

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE



June 2021 • Vol 53 No 6



**Photo of conscientious objectors
from the First World War**

**Articles from Trevor Ralph and
John Griffiths**

Update on Covid-19 in India

CONTENTS

- 3 MY PERSPECTIVE
Grandchildren
- 4 CONGRATULATIONS
- 5 FROM THE ARCHIVES
**Photo of conscientious objectors
from the First World War**
- 6 "JOSHUA: AN INSPIRATION"
Encouragement from Trevor Ralph
- 7 BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES
Can you help?
- 8 AT REST
Gladys Cohen (Northampton)
- 9 "THE GOD WHO COMFORTS"
Encouragement from John Griffiths
- 10 NOTICES
- 11 APPEALS AND UPDATES
- **Covid-19 update from India**
 - **India Oxygen Concentrator Appeal update**
 - **Eswatini Medical Help Appeal**
 - **Pakistan**
- 15 DIARY OF EVENTS IN UK
- 16 THE FINAL WORD
The Spirit of the Lord



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.

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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.

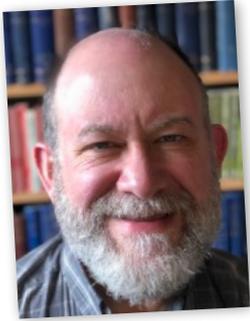
To receive *The Christian Worker Magazine* as a free pdf, send your e-address to jdgalloway@mac.com. Professionally printed copies are available at cost. Please contact Trevor for details – twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk.



Front cover: Nora Waite's garden in spring; above: apple trees blossoming in Scotland



MY PERSPECTIVE



Reflections on a new generation

Grandchildren

Life has a real way of changing quickly. Arlene and I have almost doubled our number of grandchildren since last month. Where we had one grandson in the UK and two grandchildren in the USA, we now have three in the UK – and all grandsons. In fact, we have four grandsons all under two years of age.

I don't know if you can tell it but I am a proud grandpa! I would hasten to add that I am also just now a tired grandpa! I am discovering that having grandchildren in two different locations means a greater amount of my time is devoted to our grandchildren – and we are loving every minute of it.

One of my daily Bible readings last week happened to be Proverbs 17:6 – *“Grandchildren are the crown of the old, and the glory of sons is their fathers”* (NASB). Although I don't yet think of myself as 'old', I would have to agree with the sentiment of this proverb. Grandchildren are such a blessing!

One of the Psalms that I have appreciated over the years is Psalm 127, particularly the latter verses. *“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them”* (NIV). I understand this more now than I did when my children were young. And I'm sure there is a blessing for a man who has a quiver full of grandchildren.

I am looking forward to spending as much time as I can with my grandchildren. There is so much that I

want them to know about our family, about life, and more importantly about Jesus. I want my grandchildren to know that life is more than what is around us – that there is an eternity ahead of us where we can all experience real life together as children of God.

Although I don't regard myself as being 'old' (yet), I realise that time is swiftly moving on. There is so much I want to experience with my grandchildren but I realise that there is no guarantee how long I will be here. Will I see them in school activities? Or completing high school? Or going on to university? Or getting married? Will I get to know my great-grandchildren?

With all these questions in my mind, my determination is that my grandchildren will know me and have joyous memories of our time together. I want them to know what is important to me. Perhaps these words from Paul's letter to Titus sums it up:

“Tell the older men to be sober, dignified, sensible, and healthy in respect to their faith, love, and patience... Likewise, encourage the younger men to be sensible in every way. Offer yourself as a role model of good actions. Show integrity, seriousness, and a sound message that is above criticism when you teach, so that any opponent will be ashamed because they won't find anything bad to say about us.” (Titus 2:6-8 CEB)

May we all learn to better show Jesus in our lives, especially to our children and grandchildren.

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!

Grandparents again!

Jon & Arlene Galloway (East Kilbride) are pleased to welcome another grandson. **Elliot Odysseus Skleparis** was born on 5th May to Dimitris and Bethany. Congratulations to this new family.



Elliot Skleparis



Benjamin Galloway

Another baby!

Scott & Rachelle Galloway (Glasgow) are happy to welcome **Benjamin Patrick Nicholas Galloway** into their growing family, who was born on 20th May, a younger brother to Joseph. Proud grandparents are Patrick Boyns (British Bible School) and Jon & Arlene Galloway (East Kilbride).

CENTRAL EUROPEAN FAITH TALKS

presents

FRAGILITY OF LIFE

DEALING WITH THE UNEXPECTED *Ruth Levai*
JUNE 4, 2021 @ 7 PM (CET)

LOSS AND GRIEVING *Patrick Boyns*
JUNE 5, 2021 @ 7 PM (CET)

(Details of Zoom meeting on the BBS website)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

We received the photo below from Bethan Mentore recently and thought it would be of interest to include in the pages of *The Christian Worker*. This was part of her grandfather's collection of photos (Bill Hurcome).

Sometimes we forget the price that was paid by Christians in years past when they stood up for what they believed. These Christian men refused to give in to the pressure to conform to what the society then wanted them to believe and do.

Perhaps there is a lesson for us when we think about what they went through. As Christians, we are being pressured to conform to the standards of our society and to change what we believe. In years past we often referred to this as being 'politically correct'.

I don't know about you, but I would rather be Biblically correct than to be politically correct. The challenge of Joshua remains true (see article on page 6 by Trevor Ralph). We, too, need to decide who we are going to obey. Are we going to give in and conform to those around us or are we going to remain true to our Lord? It is a question that each generation has to answer for themselves.

There are the names of few people identified in the typed inscription below the photo, but not identified with who they are in the picture. If you can identify these it would be wonderful to get a complete list of names of those in this photo (jdgalloway@mac.com).

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



JOSHUA: AN INSPIRATION

I would imagine that many of us need people to look up to, people who inspire us, encourage us in many aspects of our lives. Many Christians have come into my life over the many years that I have been a part of the Lord's family and so many have been an inspiration to me. Many of them also blessed me during my time at the British Bible School through their teaching.

One person from the Old Testament who inspires me, and in many ways has become a hero to me, is Joshua. This was a man who was the natural choice to take over as leader of the Israelites. Joshua was at the side of Moses time after time and was trained by Moses in the ways of the Lord. When Moses died Joshua was the only choice. More importantly he was also God's choice to take over leading the people of Israel. This is why God reassured him when He said: "Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord, your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). When we study the life of Joshua, God truly kept his promises and Joshua had success in what he did.

But there was a condition to God keeping his promises. Joshua needed to keep God before him forever. He was told he should meditate on God's law day and night and be careful to do all that was written in it. Because of this God promised that he would give Joshua success and all his ways prosper.

When we look at Joshua's life from the moment Israel crossed the River Jordan and marched on to Jericho, God gave him great success as they continued to take the land of Canaan. The main reason was because Israel was under the leadership of Joshua a man of faith. Even

when they came up to the walls of Jericho, or against the five kings who combined to fight against the Israelites, or the kings of the east or west of Canaan, not one of them could overpower and defeat Israel. The reason was because God was with Joshua and Israel and the victory was the Lord's. Then finally, after Israel took the land of Canaan, Joshua called the people together and challenged them: "Choose this day whom you will serve...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

What about today? Many have gone through and are still going through difficult and trying times. While these times are unpleasant, I believe there is one thing we can all be assured of: our great God and father is taking care of us.

God spoke to Joshua and I believe it is true today that our God is with us wherever we are. In Matthew 28:20 Jesus told his disciples: "Lo, I am with you always". Here is truth: he is with us always. Yes, there are obstacles and difficult days ahead. Joshua faced his problems with the help of God and so can we. We must face our great God and father and know he is with us all the way. In 1 Corinthians 16 Paul wrote: "Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong".

Just as God was by the side of Joshua, encouraging and blessing him, I believe God will be with us, encouraging us and walking with us every step of the way if we allow him.

May God bless you, lift you and build you up every day. Stand firm and be strong.

Trevor Ralph



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

In light of recent developments, we are looking for interested and capable individuals to help play a more active role in the work of the Bible School in a number of different areas.

Charity Trustees

Firstly, we are looking for a number of additional **Charity Trustees** to serve alongside those already serving in this capacity. It may be that you already have experience as a Charity Trustee or that you are interested in being a part of a group responsible for ensuring that the British Bible School fulfils its stated objectives. The role is primarily strategic and is clearly defined within the British Bible School Charity Constitution. If you think that you might be interested in serving in this capacity, or if you know of any who might be interested, please let us know and we will send relevant information.

Can you help?

Action Groups

We are also looking for others to be actively involved in our new Action Groups. These include Production, Publicity and Residential groups – and it's where most of the work actually takes place. So if you have any skills in the following areas and would like to be a part of the British Bible School team (or if you know of others who might) then please do let us know.

In **Production**, we're looking for people with experience and knowledge of: audio and video production; post-production; animation; graphic design; and other related skills.

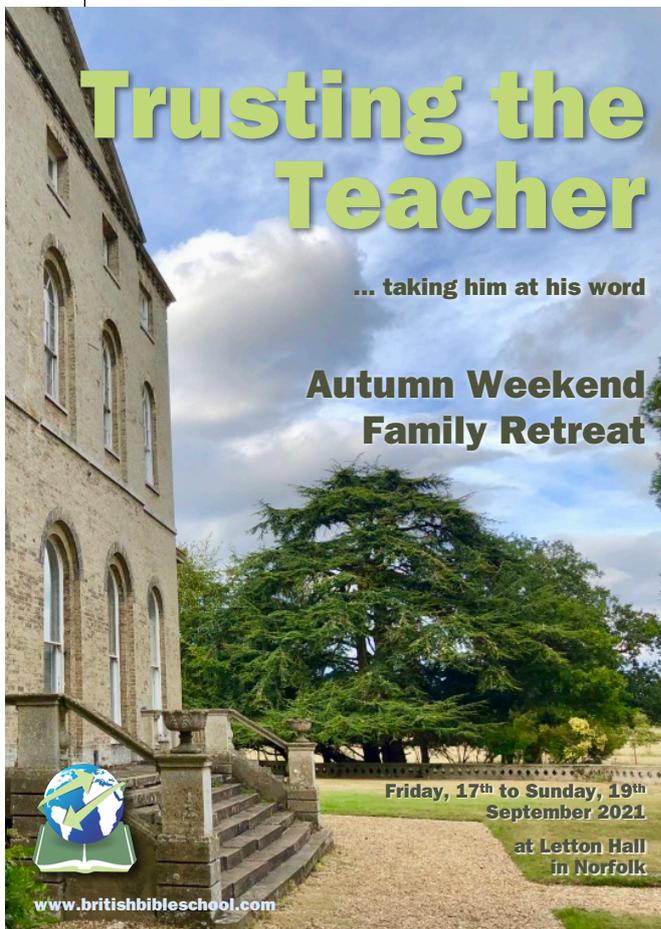
In **Publicity**, we're looking for people with experience and knowledge of: publicity, advertising or journalism; social media; graphic and web design; and other related skills.

In **Residential**, we're looking for people with experience and knowledge of: event planning/organisation; catering and hospitality.

As we continue to develop this work we not only recognise that we have need of greater involvement from others, but we also recognise that the look and shape of the School will continue to change in the years ahead. We are deeply committed to continuing to help prepare others to teach the Word to all the world – to help equip men and women of God to serve according to the abilities he has given us. So please give thoughtful and prayerful consideration to these things, and get in touch if you think you might be able to help. Thank you.

Patrick Boyns

britishbibleschool.com



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

AT REST

Gladys Cohen (Northampton)

1929-2021

Gladys Cohen escaped poverty by coming to the UK. From the time she arrived she worked and worked to earn the money to rescue other family members from that same poverty. At her funeral service one after the other from two or three generations rose to speak of how she gave them a better chance in life.

Gladys was immersed into Jesus in the 1980 Spring Campaign in Northampton and has been a faithful part of the congregation ever since. She was one of a group of special ladies in the congregation in Northampton who all supported the work of the church. Whenever she could be, Gladys would be present at meetings. She was one of the smartest, most coordinated dressers ever, always looking sophisticated, well dressed and groomed, with a matching handbag and hat.

Anyone new to the congregation would be greeted by and looked after by Gladys. On our arrival in Northampton Gladys was amongst the first people we got to know. Searching us out to ask how we were settling in and asking about our children by name. This has been repeated for many over the years.

Coffee Morning was a treat with Gladys keeping us entertained with a lifetime of stories and sharing occasional treats. When she turned 90 a couple of years ago it was a shock – up to that time I'd thought she was in her 70's because she was so sprightly.



Always thoughtful, always asking after others welfare, and never complaining – she was a joy to know.

She experienced a lot of changes in the congregation over the years but always remained faithful to her Lord and to the congregation, and, for that, she is to be commended. She was an inspiration and a great encouragement because of her steadfastness and faithfulness. She was such a lovely lady and it will be sad to return to the building and not see her there.

We thank God for the life of our sister Gladys. We will miss her great smiles, hugs and delicious dishes at our fellowship meals. Our Sunday school teachers remember her gifts of sweets and biscuits to the kids to encourage them. She can now say “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Mark Hill



THE GOD WHO COMFORTS

The problem of human suffering and affliction has beset humankind for generations. When we suffer, our natural reaction is to ask, “Why did this happen to me? If God has the power to prevent my suffering, why doesn’t he do something about it? If God loves me, why does he want me to suffer?”

Through personal experience the apostle Paul was familiar with suffering. But rather than dwell upon his sufferings, Paul saw these experiences as an opportunity for spiritual growth.

The Character of God

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Paul deals with the two related concepts of suffering and comfort. He begins by describing God as “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort”. The thought of God as the Father of mercies suggests his compassion for those who are suffering. The Psalmist said, “But thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Psalm 86:15).

If “Father of mercies” emphasises the compassion of God, “God of all comfort” emphasises the help and encouragement that God is able to give to those who are

suffering. The word ‘comfort’ means more than sympathy; it involves practical help and strengthening. God does not just sympathise with us in our afflictions, but he provides much needed strength for our survival.

Paul goes on to say that it is “the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all

our affliction”. Paul knew what it meant to experience the comfort of God in a time of affliction. In 2 Corinthians 7:5-7 he recalls events in Macedonia where “we were afflicted at every turn”. Despite these circumstances God comforted Paul by the arrival of Titus who brought news of the transformed faith of the Corinthians. Titus was the instrument of the practical comfort of God which served to strengthen and encourage Paul in a time of great affliction.

The Purpose of Comfort

Paul sees his experience of God’s comfort as something which can bring benefit to others, “so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (2 Corinthians 1:4). By comforting us God is equipping us to help others who face similar circumstances to our own. We can comfort them with the comfort we have received from God.

Sharing the Suffering of Christ

Paul continues, “For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too”. How do we share Christ’s sufferings? Christ suffered because of his faithfulness to the will of the Father. The followers of Christ share his sufferings when they, too, suffer for their faithfulness. Comfort is promised for those who suffer in this way.

Participation with Jesus in his suffering leads to participation with Jesus in comfort. It is a privilege to suffer with and for Christ. The Christian writer Polycarp, as he was about to be executed for failing to renounce Christ prayed, “I thank thee that thou hast judged me worthy of this hour”.



THE GOD WHO COMFORTS

From 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 we see a new approach to the problem of suffering and affliction. Paul encourages us to see such experiences as a means of spiritual growth, and consequently to thank God for them. Under such circumstances we can be strengthened by the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

John Griffiths

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



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

Zoom Meeting ID: 82751836116
Passcode: 203040

HOST: CHURCH OF CHRIST, EDMONTON (UK)

CONTACTS
(+44): 07908725427 | 07979096293 | 07852343010

PARTICIPANTS AGE: 18+

31ST JULY 2021
12PM - 4PM BST

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

I am searching for gospel tracts to hand out and deliver in my local area. I am looking for tracts that will inform people in brief about the good news of Jesus.

If anyone can help or point me to someone who can then I'd be most grateful. Please contact me at antw_73@hotmail.com or phone/text me on [0771 0676903](tel:07710676903) if you can help.

Thank you in Christ.

Anthony Warren
Eastwood, Nottinghamshire

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



APPEALS & UPDATES

INDIA

Greetings to you from India. Thank you so much for your support, for all the time praying for us and strengthening our thoughts for the glory of God.

It is a very hard and frightening situation going on in our area of India during the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. It has disrupted lives all over the country and while we can sit comfortably in our homes to help contain the spread of the virus, there are many people who are struggling to save their loved ones.

The most pressing need during this difficult time is that of oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, hospital beds and medical kits for the most vulnerable. By God's grace and through some individual friends we have in the USA, Ireland along with congregations in the UK through Tony Tyson, we have received some funds for immediate relief efforts, through this we are able to start helping in the following ways.

Medical relief: We bought six home based oxygen concentrators, eight nebulisers along with needed medical supplies. We are getting calls every day from people in rural areas who cannot get to the towns to get medicines due to the restrictions on travel that have been imposed by the government (people have to get home each day by noon). Not only do they need the medicines but there is also for the daily needs of groceries, rice and other materials. Because

of our lockdown so many are suffering. We are trying our best to reach our communities through the network of congregations and Christians that we have. We are in need of more oxygen concentrators, nebulisers and medical kits to save more lives.

Cooked nutritious food: Last year during the Covid-19 relief we were able to help each day with 1600-1800 food packs that were distributed to almost 30,000 families in our network of congregations. This time this is not possible because of the virus spread. Local authorities have approached us to provide these food boxes so that with their local government appointed volunteers we will be able to provide food to isolated people. We are making arrangements to cook and pack these food packs for 500-600 daily for the next forty days. We are in need of funds to reach even more people.

Isolation centre: We offered our space in Samalkot for an isolation facility. In India six and even more from one family live in only one or two rooms and use one bathroom. If one person in a household is tested Covid positive they need to be in home isolation for fourteen days. With families crammed into one room and children often having to share beds with parents or siblings, the risk of the entire family becoming infected is very high. Not only do they have to sleep, eat, and live in one small room, they must often share toilets, bathrooms and kitchens with other residents. Social distancing, regular hand washing and self-isolation are being touted as preventive measures to tackle the spread of COVID-19. But for the



APPEALS & UPDATES

majority of rural Indians, maintaining social distancing and following hygiene with self-isolation guidelines is extremely difficult for a majority of the population due to existing housing and sanitation facilities.

So we thought of using our big property in Samalkot (Tony Coffy and Tony Tyson visited this facility and now SWAN women empowerment programmes are going on there run by Sonia every day) for those who are in need and want to be separated from their immediate family for fifteen days. Local authorities inspected our property and agreed to use it from the first week of June. Meanwhile we need to do small repair work on the electricity and to build outside bathrooms, as well as to prepare 40-50 beds and kitchen utilities. We need to provide food for those who come and authorities will take care of sanitisation and medical care.

RPN: All church buildings and religious premises have been closed until further notice from 1st May. Because of this the congregations are not able to meet. We are planning to send rice bags to the preachers' families as they are facing economic crisis. We don't have much but we can give 10 kg of rice and some dry rations to each preacher.

Funeral and cremation help: The second wave of Covid-19 in India has caused many fatalities. People are dying and bodies are left unattended. From our contacts we are seeing 7 to 10 deaths each day. Thousands are dying in hospitals and their loved ones wail helplessly in pain. Families are left alone and those in rural areas face huge problems in arranging a funeral. We are getting phone calls from people who are unable to arrange a funeral because they are also sick, scared or too weak to leave their home. We are helping perform the last rites and we ensure respect to the dead as per their religion. We need help for continuing this good work.

SWAN women: These women are helping in cooking, making masks and taking care of family members in these critical times. By God's grace

their course of tailor training is almost finished. We are also meeting their family needs.

Children Feeding and isolation: During the last two weeks we have been using our house to accommodate fourteen children and are taking care of them as their parent(s) test positive for Covid-19 in our village of Pavara. Because the families have no space to isolate and have no one to care their children we are doing what we can do. We need donors to provide for more kids.

The need is so great. Please help us to help others and to show our faith in action. We request you to join this mission as a small contribution might save some innocent lives in the wake of this deadly pandemic.

Vijay and Sonia Madiki
Samalkot, Andhra Pradesh, India

INDIA OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR APPEAL UPDATE

We are pleased to advise that so far we have received £15,850 for the Covid appeal for oxygen concentrators. Twelve Oxygen Concentrators were purchased from the funds raised and were made available to the needy through a medical doctor, who is coordinating a pool of Oxygen Concentrators. Since the day they were purchased not one of the Oxygen Concentrators has been idle – our coordinating doctor said: “there is always somebody waiting for the machine”.

Along with Oxygen Concentrators, 121 families were helped with monthly rations, monetary support and medical supplies. All this is made possible due your kind and faithful support.

The battle is not over yet, the relief work is still on going. Please continue to remember India in your prayers, that God may bless our efforts and provide for our needs. If you wish you to contribute to this work please contact Tony Tyson (tonytyson66@yahoo.co.uk).

Tony Tyson
Skelmersdale

Joel Madiki
Gollaprolu, India

VJ Madiki

APPEALS & UPDATES

ESWATINI MEDICAL HELP APPEAL

My name is Bob Whittaker from Eswatini (formerly Swaziland). My wife Annette and I have been here for the past eight years. During that time we have built and operated a community clinic employing 27 workers.

When we began we didn't have any funds but we did have some friends in America, my own brother and one of the men from a congregation in the kingdom of Eswatini. Over time they provided the funds we needed to build. My wife is an administrator and a project manager. She designed the building and oversaw the construction. The clinic opened five years ago and in that time we have registered 57,000 patients and have provided services for over 120,000 people. We built the clinic in an area where many people could get to us on foot. The clinic we built is in the car park of the local church of Christ which is in a low cost housing area (aka 'informal housing estate').

We are in the fortunate position to have attracted the attention of an NGO whose interest is in treating HIV and TB. We have lots of people suffering these conditions. Of the 27 employees they pay the salaries of 16 leaving us to find the funds for the remaining 11. The NGO has done a marvellous job in training our staff at all levels for the TB and HIV programme. They provide continuous supervision to ensure that the services reach the standard needed.

We need a helping hand with a clinic that has too many patients. I want to appeal for medical staff to come over here and join us in this important medical work. We need nurses and doctors who have the desire to serve with a commitment to personal growth in the faith. There is a great opportunity for ministering to the soul as well as the body.

We need more doctors than we have at present. I trained in obstetrics and gynaecology and family practice in England before I moved to Africa. We



spent 27 years in Nigeria before finding our present location. We have a long term goal of building a maternity unit nearby and dedicate it to women who are having an uncomplicated pregnancy and who want the labour and delivery to be the same. If any doctor or nurse is interested in maternity care there's a good opportunity in the offing. If you are a nurse then there is opportunity for clinical work in general outpatients and in the future the maternity service or in pioneering a community health programme. I am being asked to start community clinics but I am too busy here bearing the burden of the clinic and the cervical cancer screen and treat programmes.

What's it like in Eswatini? Well, it's really nice. It's a Kingdom under the authority of a King with the help of a Parliament and a prime minister. A unique feature of the country is that it has only one tribe and thus only one language which really helps the country along – there is more unity and purpose here compared with Nigeria (there are more than 250 different tribal languages in Nigeria). In Eswatini the two languages are Siswati and English. The total population is 1.1 million. The country is influenced by South Africa. The grocery stores are just like Tesco and the

APPEALS & UPDATES



other grocery stores in the UK. The roads are good and the weather is more Mediterranean-like than the UK. The country is to the east of South Africa and this affects the rain fall – the country is prone to droughts. Its winter time now but the days are bright and full of sunshine and temperatures between 20° and 30° C (70-90° F) but cool at night. We have local game parks but the best ones are in South Africa.

Swazi people used to be very religious and strongly Christian. Recently they have changed and become worldlier and more secular. Sex among the unmarried is extremely common as it is in the UK but here it is present among churchgoers too. So it is a stony field at present. The individual should be a committed Christian and willing to work alongside the nationals in the work of the church.

We are living in the only industrial town in the country. The main industry in the town is making clothing which is labour intensive and people, mostly women, from all over the country come here to get jobs. We built the clinic in one of the dormitory areas of the town where

most live in single rooms. So we have many patients.

Our partner in the work is happy to be gaining access to a large group of people some of whom are infected with TB and HIV. They have told us that if they can gain control of the two diseases in our area then they will be well on the way to conquering them in the whole country.

If there is anyone interested in the opportunities here, please contact me:
wrbobwhittaker@gmail.com (we don't have a website yet).

Bob Whittaker

PAKISTAN

Our beloved and faithful brother and preacher Patras (below circled in red) is very sick and in critical condition due to an allergic reaction. Please keep him in your prayers. He is in need of emergency treatment and we need to take him to a big city hospital.



He is a very faithful servant of the Lord and serving in Vahari district for the last twenty years. Please keep him in your prayers and support him.

Naeem Sabir



DIARY

June

3rd June-1st July – British Bible School: Evening Online Class – “Mark” (taught by Mark Hill), each Thursday at 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>).

7th-28th June – British Bible School: Evening Online Class – “Post-Exilic Prophets” (taught by Jon Galloway), each Monday at 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>).

11th – Liverpool: Evening of Songs – “Psalm 34:1”, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

12th – Great Barr (Birmingham): An Evening of Prayer and Psalms, 7.00 pm. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

19th – Liverpool: Gospel Meeting – “Finding God” (Matthew 11:28-30), speaker: Graham MacDonald, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

26th – Liverpool: All Day Fellowship – “Make Your Calling and Election Sure” (2 Peter 1:10), 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Three lessons, songs, quiz, congregation updates. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

July

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).

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: churchofchristedmset@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).

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 Spirit of the Lord

“**T**he Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and understanding, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.” (Isaiah 11:2-3)

In this text we have seven prophecies of Jesus and his relationship with the Holy Spirit – and ultimately to us.

- *The Spirit of the LORD.* It is worth noting that the first person in the Godhead to be mentioned in the Bible is the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:2). Put that together with Colossians 1:16 and we start to discover to whom the Holy Spirit belongs.
- *The Spirit of wisdom.* Here we have the ability to make matters the way they should be.
- *The Spirit of understanding.* This, of course, has to be linked up with wisdom. We are thankful that we are understood by God. No one is perfect – we are all part good and part bad, part giving and part taking. The Spirit of Jesus understands who and what we are.
- *The Spirit of counsel.* Isaiah 9:6 refers to the coming Messiah as Wonderful

Counsellor – the two go together. Jesus in John 14:25-26 can tell his disciples that the Counsellor would be both teacher and memory aid.

- *The Spirit of power.* We see a corrupt world with nations led by dictators who are filled with their own power. The power of God’s Spirit is one which sustains and enforces his mercy (Romans 4:18-21). God is not bound by human frailty.
- *The Spirit of knowledge.* This links up with understanding, but we need to know God because God already knows us (Psalm 9:10).
- *The Spirit of the fear of the Lord.* Fear means reverence and respect. Perfect love casts out fear. We must, of course, note that the term LORD written in the upper case is referring to the four letters in Hebrew for the name of God (any say ‘Yahweh’ which led onto the term ‘Jehovah’, which is really manmade).

The Spirit of the Lord was in every way to rest upon Emmanuel, God with us, the one we call Jesus. In grace and mercy those who put their trust in Jesus will fall in love with him to the point that they will offer their lives and bodies becoming joined with Jesus in his death and resurrection in baptism (Romans 6). According to Acts 2:38 this baptismal act is for the forgiveness of sins and the reception of the Holy Spirit.

What a privilege it is that the blessings prophesied for the Messiah can to one degree or another also affect our lives. This has to be truly amazing!

We give you thanks Holy LORD for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for the blessings that affect our lives today. Amen.

