

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

May 2020 • Vol 52 No 5

Lockdown in Europe



DIT NET BINNEN :
BUITEN KOMEN NIET A
MUZIEK NIET
FAMILIE N
LEZEN NIET
ZINGEN NIET
LACHEN NIET
HOOP NIET
VERGEET
JE VANDAAG

Online broadcasts

Update from India

CONTENTS

- 3 MY PERSPECTIVE**
When statistics are more than numbers
- 4 LOCKDOWN IN EUROPE**
■ **A view from Paris**
■ **Online in Belgium**
- 5 FORCED WAITING TIME**
Thoughts from Philip Slate
- 6 BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES**
Continued lockdown and continued broadcasts
- 8 BOOK REVIEW**
■ **Coronavirus and Christ by John Piper**
- 9 FAMILY NEWS**
■ **European Christian Workshop Online**
■ **Field of Refuge postponed until 2021**
■ **Clarkston Podcast series**
■ **Liverpool/Skelmersdale Ladies' Day to be on Zoom**
■ **Listing of UK worship and study broadcasts**
- 11 JUST A THOUGHT**
Thoughts on pots from Trevor Williams
- 12 AROUND THE WORLD**
■ **Coronavirus update from India**
- 13 NOTICES**
- 14 DIARY OF EVENTS IN UK & EUROPE**
- 16 THE FINAL WORD**
'Back to Church' Day



ON THE COVER:
Family worship on Zoom in Belgium



4

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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

Editor-in-Chief: Trevor Williams

twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

(0115) 837 6895

195 Hickings Lane, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8PJ

Production Editor: Jon Galloway

jdgalloway@mac.com

(07906) 060618

4 Broughton, Valleyfield, East Kilbride G75 0JU

Treasurer: Jenny Sparks

Website: Emmanuel Uwujare

Header Design: Kevin Nicholson

UK Congregation Directory Online: www.churchesofchrist.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk

Former Editors: Albert E. Winstanley (1969-1973; 1980-1987); Robert C. Eckman (1973-1980); Graham A. Fisher (1987-2014)

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

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



MY PERSPECTIVE



**Don't
allow
numbers
to
desensitise
us**

When statistics are more than numbers

Statistics are something that we have come to accept as part of 'normal' life (or perhaps a 'new normal' life). But even in the past when there was a disaster, whether a tornado, outbreak of illness, or even terrorist incidents, we would hear the number who had lost their lives.

You may remember that in early March the state of Tennessee in the United States was hit with a night of tornadoes. These were centred in the Nashville area, the tornadoes touching down to the west of the city, in the city, and then to the east of the city in Cookeville.

When we began to hear how many had lost their lives, it was 'only' in the teens (later there were more). I can remember thinking we could be thankful that it was only a few. And then I received a message from our friends, Iain and Gina Cameron – the tornado had gone through the housing development where Gina's niece and family lived near Cookeville – and they were missing. We sat with them that evening waiting for news.

When the news finally came in during the night it was discovered that this entire young family of three, Josh, Erin and Sawyer Kimberlin, had lost their lives. Suddenly, the 26 who had lost their lives in this tornado were no longer just a statistic but were people who were loved by those who are close to us.

As we progress through the coronavirus pandemic, we once again have become used to seeing numbers, to seeing statistics. It is good that the First

Minister of Scotland each day emphasises that these are not just numbers but represent lives of people who are loved by others. The Prime Minister and other ministers who have been taking the Westminster briefing make the same statement.

Today as I write this (30th April), the number of deaths in the UK is 26,711 – 1,475 of these were in Scotland (and by the time you read this both numbers will be even higher). These numbers now have a personal significance to our family because one of these is Arlene's father, John Dallas.

My father-in-law became ill just before lockdown. During the first week of lockdown he was taken into our local hospital where he tested positive for COVID-19. Sadly, his condition continued to deteriorate. He was moved the following week to the local hospice, where he lost his battle to this devastating virus.

Suddenly these were no longer just numbers that we see on television each day. Each of these represent a person, a loved person – something that we know in a personal way.

So what is my point? Never allow numbers and statistics to desensitise us. When illness and deaths are reported in terms of numbers, realise that these are human beings, people Jesus died for and who need to know him. As followers of Jesus may we always be touched by these numbers.

Jon



Lockdown in Europe

A view from Paris

“What day is it?”

*“Err, I think it must be Thursday, let me check...
No! It’s already Friday!”*

And so one day follows another, the weather’s OK, we could do with a little rain, the cherry trees and now the apple trees have finished blossoming, and the fig tree has produced those early figs which, honestly, you’d have to be pretty hungry to eat, calling to mind the tree that disappointed the Master, 2000 years ago.

I am reminded every day that we are blessed – fortunate. Many people are alone, and lonely, and others, even worse, are locked in with abusive and violent family members. Reporters who should really check their facts tell us that France is teetering on the brink of rioting and havoc. True, the police asked a fellow to stop playing his stereo on the balcony because a few people had gathered and were dancing in the street.

There is probably not a nation on earth more proud of not respecting rules than the French, and yet when I have to go to the shops I find people are calmly and respectfully keeping their

distance. No fighting over toilet paper. There was no flour in the supermarket on Saturday, but plenty of pasta, and piles of dates for the start of Ramadan. I think I did get the last two packets of sultanas, though. As I listen to the news, there are more stories of generosity, solidarity and people going beyond the call of duty than of crime or incivility.

Confinement is scheduled to end – the beginning of the end, at least – on 11th May, so our thoughts are turning to a very uncertain economic future: another kind of anxiety. As Christians we are reminding each other that we need to be exemplary in respecting the rules that are in everyone’s interest. It will be great to meet together – especially to sing together once again, but we have been able to welcome visitors to our virtual meetings who could never have been there in person. Life will not be the same again. We will not get back to normal, we will have to invent a new normal. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, but he is not enclosed in a temple, but with us in the boat as we cross life’s storm-tossed seas.

Robert Limb
Paris

Online in Belgium

God lets us go down a variety of paths in our lives. Like Christians everywhere, we could hardly imagine a circumstance that would mean we would break the law if we assembled to worship. Yet, here we are, as now in countries around the world, adhering to the restrictions on such gatherings.

Our first Sunday with no gathering was 15th March. Earlier that week we had been thinking we might not meet. Before Sunday came, the government announced that we were NOT TO ASSEMBLE!

By the following Sunday we had managed to set up a Zoom meeting in place of our regular worship gathering. We have now come to call it “Zoom Church” (please don’t take this too seriously). It works well for us to connect, encourage and break bread – together, but not. We followed that with sharing links to other worship opportunities, both in Dutch and, right after we are finished or later in the day, with churches in the US. (Note: if you read this and want to share your worship link in the UK, or otherwise, maybe we will catch up with you too.) [see the links on page 10 (jdg)]

In an effort to encourage contact and connection, we also set up two WhatsApp groups, one in Dutch and one in English, to fit the needs of our group. ‘Angelic encouragers’ are appearing from among our ranks. Blossoming servants whose prowess is sprinkling our shared threads of



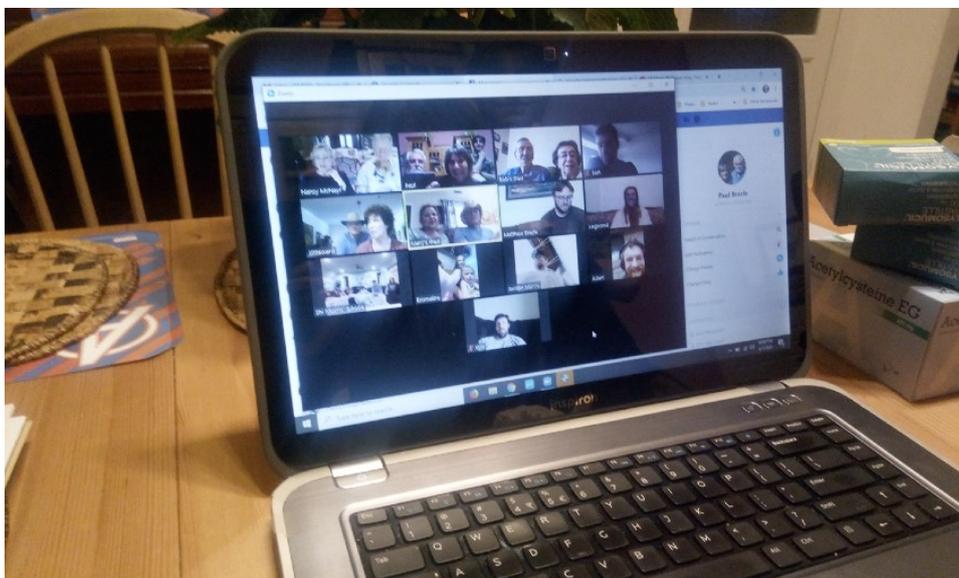
communication with items of brightness and blessing. There are new things showing up that counter the darkness and despair that is Covid-19. But the new internet worship situation isn’t the right solution for everyone. Some are without the internet or devices to make it work. There are others who just haven’t been convinced to join in. So we have new challenges to keep connected with some of our number.

Other churches in the region are doing the same (or similar). Some use Zoom (or a similar group application) like we do. Others have used just a live feed of a ‘staged’ worship service. But interaction is limited. Some have found a way to do both. For our Zoom gathering, we have been using a power-point guide through the worship, with visiting as we make connection and then again afterward. The one limitation is being able to hear each other sing – the audio just doesn’t work well “across the wires” with 15 different

microphones! (At which point, some purists might say “it doesn’t matter what it sounds like”.)

The challenge ahead will be to shift back to ‘normal’ and yet drop what apparently wasn’t needed or helpful and keep what we have learned that is positive in the current experience. Blessings to all!

Paul Brazle
Antwerp





FORCED WAITING TIME

Living and working in interrupted times

What can preachers do when the rhythm of ministry is interrupted, even though that rhythm might be “regularly irregular”? In some cases, as with our current coronavirus-driven interruptions, new opportunities or needs for ministry might emerge, and they take up the time that would have been used on something else. In the yellow fever epidemic in Nashville in the 19th century, David Lipscomb chose not to leave the city but to use his horses and wagon to transport health and religious workers, including nuns, to areas of service. He saw it as a new need.

In other cases, preachers and others, such as Bible class teachers, might have unexpected blocks of time to use. Watching television constantly for the latest report on new infections and deaths, at home and abroad, is likely not good stewardship of those blocks of time.

Why not block out a series of sermons for the “God-willing” future? Is it not a good time to get through that valuable book you haven’t had time to process? Would it not be a good thing to catch up on some correspondence, perhaps writing that “Thank you” letter to someone who made a big difference in your life without his or her knowing it?

J.W. McGarvey wrote two commentaries on the book of Acts, the first in 1863 and the second nearly thirty years later. In his *New Commentary on Acts of Apostles* (1892), McGarvey wrote in the Preface, “The composition of my first commentary on Acts was begun when I was about thirty years of age, and the work was published about four years later. The greater part of the writing was done amid the distractions of the first two years of our civil war, and the volume was issued in

the autumn of 1863, when men’s thoughts were turned away from religion to the mighty struggle.” Rather than sitting around at the local store, talking about the war (their equivalent of watching television), McGarvey was busy on his commentary, a work that has been translated into several languages, much to the benefit of its readers.

When I was a student in Lipscomb, an elderly history professor, S. C. Boyce, gave a chapel talk in which he mentioned the use of “forced waiting time.” Waiting on the car to be repaired, sitting in the waiting room at the doctor’s office, waiting to meet someone who will arrive on a delayed flight...you know the situations. Why not have a good book or article to read?

John Bunyan wrote *Pilgrim’s Progress* during his “forced waiting time” in the Bedford jail. During one of the black plagues, Shakespeare wrote at least two poems and likely began “King Lear.” Less dramatic, I was once sitting in a van with friends in Germany, ready to travel to another point. For some reason we were delayed. The driver of the van reached into a section of the dashboard, pulled out a small document and said, “Let’s have some *Power for Today*.” He treated us to the brief devotional.

If the environment is conducive to it, why not spend time with your prayer list? Call, email or text someone who would value a message from you. Make good use of both “forced waiting time” and unexpected blocks of time.

Philip Slate
cpsmissions@gmail.com



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Continued lockdown and continued broadcasts

We were in the middle of conducting a number of Study Events north of the border when this current crisis began to take hold. Having conducted the first of two Study Weekends at Aberdeen on the book of the prophet Ezekiel, we held a Study Day in Glasgow, very briefly surveying the letter of James. Before we could resume our studies in Aberdeen it was evident that groups were no longer going to be able to meet together as normal and so within a few days we were all confined to our homes.

We were already thinking about ways in which we might continue to serve during what were becoming increasingly unusual times, so we immediately began broadcasting a Sunday morning message live on our YouTube channel. We have now been doing this for six weeks and are planning to continue for the duration.

Whereas we recognise the importance of local groups of believers being able to interact together online as much as is possible during this time of social distancing, we also recognise that not every group is able or inclined to live-stream a message of encouragement on a weekly basis. There are some congregations who have been incorporating our 11 o'clock Sunday morning message into their own virtual gatherings, tuning in either before or after a time of local virtual gathering. We have been greatly encouraged by the interest and response to these messages, and welcome any who wish to come along and join us.

Just shortly after the official 'lockdown' began we commenced holding online classes every weekday on a number of different subjects. We are now into our fifth week, of an initial twelve week cycle,

and we welcome any who would like to join in a live, virtual classroom setting. We are hosting these classes on the Zoom platform which we have found to be very accessible.

Although we are not recording these classes live, we are putting up recordings of our presentations on our YouTube channel. We thought that this might be useful for any who have missed any of the sessions and would like to keep up-to-date. Please find here a schedule of the classes and links to the details on our website, where you can find links to join any of the classes, and to the videos on our YouTube channel.

Monday

8.00 pm ~ The Letter from James

Tuesday

3.00 pm ~ A Study of Job
7.00 pm ~ Ecclesiastes

Wednesday

8.00 pm ~ A Letter to Galatia

Thursday

8.00 pm ~ Paul's Letter to Ephesus

Friday

3.00 pm ~ A Letter to Galatia (repeat)
8.00 pm ~ Bible Quiz Time!

Link to online class details on our website: <http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>

Link to our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkxLiDuK79HWVIEVPVZOHA>

Thank you for your continued interest, prayers and support.

Patrick Boyns
britishbibleschool.com



Book Review

Coronavirus and Christ

By: John Piper

Crossway / 2020 / 114 pages / ISBN: 978-1-4335-7359-0 (paperback) / ISBN: 978-1-4335-7362-0 (ePub) / ISBN: 978-1-4335-7360-6 (PDF) / Amazon £4.57 / Kindle & PDF Free

John Piper is a popular author of religious books, which are easy to understand and relevant for today. As the global pandemic of 'coronavirus disease 2019' (to give it its technical name) began, he quickly wrote this book to encourage believers in what we now know to be a difficult time for many. Crossway rushed it into publication and, along with 'Desiring God', are distributing it free in Kindle, ePub, and audio versions. These can be downloaded here: <https://www.crossway.org/articles/coronavirus-and-christ-by-john-piper/>

Being free, I naturally (like many others) have downloaded it in many formats. I often listen to audiobooks when I am out walking (those who have read my book reviews will know that my walking started a longtime before lockdown). As I was needing something new to listen to, I began listening to this book at the beginning of lockdown.

Overall I would recommend this book. It is an encouraging read (or listen), although I would suspect you will not

agree with everything in the book (when do we ever agree with everything someone outside scripture writes?). The one area in particular I disagreed with our writer is in attributing everything that happens in this world to God, both good and evil. As the book progresses, though, you read more about how God *allows* bad to happen and that he can (and will) work good out of the bad things that happen.

The book divisions and chapters are:

The Occasion: Coronavirus

PART 1: THE GOD WHO REIGNS OVER THE CORONAVIRUS

- 1 Come to the Rock
- 2 A Solid Foundation
- 3 The Rock Is Righteous
- 4 Sovereign over All
- 5 The Sweetness of His Reign

PART 2: WHAT IS GOD DOING THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS?

Preliminary Thoughts: Seeing and Pointing

- 6 Picturing Moral Horror
- 7 Sending Specific Divine Judgments
- 8 Awakening Us for the Second Coming
- 9 Realigning Us with the Infinite Worth of Christ
- 10 Creating Good Works in Danger
- 11 Loosening Roots to Reach the Nations

A Closing Prayer

As it is free, download and enjoy!

Jon Galloway





FAMILY NEWS



EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WORKSHOP

Due to the Coronavirus Crisis, we have decided to cancel this year's workshop at Lancaster University. However we are hoping to be able to run a reduced workshop online during 27th-28th August – we will send information later about this.

Many thanks to all those who have attended and supported the workshop. We plan to be back in 2021.

www.europeanchristianworkshop.com

Stephen Woodcock

FIELD OF REFUGE

These are difficult times we are all facing around the world. As this global pandemic seems to be something that we will be dealing with for the foreseeable future, the Field of Refuge Planning Team 'met' together, via Zoom, to discuss the implications for the Field of Refuge 2020 planned for early October.

We unanimously felt that with the uncertainty of any solid time frame and the likelihood of a very slow return to anything close to 'normal' life, it would be wisest to postpone the Field of Refuge planned for the weekend of 2nd-4th October 2020. We will be looking at rescheduling the event in October 2021 and will let you know as soon as we have any information on dates. We are still planning on the theme of *Grace*.

Any returned registration forms will be voided and any money paid for 2020 will be returned in full. Please get in touch with us if you have paid any deposit or funds into the account so we can arrange to refund you.

We did not make this decision lightly and it is with heavy hearts that we take this action. But we know that God is in control and is with us all in every step we take. Also, we realise that all who attend the renewals get so much from the weekend and we don't want to completely miss out on the fellowship and encouragement that we get from each other. We have some ideas that the team will be developing to take place this year, so watch this space and we will keep you all updated.

Deborah Chapman

CLARKSTON

The Clarkston congregation is pleased to host a series of six podcasts "It Ain't Necessarily So" written and narrated by Steve Gereg. These are an introduction to contemporary views regarding the Bible and faith. They are an excellent means of introducing the need for a closer look at what the Bible has to say about our need for Jesus as our Saviour and a life spent in devotion to him.

These can be found on our website – www.clarkstonchurchofchrist.com (follow the link to 'podcasts'). Steve would welcome comments and questions – send these directly to him: bird-legs@hotmail.com.

Steve is a native of Ohio, USA. After graduating from the Sunset School of Missions in Lubbock, Texas, he came to the UK and has worked in Scotland for the past thirty years.



Jack Paton

FAMILY NEWS

LIVERPOOL AND SKELMERSDALE

The women of the Liverpool and Skelmersdale congregations would like to invite you to our Women's Fellowship Day which is to be held on Saturday, 16th May, from 11.00 am–1.00 pm on Zoom. The meeting ID is 9702136444.

Our Women's Fellowship Day promises to be filled with joyful praise, sweet fellowship, congregational announcements, workshops, and a few activities. We are looking forward most of all to the encouragement we will receive from God's Word. Our invited speakers are Debbie Woodcock and Sarah Huburn. They will be speaking on "Beautiful Amazing Grace: Ladies of Talent".

We hope you will be able to join us. You will need to download the Zoom app onto your smartphone, computer or iPad. If you have any issues downloading or accessing the Zoom app, please feel free to contact Sydnie Yankiah (07521 965410).

Sydnie Yankiah

LIVERPOOL & SKELMERSDALE LADIES DAY

Saturday 16th May 2020

*** Venue: ZOOM APP ***

Please can you download the Zoom app onto your smartphone, computer or iPad via the App Store.

Meeting I.D: 9702136444

11.00am – 1.00pm (Zoom meeting will be live from 10:45am)

Beautiful, Amazing Grace: Ladies of Talent!
Theme: Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14-30

Speakers

Debbie Woodcock (Shepshed): Talent of Finance

Sarah Huburn (Great Barr, Birmingham): Talent of Poems

Contact: Maria Appiah-Anane on 0151 738 0955 or by email on mgvaa5@googlemail.com

Join in and enjoy a time of fellowship & encouragement

Worship and study opportunities during lockdown:

Aberdeen: Sunday worship on Zoom – contact David Murray for details (dgmsem@gmail.com).

British Bible School: Sunday message and archive of Zoom classes – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkxLiDuK79HWVIEVPVZOHA>

Classes through the week on Zoom: James, Job, Ecclesiastes, Galatians, Ephesians and a Quiz night – <http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>

Corby: three hymns and a lesson by Frank Worgan – <https://www.facebook.com/Graeme-Bible-Resources-111596180225734/> or

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

Cumbernauld: Worship on their YouTube channel (search for Cumbernauld Church of Christ).

East Kilbride: Weekly lesson – www.youtube.com/channel/UCRS16tzz3JzqdtXgKPfyIYg

Hyvots Bank (Edinburgh): Sunday worship – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHGhhjh3hBe3VOi5dFGKzlw/featured>

Leicester: Contact Paul Hill for a weekly mp3 file – paulh41@hotmail.co.uk.

Mark Wilson messages (Edinburgh): "from the soapbox" – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgibxjpkb3gE67HuQ1wVyuQ>



JUST A THOUGHT

Types of pots

A certain gardener rejoiced when he heard that ‘Lockdown’ meant no meetings to attend and no presentations had to be given. He had all the time he needed to catch up, clear up and prepare his garden for the summer and autumn ahead.

Being a good gardener he started to wash plant pots in readiness for sowing. Each day for several weeks he washed small pots, medium sized pots and large pots – he really did not realise how many he had!

As he washed his mind began to think of the cleaning action of God. Each pot individually had to be plunged into soapy water, scrubbed, and then dipped into clean water. It’s a little like baptism he thought, each one had to be dealt with individually. Some pots were only lightly soiled, others had small snails or slugs attached and some had been the home to spiders. Each one had to be washed before use. There could be no disease for the new plants.

With more days of plant pot washing the gardener realised that some pots had been washed before in previous years

and had not been used; they were clean but dusty through simply sitting in the shed. He thought to himself that he knew people in church a little like that – good people who sit in services but never seem to do much.

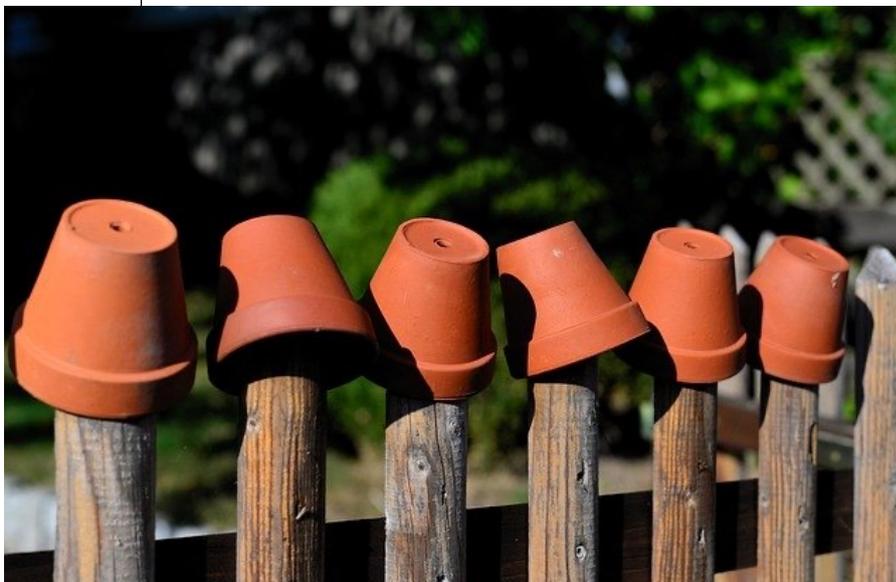
Then the gardener realised that the big pots needed more attention than the small pots. Each of the large pots had bits of root or lumps of soil still attached to their sides. He knew that just last year these pots had tomatoes growing in them, giving food for the family, or prize winning flowers bringing joy to all. These pots needed a renewal; they needed extra cleaning for long term use.

It was then that the gardener thought that some church stalwarts are like this type of pot: they were clean last year but now needed something extra to keep going. They needed to know they are clean and they needed some attention to feel they were of use for another year ahead. The little thin seed pots could only be used once or twice –they were easily broken and soon became useless. The big pots were heavy, had substance and lasted for years. These pots, these stalwarts of the faith are the heroes; they

give much but still need to be cared for. They were always strong, always reliable through sunshine and storm.

Finally the gardener found some pots with cracks in them and quietly thought to himself that there were a few of those in church as well!

Trevor





Around the World

Christians throughout the country have donated funds to help out in the Philippines, Pakistan, India and Malawi. Those who received funding are thrilled that they have been helped, knowing that times are difficult in our own country. Around the world people are being blessed by the kind acts of British Christians and congregations.



Veejay & Sonia Madiki helping prepare food to give out in India

Trevor Williams

INDIA – CORONAVIRUS

Thank you for all your support during these difficult times. Many have been offering prayers for India. Thankfully we are doing well so far, but numbers having the virus are escalating so fast in India. Please continue to pray, that God may put an end to this pandemic.

I really want to thank all those who have financially supported the relief work we are doing in India. So far we have helped 200 families with necessary provisions and hygiene supplies, conducted children

awareness camps in three places, and provided food and hygiene supplies to them. Our “Lydia and Dorcas” group have helped us to stitch more than 1,500 reusable cloth masks, which we have distributed freely in the communities. Several preachers and their families have been helped with food supplies and financial aid in this tough time.

I want to thank Tony Tyson for organising and sending us help and all in the UK who have contributed to the relief work so far. These funds will help us to continue our relief efforts for another week. We are in lockdown till 3rd May. A very minimum pack of food supplies for a family for a week costs about £9; for a preacher working in rural villages, food supplies plus a small monetary help cost about £20. If you wish to help us to help the families in need, please send your contributions to Tony Tyson in Skelmersdale (tonytyson66@yahoo.co.uk).

If you need more information, please contact joelmadiki@gmail.com. Once again thank you for all your prayers and support.



Joel Madiki giving out food in India

NOTICES



House to House Heart to Heart

House to House / Heart to Heart is a tool that helps local churches of Christ spread the gospel. The front and back pages are personalized with your information. Share *House to House* to invite people to your services, advertise an event, write an article, and share an attractive presentation of the truth with those you hope to reach with the gospel. Each copy costs just €0.15!

Find more information at get.housetohouse.com. View past issues at housetohouse.com. We will even provide a free website for your congregation (example here: demo1.churchofchrist.info).

House to House works with congregations in every state in the US and has gone into more than 80 countries. If no congregation in your country has ever used *House to House*, we will provide 500 customized copies of your first issue free of charge!

Contact Matt Wallin at matt@housetohouse.com to get started or for more information.





DIARY

A quick word about the 'Diary' entries. As you will undoubtedly notice, we have removed all entries for May, June, July and August, unless we have been notified about events which will take place online. As we don't know the extent of the lockdown nor how long 'social distancing' will continue, indications are that both will continue for the foreseeable future. We are, therefore, assuming that all events scheduled for the next few months will not be on. If this changes, or if the events are offered in a different format (i.e. online), we will add that to our Diary entries. Do keep us updated as to your plans. Those events scheduled for the autumn we will continue to publicise until we know of changes.

May

16th – Liverpool: Women's Fellowship Day – “Beautiful Amazing Grace: Ladies of Talent”. Speakers: Debbie Woodcock and Sarah Huburn, Venue: Zoom. Contact: Sydnie Yankiah (07521 965410 or jordansydnie15@gmail.com).

June

27th – Liverpool: Annual All Day Fellowship – “Faithfulness in Steadfastness”; speaker: Patrick Boyns. Venue: Zoom. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

August

27th-29th – European Christian Workshop: Lessons online. Theme – ‘AWAKE’. Contact: Stephen Woodcock (01509 768789 or registration@europeanchristianworkshop.com).

September

5th – Great Barr: Fellowship Day. Venue: Main Hall, Collingwood Community Centre, Collingwood Drive, Birmingham. B43 7NF. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

18th-20th – BBS Family Retreat: “Trusting the Teacher...taking him at his word”. Venue: Letton Hall, Norfolk. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

26th – Peterhead: Annual Social Day, 1.00 pm. Speakers: Tony Coffey and Graham McDonald. To help with catering, please send number attending by beginning of September. Contact: William Strachan (wstrachan007@gmail.com).

October

2nd-3rd – Wembley (London): British Bible School Study Weekend. Contact: John Griffiths (griffiths.jhg@virgin.net).

3rd-4th – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Contemporary Christianity” (part 1 – exploring the history of churches of Christ), teachers: Jon Galloway and Mark Hill.

30th-31st – Wembley (London): British Bible School Study Weekend, part 2. Contact: John Griffiths (griffiths.jhg@virgin.net).

31st-1st November – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Contemporary Christianity” (part 2 – exploring the practice of contemporary Christianity), teachers: Jon Galloway and Mark Hill.

November

2nd-6th – British Bible School: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick; module: “Acts”. Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway, Mark Hill and Jack Paton. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

7th – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire): Quarterly Outreach meeting – “Jesus – when you feel forsaken”. Light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofcestwood@aol.com).

DIARY

European Events Calendar

February 2021

15th-21st – **Gemünden, Germany:** Advanced Bible Study Series. Arrive Monday evening for ABSS I, which begins on Tuesday morning. ABSS I – Tuesday-Friday; ABSS II – Friday-Sunday. Contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com).



“An Irish Blessing” (photo taken of a shop in Limerick, Eire)

Trusting the Teacher

... taking him at his word

Autumn Weekend Family Retreat

Friday, 18th to Sunday, 20th September 2020

at Letton Hall in Norfolk

www.britishbibleschool.com

ACTS

British Bible School Autumn Study Week

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District
Monday, 2nd to Friday, 6th November 2020

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company
- All inclusive cost: £150 per student

This module begins to examine this key New Testament book within the context of God's purpose for mankind. The mission implications for the student are immense as the good news of Jesus continues to be taken across cultural boundaries throughout the world.

For full details visit our website: [britishbibleschool.com](http://www.britishbibleschool.com)



THE FINAL WORD



'Back to Church' Day

Over the past few weeks I have had a number of people write to me in various ways being concerned about people worshipping at home and not in the recognised way of a church assembly. One suggested that if people do not attend worship services for a six week period they are not likely to afterwards. This is a long held thought and is often true.

By now most will have settled into some sort of a routine in their own home. Pauline and I celebrate communion together at our dining table before having breakfast each Sunday morning. We read the scriptures, pray and celebrate. It is quiet, a time of meditation. Our table has hosted hundreds of people over the years and now it has become a table with just three people present: Pauline, me and Jesus.

We do not have the usual thought of wondering if anyone is going to be late, or if we need to share news or plans with someone – it is just us. We have not had visitors to welcome and make comfortable. If anything, it has become a holy time and place. One of the drawbacks is that we can't have a good sing. Both of us realise that we just do

not sound good by ourselves.

We miss our church family.

So what will happen when we get back to normal – whatever that is? The

first Sunday back has to be a day of worship and feasting. I want to sing at the top of my voice! I want to weep when I hear Jesus has died for me. I want to leap for joy when I am reminded that I am saved by grace. I want to greet my brethren with a holy kiss and a great big hug. I want to kiss the heads of the children. I want to be revived. I want my soul to burst out in knowing that all is well. Then in sweet fellowship I look forward to a feast of eating with my loved ones in Jesus, talking and laughing and simply being. This is a time we need to start preparing for now.

We all need to keep in contact with our fellow Christians as well as others that we know. When our places of worship are open again it has to be a special day, like no other. The church can prepare now for the great 'Back to Church Day'.

I know someone will gripe and say that the church is more than the assembly on Sunday but, to be honest, I have heard people gripe all my life. Those who know me know that I can do my fair share, as well, but never in our history has something like this happened – never before have places of worship been closed down across the world. Let's get ready now.

Trevor

Grant to your church, O God, a vision that will thrill the hearts of the people.

Grant to your church a heart that is filled with love.

Grant to your church hands to labour, a tongue to praise and ears to hear your voice. Amen

