspect I am not the only one. It was frustrating to have to go for months without seeing our children and grandchildren. It is frustrating having to wait as society reopens. It is frustrating not being able to yet sing with our voices on Sundays.

Those living today have struggled with patience for quite a while – perhaps people have always had these struggles. “I want it all and I want it now”, a song written by Brian May and performed by Queen, well reflected not only the 1980s but the time we are living in as well. We think we know what we want and we don’t want to wait to get it.

The pandemic has made us wait for so many things in life. In February of this year we found a house in South Lanarkshire in what seems to Arlene and me to be the ideal location. It was just being built. We were initially told it should be finished by the end of April...then the end of May...now the end of July. What is the problem? Well, there is this pandemic. The pandemic has slowed the house being built due to the builders at times needing to self-isolate. Now there is a shortage of building supplies. And, to top all of this off, there is a delay in getting a habitation certificate. We are having to learn patience.

We are thankful that we can now visit our children and grandchildren on both sides of the border, but we so desperately want to travel to the USA to see our son and his family and to meet our grandson

born over a year ago. Yet we also want to be safe and to keep them safe. We are having to learn patience.

Jesus talked about the need for patience. He talked about a farmer needing to wait patiently for his harvest (Luke 8:15 ESV). Other translations use the word ‘perseverance’. Perhaps this well expresses what we all need. To persevere means to “continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no indication of success”. We seem to have been doing that for over a year now!

Patience is connected with hope. Paul wrote: *“But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently”* (Romans 8:25 NIV). That sums up much of our life just now. Yet Paul was looking towards eternity. Even though we are not yet there we patiently live in hope, eagerly anticipating what Jesus has in store for us.

When Paul later wrote about the unity we are to have as Christians, we find this: *“with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* (Ephesians 4:2-3 NASB95).

We must have patience with each other and be tolerant of the differences we have. There are so many views going around about this pandemic. May we, with humility and gentleness, be patient with each other as we preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!

A new Christian in Liverpool

Please rejoice with us! **Joslyn Cook** decided to give her life to Christ on Sunday, 30th May. After studying with our American brethren for many months, Joslyn decided she wanted to become Christian. Please keep her in your prayers as she starts her new walk with her Lord and Saviour.

Mike Glover



FROM THE ARCHIVES

As a follow-up from the photo we published last month, only one of these men has been positively identified. **Arthur Daniell**, mentioned in the text, is the older gentleman seated second from the left.

Jon Galloway



Group photo, 1919, Church of Christ brethren imprisoned at Dartmoor in WWI. The photo is of 11 men including: Leslie Coplestone and his father and brother, Albert Atherton (Wigan), George Stewart (Leeds), and Arthur L. Daniell (1900-1966). b/w



MOMENTS

“Just a moment”; “It will only take a moment”; “I’ll be with you in a moment” are phrases we often hear and use. But what is a ‘moment’?

We divide time into a series of ever smaller units from years, to months, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds. Our calendars, watches and clocks record and measure the passing and progress of these units of time. When we use the word ‘moment’ we often use it in the sense of a very short, unspecified duration of time. For something to happen in a moment means it is soon to happen, or it will happen quickly. A moment is the briefest period of time, something so quick it cannot be measured.

The Bible speaks of things that happen in a moment or which last for just a moment. In 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Paul tells us that when the resurrection takes place our bodies will be changed, “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye”. Paul uses the Greek word *atomos*, translated as ‘moment’, from which we get our word ‘atom’. The word literally means ‘indivisible’ or ‘that which cannot be cut’. A moment is the smallest unit of time which cannot be divided any further. Paul illustrates this by speaking of this moment as “the twinkling of an

eye.” Our bodies will be changed from the perishable to the imperishable, from the mortal to the immortal and this will take place “in a moment”, like the blink of an eye.

In 2 Corinthians 4:17 Paul compares life on this earth with the eternal life that is to come, “For our light affliction,

which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (AV). When compared to the eternal glory of the life that awaits us, the afflictions and troubles that accompany us in this life are momentary.

In Isaiah 54:7-8 God speaks of Israel’s redemption after he had brought judgement upon them, “For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer.” God’s anger towards Israel had lasted but a moment; in comparison his love for Israel is everlasting. Likewise, Psalm 30:5 says, “For his anger is but for a moment, and his favour is for a lifetime.” God’s anger and favour are compared in terms of duration: one lasts a moment, the other lasts a lifetime.

Our lives are made up of a series of connected moments of time. Things can happen in a moment which can have dramatic, life-changing consequences. A moment of carelessness can cause great trouble or suffering. A moment of decisive action can prevent something disastrous from occurring.

If our lives are made up of these moments of time then we must use these moments wisely and carefully. The hymn, “Take My Life and Let it Be” by Frances Ridley Havergal, contains the prayer: “Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.” Moments are precious and we want to entrust the moments of our lives to God’s care, for his service and for his praise and glory.

John Griffiths





BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Looking forward to what's ahead

Did you know that we've been conducting Online Bible Classes for well over a year? Well, we have, and we're planning to keep going. We have just come to the end of another twelve-week round of classes, and are about to embark upon yet another.

From this coming Monday evening, 5th July, we are delighted to have David Chapman with us teaching *Fire on the Mountain ... the Law of Moses*. And then on Thursday evenings Patrick Boyns will be teaching *Lessons on the mountain ... the teachings of Jesus*. Both classes will be held on Zoom at 8 o'clock.

Although we plan to continue offering regular Online Bible Classes, Sunday Morning Messages, and occasional Evening Lectures Online, we are now hopefully arriving at the position where we can more fully resume other regular face-to-face activities. As much as many of us have grown quite used to activities online, the opportunities to once more share physical space together cannot come soon enough.

Plans for our *Autumn Family Retreat* at Letton Hall, in Norfolk, are coming together and bookings are already open. We still have spaces available for this family

friendly event, so do please see our website for more details.

Looking ahead to a little later in the year, we are making plans to return to Bassenfell Manor for our *Autumn Study Week* at the beginning of November. This is an excellent opportunity to spend a week together in a beautiful corner of our land, with other like-minded students, as we explore the New Testament book of Acts. Again, do please read more of this on our website.

How may we be of assistance?

We are hoping to be able to resume our regular Study Weekends before the end of this year, and we are always looking for more venues where we might be able to offer these events. In addition to these times of more intensive Bible study, we also offer a number of In-House Training options and would be delighted to discuss with you ways in which we might be able to be of service.

As we move beyond what has undoubtedly been a rather unusual set of circumstances, might it be that there are new opportunities that lie ahead as we endeavour to live out the mission of God

within our lives – both as individual disciples of Jesus and within our local communities of faith? The world has moved on from its pre-pandemic state and we need to be prepared to take the message of Jesus into this new world in which new opportunities await.

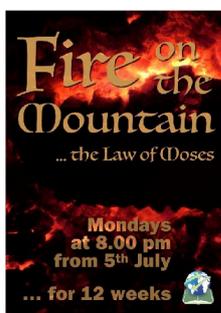
Patrick Boyns

britishbibleschool.com

Online Bible Classes with the British Bible School

For twelve weeks commencing 5th July 2021

Mondays at 8.00 pm

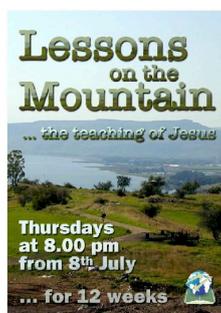


At the foot of a mountain in a remote desert, a nation of liberated slaves received a law and entered into a covenant with their God, the only God.

Thousands of years later, the influence of that law is still felt ...

Presenter: David Chapman

Thursdays at 8.00 pm



One of the most profound and life-changing texts, this section of the Gospel of Matthew has so much to say of the daily walk of the disciple of Jesus.

Considered by many to be something of a manifesto of the kingdom of God ...

Presenter: Patrick Boyns

Fridays at 8.00 pm



Some light-hearted, educational, entertainment for everyone – nothing too testing (promise!). And you might want to have a pen and paper handy – plus a box of choccies to award yourself if you happen to win ...

Quizmaster: Steve Whitehead



FAMILY NEWS

GRAEME BIBLE RESOURCES

I have updated my website with my studies in the Topical Bible Studies Video folder and in the Acts Video folder. This gives a quick access to hundreds of studies.

When you click on a subject it will take you to a YouTube Video. I pray that you can find something useful that you can use to help teach and share with others.

There are now quick study links to a Topical Bible Studies PDF – http://graemebiblesources.com/pdfs/Topical_Videos_Quick_Links.pdf and quick study links to Acts Video Studies PDF – https://graemebiblesources.com/pdfs/Acts_Videos_Quick_Links.pdf

If you keep these two PDF's on your phone or tablet you will have easy access anytime to these.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF4I0_UtKgd514EUKITW7Jg/videos

<https://www.facebook.com/Graeme-Bible-Resources-111596180225734/>

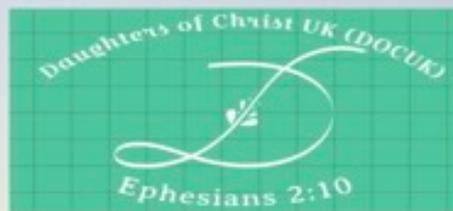
How to use this quick study link on Topical Studies or the book of Acts most effectively –

Download the Quick links PDF to your smart phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. Select a YouTube study Link and play directly or Cast your phone screen / tablet screen / laptop screen to your television and watch it on your television screen.

A special message about Finding God (06bb01_Finding_God)

https://youtu.be/lAn_uBcFvTY

Graeme Morrison
graemorr@hotmail.co.uk



Launch of DOCUK

Date: 24th July 2021

Time: 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm (UK time)

Speaker: Sharmen Greenaway

To find out more about the newly formed Daughters of Christ UK (DOCUK) Ladies' Ministry, please join us for the launch.

A warm welcome awaits you.

Zoom Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6994898970?pwd=ZTd3d1lGUhnyhYDEvV2txVStQUEl1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 699 489 8970 **Password:** HL8XHy

Contacts: Bernadine (Bernie) Wells and Patience Antwi
Email: docuklm2021@gmail.com

FAMILY NEWS

2021 COUPLES RETREAT

Would you like a few days break in northwestern France in pleasant surroundings with all your meals for free? And \$100 per couple towards your travel?

'Double Honor Ministries', looks out for the wellbeing of preachers/evangelists/missionaries and their wives by providing a short, hopefully relaxing, break. This couples' retreat is scheduled to start on a Monday evening and finish after breakfast the following Friday morning. During that time your meals are provided. Some outings are provided in the local area, which is culturally and historically rich. Nothing during the retreat is mandatory, so if you are exhausted and would just like to sleep for the whole time, that's ok. But most participants gain value from the two hour morning get-togethers and the outings. Getting to know other couples with similar challenges can be so encouraging. Think of this as rest and encouragement, not counselling.

The retreat serves a maximum of four couples at one time. It is held in a comfortable 300 year old manor house in the village of St Georges sur Erve (about 3 hours drive west of Paris).

Our next retreat is 6th-10th September 2021. If you have any questions, feel free to ask us. Please feel free to pass this information on to anyone who may qualify and be interested. Places fill up fast, so try to let us know soon if you would like to apply.

Jerry and Caroline (Zoobi) Jones
9 Rue du Bas de la Lande
53600 Saint Georges sur Erve
Phone: 0975210925

elite.not.elitist@gmail.com





A view of the Bible lands

Jerusalem - today and yesterday

In my first visit to Israel I was excited to see Jerusalem. When you are standing on the Mount of Olives and overlooking the city it is breathtaking! You look down on all the graves that are on the slopes of the Mount of Olives and the Kidron Valley. From this elevation you can see the Garden of Gethsemane and even walk down the hill to the garden.



This is where the Israel Museum became very helpful. I had seen photographs of the first century model of Jerusalem, so

But when I tried to relate what I was seeing to the time of Jesus I found it to be more of a struggle. What I was looking at did not date from the first century, with the exception



this was something I was desperate to see. Upon our arrival at the museum our first stop was the model of Jerusalem from the time the Roman army attacked and destroyed

of a few walls. Most of the 'old' architecture is from Crusader times.

the temple and the city in AD 70. So it was a bit larger than it was in Jesus' day, but still it showed Jerusalem, as far as research has been able to describe it, as Jesus would have seen it.



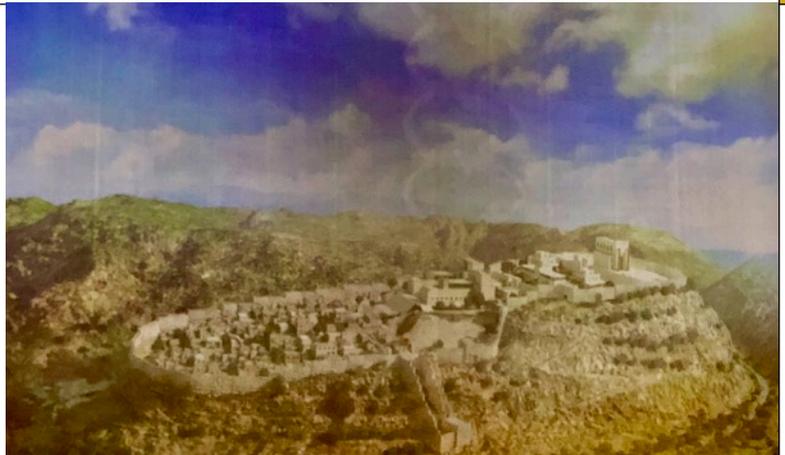
It was thrilling to walk around the huge model of the city and see the city from every angle. I quickly realised that the temple dominated the city!

But then I wanted to know what Jerusalem would have been like in the time of the kings and prophets. Although I did not see any models of that era while there, at Hezekiah's

A view of the Bible lands

tunnel there was a film showing what Jerusalem would have been like in his day (c.700 BC). This has helped me to 'see' the city as I read the Scriptures, both in the time of the kings and in Jesus' day.

Visiting the Temple Mount is an experience due to the security that has to be gone through. The Dome of the Rock, the Islamic shrine, is a beautiful building. Sadly, non-Muslims are not permitted to enter it. This building was built in the 690s and the dome was rebuilt after it collapsed in the 1020s.



Although there are many sites to see within the city, I would have to admit that I was not as relaxed in Jerusalem as I was in Galilee – but then again I don't like big cities! Perhaps Jesus felt the same way.

I would encourage anyone interested in getting a better understanding of the Bible lands to make a trip to Israel. Ian Starrs will be leading another trip in January 2022 – and Arlene and I plan to be with him again. Contact him for further details.

I began this series of articles at the request of Graham Fisher who knew he would never visit but wanted to know more. I hope they are helpful for others.

Jon Galloway



A TRIP OF A LIFETIME TO THE BIBLE LANDS OF ISRAEL & JORDAN
2022
 January 22nd – February 3rd



If you are interested in joining us please contact Ian Starrs for further details
 email: jes22ian@msn.com

From the people who brought you:
 BBC2019 BBC2018 BBC2017
 BBC2016 BBC2015 BBC2014
 BBC2013 BBC2012 BBC2011
 BBC2010 BBC2009 BBC2008
 BBC2007 BBC2006 BBC2005
 BBC2004 BBC2003 BBC2002
 BBC2001 BBC2000 BBC1999
 BBC1998 BBC1997 BBC1996
 BBC1995 BBC1994 BBC1993

Virtual Jesus - Keeping Him Real

A 'non-camp' digital experience.
For ages 8-18
 This will be a virtual gathering point for youth
Coming this summer - for details, contact Jason 07795560990



APPEALS & UPDATES

VEDADO, CUBA

This is an appeal from the Castlemilk congregation in Glasgow on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Cuba. The congregation at Vedado has been on a journey over the last few years. What started as a Bible study group has grown into a thriving congregation. One from this group is now part of the congregation in Castlemilk; her mother is part of the congregation in Vedado.

The congregation began meeting in the flat of one of the brothers there



The Christians in Vedado today.

through various rented properties, one being a hall run by the local Communist party! Yet the congregation continued to grow. Unfortunately, things did not work out there as the people in charge of the hall changed. Needless to say, a thriving Christian community was not something the new managers wanted to facilitate.

This left the congregation without a regular place to meet until they found a new place to rent. Thankfully they found a new place to rent in the same neighbourhood. This is very important as public transportation in Cuba is not great and many of the Christians do not have cars. The new hall allowed them space to worship and to start teaching classes for children. Due to a change in what the building is being used for the congregation have now been advised that they cannot use the large space to meet and have been relegated to a smaller room. Yet, they continue to grow.

The congregation is not full of wealthy people, but over the years they have saved what funds they could with the intention of purchasing a place to call



Congregation meeting in Libernys' flat.

(Libernys), however they began to outgrow the flat a few years ago. At first they started holding multiple meetings to allow the Christians to continue meeting in Libernys' flat. However, this became untenable as they continued to grow.

The congregation has had to look for a new place to meet. This took them

APPEALS & UPDATES

their own and continue their story. So far they have managed to save 10,000 USD, which is itself a feat and testament to their faith and dedication to this project. An opportunity has now presented itself for them to purchase a local building for 20,000 USD. This building is large and can be adapted to give them space to continue to grow.

The appeal is for other congregations to help make up the 10,000 USD. This will give the congregation some security and allow them to serve their local community in so many more ways.

Will you help? If you can, please contact Derek Brown (delboy82@ntlworld.com). Many thanks for taking the time to read and consider this appeal.

Derek Brown

PHILIPPINES COMMUNITY PANTRY

Now on our tenth week, this community food pantry continues to bless the elderly, disabled people, and undernourished children including their families. Thank you to the many 'little somethings' from friends and our Christian family that we received over the past few months. These 'little somethings' when put together become a lot for many here.

We will appreciate any additional help from anyone interested to be a part of this effort of



servicing our community. We are now fifteen months into the pandemic lockdown! Several families here make do with only one or two meals per day. However little we give goes a long way for these starving families.



Please help. Together, let us love, bless and serve these people. Every blessing!

Gigie Carranza

KYIV, UKRAINE

One weekday I came to the vice director of the Barvinok sanatorium to inquire about their needs. While we were talking, someone knocked on the door. A nurse came in and said that the new boy was not feeling well. We stopped talking and I became a mere spectator.

The vice director, Larisa, asked to bring the boy into the office. The nurse called him in and at the same minute a skinny boy about six years old with an inflated belly, blond hair and crying eyes walked in. A dialogue ensued between them.

“What hurts?” Larisa asked. “My stomach,” the boy answered quietly and sadly. “How many days you have not eaten?” “Four.” “Don’t worry... nobody will take food away from you here. We will give you food five times a day. That’s why you don’t have to eat like it’s your last meal. Now the nurse will

APPEALS & UPDATES

give you some pills and you'll feel better. And for dinner, don't eat the whole portion, eat half of it so you don't get a stomach ache again, okay?" "Uh-huh," replied the boy and went out into the corridor with the nurse.

After the dialogue, I forgot why I came here. I realised that the boy had just been brought in today by social services, who had taken him away from his parents. I couldn't imagine – how can parents leave a child without food for four days? I imagined myself in the boy's shoes – what it would be like to not eat for four days and then see food, to get so full that you can not eat for another four days, because no body knows whether there will be food tomorrow.

Such children always think not about how to live, but how to survive. On the one hand an orphanage is not a good place, but if you look at this boy's life, in boarding school he always has food, clothes, and a place to sleep. Orphanages have more opportunities if people like you help them. We are grateful for all the support we have received.

We have already prepared a place and programme for a Bible camp. The funding is also available. But, much to our regret, the administration of several orphanages are still afraid to let the children go because of the pandemic, even though Ukraine is already in the 'green zone'. We know that God's will is for every thing, so we continue to pray and thank God for every blessing. We ask Him to give us patience and wisdom, to know what to do further.

If you want to help us, send financial contributions to: Bellevue Church of Christ, 7401 Highway 70S, Nashville, Tennessee 37221, Attn: Treasurer. Include "Smiles – Ukraine" on the back of your cheque. Or contact us by email: usmishki@gmail.com.

If you you like to know more, scan the QR codes (above right) to watch short videos about our work.



INDIA COVID UPDATE

The Covid-19 second wave in India has taken away sole breadwinners of several families and left many children orphaned or abandoned. Some children have lost both parents and others are in a situation where a single surviving parent is unable to take care of them financially and emotionally.



What does the future hold in store for these vulnerable children? They need our prayers at this time. We are committed to providing hope, health, and care to some of these children.

Veejay and Sonia Madiki

NOTICES

MEN'S WORKSHOP

TOPIC: A HEALTHY CHURCH
(Ephesians 4:15-16)

Date: Saturday 10th July 2021

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (GMT+1:00) London

Venue: Zoom (Meeting ID: 821 8670 6523 & Passcode: workshop)

Main Speaker: Brother Patrick Boyns - Principal at British Bible School

Host: Church of Christ - Edmonton (UK)

For further information, please contact:
Bro Maxwell (079-8343-5054)
Bro Charles (075-0668-9396)
Bro Anthony (078-4732-1141)
 or email:
info@edmontonchurchofchrist.org.uk

Encouraging One Another
 Tuesday, 20th July
 10.00–11.30 am on Zoom

*Thoughts from Graham McDonald
 & Tony Coffey*
 plus prayer and discussion

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81081704012?pwd=OG5RV0FuUj1p5L1VOK1l4WjU4VmQ4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 810 8170 4012
 Passcode: Edify

SINGLES'
ENRICHMENT
 PROGRAMME

THEME:
 CONNECT WITH SOMEONE IN THE LORD (2 COR 6:14)

- ▷ Does One Need To Get Married?
- ▷ Is a Christian Partner Necessary?
- ▷ Christian Courtship

SPEAKERS:

- ▷ BRO. DAVID LANIER - TEXAS, USA
- ▷ BRO. MICHAEL APPIAGYEI - LONDON, UK
- ▷ BRO. LEVAUGHAN LEWIS - GRANADA

HOST: CHURCH OF CHRIST, EDMONTON (UK)

31ST JULY 2021
 12PM - 4PM BST

CONTACTS
 (+44): 07908725427 | 07979096293 | 07852343010

PARTICIPANTS AGE: 18+

ZOOM MEETING ID: 82751836116
 PASSCODE: 203040

Trusting the Teacher

... taking him at his word

Autumn Weekend Family Retreat

Friday, 17th to Sunday, 19th September 2021

at Letton Hall in Norfolk

www.britishbibleschool.com



DIARY

July

1st – **British Bible School**: Evening Online Class – “Mark” (taught by Mark Hill), 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>).

5th July-20th September – **British Bible School**: Evening Online Class – “Fire on the Mountain – the Law of Moses” (taught by David Chapman), each Monday at 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>).

8th July- 23rd September – **British Bible School**: Evening Online Class – “Lessons on the Mountain – the teachings of Jesus” (taught by Patrick Boyns), each Thursday at 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>).

10th – **Edmonton (London)**: Men’s Workshop – “A Healthy Church” (Ephesians 4:15-16), 10.00 am-4.00 pm; speaker: Patrick Boyns. Venue: Zoom – Meeting ID 821 8670 6523, Password: workshop. Contact: Maxwell (07983 435054), Charlies (07506 689396), or Anthony (07847 321141).

20th – **Encouraging One Another**: Zoom meeting, 10.00 am-11.30 am; speakers: Graham McDonald and Tony Coffey (plus prayer and discussion). Venue: Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81081704012?pwd=OG5RV0FuU1p5L1VOK1I4WjU4VmQ4Zz09> (Meeting ID: 810 8170 4012, Passcode: Edify). Contact: Tony Coffey (tonycoffey@gmail.com) or Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

24th – **Daughters of Christ UK**: Launch meeting on Zoom, 4.00 pm-6.00 pm; <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6994898970?pwd=ZTd3d1lGUhYhYDEvV2txVStQUEl1Zz09> (Meeting ID: 699 489 8970 Password: HL8XHy. Contact: Bernie Wells & Patience Antwi (docuklm2021@gmail.com)

31st – **Edmonton (London)**: Singles’ Enrichment Programme, 3.00-10.00 pm, ages 18 and over. Theme: “Crossing Over From Single Life to Married Life – Get it Right”. Venue: Zoom. Registration is required – contact: churchofchristedms@gmail.com, Lloyd Agyemang (07833 296396), John ‘Nana Akswasi’ Asiamah (07908 725427), or Yaw Duodu (07462 080692).

31st – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting – “Finding God” (Matthew 11:28-30), speaker: Tommy Stone, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

August

28th – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting – “Finding God” (Matthew 11:28-30), speaker: Diego Rojas, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

September

4th – **Great Barr (Birmingham)**: Fellowship Day, 10.00 am-3.30 pm. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

11th – **Great Barr (Birmingham)**: An Evening of Prayer and Psalms, 7.00 pm. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

17th-19th – **British Bible School Family Retreat** at Letton Hall: Trusting the Teacher...taking him at his word. Please visit our website at: <http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/letton-hall-family-retreat-2021> and complete the Registration Form online. A deposit of £10 per person is required on booking, with full payment due by 3rd September 2021.

25th – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting – “Finding God” (Matthew 11:28-30), speaker: Wayne Pascall, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

October

29th-30th – **Peterborough**: Ladies’ Day on Zoom. Contact: Marsha Erysthee (merysthee1@aol.com).

30th – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting – “Finding God” (Matthew 11:28-30), speaker: Steve Lusk, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

November

1st-5th – **British Bible School Residential Study Week** at Bassenfell Manor: The book of Acts; teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway, Mark Hill and Jack Paton. Details and registration form can be found on our website: <http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/autumn-study-week-2021>. Contact: Patrick Boyns (study@britishbibleschool.com).

December

11th – **Great Barr (Birmingham)**: An Evening of Prayer and Psalms, 7.00 pm. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).



THE FINAL WORD



The Human Touch

Among the many things I have missed these past months is the simple handshake of a friend. Arm bumps may be the closest we have been allowed to get to those we care for but it is not the same. Some readers will know that our two oldest sons and their families live in Australia and it has now been 3½ years since we have been able to touch them. We have seen them, talked to them and prayed for them but we have not been able to touch them – of course, who knows when we shall see them in the flesh again.

Now every time I read the Gospel of Mark I wonder what it was like for people to be touched by Jesus, actually physically touched. On at least six occasions Jesus healed and touched. The first was Peter's mother-in-law: 'Jesus took her by the hand and helped her up' (1:31). Then a leper; we read 'Jesus was filled with compassion and reached out his hand and touched the man' (1:41). This was followed by touching a dead child when he took her by the hand and said, 'Little girl, get up' (5:41). In the next case Jesus actually put his fingers into a man's ears because he was deaf (7:33). When healing a blind man Jesus held his hand and led him out of the village before

healing him (8:23). Finally, when Jesus cast the evil spirits from a boy, 'Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up' (9:26).

Three times we read of Jesus breaking loaves with his hands [the feeding of the 5,000 (6:41), the feeding of 4000 (8:6), and the institution of the Lord's Supper (14:16)].

Perhaps the sweetest time when Jesus used his hands was when he blessed the children. 'He took them in his arms and put his hands on them and blessed them' (10:16). I have always wished that I could have been one of those children, to have been so close as to be cuddled by the Saviour, to have heard his voice whisper to me, and to hear and feel his blessing.

It seems more than likely Jesus touched other people than are recorded for us but it is enough to know that the hands that were pierced by nails on the cross were used to heal, comfort and bless. I look at my own hands now and see the hands of an old man, no longer able to do what they once did but still able to be put together in prayer, to hold someone else to say that I care, and try to be a blessing to others. When we reach out and touch it tells the other person that they are special, that we want them involved with us, and that we care. Though we may not be able to bless as Jesus blessed we are his voice, his representative, his hands and his human touch.

Father God, we pray that your hands of blessing will be upon us, so that we in turn may bless others. May our hands be purified by you to accomplish what you want us to do. As Jesus used his hands for the benefit of others may we reach out to touch with compassion and nurture in love. Amen

Trevor

