

CHRISTIAN WORKER



Athens fellowship a
great success

Seven new Christians!

BBS Introductory
Module goes online

Bristol Creation Day in
the park



From the editors:

Contents

Front cover – main photo: part of the group from the UK at the lecture room in Cenchrea, Greece; smaller photos: buying food in a market in Greece; Bristol's 'day in the park'

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Now that the *Christian Worker Directory* has been published we can begin to look analytically at some of the regions of the UK and see how the congregations are doing. We currently have 80 congregations listed in the *Directory* (with the addition of Perth in this issue). This represents an increase of five congregations since the printing of the previous directory in 2012. The breakdown by country is as follows:

Country	Assemblies	Christians
England	50	1572
Scotland	23	601
Wales	1	30
Northern Ireland/Eire	5	179
Isolated/Jersey	1	4
Total	80	2386

The largest area of growth has been in England, with an additional three congregations and the closure of one. This has seen an overall increase of Christians listed of 178. Scotland has seen the addition of two new congregations but a decrease of 69 Christians listed. Wales, Northern Ireland and Ireland show no change. The number of isolated Christians is down and there are some now living in Jersey. Keep in mind that these are just the congregations that choose to be included in the directory – we know there are a few others that are not listed. For statistical purposes it does give us a snapshot of what has happened during the past four years.

Overall, there are 80 congregations listed in the directory, which is up five from 2012. There are 111 more Christians reported among the congregations than four years ago. If we look back as far as 2007 (not quite ten years ago) there were the same number of congregations reporting (80) but we have an increase of 175 Christians. Some of those congregations are no longer in existence but others have been started by Christians in new areas including some who have immigrated to the United Kingdom. Although we are seeing slow growth through the years, we realise we still have much work for the Lord ahead of us!

Jon

Spotlight: Athens Christian Retreat

Several sisters, brothers and friends from eight countries joined the 13th Annual Omonia Family Retreat in Cenchrea/Ancient Corinth. One of our young participants, 15-year old Alexander Zelmanovich said that it would not be the same as if he would visit the hotel just with his parents for four days. And he added: "Everything would be the same – the swimming pool, the calm waters of the Aegean Sea, the pool table, the delicious food, the volley-ball court. But the joy of everyone being together would not be there. Alexander has been coming to the retreat with his sister and parents since he was four!

Among the various nationalities and cultures represented, our dearest Christian family from the U.K. honoured us with their presence. Trevor Williams and John Morgan were among our most gifted speakers. Each with his outstanding accent and style shared the pure gospel of Jesus Christ, making everything so wonderful.

Along came their families; Pauline Williams, Jennifer Morgan and Elizabeth Morgan, the daughter. Upon return from the retreat, we received a message from Bethan Morgan on Monday,

27th June. We thought it would be a "happy birthday" note on Alexander's 63rd birthday. Instead, Bethan stated her knowledge of the Bible and her decision to receive Jesus as her Saviour on the following day, Tuesday!

We read the message again and again – to make sure! – our hearts flooded with joy and our faces with tears. On the following morning we shared with her parents (it was almost midnight when we received the text) – and we all had a good emotional cry!

Temple of Apollo in ancient Corinth



Just for the sake of information: Tuesdays and Thursdays are our service days. We prepare a celebratory meal of God's love for our Syrian and Afghan friends. Following lunch, the announcement was made of Bethan's decision to be buried with Christ. Whoever wished to stay and share the joy was welcome. If not, that

would be fine with us. Let us note that this invitation was addressed also to our Muslim friends (about sixty of them).

Everyone decided to stay. They had no idea what

Christian baptism was. They took their seats properly and orderly in the auditorium of our little congregation, along with twenty-five volunteers. Amid

The place Paul was on trial in Acts 18



tears of joy, Alexander helped Bethan get immersed into Christ. She made her confession publicly and declared Jesus Christ as her Lord; welcoming forgiveness of her sins as the Holy Spirit made His home in her heart for eternity.

Once she came out of the water we lifted her up in prayers of thanksgiving. ALL of our Muslims friends came forward to greet and kiss Bethan; not to mention their “Amen’s” during prayer. Everything was translated from English into Arabic.

Jennifer and John Morgan were more than happy to see their daughter fully assured of spending eternity together with them. We were all up in the clouds, laughing, crying and filled with His presence and the beauty of the fellowship with each other.

Just the evening before, two of our most favourite Syrian families were visiting us at home. We have adopted these two young couples and our lives will never be the same because of this glorious addition. Manhal and his wife Talla, Palestinian refugees to Syria (and now to Greece) were telling us that children with Down syndrome

children, like Bethan, are highly honoured in the Muslim culture and valued as precious. Let us note at this point that this is before we even knew Bethan decided to

receive Christ. Manhal added that when women are pregnant, one of the intense prayers in the family is for the child to be born with Downs syndrome! “Why?” we asked. He replied: “These

children lead the entire family by holding hands to Heaven! They are messengers of God’s love on Earth. They have no evil within. They are the genes of the angels.” Manhal also confessed before his wife that he prayed three times when Talla was pregnant with their two-year old daughter

Ellia, for a birth with Downs syndrome!

God’s faithfulness and His presence have been so real in the last months. We invite you to lift Bethan up in prayer, her family, as well as our Syrian and Afghan friends.

So many of them are that close, closer than ever, to join Bethan’s decision and let Heaven rejoice!



Alexander Melivrytos

Congratulations!

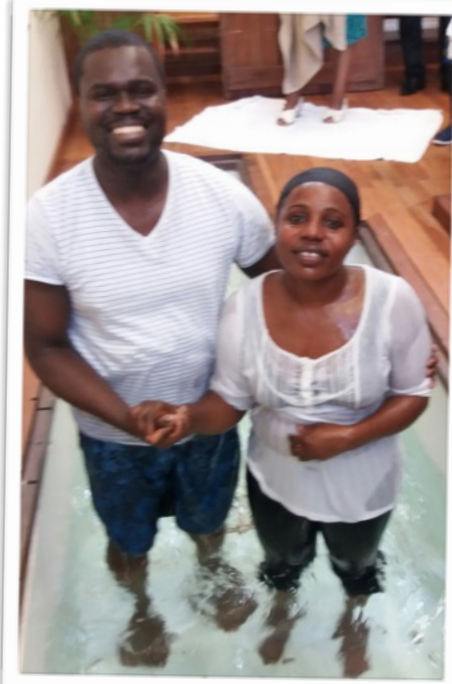
Bristol: We have had three baptisms recently: **Mavacala and Isabel Thomas**, and his aunt, **Suzanna**. Please rejoice with us and keep them in your prayers as they start their walk with Christ.

Robert Daniell



Summer Lane: We have had two baptisms at Summer Lane: **Boaz Amoh and Mary Hobbis**. May God Bless them in their new life in Christ.

Trevor Ralph



Hindley: Amid tears of joy, Alexander Melirrytos immersed **Bethan Morgan** into Christ on Tuesday, 28th June in Athens. She made her confession publicly and declared Jesus Christ as her Lord; welcoming forgiveness of her sins as the Holy Spirit made His home in her heart for eternity.

Once she came out of the water we lifted her up in prayers of thanksgiving. Everything was translated into Arabic and everyone came forward to greet and kiss Bethan. We were all up in the clouds, laughing, crying and filled with His presence and the beauty of the fellowship with each other.

Eleni Melirrytos



Leicester: We rejoice and give thanks for the baptism of **Gemma** who gave her life to Christ on Sunday, 10th July.

We give all glory to God as we witness His gospel changing another life. Please keep our new sister in your prayers.

Paul Hill



Called Home

Norah Tomey

1928-2016

Our beloved sister Norah Tomey was called home on 19th May.

She was born in Belfast in 1928 and met her future husband at a campaign being held in Belfast. She settled in Aylesbury following her marriage to John in 1957 and they brought up their two children, Helen and Ken.

I met Norah in the late 1970's and she always struck me as a very kind, warm-hearted person who spoke with a lovely Irish lilt. She had a great sense of humour. I feel very blessed to have had her as my mother-in-law when I married Ken in 1983.

Norah was always very supportive of the Lord's work in Aylesbury, helping in every way she could from teaching children's classes to cleaning the building. She was always very welcoming to anyone who popped in to see her and John – the first thing she would ask is 'would you like a cup of tea?'

Norah will be greatly missed by her family and by all who knew her for her unswerving faith in our Lord, particularly as she was not well in her later years. She will be remembered for her quiet and unassuming nature. We are comforted in the knowledge she has run her race and gone home.



Helen Tomey

The past few weeks have seen the start of something of a new phase in our Distance Learning Programme as more material gets moved online. When we first moved into the realms of Distance Learning, we really had no idea how time-consuming a process it would be. Though a number of us had taught many modules on a week in, week out basis for many years, the process of transferring this material into a different format proved much more demanding than we had anticipated.

We recognised that there was already an abundance of material available, particularly on the Internet, but we were determined to offer something different. We wanted to offer something similar to the syllabus we taught on the full time residential programme, hoping it would enable those who had always wanted to enrol but who were unable to make the two-year time commitment. We wanted to offer material that was of high quality, straightforward to follow, and within a British context.

Several years down the line, whilst also pursuing a number of other projects, we have decided to make our entire first introductory module available online. Until now, students have relied upon having printed material sent to them, along with DVDs, before undertaking the various assignments as they work through each unit of study. We recognise that this was not always the best solution and, in light of the ongoing Internet revolution,

increasingly outdated. So the uploading and reformatting has begun and by the time you read this, much of the first module will be freely accessible – including what are now the already slightly dated video presentations.

Students will still have the opportunity to enrol, undertake the unit assignments and work towards a British Bible School award – and all this happens online. The advantage to

uploading this material is not only the convenience of more easy access, but also the availability of good quality reference material within the format of a structured syllabus. In many ways it seemed a shame to have decent material prepared but inaccessible to all but a

few who knew to enrol on the programme. By having it properly online, it becomes far more accessible and more easy to share.

We are still considering the way forward with regards to further modules and certainly welcome any ideas and suggestions. The world of distance learning is rapidly evolving and we are very much learning as we go along.

Thank you for your continued support of the British Bible School and the work we are endeavouring to do. Prayers and financial help are very much needed and appreciated. May God bless us all in his service, that we might be a blessing to those whom we serve. Thank you.

Patrick Boyns



Family News

Bristol: We recently had a campaign group from Lake Jackson, Texas, work with us. Peter Hunt returned to his home city with 15 people from the congregation where he now serves as a youth minister. They worked hard to help us with our 'Park Day.' The theme was "World of Wonder." We used the local park to host displays in tents, games and puppet shows, showing the wonders of God's creation. Although the weather was not perfect, we



still had visitors playing the games and watching the shows.

Recently we also took our evening worship outside. It was great to be able to worship

God in the sunshine of his creation. As we met together we had a few visitors who joined in with us as we sang, prayed and worshipped.

Please keep all our visitors in your prayers as we reach out to more people so that they hear the good news of Jesus.

Robert Daniell

Directory Updates

CORBYP (Northamptonshire)

Contacts:

Delete **Raymond Miller**.

Make **David Harland** the main contact.

Add Terry Wymant  tezzawho@hotmail.com

PERTH (Perth and Kinross)

Christians: ?

Meeting place: Tulloch Community Centre, next to Tulloch Institute Club, Tulloch Terrace, Perth PH1 2PF

Send post to: 80 Nimmo Place, Tulloch, Perth, PH1 2QA or Tomiyemi@hotmail.co.uk



Website: www.perthchurchofchrist.co.uk

Sunday meeting: Worship 2.30 pm

Midweek: Wednesday Children's Bible Class and club 6.30 pm (term time only) at Goodlyburn Primary School

Contacts:

Scott Tominey.  (07454) 972691  Tomiyemi@hotmail.co.uk

Maurice Charlton (w. Polly).  (07517) 285420  pollyaclark@hotmail.co.uk

Vanuatu Rebuild #7

ETAS BUILDING COMPLETED

In March, a year after the cyclone the building was finished and had its official opening. The following pictures are from the day before and then Sunday when they had a combined service with the 4 congregations. The building was full!



As planned, the Etas building will have several functions and here is the first day of kindergarten for the village children



CYCLONE PAM

On Saturday 14 March a category 5 cyclone [Pam] slammed into Vanuatu. Winds of 300kmh devastated the islands.

South Pacific Christian Building Projects



a work sponsored by the Wellington church of Christ. NZ

And the next project has started, the groundwork for the church building in the village of Loun on the Island of Tanna.

The temporary building at Loun after the cyclone and then breaking ground for the new, reinforced concrete block building



This relief effort was assisted by congregations in the UK.

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WORKSHOP

25th-27th August 2016 at Lancaster University

Theme: Power

Speakers: Jason Darden (USA) – Keynote

Jack Paton (Clarkston) – Romans

Luk Brazle (Belgium) – Power in Humility

Jason Snethen (Bristol) – Power in Discipleship

Jerry & Lynn Jones (USA) – Power in a Strong Christian Marriage

Ian Starrs (Livingston) – Power in Strong Biblical Teaching

John Mooney (Livingston) – Power of the Cross

Gary Selby (USA) – Power of Transformation

Petra Morrison (Stretford) – Ladies Class

Alan Dod (Thamesmead) – Song Leader

For further information:

www.europeanchristianworkshop.com (you can book via our website – or e-mail us)

registration@europeanchristianworkshop.com

(01509) 768789 (to contact Stephen Woodcock)



We are very excited to announce that the congregation in Northampton is holding a very special full day of worship focused on *singing*. **Keith Lancaster** will be leading the singing during our Worship. This will be followed by a fellowship meal and then an afternoon filled with singing in Northampton's own very special Praise & Harmony programme lead by Keith.

Our Worship starts at 10.30 am and the P&H session starts at 2.00 pm. Come and enjoy the day with us praising God and hearing it in our voices.

Northampton is the place to be 7th August.

A graphic for 'Mirror, Mirror' featuring a large black mirror shape. The text 'COMPARISON DESTROYS CONTENTMENT' is written along the top edge of the mirror. Inside the mirror, the words 'MIRROR, MIRROR' are written in a stylized font. Below the mirror, the text 'ABERDEEN YOUTH WEEKEND 2016' is written. At the bottom left, it says 'TO BOOK, CONTACT: JESSICA@4-F@GMAIL.COM'. At the bottom right, it says '26TH-28TH AUGUST'. There is a small logo with 'AB YW 16' in the bottom right corner of the mirror.

A graphic for 'Faith in Action' featuring silhouettes of six women holding hands against a yellow and orange sunset background. The text 'FAITH IN ACTION' is at the top. Below the silhouettes, it says 'East Kilbride Ladies' Day' and '10th September 2016'. Below that, it says '11.00 am - 3.45 pm (registration from 10.30)'. Underneath, it lists 'Speakers: Funmi Glover – Christian Woman in the Work Place, Barbara Starrs – MAD (Making a Difference), Chrissy Vick – In One Accord'. At the bottom, it says 'Numbers, please, by 8th August to eastkilbridewings@gmail.com' and 'For information of ongoing events: www.facebook.com/wingseastkilbride'. The logo 'WINGS Women in God's Service' is at the bottom left. The church name 'Church of Christ 1 Scholar's Gate Greenhills East Kilbride G75 0JU' is at the bottom right.

August

7th – **Northampton** – Worship followed by a Praise & Harmony programme led by Keith Lancaster. Worship at 10.30 am followed by a Fellowship Meal with the Praise & Harmony session beginning at 2.00 pm.

7th-9th – **Cumbernauld**: Gospel Meetings, 7.30 pm. Speaker: Dave Rogers.

8th-10th – **Cumbernauld**: Holiday Bible Club, 10.00 am.

13th – **Eastwood, Nottingham**: Quarterly Gospel Outreach Meeting, 6.00 pm welcome, refreshments; 7.00 pm meeting. Speaker: Jon Galloway.

25th-27th – **Lancaster**: European Christian Workshop. Contact Stephen Woodcock (01509 768789).

September

3rd – **Great Barr**: Family Fellowship Day.

10th – **East Kilbride**: Ladies' Day. 10.30 am-3.45 pm. Speakers: Funmi Glover, Chrissy Vick, and Barbara Starrs.

24th – **Peterhead**: Annual Social Day.

24th – **Loughborough**: Anniversary meeting & tea, starting at 6.00 pm; Speaker: Ken Mullan.

31st-2nd October – **Field of Refuge**: Women's Renewal Retreat. "Meet with Him" at Tuliallen Castle. Cost: £95. Contact Yvonne on (07450) 296427 or fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com.

October

1st – **Stretford, Manchester**: Special Meeting, 1.00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

8th – **Glenrothes**: Ladies' Day, 10.00 am-2.00 pm (including lunch).

8th – **Northampton**: Ladies' Day, 10.00 am-3.00 pm.

14th-15th – **Wembley**: British Bible School study weekend on "The Letter to the Ephesians." Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Mark Hill.

November

11th-12th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School study weekend on "The Letter to the Ephesians." Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway.

12th – **Eastwood, Nottingham**: Quarterly Gospel Outreach Meeting, 6.00 pm welcome, refreshments; 7.00 pm meeting.

18th-19th – **Wembley**: British Bible School study weekend on "The Letter to the Ephesians" (part 2). Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Mark Hill.

18th-20th – **Glasgow area**: Joint gospel meetings – Friday at East Kilbride, 7.30 pm; Saturday at Clarkston, 7.30 pm; joint Bible study and worship on Sunday at Clarkston, 10 & 11 am; speaker: Nick Wilson.

December

2nd-3rd – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School study weekend on "The Letter to the Ephesians" (part 2). Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway.

January 2017

20th-22nd – **Bassenfell Retreat** at Bassenfell Manor (Lake District). Theme: "More About Jesus." Organised by the British Bible School.

February

4th – **Cumbernauld**: Men's Day.

The Final Word: "Orientation and Application"

Years ago, I took a brief interest in 'orienteering,' a form of recreation and exercise that involved map-reading, walking, and exploration. Fundamental to the endeavour was the ability to "orient" oneself in the proper direction and follow through to reach a destination.

I was reminded about this recently when reading Psalm 3. In the Psalm, King David laments his present trouble with his son Absalom, who has usurped the throne. In the midst of his distress, he recalls his unwavering trust in God and his certainty about a triumphant resolution. David reminds us that as with the sport of orienteering, so with life, successfully overcoming obstacles and reaching our goal depends on correct alignment and a commitment to application – to follow through on what we know to be the right direction.

Like David, we all face people or circumstances that threaten to overwhelm us and tempt us to believe that there is no solution – God is just not there for us. David's answer to this had its foundation in his deep personal faith in God. His perspective was quite different from his oppressors. While they lived life from an earthbound perspective, David's orientation meant that his well-being was determined by God alone. Bound up in this was David's unwavering trust in God's promise that he was the anointed king. His trust in Yahweh's covenant trumped any and every circumstance to the contrary. No matter what people or life seemed to say, and no matter how much it hurt, David rested on God's promise. The Bible calls that 'faith.'

But biblical faith is not only a 'theological' conviction, it is a human response. Where we refuse to act on what we 'believe,' true faith is absent. So, as the Hebrews writer reminds us, faith builds an ark, leaves home for a foreign county, and suffers affliction with God's people, rather than enjoy the warped pleasures of this world for a season. David was resolute. His orientation was correct. He would begin walking in that direction. So, a fugitive on the run, he nevertheless slept soundly and woke refreshed – because God sustained him.

David's conviction was that triumph only comes to those who name Yahweh as their God and who live what they say. Fundamental is a deep-seated trust in God and his promises. These are the fixed compass point that orients us in life. Today I am hurting – the doctor's report isn't good, I really needed that job, I find this loneliness so heart-breaking. It's a new day in the wilderness – the struggles and obstacles haven't gone away – but, despite the pain, let's strike camp and move on in the right direction toward our goal. For this is still true, "Salvation belongs to Yahweh, His blessing is upon his people."

David Dunn

