

CHRISTIAN WORKER



**Advanced Bible Study
Series in Germany (p.8)**

**Three new Christians!
(p.5)**

**Websites for Bible
Study (p.3)**

**Appeals for Malawi
and Pakistan (p.5)**



From the editors:

Contents

- Front cover – main photo: Tony Coffey speaking at ABSS; small photos: Doyle Kee talking with John Osborne at ABSS; Mavuto Lungo and family in Malawi; BBS Study weekend in Aberdeen
- 2 – From the editors
 - 3 – Spotlight: 'Bible Study Websites'
 - 5 – Congratulations!
 - 5 – Appeals
 - 7 – British Bible School News
 - 8 – ABSS in Gemünden, Germany
 - 9 – Family News
 - 10 – Directory change
 - 10 – Notices
 - 13 – Diary
 - 16 – The Final Word

The *Christian Worker* is published monthly as a news magazine for Churches of Christ in the United Kingdom.



Editor-in-chief: Trevor Williams
twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk
(0115) 8376895



Production editor: Jon Galloway
www.churchesofchrist.co.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk>
Deadline: 21st of each month

February. What a busy and *short* month. We have been down to the wire getting this issue put together!

It was encouraging to travel to the Advanced Bible Study Series in Germany again this year. Not only was being with Christians from throughout Europe a boost to those who were there, I was encouraged to visit and worship with the Christians in Lille. Congregations in France may be few and far between, but it was good to see the faithfulness of those we met. The congregation in Lille numbers around 50-60. Although I don't speak French, the warmth of the Christians was felt through the language barrier. Two men led the worship and class and, from what I could tell, had good Biblical lessons.

We were encouraged being with the Christians in Aberdeen this past weekend as we examined the book of Ephesians during our British Bible School study weekend. It is wonderful to see so many who are interested in learning more from God's word. And Ephesians is such a marvellous study! We will be back next month for part two.

On a sad note (for us), many travelled to Kirkcaldy on Monday (27th February) to pay their respects to a wonderful Christian woman, Faye Hughes. She was a woman who touched many people throughout her life. She and Robert worked with Camp Heatherbell in its early years and many who were there still remember her helpfulness and kindness. The church building in Kirkcaldy was filled and people were standing at the memorial service as Ian Davidson remembered Faye, both for her faith and her Christian character. Our sympathy is extended to Robert and their family. We will have a proper article on her next month.

And finally – many thanks to all for sending in items for our 'Diary.' This has to be the most items I have ever seen listed in the pages of the magazine – three entire pages of events that are coming up plus another three pages of more detailed notices. Wonderful! We are happy that we can provide this service.

Now two things: try to support these events with your attendance and prayers, and don't forget to send in a report of what happened!

Jon

Spotlight: Bible Study Websites

It was suggested to me during the past month that we highlight some good Bible study websites in the pages of the *Christian Worker*. This month we will turn the spotlight on some of the websites that I find myself frequently going to in my study of God's word. These websites deal primarily with the text of the Bible.

In this digital age in which we live, electronic books are becoming more frequent as is the use of electronic Bibles, usually in the form of apps for your smart phone and tablets. Although many have expressed reservations about using these, they not only contain the text of the Bible but can also be used to help in our Bible study. I would recommend three Bible apps that you can easily download and use for free (they should be available at the app store for your particular smartphone).

A widely used Bible app is 'YouVersion.' This app contains the flexibility of being able to access just about any translation of the Bible (in most languages). It also gives you a 'verse of the day' and Bible reading plans. It has the capability of sharing what

you are reading with friends who also have the app. Many of the translations also provide a recording that you can listen to. If you are using the iPad version of the app, it allows having two translations open in

parallel (in landscape view). Overall, a very versatile and useful app for Bible reading.

If you prefer one particular version, many of these have dedicated apps for that translation. The

ESV Bible app is well presented. For the NETBible, an app called 'Lumina' contains the text and footnotes.

In the early days of computer use, many of us purchased Bible 'programmes' (or more properly, 'applications') to use in our Bible study and lesson preparation. With the availability of WiFi, these are no longer a

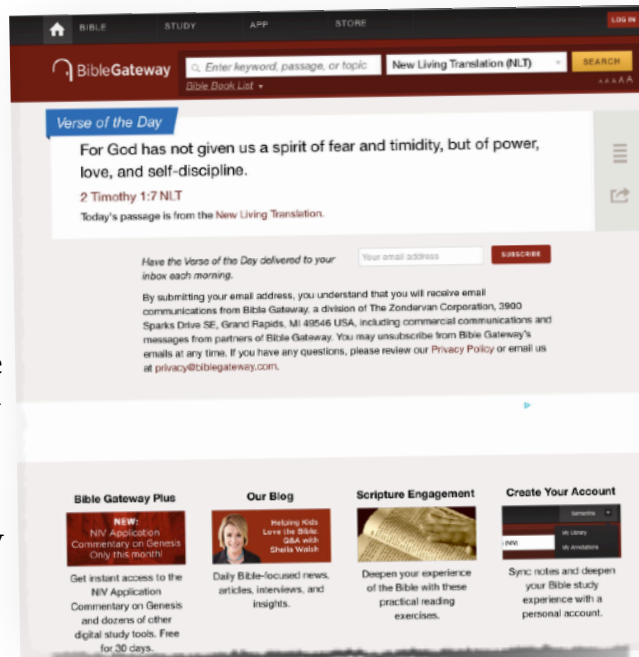
necessity due to websites that can do all of this. These are very similar to the apps that we have for our smartphones.

If you are looking for access to multiple translations, biblegateway.com

contains almost any English translation (there are currently around fifty versions available), plus many in other languages.

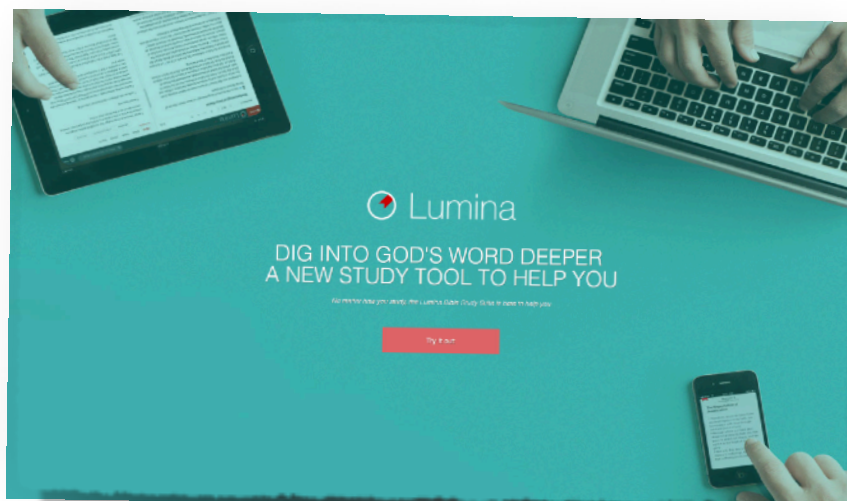


You will also find daily devotionals, reading plans, as well as commentaries and Bible dictionaries. Among the commentaries you will find many of the Tyndale series, produced by InterVarsity Press. Most of the translations also have an audio component where you can listen to the text being read. There is also a Biblegateway app for your smartphone or tablet, which gives you many of the same features as the YouVersion.



The website for the English Standard Version is www.esv.org. Here you will find the entire text of the Bible. A nice feature is being able to highlight a text, which then allows you to paste it into your notes with the Bible reference already put in. The website allows you to listen to the text and also provides Bible reading plans. Under 'Resources' there are notes about the Bible text that you have on screen. The search facility works very well for finding particular verses. Overall, I find this to be a very useful website.

For the text of the NETBible, lumina.bible.org is the website. Not only do



you find the text, but also the extensive NET notes on the text. There is the option to be able to listen to the text. This website also includes three commentaries on the text: Thomas L. Constable's, Matthew Henry's, and MacLaren's. Another tab opens the text in Greek or Hebrew. There is a library of Bible related articles that you can access, as well as satellite maps with Bible places labelled.

If you have a particular website that you find useful, do let us know. In a future issue we will provide more information about good websites to use in our Bible study.

The primary point in all of this is simple: we need to be reading and studying God's word!

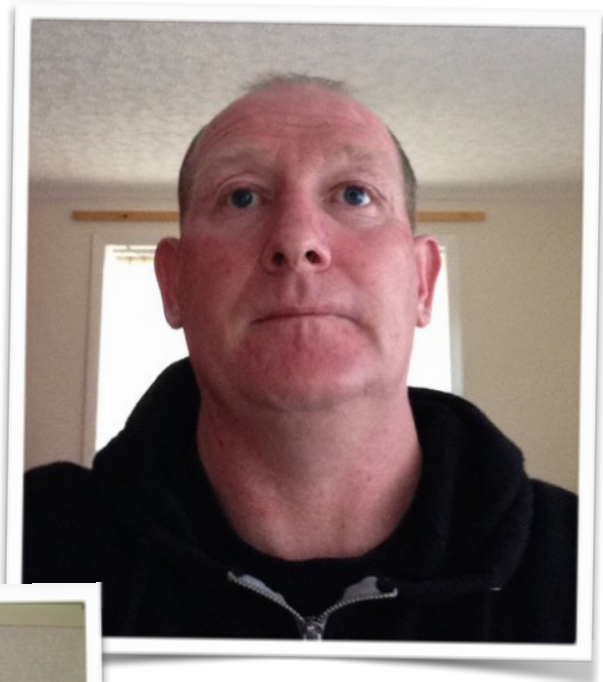
We have such easy access to not only printed Bibles but electronic ones through our computers as well as our smartphones and tablets. There really isn't any excuse for not spending time with God's word each day, whether reading or listening to the Bible. Let us become a people who know the Book!

Jon Galloway

Congratulations!

Corby: It is with great pleasure and thankfulness to God and rejoicing with the angels in heaven we announce that **Austin McCabe** and **Kimberly Elaine Broom** were born again to a living hope in Jesus. They committed their lives to Jesus and were added by God to His family on 29th January. We wish them every blessing in their walk with God.

Graeme Morrison



Glenrothes: We welcome **Roy McDaid** into fellowship after his baptism at the end of January. "May the Lord bless and keep you and make his face to shine upon you."

Glenrothes Agallias

Appeals

Malawi: Farming and Evangelism at Ewombeni Appeal

It is now more than 16 years since I started the agricultural projects in northern Malawi. During those years, we have helped hundreds of people become more self-sufficient in growing their own crops. I have been greatly helped by Davison and Keston Ndhlovu, who are leaders in the Ekwendeni congregation. Both are

agriculturalists and Davison studied at the British Bible school for two years.

The maize crop is grown in the summer wet season, but for the last two years there have been periods of drought resulting in crops yields not always being sufficient to feed families for the whole of the year. The attendance at the Breaking of Bread at Ewombeni has been reduced due to people having to go out and do casual work to earn money for food.

Mavuto Lungu is the evangelist at Ewombeni and the congregation have agreed to have a gospel and teaching campaign in May. Ephron Mbeni, who teaches the Mzuzu Bible College is willing to visit

Ewombeni with a few others and hold a five-day campaign. I have requested that the main theme should be the work of Jesus. I think it will cost £300-£400 to fund this campaign.

Campaigns in Malawi are still a way of reaching many for Christ and also restoring many lapsed believers.

We have 100 families in a community based agricultural project at Ewombeni. We use oxen to help cultivate the land more easily than hand labour. We do need two more ox-ridgers to cultivate the field into contour ridges. The crops are grown on ridges much the same way as we grow potatoes in the UK. I think we need about £300 to buy the two ox-ridgers. One ridger would be for the community project and one for the congregation.



Please help finance these two needs. Gifts should be sent payable to the Bedminster Bristol Church of Christ and posted to Mr G Daniell, 24 The Witheys, Whitchurch Village, Bristol BS14 0QB.

David A. Murphy

Pakistan: The Bible College and the congregation in Pakistan are, as always, struggling to keep afloat. Donations for the College and congregation have fallen off somewhat because funds have been necessary for the support of Naeem and his family (since he lost his support from America).

In addition Naeem is hoping for badly-needed funds to provide Bibles and bicycles for this year's graduating class of new evangelists going forth to proclaim the Word throughout Pakistan.

Please pray for our brethren in Pakistan, and any financial help would be greatly appreciated. Over the past twelve months £9,200 have been sent from brethren in Britain for the College and congregation, plus £4,850 for Naeem and his family, for which they are very grateful. Thank you for this wonderful response.



Please send any donations to Barbara Fisher, 5 Portway, North Marston, Buckingham, MK18 3PL, and made out to 'Church of Christ, Pakistan Fund'.

Barbara Fisher

A favourite letter

It has been described as “one of the most significant documents ever written” and as “one of the divinest compositions of man.” Paul’s letter to the believers at Ephesus has long been my favourite of the letters found in the New Testament, and I have been thankful for the numerous opportunities I have had to share this text with students in Corby over the years and more recently during our Study Weekends in various parts of the country.

For me, the appeal of the letter is in its invitation to see that which cannot be seen, to know that which cannot be known. It seeks to lift us not only to higher ground, but to realms beyond any we have known in this life, and to experience the blessing of sitting in the very presence of our exalted king.

Artemis of the Ephesians

There is a certain irony that its first readers should have lived in the shadow of one of the Great Wonders of the ancient world. The Temple of Artemis was very likely the largest building known in antiquity and dominated the city of Ephesus. The significance of

Artemis, and that of its associated cult, is documented by Luke in his second volume (see Acts 19). Such was the impact of the good news of Jesus that those who sought

to profit from the worship of idols became concerned, not only for their own business but also for the standing of Artemis ‘herself’. The city was thrown into confusion and a riot broke out!

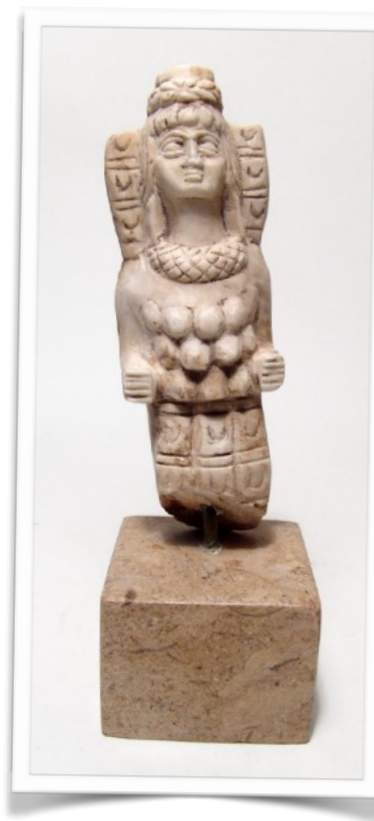
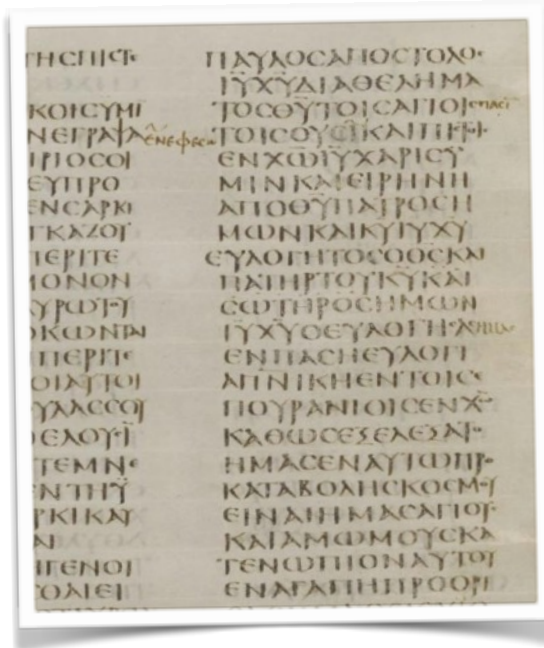
It was to the believers in Ephesus that Paul wrote of our peace – of Jesus who has broken down dividing walls, reconciled us to God in

one body through the cross, and who is now building us together into a dwelling place for God by his Spirit. The Temple of Artemis in Ephesus ceased standing centuries ago, but the holy temple of God in Christ continues to be built wherever

the people of God may be. And it is we, the people of God today who are the truly Great Wonder of the present age!

Blessed beyond measure in Christ, we ask God for strength to understand what is the breadth and length and height and depth...to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fullness of God.

To him be all glory in his people and in Christ Jesus!



Patrick Boyns

ABSS in Gemeinden

The middle of February each year sees a unique group descending on the German village of Gemeinden, just north of Frankfurt. This group consists of Christians from various European countries (and a few from the United States) who come to spend a week studying the Bible (in English). Paul Brazle, from Antwerp, organises the event each year.



This year there were 35 Christians from Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Albania, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, and the United States. The dates were 13th-17th February, with an optional weekend programme which others attended. The week is spent at the camp facility which is owned by the German congregations.

Mornings were spent in Bible study. Tony Coffey, from Dublin, began the day leading us in a study of the book of Hebrews. Following him John Osborne, a professor at Oklahoma

Christian University, brought a series of lessons examining a style of leadership which might work well in a congregation setting. Ben Langford, also a professor from OCU, completed our morning of studies

looking at Western culture and what we can learn from it to help in our outreach.

Following a hearty lunch, the main meal of the day (as is done in Germany), the afternoons were free to tour the area, play basketball, spend time with other Christians, or just catch up on your rest.

The British Bible School supplies

one of the presenters each year. Patrick Boyns was scheduled for this year, but due to car trouble was unable to attend. Jon Galloway filled in, presenting lessons on “You can’t expect me to believe that!”, examining objections people have to the Bible and answers that may help when we have a chance to speak with them.

After our evening meal of soup and sandwiches there was an evening

programme in which we examined outreach to the third world, ethical problems, and book reviews.

It was a wonderful week of fellowship and study! The dates for next year

have already been announced: 19th-23rd February. Consider making plans to join us in Germany next winter!



Jon Galloway

Family News

Ilkeston: The various churches in the town were invited by the Victoria Park Ranger to host an event for local children on 14th February. Around 100 or more children and parents came through the 'church' tent to play games and crafts. It gave us a great opportunity to meet local people.

Beginning Thursday, 2nd March, we will be hosting a six-week study on the letter to the Ephesians. We have invited the town churches and area brethren – we know of one local church that has cancelled its mid-week meeting to join in with us.

On 18th-19th March, Jon Galloway will lead us in a series of meetings on "The meaning of Easter" – Saturday at 7:00 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am & 5:00 pm.



The church building was transformed into a romantic restaurant and an Italian-themed three-course meal was served by the brothers (with a little assistance).

Trevor Williams gave us an entertaining lesson on the subject of "Marriage...Made in Heaven?" Starting with the concept of marriage deeply rooted in Jewish thinking, that the union of man and woman is the joining of two halves to make one complete whole, we learned that as husbands and wives we are different yet we complement one another. Turning to the familiar passage of Ephesians 5:25-32, we found that the ultimate expression of marriage is in the relationship between Christ and His bride, the church – a challenging thought

for husbands as we strive to serve our wives.

A good time was had by all and we hope in some small way this called us higher in this area. We are looking forward to more wedding celebrations in

Loughborough this year so watch this space!



Trevor Williams

Steve Perriman

Loughborough: On Saturday, 11th February, thirteen couples got together for our Valentine's evening organised by the congregation. After attending the talks on marriage at the European Christian Workshop last year, we wanted to do something for married and engaged couples.



Sheffield: Trevor and Pauline Williams recently visited Sheffield. The Christians there are doing their best to share the gospel in their area. Support them when you can.

Directory Change

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE (Tyne & Wear)

Delete: church@newcastlecoc.fsnet.co.uk – please use newcastlecoc@gmail.com

Add Contact:

Graeme Stickings.  graemestickings@gmail.com

Notices

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT OMONIA

INVITES YOU TO THE 14TH ANNUAL
CHRISTIAN FAMILY RETREAT



A four-day retreat filled with Christian fellowship, Bible classes and activities for all ages at a seaside hotel in Isthmia/Cenchrea

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21ST - SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH, 2017


KALAMAKI BEACH HOTEL

www.kalamakibeach.gr

Adults and children over 12 yrs.: € 170

Children 6-12: € 85 - Children 6 yrs. or younger: Free
(Price per person includes full board in double occupancy)

Please contact:

TREVOR twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk  (0115) 8376895

ELENI emelirry@aol.com  (6945) 01 43 85



Two Study Weekends ... One Beautiful Letter

Aberdeen
393 George Street, Aberdeen, AB25 1EQ

Friday, 24th February 7.00 to 9.00pm
Saturday, 25th February 9.00am to 4.30pm
Friday, 24th March 7.00 to 9.00pm
Saturday, 25th March 9.00am to 4.30pm

Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway
www.britishbibleschool.com

Paul's letter to the Ephesians takes us beyond this realm and into the heavenly places. Though the theological implications are vast, there is a wealth of practical instruction that cannot be overlooked.



HEBREWS

One of the most significant books in the New Testament in helping us understand the work of Christ in the context of the calling of Israel. Here we take a thorough look at the arguments presented for the supremacy of Christ – as vital today as when first written.

Northampton
Christian Fellowship Centre
Shadowfax Drive

Friday, 31st March 7.30 to 9.45pm
Saturday, 1st April 9.00am to 5.00pm
Friday, 28th April 7.30 to 9.45pm
Saturday, 29th April 9.00am to 5.00pm

Teachers: Patrick Boyns, John Griffiths and Steve Whitehead
www.britishbibleschool.com



Adult weekend

(organised by Morley congregation)


theme: "Spirit"

(focussing on individual spiritual growth as well as how to support each other)

7th-9th April

venue: Mankinholes YHA,
Todmorden, West Lancashire

contact: Kelsey O'Donovan
Glowing_flame@live.com
(07846) 467213
(there is a Facebook page – contact Kelsey for details)




Acapella Jam

Saturday, 4th March

March

at: Bedminster congregation, Bristol

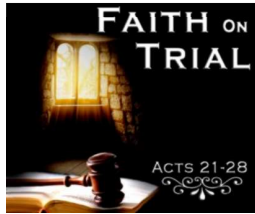
theme: "The Life of Jesus"
(singing hymns old and new that tell us of Jesus)

Programme:

9:30 – arrival and registration
10:00 – IMMANUEL: God with us
11:00 – break
11:30 – You are the CHRIST
12:30 – lunch
1:30 – This is the SON of God
2:30 – break
3:00 – open singing- hymns by choice

contact: Jason (07795) 560990

Northampton Youth Weekend March 10th - 12th 2017



**Does God Exist?
Did Jesus rise from the dead?
You decide!**
If you believe it, are you living like you believe it?
Speakers: David Coggin (USA)
Mark Anstiss (Northampton)

If you are **aged 13** or over this weekend is for you. We need witnesses, we need people to give testimony, our faith will be on trial and the evidence demands a verdict from you the jury!

The Courthouse where the preceeding will take place is pictured with the address. It is a serious offense not to turn up for jury service, you will be held in contempt of court if you do not come and you will not have fun, food, games, singing, praying, friendships, sleepless nights.

So make sure you book by Saturday 4th March – there will be

ORDER IN THE COURT!!!



Book on our Facebook event thingy.
Or e-mail churchofchrist@uwclub.net
Or call 07434956692
Include name, age, and state M/F.

FIELD OF REFUGE WOMEN'S RENEWAL 2017



Join us in a study of Ephesians as we discover what it looks like to journey through life where we embrace the identity that God has already created for us. Together we will discover in the text that we don't have to prep up our self worth on a fragile moment by moment basis and our baggage and fears don't determine our destination.

Date: 29 September 2017 for two nights
Arrival: Registration at 14:00
Cost: £95.00 per person (shared room with ensuite)
Single occupancy is available at a higher rate
Cost includes accommodation and all meals
£35 deposit is required to secure your place
Email: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com
Contact: 07450 296 427 (Yvonne Cass)

Please note that we are happy to accept instalments for payments after the initial £35 deposit has been paid.

EPHESIANS 2:4
"because of His great love for us..."



Walking with God

Footprints

British Bible School Autumn Study Week

Monday, 6th to Friday, 10th November 2017

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District
All inclusive cost: £150 per student
For full details visit our website: britishbibleschool.com

"Personal faith and discipleship are important aspects of our lives ... students will be encouraged to explore the concept of walking with God, helped to assess their spiritual development and be offered practical help for the journey."

Brand New Studies! Eye-Opener Studies **For Christians!**

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. (Ps. 119:18)

As a maturing Christian do you look to grow yet find time to study difficult?
This is for you! No pressure: your own pace
Solid food (meat) not milk - yet highly digestible
Specifically written for members of churches of Christ
Make you think: deepen faith: help you love the Lord even more!

20 Studies themed on Hebrews
(not a study of, or about, Hebrews)

1. The Resurrection	12. The Destruction of Jerusalem
2. Truth	13. The Myth of the Millennium
3. The Existence of God	14. The End of the World
4. The Nature of God	15. Judgement (the necessity of Hell)
5. The 'Work' of the Word	16. Steadfastness
6. The Humanity of Jesus	17. Apostasy
7. The Authority of Jesus	18. Evil, Pain and Suffering
8. The Genesis Foundation	19. The Church
9. The Spirit World	20. Godly Living
10. The Order of Melchizedek	
11. Salvation	

Enjoyable!

Readable!

Manageable!

The author is **Graham Fisher** (former Editor of *The Christian Worker*). It is set up as a PDF download and contact is at gafisher888@aol.com (include the word 'studies' in the subject line). Graham will act as tutor and reference-point for individuals who want to engage in the studies. However, teachers and preachers are more than welcome to use the studies in their own congregations as they think fit. The whole set of studies can be viewed at: <http://www.graemebiblersources.com/>

March

2nd-5th – Thallichtenberg, Germany: European Ladies Retreat – “From Roots to Fruits.” Cost: €120 (payment when you arrive). Venue: Jugendherberge Burg Lichtenberg, Burgstraße 12, 66871 Thallichtenberg, Germany. Sign up by 15th December. Additional information: <http://elr.yolasite.com/details.php>.

4th – Bristol: “Acapella Jam” (a day of singing and praise), theme: The Life of Jesus, 9.30 am-4.00 pm. Contact: Jason (07795 560990).

5th-6th – Glenrothes: “No Debt No Sweat” Seminar. Sunday 6.00-8.15 pm & Monday 6.30-8.40 pm. Speaker: Steve Diggs.

7th – Glenrothes: “Person-to-Person People Skills in the Workplace” Event, 2.00-5.00 pm. Speaker: Steve Diggs.

8th – Glenrothes: “Leadership Training” in the evening. Speaker: Steve Diggs.

10th-12th – Northampton: Youth Weekend – “God on Trial” (we need witnesses for the defence and plenty of jurors). Contact Mark Hill (northamptonchurchofchrist@gmail.com, (07434) 956692 or through Facebook).

11th – Great Barr: Bible Seminar.

18th – Leicester: Gospel night at 39-45 Pool Road, Leicester LE3 9GH, speaker: David McNutt; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Paul Hill (07804 653690).

18th-19th – Ilkeston: Gospel meetings: “The Meaning of Easter”, speaker: Jon Galloway; Saturday, 7.00 pm; Sunday 10.00 am and 5.00 pm.

20th – Leicester: Evangelists’ meeting, 10.00 am-2.00 pm at Newfound Pool Centre, 39-45 Pool Road, Leicester LE3 9GH. Speaker: David McNutt with news from congregations and a buffet lunch. Contact: Paul Hill (07804 653690).

24th-25th – Aberdeen: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “A Letter to Ephesus” (part 2) presented by Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Friday: 7.00-9.00 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.15 pm.

25th – Manchester (Stretford): Special meeting, 1.00 pm lunch, 2.00 pm Alan Ashurst, “God Knows You!”. Contact: Pilomon (dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

31st-1st – Northampton: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Hebrews” presented by Patrick Boyns, Steve Whitehead and John Griffiths. Friday: 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-5.30 pm.

April

1st – Bristol: Ladies’ Day, theme: “Come, Seek and Go”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm. To register phone: Heidi (07789 998042).

7th-8th – Liverpool: Film evenings at their church building. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

8th – Kirkcaldy: Annual Social, 1.30 pm. Speaker: John Mooney.

21st-23rd – Gemünden, Germany: European Singles Retreat. Information: <http://www.singlesretreat.net>.

22nd – Edmonton (London): Marriage Enrichment Programme. For details contact: John Asiamah (07908 725427) or Ben Asare (07474 735760).

28th-29th – Northampton: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Hebrews” (part 2) presented by Patrick Boyns, Steve Whitehead and John Griffiths. Friday: 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-5.30 pm.

29th – Liverpool: Men’s Fellowship Day: “Here Am I, Send Me”, 10.00 am-3.30 pm. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

May

12th – Eastwood: Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus, the Forgiver” (1–Consequences of sin, 2–Solution to sin); light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

20th – Manchester (Stretford): Special meeting, lunch at 1.00 pm followed by Trevor Williams at 2.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon (dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

20th – Liverpool: Evening of Songs. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

22nd – Nottingham (Stapleford): Concert with Harding University Chorale; venue: St. Helen’s Parish Church, Frederick Street, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8FN. Contact: Bob Eckman (0115 9399541).

24th-25th – Hylvots Bank (Edinburgh): Concerts with Harding University Chorale; Wednesday: Lunchtime concert at St Giles cathedral on the Royal Mile, 12.15 to 1.00 pm (<https://binged.it/2lXMD6x>); Evening concert at St Andrews & St Georges church building on George Street, Edinburgh, 7.30 pm (<https://binged.it/2mA6NQD>); Thursday: Evening concert at Faith Mission Bible College, Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh, 7.30 pm (<https://binged.it/2lXOHvm>).

27th-29th – Tooting: Annual Lectureship.

June

3rd – Reading: RISE (Reading in Song event) – Praise and Harmony Workshop with Anthony Lancaster, William Gooch and Durant, at Lodden Valley Leisure Centre: 3.30 pm. Also at 6.30 pm a singing programme by Durant. Contact: Craig Benjamin (csbjlb@gmail.com).

10th – Stockwell: Ladies’ Day: “Evangelism – Make it Count”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm, speaker: Weezie Burger. Contact: Bernie Wells (07904 303347 or bern.wells@hotmail.co.uk).

17th – Liverpool: All Day Fellowship: “Go Ye Means Go Me”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm, speaker: Jason Snethen. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

24th – Northampton: Men’s Day. Theme: “All with one accord” (ways of promoting unity and togetherness as Christians). Speaker: John Griffiths. Contact: Mark Hill (northamptonchurchofchrist@gmail.com).

July

7th-9th July – Liverpool: Youth Weekend. Contact Mike Glover (07879 444267 or mike97@talktalk.net) or Lawrence Okorafor (07456 483374 or lawrence.okorafor@yahoo.com).

8th – Edmonton: Men’s Workshop. Contact: Charles Banin (charlesbanino@aol.com).

15th-22nd – Camp Heatherbell: “AU CH:50”. Cost: £135. Contact: Adam Barr (15 Roseburn Court, Whitelees, Cumbernauld G67 3PS).

23rd-28th – Camp Maplewell: “Faith Builders” (age 7-13). Contact: Simon Hardy (07435 091041 or simonthehitman@hotmail.co.uk) or Mark Hill (07434 956692).

23rd-28th – Camp Tayside: Contact: Paddy Sullivan.

30th-4th August – Camp Maplewell: “Fruition” (age 13+). Contact Guy Sandison (07791 101397 or guyandison@hotmail.co.uk) or Mark Hill (07434 956692).

August

5th – Leicester: Ladies Day.

12th – Eastwood: Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus, the Messiah” (1–Propesied, 2–Fulfilled); light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Speaker: Jon Galloway. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

13th-18th – British Bible Camp.

24th-26th – European Christian Workshop at Lancaster: *Shalom*.

September

9th – Great Barr: Annual Fellowship Day.

15th-17th – Gemünden, Germany: European Singles Retreat. Information: <http://www.singlesretreat.net>.

23rd – Peterhead: Annual Social Day.

29th-1st October – Field of Refuge: Women’s renewal at Tulliallen Castle, Kincardine. Cost: £95.00. Information: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com or Yvonne Cass (07450 296427).

October

7th – Manchester (Stretford): Special meeting, beginning with lunch at 1.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon (dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

November

4th – Leicester: Fellowship Day, 10.00 am-4.00 pm; speakers: Truit Adair, Gary Walker, Tim Burrow. Contact Paul Hill (paulh41@hotmail.co.uk).

6th-10th – British Bible School: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Module: “Walking with God” presented by Patrick Boyns and Ian Starrs. Cost for the week (room and board): £150. To register, go to britishbibleschool.com.

11th – Eastwood: Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus: Prophet, Priest and King” (1–Prophet, 2– Priest & King); light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

January 2018

19th-21st – Bassenthwaite Family Retreat at Bassenfell Manor (Lake District). Organised by the British Bible School. (Hold the date! Bookings will open shortly.)

February

19th-25th – Gemünden, Germany: Advanced Bible Study Series. ABSS I Monday-Friday, ABSS II Friday-Sunday. For further information or to book your place, contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com or +32 488 481 082). (Follow group on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/697781630273815/>)



The Final Word: "Weddings & Marriage"



What sort of a wedding do you want and what sort of marriage do you intend to have?

Over the past few days a hetero-sexual couple has campaigned for a civil partnership which under our present law is for same-sex couples only. I have to admit that I find this thinking quite strange and wonder why they do not want a wedding ceremony either religious or non-religious. My thinking is further confused when same sex couples wanted and now have the right to be married. My Biblical understanding and the laws of society are at odds.

Many of our congregations strongly believe that a same sex physical relationship is against the teachings of the New Testament. Yet there are undoubtedly those in our fellowship who are struggling, have a homosexual orientation and may even prefer to be in a same sex relationship but, because of their love for Christ, bury their emotions. These people may continue in their marriages or their celibate lives; may God bless them. Life is not easy when society offers ways out of their dilemma and it is always easy to criticise someone else's problems especially when they are not our own. Hopefully we will be gentle with each other when these situations come to light.

Many Christians prefer to have a religious ceremony for their wedding since they feel it is right to go before God for such a momentous occasion. We see in a marriage two people making a commitment to each other but the Hebrew people saw two halves coming together. In Genesis 2:24 we read, "*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be united with his wife and they will become one flesh.*" In our society we see two whole people becoming one, the Hebrews saw two halves becoming one. Perhaps they had a better view of marriage than we do. Two halves make a whole. Two wholes becoming one means that something has to go and many marriages cannot exist on this basis. It is not in our nature to push half of our selves to one side, nor in reality do we compromise very well.

Marriage should be a blessing but it is never without problems. It may even be necessary to have the occasional snappy word to bring our own selves back into line. We belong to Christ first and foremost. The church is the bride of Christ. The way we want our marriages to go will all depend on how we want our relationship with Christ to develop.

Trevor

Prayer

To be without spot or wrinkle as the bride of Christ, we give you thanks.

To have the opportunity for human relationships, we praise you.

Bless our homes and our families, the love and support that flows between us.

For those who are struggling in their marriages, we pray for patience.

For those struggling with their sexuality, we pray for peace.

Let your grace rain down upon us until we are swept away in the torrent of your love. Amen.