

# CHRISTIAN WORKER



Gospel Trail in  
Bristol (p.9)

Seven new  
Christians! (p.6)



Overcomers  
Outreach (p.3)

News from India &  
Pakistan (p.10)





## From the editors:

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



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Welcome to May's issue of the *Christian Worker*.

If we were to judge the health of God's people in the UK by the amount of information sent in this month, we would have to say that it is quite healthy. Many thanks for all the submissions and information – so much, in fact, that several items have been held over to next month!

It is wonderful to share news with each other, especially when it is good news. That seven have put on Jesus is cause for great rejoicing indeed! That many of these are younger people also speaks well for the future of God's Kingdom in this country.

Trevor reminds us in 'The Final Word' that there are two results of our immersion into Jesus: forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Although there is no set 'formula' to say when someone becomes a Christian, and what is said or not said does not invalidate someone's obedience, it is good to be reminded of what we receive.

We also rejoice with Jason and Heidi Snethen in Bristol. They have another child! Zibiah Abigail Mercy was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. This news didn't arrive in time to add the picture and information to the 'Congratulations!' page, but will be included next month.

Many enjoyed a day together in Kirkcaldy recently at their annual social day. Several commented that the day was like a family reunion. We weren't able to include their report this month but you can read about it in the next issue.

As I have travelled and visited congregations the past few months, I have seen more Christians who are keen to see better outreach as well as better ties amongst themselves. Many have gone through difficult times recently and it is refreshing to see plans being formulated to aid in the growth of Christians as well as to reach out into our communities with the good news of Jesus.

At East Kilbride we have adopted two scriptures for this year: "*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18) and "*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!*" (Romans 10:15). We need to grow to be like Jesus and we need to reach those around us with his good news.

Jon

## Spotlight on "Overcomers Outreach"

*When we read through the gospels, we find Jesus spending a good part of his time with those seen as the lowest in society: the prostitutes and tax collectors. He even took time for lepers. Today we still have outcasts in society. These are generally those who live on the streets and sleep rough, often with addictions to alcohol and drugs. We see them when we are walking the streets of our towns and cities. What do we do? To be honest, most of us just ignore them. But these are those for whom Jesus would have taken time. How do we reach them with the good news of Jesus? In our Spotlight article this month we feature two congregations who are reaching out to this segment of our society. –Jon*

The congregation in Corby has been the home of the British Bible

School. Thanks to those who graduated, the good news of Jesus has been taken throughout the world. Today in Corby we are also spreading the gospel in a different way.

The congregation now has a food bank that is directed at the homeless people in Corby, who prefer to live in tents, in the wooded areas in or around the town. We stock dried foods and tins as this is much easier for people to prepare when they are living rough. The congregation works with a local butcher in

town and supplies a £5 meat voucher with each food parcel; this enables people to purchase fresh meat, eggs and pies.

In addition, the congregation supports recovery groups in Corby by providing a meeting place for Narcotics Anonymous and Overcomers Outreach. These groups are not affiliated with any religion but the Overcomers Outreach is based on a twelve-step programme centred on Jesus. These meetings are held weekly and numbers have grown from two to six in one year. Many of these also attend our Tuesday Bible study. Half of our attendance of twelve each week are in recovery from

drugs and alcohol problems.

Several who attend regularly

recently went on a recovery holiday in Lanzarote. On this trip on Sunday morning, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean with the sun rising in the distance, we broke bread

and sang hymns.

The conversation came to baptism, with two, who were already studying the gospel, asking what they must do. They were asked if they understood the scriptures and what baptism means?

They replied yes, so as in Acts with the Ethiopian eunuch,

we went into the water and they were immersed into Christ. The angels rejoiced





that day, as did those present when God added to his people.

I write this in gratitude for the congregation in Corby and for the grace of God. Addicts and alcoholics are seen in today's society as modern day lepers. The outreach and love shown by the Corby fellowship has broken through the judgemental nature of some. We are being used by God to reach the darkest of places, to people who injected heroin, smoked crack cocaine, drank daily, overdosed multiple times, committed crimes to fund their habits, and manipulated family members and loved ones to continue their using.

The power of Jesus is working through the congregation to reach and transform the darkest of lives, with some former users now working in the substance misuse treatment field. We have some who started as volunteers and now are in paid employment; another has his own business; one now has a master's degree in psychology.

Through the love and understanding of the fellowship in Corby people are coming to Christ. Addicts, alcoholics, prostitutes, lepers – it does not matter, as there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus.

Earlier this year, the Liverpool congregation had the pleasure of having Johnny, Paddy and Kim from the Corby congregation come and help us set up an 'Overcomers Outreach' Meeting.



Overcomers Outreach is basically a Twelve-Step Christian meeting which acts as a bridge between the traditional twelve-step programmes and local churches. Recovering people can have a fresh look at their 'Higher Power' in the person of Jesus

Christ. These meetings are aimed at anyone who is struggling with any kind of addiction, compulsion or co-dependency.

Johnny, Paddy and Kim took us through a meeting step by step and to say it was heart-moving and eye-opening would be an understatement. We had a few from the



Liverpool congregation who came along to the meeting, as well as a few visitors from the community. All of us were somewhat taken aback as we listened to the reality of how drugs, alcohol and other compulsive behaviours affect people's lives and the lives of those around them. What we heard,

helped us all to remember that we're all 'sinaholics'.

*Johnny Cruickshank*



Soon after this meeting the Liverpool congregation started our own 'O.O.' Meetings. Although it has been very slow in starting and attendance is erratic, we have had the opportunity to meet a few people from all kinds of backgrounds, people we would never usually get to meet, people who simply need some support, advice and encouragement.

As someone with a background of drugs and alcohol, I personally find these meetings hugely encouraging. It reminds me of how far I had fallen, it reminds me of the mess I made of my life before I submitted my life to the One who helped me 'Overcome'. It reminds me that God loves everyone, even the people that some think are the lowest of the low in society. The real truth is that addictions of any kind know no boundaries – it affects the rich and the poor, the homeless person and the court judge.

I'm grateful to all those Christians who prayerfully, lovingly and gently supported me without being judgmental. I won't mention the congregation by name because they know who they are. I thank God for their patience and understanding, especially when I 'fell' and needed to be picked up again. These Christians whom I thought were way too 'holy' to be interested in a down-and-out, good-for-nothing like me, showed me grace and loved me just the way

I was, something I had never seen or experienced before in my life. Thank God that they could see my potential, instead of my circumstances. Thank God, they believed that God could change anyone's life and Jesus came to save people like me. Thank God that He can use our past 'messes' to keep us humble and to help us bless those who are currently trying to recover from the 'mess' they have made or are making of their lives.

We would like to thank Johnny, Paddy and Kim for coming to help us, especially for opening people's eyes up to a world which

often goes unseen or we don't want to accept is happening – or simply because we don't know how to help.

Maybe your congregation could host regular 'O.O.' Meetings. Maybe there's a need within your

own congregation or within your community. If so, I would encourage you to get in touch with Johnny, Paddy or Kim at the Corby congregation, as I'm sure they would be more than happy to help. After all, the best people to help others struggling with any kind of addiction, compulsion or co-dependency are those who are living through it or have been there and know what they're talking about.

My name is Mike Glover and I'm a recovering sinaholic.

*Mike Glover*





# Congratulations!

**Liverpool:** We have wonderful news here again as God continues to bless us. Two more souls have been added to the Lord's body as a result of the wonderful gospel message. **Diane Jenkins** and **Graham Styers** were both baptised into Christ on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April. We are all rejoicing with the angels.

*Charles Yankiah*

**West Mains:** There was great rejoicing on 19<sup>th</sup> April when **Gilbert Penman** was immersed into Jesus. The joy on Gilbert's face was evident when the baptism was completed! There was great rejoicing at the building which we are sure was echoed before the angels of God.

Gilbert has been attending for a while and has also been involved in Bible discussions and studies. He said he didn't know why he hadn't taken this step sooner, as he knew what to do and that he needed to do it. Keep Gilbert in your prayers that he will grow in the grace knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Many thanks to the East Kilbride congregation for the use of their building.

*Alex Gear*

**Wembley:** We are pleased to share with you news of four baptisms this year. On Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, mother and daughter **Alexandra** and **Angsuyan** were baptised into Christ whilst on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, friends **Rachel** and **Helen** were also baptised into Christ (the photo is of Rachel's baptism). All live locally and have been joining us in our worship assemblies and studying God's word with some of our brothers and sisters before coming to their decisions to follow Christ. We give thanks to God and pray His blessings upon them in their new lives in Christ.

*John Griffiths*





# British Bible School Notes

## Opportunities for structured study

We have just come to the end of our spring series of Study Weekends, held in Aberdeen and Northampton over the past couple of months. These have provided more excellent opportunities for students to immerse themselves in some intensive structured study, with opportunity for further guided study beyond the classroom sessions.

Aberdeen hosted the Bible School for two weekends in February and March when we explored *A Letter to Ephesus*. Paul's letter to these

believers, with whom he had spent so much time, is a real treasure to be explored over and over, and one which never ceases to lift us to greater heights.



*Patrick Boyns teaching in Aberdeen*

Though most who attend our Study Weekends tend to be from the immediate areas, it was encouraging to see a Peterhead contingent with us for both weekends too. Teaching was led by and Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway over a number of sessions from the Friday evening to the Saturday afternoon.

The congregation at Northampton have just hosted two weekends on the book of *Hebrews*. This somewhat enigmatic document contains so much of worth today – even within a context and a culture so different from that in which it was first written. If ever we might be tempted to turn

back to our old lives, the writer urges us in so many ways to keep faithful to the one who quite simply can never be bettered.

This is the first location where we have offered this module in recent times, and will no doubt be bringing it elsewhere over the next year or so. We are always looking out for new venues to host our Study Weekends, so if you would like us to bring one to where you are, please do get in touch.

## Looking ahead

We are looking ahead with excitement to

our autumn residential Study Week at Bassenthwaite in the Lake District. We already have a number signed up for what should be both a challenging and a beneficial

period of study. We are offering our module on *Walking with God* in which we will be exploring our journey of faith and the concept of discipleship. As one of our practical modules, there will plenty to take on board at a personal level and in our service to others. For more details please see our website, visit our Facebook page or get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support of our work as we continue to strive to serve others through the word.

*Patrick Boyns*

[www.britishbibleschool.com](http://www.britishbibleschool.com)



Elwyn Limb passed away peacefully on 31<sup>st</sup> March at the age of 94. A service was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April at Ipswich Crematorium, attended by her family and friends.

Elwyn belonged to the Barker family, well known among the churches of Christ in Derbyshire. Daughter of Walter and Constance Annie, she grew up in the congregation in Heanor.

Elwyn trained as a teacher in Derbyshire during the war, and taught for a while in Bourneville, Birmingham. She married Ralph Limb in 1947. Ralph was the eldest son of Charles and Jessie Limb.

Ralph thought that his wife would stay at home and look after the house and children, but Elwyn had other ideas, and was perfectly capable of being housewife and mother, whilst holding down a full-time job as an infant school teacher. Her responsibilities also included Sunday School, entertaining visiting preachers, proof-reading and editing, and much more. She made sure the children knew their times tables, but they could be sure of loving arms when things were not so good.

Early years were spent in Kent, where Ralph was ostensibly apprenticed as an evangelist to Albert Winstanley, but this very often meant standing in for Albert who was in great demand as a speaker throughout the British Isles. After eight years with the home congregation at Eastwood, the couple moved to East Anglia on the invitation of a group of Christians in the USAF who had it in their hearts to help establish a congregation whilst they were



in England. Partly because this was in a rural setting, the congregation never really materialised, but a handful of English people had joined the group, and when the American contingent dwindled, Ralph and Elwyn felt that they could not move away and leave them. Ralph took the opportunity to train as a schoolteacher, and this was only possible for the family because Elwyn had been teaching, being for a time the principle breadwinner.

Faith and faithfulness to Jesus were the hallmark of the couple – strong in their convictions, but open to new ideas. I doubt very much if Ralph would have been so interested in poetry and theatre, have played cards or eaten curry without Elwyn's influence. Her culinary skills were famous among the many she entertained as a preacher's wife – including Cuddleston cake and other recipes handed down from previous generations. She could also knit and sew, perhaps more out of necessity than passion.

Her Christian witness, her excellent memory, her interest in new things, her love for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be missed. But she has earned her rest, finished her course, so we are thankful to let her go and be with the Lord she loved.

*A memorial service for Ralph and Elwyn will be held at the Seymour Road chapel, Eastwood, Notts at 2:30 pm on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Contact Adrian Limb (01773 761670) for details.*

*Robert Limb*



# Family News

**Ilkeston:** Through a chance remark made to a leader of another church in town about teaching Ephesians, their response was that if I would teach a series, they would join us for our mid-week meeting. This led to a six-week course during the Lent period leading up to Easter. In total over forty people attended representing four local churches and four area congregations. This was a huge opportunity to teach the scriptures and to make friends with people in this town.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April we hosted a Passover meal to better understand the idea of a feast from which Jesus introduced the celebration of his remembrance.

This was not intended to celebrate the Passover but to try to understand Jewish thinking and practices.

On 26<sup>th</sup> February Ken Mullan stepped down from working with the congregation as the evangelist. We are thankful for his ability to teach in the past and to be a continuing part of the work here.

*Trevor Williams*



**Bristol:** 1<sup>st</sup> April was a blessed day for many as we gathered with ladies from around the country to consider the treasure of God's word from the book of Isaiah. Thank you to everyone who made it

possible, especially our speakers, the teen girls who helped us focus on the true meaning of joy and the men who worked behind the scenes with preparation, food and clean up. Elaine Oats led the health highlight where she

shared information on spotting diabetes. The lessons were taken from Isaiah 55 and taught three basic principles: Come all who thirst, seek the Lord, and go out in joy. A recipe for sure spiritual success.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, 16<sup>th</sup> April, we headed to the local park to share the message

of Jesus' resurrection to children and parents alike. In conjunction with the local park action group we held our annual gospel trail which families followed. It consisted of 5 activity stations with a different aspect of the resurrection told at

each. Children received a small prize on the completion of the trail. There were around fifty children who completed the trail and we had many opportunities to share our faith with the community around us.

*Jason Snethen*



## Around the World

**India:** I was able to visit India in mid-February for two weeks to spend time with the graduates from the British Bible School serving in their own country. John Thygaraju's family with his eldest son Joel, continue to work at the Bethsaida Children's Home, now in its 45<sup>th</sup> year of service. The home has worked with over 3,000 children during this time, keeping them from poverty and hunger and providing a good education for them. I met some of the girls who have become teachers, nurses, chemists, carers, social workers and, of course, wives and mothers. They have become good parents which is a testimony to the work done in the children's home.

Last year we were able to re-furbish the washing facilities and showers and replace the toilets. We now need to replace the cooker (£95) and repair a wall (£200). Other expenses include a CCTV monitor which the government insists must be in all children's homes to prevent attacks – this will cost £300.

John Thygaraju continues to suffer with ill health and restricted mobility. Despite these problems

he continues to do what he can among the congregations. His wisdom and advice are well received.

The congregations continue to provide food and clothing for the children and people in the community in troubled times. Each

year there is flooding and cyclones causing continual distress.

The Madiki family are now growing up and all are involved in the work of the school in various ways. Paul is now over the running of the school on a part-

time basis. He also helps his father, Samuel, in the work in the Pithapuram region. Each weekend Paul conducts a study class for local preachers with around twelve students attending.

Vijay and Sonia Madiki work in the village of Pavara helping the villagers with food and clothing. Sonia also conducts a social

needs class for the women, helping pregnant mothers with milk and baby clothes. She also conducts a sewing centre where women make blankets and saris for themselves and to sell as income

for their families. Vijay works with the Samakolt congregation and conducts





teacher training seminars in the surrounding villages. We visited a couple of these seminars and saw the teaching that was presented in each class of about twenty students.

Paul Nehru and his family continue to work with Tabitha School and the congregation's complex. The school has over 250 students. The older children from the Bethsaida Children's home attend this High School. Nurmala, Paul's wife, is head teacher of the school but because of a dispute with the government her wages were denied for twelve years. This has finally been resolved, obviously causing much joy to the family.

We thank you all for your support and pray that you will continue to support the work of the brethren in India.

*Tony Tyson*  
tonytyson66@yahoo.co.uk

**Pakistan:** Fourteen students will be graduating this year from Sahiwal Bible

College. There will also be ten distance learning students graduating. All of these men will be going to work for the Lord in their local areas. We are in need of bicycle for them to help in their work.



If possible, please help us to buy these.

So far, more than fifty students have graduated from the Bible College and 38 are working in preaching and teaching. Some of these have jobs and in the evenings they are able to preach. Others have no job and those who have support share with them.

We appreciate the funds recently sent for Bibles. Thank you. Please remember us in your prayers as we are praying for you that may God bless you abundantly.

*Naeem Sabir*



*Naeem is a graduate of the British Bible School. Any donations to help those working with Naeem can be sent to Barbara Fisher, 5 Portway, North Marston, Buckingham, MK18 3PL, and made out to 'Church of Christ, Pakistan Fund'.*

## Notices

We have a number of hymnbooks we no longer need and would like to go to a congregation who could use them.



There is no charge but they would have to be collected from the church building - postage for them would be quite a bit!

- Sankey - "Sacred Songs And Solos" (Red) - small; words only. Qty 34
- Howard Publishers - "Songs Of The Church" (Yellow). Qty 74
- Eye-Opener Publications - "Favourite Hymns Of The Church" (Green). Qty 50
- "Great Songs Of The Church No.2" (Grey). Qty 17

Contact details: Alan Moyes. (07774) 607483 or [alan.j.moyes@gmail.com](mailto:alan.j.moyes@gmail.com)

Meeting place: Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY2 5DG

## Morley and Sheffield Ladies Day 2017

### Building Our Faith!

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> of May

**Time:** 10.00 am-3.30 pm

The Morley and Sheffield congregations are hosting a ladies' day. We will be considering how we Christian women can build our faith in a way that is pleasing to God. It will be an encouraging day with singing, crafts and discussion. We hope you are able to join us!

If you would like to come please either message Sharon O'Donovan or Bethany O'Donovan on Facebook or email [bethany\\_odonovan@aol.com](mailto:bethany_odonovan@aol.com)

**Venue:** Morley church building, Zoar Street, Morley, Leeds LS27 8JD

Free event

Join us for an evening of songs, hymns and spiritual songs from Harding University Choir on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 from 7pm.



Harding University is a Christian University based in Searcy, Arkansas. They will be visiting Bristol as part of their UK tour.

For more information contact Jason Snethen 07795560990



Church of Christ, 298 St Johns Lane, Bristol, BS3 5AY

[www.churchofchristbristol.org](http://www.churchofchristbristol.org)  
[www.facebook.com/bristolchurchofchrist](https://www.facebook.com/bristolchurchofchrist)

## HARDING UNIVERSITY CHORUS



Thursday, 25 May 2017 from 19:30 to 21:00

**Faith Mission Centre**  
548 Gilmerton Road  
Edinburgh EH17 7JD



(Hosted by Hyvots Bank congregation)





The Glenrothes and Perth congregations are hosting the presentation of a short series of addresses on topics concerning the Christian faith with the Senior Adventures in Ministry of the Sunset International Bible Institute.

**9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June – The Holy Spirit**  
(Fri & Sat at 7.00 pm; Sun at 10.00 am)  
speaker: Brian Garnett

**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June – Christian Evidences**  
(Fri & Sat at 7.00 pm; Sun at 10.00 am)  
speaker: Stuart Jones

**Venue: Church of Christ, Glamis Centre, Pitteuchar, Glenrothes KY7 4RH**

For further details contact:  
Allen Phillips (07599) 253333  
Scott Tominey (07454) 972691

## Stockwell Ladies' Fellowship Day

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2017**  
**10.30 am to 4.30 pm**

*Guest Speaker: Weezie Burger will speak on Ephesians 5:16*  
*"Evangelism Make it Count"*

*Venue: St Michael's Church Hall, Stockwell Park Road, London SW9 0DA*

**Contact: Bernie Wells (07904 303347)**

**EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WORKSHOP**  
**THURS 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST TO SAT 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017**

**LANCASTER UNIVERSITY**

**THEME: SHALOM**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Mark Adams (USA)

**SONG LEADER**

Alan Dod (Thamesmead)

**SPEAKERS**

Truitt Adair (USA)

Iain Cameron (East Kilbride)

Robert Daniell (Bristol)

John Griffiths (Wembley)

Charles Yankiah (Liverpool)

More speakers to be confirmed

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

*You can book via our website:*  
[www.europeanchristianworkshop.com](http://www.europeanchristianworkshop.com)  
[registration@europeanchristianworkshop.com](mailto:registration@europeanchristianworkshop.com)  
or contact Stephen Woodcock (01509) 768789



**Science vs. Evolution**  
Dr. Jeff Miller  
A credentialed scientist dismantles atheistic evolution.

**Tooting Annual Lectureship**  
**27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

For further information, please contact:  
Eddie Fisher: 07949 165 796  
Daniel Anoff: 07818 567 966  
Andrews Oppong-Adjei: 07951 098 153  
Email: [tootingcoc@live.co.uk](mailto:tootingcoc@live.co.uk)

**Seminar Sessions:**  
Evolution vs. the Laws of Science (Parts I-III)  
Evolution's "Evidence" (Parts I-III)  
Why Be an Atheist?

# Diary

## May

**6<sup>th</sup> – East Kilbride:** Outreach meeting; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Speaker: David Chapman. Contact: Jon Galloway (ek.klesia@icloud.com).

**12<sup>th</sup> – 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; speaker: Robert Daniell. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

**13<sup>th</sup> – Peterborough:** Men’s Day/Workshop: “Young Men Rise Up and Speak”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm; venue: Stanground Community Centre, Whittlesey Road, Peterborough, PE2 8QS. Contact: Mac Erysthee (07732 753199 or merysthee1@aol.com).

**18<sup>th</sup> – Bristol:** Concert with Harding University Chorus; 7.30 pm. Contact: Jason Snethen (07795 560990).

**20<sup>th</sup> – Morley & Sheffield:** Ladies’ Day – “Building Our Faith!”, 10.00 am-3.30 pm, held at Morley’s building, Zoar Street, Morley, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS27 8JD. Contact: Bethany O’Donovan (bethany\_odonovan@aol.com).

**20<sup>th</sup> – Manchester (Stretford):** Special meeting, lunch at 1.00 pm followed by Trevor Williams at 2.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon (dr\_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

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

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

**24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> – Hyvots Bank (Edinburgh):** Concerts with Harding University Chorus; 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>).

**27<sup>th</sup> – Sheffield:** Seminar – “Growing into Maturity as Christians.” Contact: 07508 033534, 07982 906618 and 07809 719855 for more information.

**27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> – Tooting:** Annual Lectureship – “Science vs Evolution,” at Bruce Hall, Brudenell Road, Tooting, London SW17 8DF; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.45 pm, Sunday: 10.00 am-4.00 pm, Monday: 10.00 am-3.00 pm; speaker: Dr Jeff Miller (Apologetics Press). Contact: Eddie Fisher (07949 165796), Daniel Anoff (07818 567966), Andrews Oppong-Adjei (07951 098153), or tootingcoc@live.co.uk.

## June

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Reading:** RISE (Reading in Song event) – Praise and Harmony Workshop with Anthony Lancaster, William Gooch and Durant, at Lodden Valley Leisure Centre: 3.00-5.00 pm. Also at 6.30 pm a singing programme by Durant. Contact: Craig Benjamin (csbjlb@gmail.com).

**9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> – Perth & Glenrothes:** Lessons on the Holy Spirit, Friday & Saturday 7.00 pm, Sunday, 10.00 am, at Glamis Centre, Pitteuchar, Glenrothes KY7 4RH. Speaker: Brian Garnett. Contact Allen Phillips (07599 253333), Scott Tominey (07454 972691) or Maurice Chatlton (07517 285420).

**10<sup>th</sup> – Stockwell:** Ladies’ Fellowship Day: “Evangelism – Make it Count”, 10.30 am-4.30 pm, at St. Michael’s Church Hall, Stockwell Park Road, SW9 0DA; speaker: Weezie Burger. Contact: Bernie Wells (07904 303347 or bern.wells@hotmail.co.uk).



**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> – Perth & Glenrothes:** Lessons on Christian Evidences, Friday & Saturday 7.00 pm, Sunday, 10.00 am, at Glamis Centre, Pitteuchar, Glenrothes KY7 4RH. Speaker: Stuart Jones. Contact Allen Phillips (07599 253333), Scott Tominey (07454 972691) or Maurice Chatlton (07517 285420).

**17<sup>th</sup> – 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).

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

### July

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

**8<sup>th</sup> – Edmonton:** Men’s Workshop. Contact: Charles Banin (charlesbanino@aol.com).

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

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

**23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> – Camp Tayside:** Contact: Paddy Sullivan.

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

### August

**5<sup>th</sup> – Leicester:** Ladies Day.

**7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> – Sheffield:** Vacation Bible Study for children. Contact 07454 884119 and 07508 033534 for more information.

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

**13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> – British Bible Camp.**

**24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> – European Christian Workshop** at Lancaster: *Shalom*.

### September

**9<sup>th</sup> – Great Barr:** Annual Fellowship Day.

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> – Peterhead:** Annual Social Day.

**29<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> October – Field of Refuge:** Women’s renewal at Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine. Cost: £95.00. Information: [fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com](mailto:fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com) or Yvonne Cass (07450 296427).

### October

**7<sup>th</sup> – Manchester (Stretford):** Special meeting, beginning with lunch at 1.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon (dr\_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

**27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> – Livingston:** Youth Weekend.

**27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> – Sheffield:** Gospel meetings – “Is the Gospel Really Good News?” Contact: 07982 906618 or 07508 033534 for further information.

### November

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

**6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> – 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](http://britishbibleschool.com).

**11<sup>th</sup> – 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; speaker: Bob Eckman. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

### January 2018

**19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> – Bassenthwaite Family Retreat** at Bassenfell Manor (Lake District). Organised by the British Bible School.

### February

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Cumbernauld:** Men’s Day.

**19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> – 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](mailto:brazle.paul@gmail.com) or +32 488 481 082).

# The Final Word: "The Christian Wedding Ceremony"



I love to see people giving their lives to Jesus in what has been described as the Christian wedding ceremony. I am always reminded of the day I said 'yes' to Jesus and was immersed – it was 19<sup>th</sup> April 1959. Through Facebook and YouTube many baptisms are recorded for posterity and most of us will be thrilled to see this event taking place in other peoples lives. But I want to offer a gentle reminder to those who are conducting the baptisms – let's make sure that we use the right words.

Acts 2:38 tells us that baptism is for the forgiveness (remission) of sins and for receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. Over and over again I am seeing baptisms recorded on the internet where the second part of the verse is not mentioned. The early church was very insistent that people understood that baptism was for the remission of sins. This is clearly stated in the Nicene Creed of 325, where it states, "We believe in baptism for the remission of sins". In 1562 the same thing was restated as the 27<sup>th</sup> article of the 39 Articles of the Church of England. The initial purpose seems to be clarified sufficiently in Scripture and creed.

So what about the gift of the Holy Spirit? This gift supplies us with the guarantee of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14). The Holy Spirit produces fruit in our lives (Galatians 5:22). "God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5). We do not even know what to pray for without the intercession of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26). The matter is so important that the Apostle Paul teaches that "if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ he does not belong to Christ" (Romans 8:9). I mention just a few verses here: the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit seems very important indeed.

By not making the purpose of baptism absolutely clear we run the risk of not teaching the whole counsel of God. We are negating the full value of immersion and being joined with Christ. We rise to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4) with the Holy Spirit of Jesus living with us. What a wonderful gift and one available to everyone. So please, who ever immerses someone else get the purpose right, get the words right.

One last thought about the baptiser: no hand raising is required or necessary when making the statement for the purpose of baptism in the water. That really will make no difference whatsoever.

*Trevor*

## Prayer

*Our Father in Heaven,  
Help us to always be concerned about obeying you,  
Which includes all that you have revealed to us.  
Help us to teach more people about Jesus,  
So they can receive forgiveness and the Holy Spirit  
as your gift.  
Through your Son, Amen.*

