

the Christian Worker

July 2020 • Vol 52 No 7

Christians and prejudice



Two new Christians!
**New online classes hosted
by the British Bible School**
**A view of...the Jordan
River**

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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MY PERSPECTIVE



We are
to be
without
prejudice

Tensions in the country

If there weren't enough tensions due to the coronavirus and lockdown, more friction has surfaced between people of different skin colours. And mixing the two could cause further spikes in the COVID-19 outbreak as large groups get together to protest.

Both the Bible and science agree that there is but *one* people, one blood if you will, that ties all of humanity together. Scientifically, we are all *homo sapiens sapiens* – there is no different 'subspecies' according to the colour of our skin. We can give and receive blood from anyone no matter what shade of skin they have.

The difference between the colours of skin is primarily due to the amount of a pigment called 'melanin' that we all have (plus a few other factors). This is why we have such a wide variety of skin colours, from extremely pale to extremely dark. As an American, I have a very mixed heritage including American Indian (Cherokee) and probably Melungeon, as well as Scottish, Irish, English, German, and a few others.

Have you thought about how illogical it is that we form prejudice just because we look different? (And everyone looks different!) We could just as easily have picked the size of ear lobes or something else. I read an article a few years ago that the United Nations had quit making racial distinctions because there is no evidence for it. Ken Ham, *et al*, expressed it this way: "The **fact** is...that there is only **one** skin colour: melanin" (*The Answers Book*, 1990: 133).

Paul made a statement when he was talking to the Areopagus in Athens that

has bearing on this: "*From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands*" (Acts 17:26 NIV).

The word 'man' has been supplied in our English translations. What Paul said was, "From *one* he made all the nations" (although 'man' fits well in the context, being a reference to Adam). We all trace our ancestry back to Adam. We are *all* related!

What does this mean for us? Because we are all related, there can be no difference between people simply based on the way we look. If you think about it, we *all* look different, sound different, and are different in other ways. But we are *all* humans.

Having prejudice against anyone for any reason must not be present amongst God's people. James wrote, "*My brothers and sisters, do not show prejudice if you possess faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ...If so, have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil motives?*" (James 2:1,4 NET).

It is too easy to get caught up in the thinking of the world around us. It is too easy to become suspicious of other people simply because they look different and have a different background. We are called to be different. We are called to tell all people the good news of Jesus, to "go into all the world" and let everyone know that Jesus offers us freedom from sin and a better way to live.

Jon

Christians and prejudice



There are some things, as Christians, that we try to ignore but they very often do not go away. Over the past few weeks 'Black Lives Matter' has been a theme on television, in protests and, I am sure, in many conversations. There is nothing we can do about the past; we live in the present and hopefully we will do our best to lay good foundations for others in the future. Certainly all lives matter but the conversation right now has its emphasis on 'black lives matter'. Without getting in anyway political, it seemed right to me to invite three to share their story in the *Christian Worker*, each of these writers love the Lord and are anxious to serve him so, as you read, please remember that.

There are a significant number of brethren living and worshipping in this country who have an African or Asian background. Christians have the responsibility to encourage all people of all nations to live together in peace and harmony; sadly sometimes there may be problems. Even if there is no prejudice in your congregation remember that there may be someone who is suffering because of abuse they have received from others. *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"* (Galatians 3:28).

Trevor Williams

We must do better as Christians

A few weeks ago, social media was full of stories about how people's lives are affected by the reaction of others to the colour of their skin. Although social media posts have died down, the issue of race continues.

In no way would I claim to be more knowledgeable about race than others; just because my husband is black doesn't make me an expert. But after being together for over twenty years I have an insight into a world to which I was previously oblivious.

If you have ever met my husband, you will know he is a kind, polite and honest God-fearing man. One of his close friends said that he's the man you want by your side. It is these qualities in Ezra which make it astounding to think of the adjustments he makes in order to be accepted by the society of a country in which he was born. Ezra and I never had to fight our families to be together; both sides were fully accepting of who we wanted to be with. But I have seen Ezra have to fight for acceptance by society.

When Ezra has an item to return to a shop, I take it back in order to avoid cashiers being suspicious about the reasons why the item has to be



Ezra & Bethan Mentore and family

returned. When he boards a train or a bus he thinks about where he stands so that others won't feel uncomfortable in his presence. While walking around a supermarket, he's had to explain to our 8-year-old daughter why the security guard is following them. When paying for things, the cashier will triple check his money whilst not checking the money of other customers. Things have suddenly become okay because the other person has seen me with Ezra. When he is wearing his postman's uniform, police officers greet him with a 'Good morning', when he's out of uniform he is greeted with suspicious looks.

Our children have not escaped the ignorance of others. Olivia has been teased because of her hair and told Ezra can't be her dad because he's black.

On their own these situations may just be inconvenient; however, when they are happening on a regular basis you start to question why.

We don't want sympathy; we want people to realise this is not just an American thing but racism is in the UK, even in a multi-cultural city like London.

I have never had to change my behaviour because I am white. But Ezra changes his behaviour because he is black every day.

As a church it is important to be reflective and not to shy away from issues happening in the world. My sister Megan expressed it perfectly.

"If our black brothers and sisters are telling us they can't breathe, they can't be heard, they can't feel safe when going for a run or in the presence of those who are paid to 'protect and serve' then it is our job, as Christians, to respond with compassion, rush to their aid and make sure they can breathe again.

"We must do better as Christians to represent the one we claim to love, who was persecuted and was killed himself, and who taught us that the Greatest Commandment is to love others as we love ourselves – without condition, question or doubt."

Bethan Mentore

Reflections on the need to discuss racism

Racism is real. Racism is a sin. It is incompatible with the teachings of Jesus and it is important that Christians speak out against it.

I was the youngest graduate of the British Bible School when I was 19. I still preach and teach occasionally at the Lewisham congregation. I have been married for 29 years and have two daughters, both of whom are Christians.

As a black Christian male who spent his formative years in the church and now works in a professional capacity in the corporate world, racism has unfortunately been a constant in my life. It is experienced institutionally, structurally, overtly and covertly. You see although we are all Christians, the black experience in the UK is often very different to that of our white Christian counterparts.

The events of the past few weeks (the public killing of Mr Floyd) brings into focus and, for many black Christians including myself, raises the hurt buried deep inside and brings again to the fore the destructive nature of our experience of racism. We often speak about "loving our brother as ourselves" but how can we do so when we fail to recognise their pain, their anguish and their suffering. As Christians, whether white, black or brown, we should all speak out against racism because God's word teaches us there is a better way.

This discussion is very important because by ignoring it Christians who have experienced racism are left feeling isolated and unheard instead of being supported during a time of need. As Christians we should not seek to shut down conversations because they are uncomfortable, but rather understand that they allow us to have deeper and more meaningful relationships.



Sydney Lewis

Solomon in his great wisdom reminds us in Ecclesiastes 3:7, “There is a time to be silent and a time to speak out”. The whole world is speaking about it and, as people whose minds are being renewed day by day, we should not be silent but rather at the centre of the discussion as it is fundamentally about the hearts of men.

We are all one in Christ. We share the wonderful grace and loving kindness of Jesus Christ. But we must express that love in action. It mustn't be something we simply talk about but we must act out the spirit of the Good Samaritan when Christ presents us with opportunities. We must demonstrate the spirit of loving your neighbour, when our neighbours/ brothers and sisters are in need of that practical love and support of which God's word so clearly speaks.

Sydney Lewis

A time of reflection and growth

It was December 2000. Myself, my dad and my grandma were on our way to join my mother in the UK. She had arrived in August to start her new job and get ready for our arrival. I was young, so I remember little about the earlier days aside from being nervous a lot and noticing how there weren't many children that looked like me in school. I learnt very early on that I stood out. My grandma had been training me to speak properly and very quickly, my Jamaican accent went away. I knew I looked different and the thought of sounding different and drawing more attention to myself caused me some uneasiness, even at such a young age.

As I have grown up, I have learnt that society has not only continued to highlight our differences, but in some cases punish us for them. I have researched the term 'racial microaggression'. These can be comments, sometimes seen as mild yet still impactful, which highlight racial stereotypes and are made to belittle a person of colour. For example, “You speak well for a black person”. These can range from backwards compliments, to snide remarks, to invasive questions. What I have learnt is that we have been conditioned to accept a lot and brush these off as they were said 'innocently'. People are finally saying enough is enough and are making

efforts to educate others on how to support people of colour in a society that promotes diversity but still allows mistreatment.

Even with such diversity in society, certain ethnicities are still seen as and treated as 'less than'. Both my parents work for the NHS and have faced problems due to the colour of their skin. My mother was offered a job here due to a shortage of nurses in the NHS. Seeing my mother, with almost 30 years of experience, being consistently undermined and second guessed breaks my heart. Hearing about the police being called on my father because someone saw a black man walking around Somerset, breaks my heart.

It was always so different with our church family at Bedminster in Bristol. With such a diverse group and people always being celebrated regardless of where they were from always made me feel like I belonged. I remember countless sermons which mentioned our diversity and it was something of which to be proud.

I urge people to reflect on their past actions. This is a time of reflection and growth. God calls us to love one another and, amongst all that is going on, I pray that we do not forget this. We have different upbringings and experiences and it can be difficult to empathise with others. However, I acknowledge that some people don't know any better – instead of shaming we need to go to them lovingly in order to educate them. I urge those who are being confronted, instead of becoming angry and defensive, listen and not undermine the feelings of your brothers and sisters. These are unprecedented times but “we know that all things come together for the good of those who love God” (Romans 8:28).

Olivia Aarons





CONGRATULATIONS!

A new Christian in Northampton

Wanda Karney has been studying using the World Bible School and was assigned a tutor in Cambridge, Brian Chadwick. He put Wanda in touch with us. Wanda was able to attend our Sunday meetings twice before the lockdown but has continued joining our Zoom meetings on Sundays. Having come to the conclusion she needed to repent and dedicate her life to Christ she counted the cost and was immersed on Friday, 19th June.

Mark Hill



Rejoicing at Hyvots Bank

On 27th June Heaven rejoiced with us!

Kaitlyn Anderson accepted the amazing grace of God and Jesus as her saviour by being immersed into his death and raised to a new life in him.

Not too long ago Kaitlyn wasn't sure of what she believed spiritually but had an open mind. Due to our friendship she began attending worship at Hyvots Bank, Edinburgh, as regularly as her shifts allowed (she is a support worker). She began studying God's word, both in personal study and also with a few of the friends she has made since her first attendance. She asked many thought provoking questions in

the process. She survived a bout of Covid-19 early in lockdown and began involving herself in the Hyvots virtual worship as well as online BBS studies. Due to various trying situations during lockdown she found herself turning to God in prayer and realised that she had come not only to believe that there is a God but also that Jesus is both God's son and our saviour.

We ask that you rejoice with us as Kaitlyn begins her new life in Christ.

Mark Wilson





BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

New online classes

They say that “Where there’s a will, there’s a way”, and though I don't know who ‘they’ actually are, they have often been proved to be correct. When, several months ago, we were first confined to our homes it looked as if we might no longer be able to enjoy sharing together in times of Bible study – at least for the foreseeable future. But we would not be deterred.

Just a few days after the official ‘lockdown’ came into affect we began hosting a number of weekly Bible classes online and have recently completed our first twelve-weeks series. We held these classes on the Zoom platform, and were greatly encouraged by the numbers that attended each day. Many of these classes are currently available on our YouTube channel, with more to be added in the near future.

Last week we began a second twelve-week series of online classes and are greatly encouraged by the continued interest. We are hosting four evening classes, plus one afternoon class, and continuing with our Friday evening Bible Quiz Time. We will see how things are with regards to quarantine conditions at the end of this period, but are planning

to continue to hold at least two evening classes each week in the future.

We are again using the Zoom platform, which we have found to be very accessible. We welcome any who would like to join in a live, virtual classroom setting for any of the following:

Monday
8.00 pm ~ Letters to Thessalonica with John Griffiths

Tuesday
8.00 pm ~ Themes from Romans with Jack Paton

Wednesday
8.00 pm ~ Overview of Revelation with Jon Galloway

Thursday
8.00 pm ~ The Prophet Ezekiel with Patrick Boyns

Friday
3.00 pm ~ Overview of Revelation (repeat)
8.00 pm ~ Bible Quiz Time!

(See details on each class on the following page.)

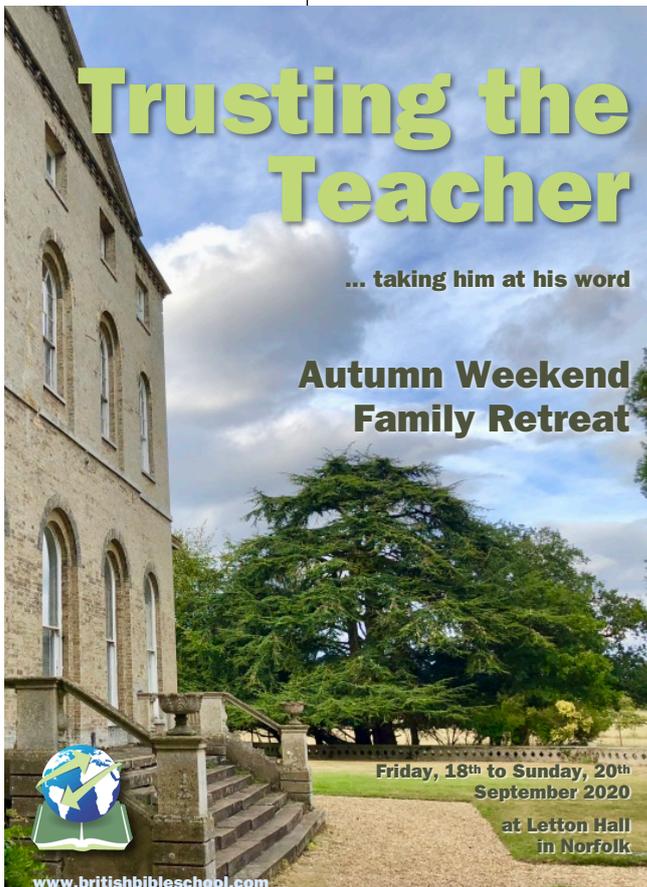
Link to online class details on our website: <http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>

Link to our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkIxLiDuK79HWVIEVPVZOha>

We are still hoping to run our Autumn Family Retreat in Norfolk in September, as well as our Study Week at Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District in November. Of course, both of these will be subject to the ability to travel and socialise at the time, so we will keep you posted.

Thank you for your continued interest, prayers and support.

Patrick Boyns
britishbibleschool.com



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Weekday Online Bible Classes

with the

British Bible School



For twelve weeks commencing 22nd June 2020

Monday

8.00 pm ~ Letters to Thessalonica

Paul's letters to the Thessalonians are perhaps the earliest of his extant letters. Their importance is often overlooked, but through these letters we see the love and care that Paul had for the newly founded Christian community in the city of Thessalonica. Paul writes to encourage, exhort, correct and rebuke these new Christians. His words are of interest and relevance to us today as they address matters that continue to concern us in our walk with Christ and as we await his return.

Presenter: John Griffiths

Tuesday

8.00 pm ~ Themes from Romans

The words "gospel" and "evangelize" are prominent throughout the letter and it soon becomes evident that every topic touched upon in the letter is an exposition of Paul's understanding of the true nature of "the gospel". Whether it be salvation; the relationship between Jew and Gentile; justification by faith – these are all elaborations of the word "gospel".

Over twelve weeks we will cover many of the themes presented by the Apostle and how they may enlighten us to a greater understanding of "gospel" and to share with Paul his mission: "Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the good news".

Presenter: Jack Paton

Wednesday

8.00 pm ~ Overview of Revelation

The book of Revelation is a mystery to many because of the images and symbols it contains. But this message was written to be understood and was given from God to encourage Christians. We will consider its first century setting, what the images and symbols meant in the Jewish prophets, as well as statements made by first century contemporary writers. Join us for an exciting overview of this important message!

Presenter: Jon Galloway

Thursday

8.00 pm ~ The Prophet Ezekiel

The book of the prophet Ezekiel is probably the easiest of the longer prophets and so serves as a useful introduction to this part of the Hebrew Bible. The writing is clear, vibrant and full of excitement, presenting a very uniform message to the exiles. It has much to say of the mission of God for his people today. You may never meet a more fascinating chap than the son of Buzi – these next twelve weeks may change your life.

Presenter: Patrick Boyns

Friday

3.00 pm ~ Overview of Revelation (rpt)

A live 'repeat' from Wednesday evening.

8.00 pm ~ Bible Quiz Time!

Light-hearted, educational, entertainment!

Presenter: Steve Whitehead

AT REST



Stephanie Stones (Loughborough) 1928-2020

Mum was born on 24th February 1928 in Leicester. At a young age she moved to Loughborough, along with her brother Cedric and sister Jill.

She met dad (Thomas Stones) whilst he was doing National Service in 1948. They got married at Loughborough Trinity Church in October 1949. They moved to Silksworth, County Durham and had two children – Valerie and Clifford. They then moved back to Loughborough as mum could not settle in the north-east. Mum then had Stephanie, Karl and Lavern.

One day dad went to a mission held at Loughborough church of Christ and upon hearing the gospel message was baptised later that week. Mum followed suit shortly afterwards and this started their long association at Loughborough. As children we were taken to church meetings with them.

Mum, like all mums I guess, meant everything to us. She was always there to look after her family through life's

ups and downs. In all, mum had 21 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

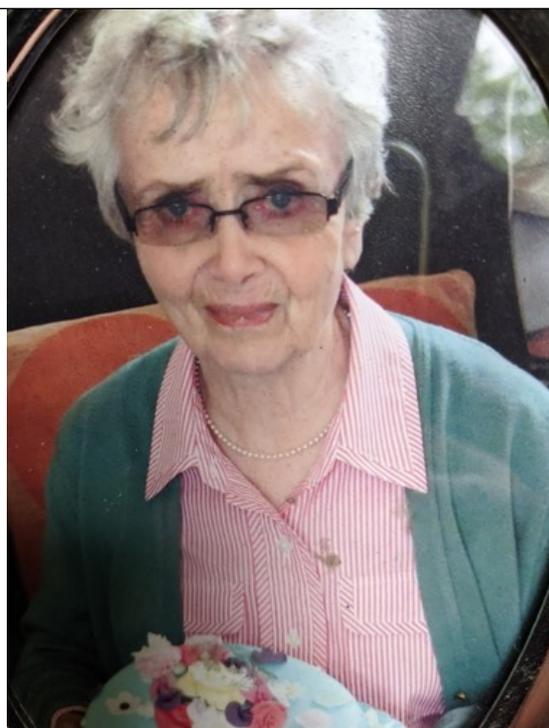
Losing Valerie ten years ago was a big blow. However, it was only in the past year that Alzheimer's and dementia started to take its toll and mum finally succumbed on the 14th May.

We have many fond memories of mum. She was renowned for her love for a cup of tea and you would lose count of how many she would have during a day. In later years, if you were present on a Sunday morning you were sure to go away with a pack of Trebor mints, courtesy of mum.

There's so much more to be said, but suffice to say mum will be very sadly missed – not only by the family but by the congregation at Loughborough and beyond. She is now with the Lord and we look forward to the day we will all be united again.

Karl & Clifford Stones

Barbara Hunter (Motherwell) 1934-2020



We chronicle the death of sister Barbara Hunter, who passed away on the 22nd May 2020 at the age of 86. Barbara will be registered as a COVID-19 victim, although she had been in poor health for some time. Barbara was the third of five daughters born to William and Barbara Hunter. She became a Christian in 1953 and remained faithful to Jesus to the end.

Barbara pursued a nursing career and rose to the level of a Ward Sister. She did much of her training in Glasgow and London. Her career was interrupted by a long-term illness; but she returned to work, and, latterly, became a Health Visitor.

The congregation will miss her, above all, for her wisdom, reliability, steadfastness and benevolence. She was never fearful of speaking the truth to indifference, apathy and, on occasions, not a little hostility. She loved the Lord – and it showed.

She is survived by her sister Jenny Scobbie and many relatives, including ten nephews and nieces. She loved them all and all her family in the Lord. She was a loyal friend to many.

The funeral took place at Airbles Cemetery, Motherwell, with a small number in attendance because of the present restrictions. Ian Davidson officiated. A copy of the service is available to anyone interested.

William Purcell

Worship and study opportunities during lockdown (*England is now allowed Sunday worship, Scotland should follow in a few weeks*):

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/UCkLxLiDuK79HWVIEVPVZOhA>

British Bible School: Classes through the week on Zoom: Thessalonian Letters, Themes from Romans, Overview of Revelation, The Prophet Ezekiel and a Quiz night – <http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>

Cumbernauld: Worship on Zoom. Contact cumbernauldchurchofchrist@gmail.com.

East Kilbride: Weekly lesson – www.youtube.com/channel/UCRS16tzz3JzqdtXgKPfyJYg

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

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



A view of the Bible lands

Where Jesus was immersed

The Jordan River is a ‘must see’ for any trip to Israel. As rivers go, it isn’t a wide river nor is it that long (156 miles). The headwaters are in the mountains north of the Sea of Galilee and it terminates in the Dead Sea. We remember the Israelites crossing it, Naaman dipping in it, as well as the immersions that took place there in the time of Jesus. And, of course, Jesus was immersed by John there.

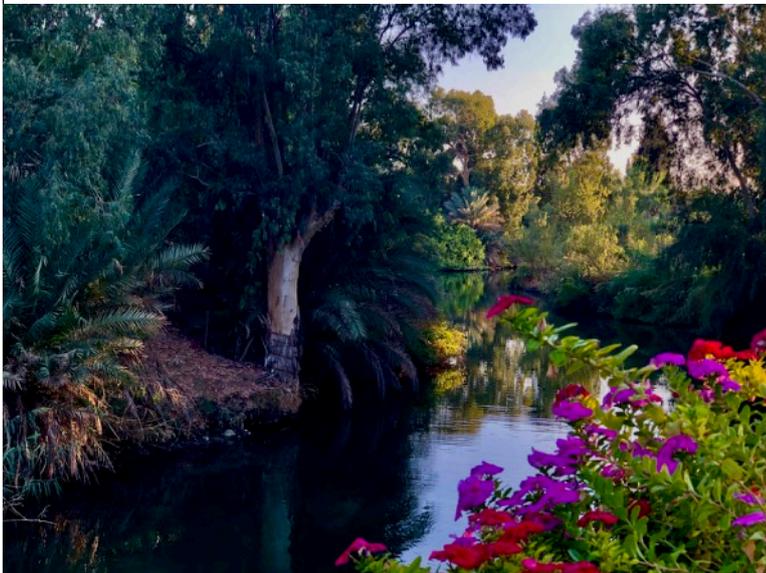
There are two ‘baptismal sites’ that we have visited in our trips to Israel. The one pictured above is at Qaser Al-yahud, the southern Jordan near the Dead Sea and Jericho. The other site, pictured below, is in the north just south of the Sea of Galilee. The southern location has only recently been reopened to visitors, due to it being in ‘no man’s land’ with the country of Jordan being on the other side. Most likely it was near this site that Jesus was immersed.

This southern site has a lot of Biblical history attached to it. Besides being near



where Jesus was immersed, this is also very near where the Israelites crossed as they began their conquest of Canaan. This site is also associated with Elijah and Elisha and their crossing when Elijah was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire in a whirlwind.

Although these incidents from Israelite history are mentioned on the sign as you arrive at Qaser Al-yahud, most people are more interested in it as possibly being the place where Jesus was immersed. During both of our visits here, as well as to our visit to the northern site, there were queues of people waiting to be immersed in the Jordan (although I tried to avoid these in my photos, being more interested in the historical aspects of this location).



We need to realise that *where* we are immersed is not what is important. Being immersed in the Jordan River near where Jesus was also immersed does not confer any special blessing on us. The specialness comes from being united with Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection as we put to

A view of the Bible lands

death the old life of sin, bury it, and are raised to live a new life in him. It matters not where this takes place.

There are two things that surprised me. The first was how narrow the river is. It is a very small river, as rivers go. And it is muddy! The photos on this page are from both of our visits – and you can see the river is the same colour (although it was a bit deeper in 2019 than it was early in 2018). It brought to my mind Naaman's reaction when Elisha told him to dip seven times in the Jordan to be cured of his leprosy: *"Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?"* So he turned and went off in a rage" (2 Kings 5:12 NIV). The muddiness doesn't seem to deter people today!

You might wonder why the Jordan had to be stopped by God for Israel to cross when they entered the Promised Land.

There are several factors that we need to understand. When Israel crossed the water was deeper and wider than it normally was due to it



being after the spring rains – the river was flooded. Even today the river floods. The photo in the centre of this page has a board attached to the wall showing how deep the water was on 13th January 2013 – the river can still flood today. The other factor is that the Sea of Galilee now has a dam at the southern end to provide water for irrigation, so it no longer flows into the Jordan as it once did.



As with most locations in Israel, I struggled to 'see' the sites as they would have been, because of the usual religious paraphernalia. There are chapels built on both sides of the river plus the presence of Israeli and Jordanian soldiers. But I did manage the photo at the top and bottom of this page to try to get an unobstructed view of the river.

Was it worth visiting? Absolutely! (And I have a bottle of water from the river, as well.) It was wonderful to see not only the area Jesus was immersed but where so much Biblical history took place.

Jon Galloway



NOTICES

Central European Faith Talks

JIM MCGUIGGAN

July 3-4 @7pm (CET)(6pm BST)

Jim is a North Irish preacher and theologian who has over the past four decades been one of the most prolific writers in Churches of Christ. Jim's talk on Friday evening will focus on the Incarnation—"God being man." Jim's talk on Saturday will be on "The Spirit working within us."

And more to come:

Patrick Boyns	Aug 7-8
Charles Rix	Sep 4-5
F. LaGard Smith	Oct 2-3
Jim Baird	Nov 6-7

From the people who brought

you:

BBC2019 BBC2018

BBC2017 BBC2016

BBC2015 BBC2014

BBC2013 BBC2012

BBC2011 BBC2010

BBC2009 BBC2008

BBC2007 BBC2006

BBC2005 BBC2004

BBC2003 BBC2002

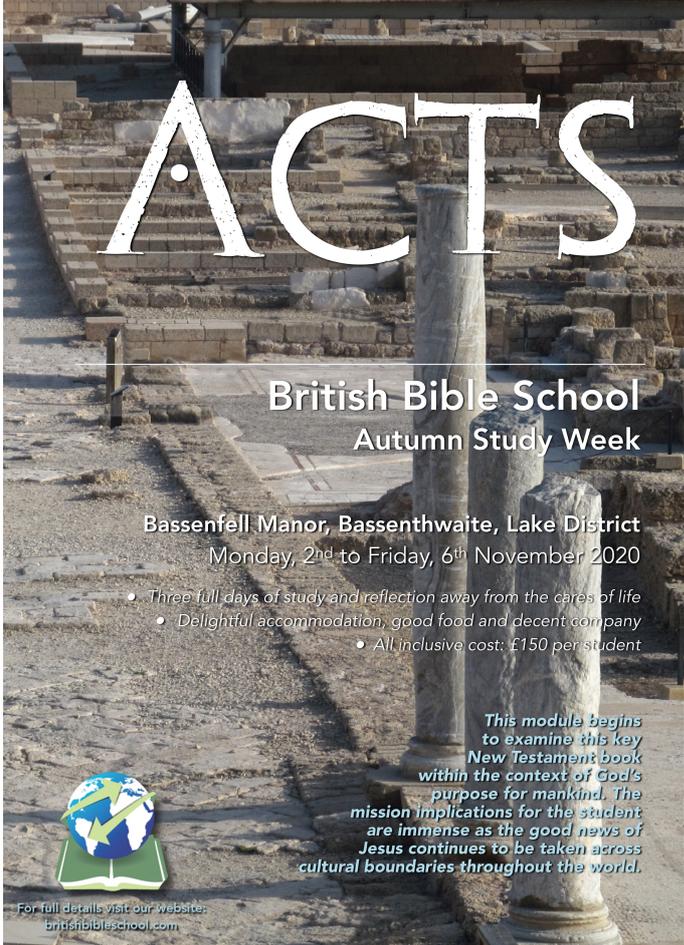
BBC2001 BBC2000

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



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



DIARY

July

4th – **Edmonton (London)**: Men's lectureship on Zoom – "Leading by Example", 10.00 am-2.00 pm. Speakers: Garry Smith and James Obeng. Contact: Maxwell (07983 435054), James (07508 146074), Charles (07506 689396), or Anthony (07847 321141).

August

British Bible Camp: "Virtual Jesus – Keeping Him Real" – a 'non-camp' digital experience for ages 8-18. Contact: Jason (07795 560990)

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

September

5th – **Great Barr**: Fellowship Day. As our Community centre is still closed, we will be having an 'online fellowship day' on Zoom with the theme: "Devotion to the public reading of Scriptures". The day promises lots of scripture reading, prayers and games. The Zoom details are as follows: ID: 879 9050 1513; Password: 484833. 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

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 (cofcastwood@aol.com).

European Events Calendar

July

3rd-4th – **Central European Faith Talks**: Featuring Jim McGuiggan, 6.00 pm. Venue: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5702534850>. Contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com).

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).



THE FINAL WORD



Tell me
the
story of
Jesus

It was to have been Mothering Sunday and I was booked to preach in our home church, a privilege I love. But lockdown was beginning and places of worship were closed.

The day before, when we realised what was happening, Pauline and I decided that we would read a chapter of Mark's gospel each day from that Sunday, which we did. We read, we discussed, and we prayed and celebrated the Lord's Supper. The setting was different but as the days went on we were again thrilled at the life of Jesus. He was busy working, teaching and demonstrating his power.

Next we visited John and were impacted by the great emphasis of the nature of Jesus as God. We moved to Matthew and read again of the fulfilment of the Hebrew Scriptures and the consistent belligerence of the religious leaders.

The days seemed to be flying by but then we met Dr Luke as he filled gaps about Jewish life and wrote with authority of Jesus. Day after day we read the gospels and although Jesus emphasised the necessity of belief in him as God and how his followers should act he really said very little about the church.

Certainly it was to be built by him but the formulae for being part of a new covenant is little.

should we, two millennia afterwards gather for worship? The emphasis of the teaching must be Jesus but what else? We left the story of the four with regret. The journey over 89 days was complete.

We continued into Luke's second document and it felt as if we were being pushed faster and faster along. The Holy Spirit had been given and he was affecting lives and turning the world upside down. The power of God was now in the hands of mankind but as the power of the Son of God was proclaimed so it seemed that life was getting harder. Christianity is not for the weak. The Martyr Stephen, full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, did so much good among the people and for his desire to share the loving care of Jesus he was stoned to death by the Sanhedrin, God's leaders on Earth. The story moves on.

Oh yes, reader, we have read and studied these passages before and taught and preached from them but perhaps we have never read the story of Jesus so consistently nor touched the hem of his garment in such a way. We hear many fine lessons but there is nothing as great as the story of Jesus.

Trevor

Plant in our hearts and minds, gracious God, the life of Jesus.

Help us to reflect the Saviour of the world, help us to know him, to follow him, to love him.

Let Jesus be our all in all.

Let nothing become a barrier between us and him.

Amen



If it was not for the writing in 1 Corinthians we would not know for sure that we are to take part in what we call the Lord's Supper. How