

CHRISTIAN WORKER



Sharing Jesus using
World Bible School
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Bassenthwaite
BBS Study
Week (p.3)

One new
Christian! (p.5)

Bill & Eleanor Pirie
celebrate 60 years
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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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Deadline: 21st of each month

We have arrived at the end of another year and it has been a busy one! Retreats, outreach meetings, fellowship and study days have all played their part as we reach out to those around us as well as try to encourage each other.

We have been delighted to report the good news of 38 becoming Christians from nineteen congregations. I am confident these are not all those who became Christians, but they serve as an encouragement to all of us as we continue to find ways to tell others the good news of Jesus.

I would ask that all please take a look at their congregation entry in the *Christian Worker Directory*. I know that some e-mail addresses are no longer accurate but we have nothing with which to replace them. Please send corrections to Trevor (e-mail address to left) and not try to make corrections on the website (we don't get informed about these). Let's try to keep this information as up-to-date as we can.

Let me encourage all to send any news and information for January in by the deadline this month. This will allow Trevor and me to spend less time during the holidays putting together January's edition and give us more time to spend with our families. Many thanks for your help in this.

Perhaps it is a comment on the state of the country and the world, but people have been putting up their Christmas trees much earlier this year (even before December begins!). Christmas is a time of hope and beauty, with houses decorated, inside and out, as we plan for the big day. It seems that some need this ray of hope just now.

As Christians, we should always be a people who have hope. Writing to Christians who were beginning to go through persecution, Peter emphasised the hope we have because of Jesus (read 1 Peter 1:3-9). No matter what happens around us, we have "*an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven.*" May our lives show this during the holidays and throughout the year!

Jon

Spotlight: BBS Residential Study Week

A week in the word

When we decided to run a residential Study Week at Bassenthwaite in the Lake District, we really had little idea of just how it would work out. In the end it proved to be most worthwhile for all involved, so much so that we are making plans for another, similar event, next year.

Though we hold regular Study

Weekends in various locations around the country each year, we had not held a residential Study Week before. Being familiar with the venue from having held our annual winter Family Retreat there, we were confident that it would be ideal for the event and so made plans accordingly.

Arriving on the Monday afternoon, classes were held all day from Tuesday to Thursday, with a final session before departure on Friday. It was deliberately an intensive few days of study, covering an entire module,

whilst at the same time allowing for plenty of time to enjoy each other's company and to share together in ways God is working in our lives.

'Walking with God' was our module for the

week – one of our practical modules in which we consider what it might mean to live in fellowship with God on a daily basis. We examined some principles of discipleship as we explored

what it can mean to deny ourselves and die daily for Christ. Far from seeing ourselves as being simply members of a group, we were challenged to contemplate the demands of being a disciple of Jesus in our contemporary contexts.



Each day began with our morning devotions together in the lounge. A good selection of food was served at mealtimes, and all attendees took their turn helping with

setting up, clearing away and washing up. The tea/coffee bar proved a popular venue for congregating between classes

and at other free times, and evenings were spent in a relaxing manner. We had a games evening, enjoyed a quiz and watched a film together.

As had been planned, the afternoon programme was altered on the Thursday to accommodate a brief walk in the surrounding area. Half of the group enjoyed a three mile level stroll, past the village and towards Bassenthwaite Lake. The underlying ground proved to be a bit muddy at one point, but all made it through unscathed.

Looking ahead to 2018

As we look ahead to next year we would like you to make a note in your diaries for 5th to 9th November 2018 when we will be holding our second residential Study Week.

We will be back at this delightful location in the northern Lakes and taking a look at another of our curriculum

modules. For those who are involved in teaching and leading within local assemblies – this will be an excellent opportunity to set aside a few days, to immerse yourself in the study of God's

word, and to share together with others who are seeking to serve others in the word.

Other events

Details of this and other events can be found on our website, including our

first Autumn Family Retreat to be held at Letton Hall in Norfolk next September. In light of our Winter Family Retreat having been oversubscribed for the past two years, we have decided to organise another event along similar lines in a different part of the

country – closer to those living in the south east. See our advert elsewhere (on page 10).

Thank you for your continued support for our British Bible School.



Patrick Boyns

www.britishbibleschool.com

Congratulations!

Eastwood: We rejoice that **Eddie Warren** was baptised for the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus Christ on 26th November. It was a wonderful occasion (fifteen people came to the Eastwood chapel) as Eddie was added to the Lord's body.

Please pray for Eddie as he starts his new life in Christ. All Glory to God!

Anthony Warren
(East Kilbride)



Buckie: **Bill & Eleanor Pirie** celebrated 60

years of marriage in October! Their family organised a surprise party for them, which all enjoyed. They were married on 26th October 1957.



Alan Moyes
(Kirkcaldy)



Directory Update

NEWTOWNARDS (Co Down)

Christians: 18

Meeting place: Manor Court Community Centre, Mill Street, Newtownards, Co Down BT23 4LT

Sunday meetings: Worship & teaching 11.00 am

Midweek: in homes

Contacts:

Remove Alex McGuiggan.

Update David Dunn. ☎ (02891) 814076 📱 (07943) 809538 💻 dhdunn00@gmail.com

Appeals

Pakistan: The Bible College in Pakistan is as always struggling to keep afloat. The generous Christians throughout Britain have provided for £11,150 to be sent to Pakistan this year, roughly half of which has gone towards Naeem Sabir's family support since he lost his American support. Right now he hopes that support will resume, as the elders of the American congregation are planning a visit to the College in December.

The College, though, needs regular infusions of funds to continue operating. Graduating students also need financial support to preach and teach the gospel



throughout that difficult and dangerous land. Funds received also go towards helping the local congregation with their needs for preaching and teaching.

Any funds donated, especially on a regular basis, would be very gratefully received. Naeem and the Christians in Pakistan wish to thank the British Christians for all the

help they have given.

If any individual or congregation would like to donate, cheques can be sent to: 'Barbara Fisher (Pakistan Account)', at 5 Portway, North Marston, Buckingham, MK18 3PL, tel: 01296 534774.

Barbara Fisher

Appeal Updates

Malawi: We are pleased to report that as a result of the recent Malawi Preachers' Appeal we made on behalf of the work in Northern Malawi, we were able to raise £6,360. Several congregations were able to send funds that secures the continuing support of Amos, Davis, Risco, and Stywell until the end of 2019. This is great news for the work there and for those men and their families.

Davison Ndhlovu has been a blessing to our efforts, too, by helping channel funds to the men during a difficult period trying to arrange cards for them to receive their funds. We are pleased to report that this is fully resolved now.

If anyone would like to receive regular updates from these men, please let me know and I will add you to the emails we send out.

Graham McDonald
Cumbernauld

India: Thank you for your support for the 'School Bag Project 2017'. The funds sent from Christians in the UK have helped us to purchase 100 school bag kits for poor children to help them continue their education.

We appreciate and treasure your generosity in our hearts. Thank you for your unfailing support all these years,

Joel Madiki
India

Tony Tyson
Skelmersdale

Outreach: Sharing Jesus Using World Bible School

Are you looking for new ways to share the Gospel with your local community? Then you need to know about World Bible School 'Connect'. Connect lets you use WBS materials and teaching methods to share Jesus while targeting your community, town or city. It gives your friends and neighbours the opportunity to study the Bible with you using WBS printed or online lessons in the privacy of their home at their own pace...all at no cost to them!



The key to making Connect work effectively is local advertising. How does Connect advertising work? You choose either or both of two advertising methods.

First, you can find seekers using traditional advertising (e.g. handing out business cards, posting handbills, distributing leaflets, running ads in the local newspaper, etc.). We provide you free templates for the cards, leaflets, etc., and you have them printed locally. This approach encourages those in the local congregation to be directly involved by personally inviting people to sign up to study. In this approach you pay for printing and advertising, and for paper lessons and postage for those who choose to study printed lessons. There is no charge for students who choose to study WBS online.

Second, you can use the power of the internet to help seekers to find you. It works like this: We help you identify a

specific geographic outreach area of interest (your town or city, or a set of adjoining post codes). We then produce a map of this area for you to review. Upon

your approval we implement it. Then when someone in that targeted area goes online and does a Google search for a topic like "free Bible study", "Jesus", "Bible topics", etc., they will be given the opportunity to

register at the WBS website as a student. Using this approach your cost will include a monthly budgeted amount for Web Ads coverage, and the cost of paper lessons and postage as above.

In both methods, the seeker who goes to the WBS site can register to study either paper or online lessons. When they register, their name is forwarded to your congregation, where a local Christian can serve as their 'study helper' as they work through the WBS lessons.

WBS Connect is a great way to supplement your local outreach efforts. To learn more, go to www.worldbibleschool.net/resources and review the 'WBS Connect Brochure and FAQ' and 'WBS Web Ads Map'. Phone me on +001 512-345-8190 or email me at bill@worldbibleschool.net if you have questions.

Let us show you how WBS Connect can be a helpful tool in your local outreach effort!

Bill Coluwell

Family News

Loughborough: On the weekend of 10th November, the congregation in Loughborough provided the youth throughout the UK congregations the opportunity to meet and be “BOARD” out of their brains.

Thankfully, being ‘bored’ was not on the agenda as giant versions of the classic games ‘Hungry Hippos’, ‘Twister’, ‘Snakes and Ladders’ and ‘Guess Who’ were played throughout the weekend. The lessons which were presented were linked to the games.



Following several eventful rounds of Hungry Hippos, Joel Adams brought a thought provoking lesson on our “Hunger for Christ”. Aaron Sparks later brought his lesson on “Twister” and how we can avoid being twisted in Satan’s lies.

Robert Daniell rounded the weekend off, on Sunday morning by challenging us on our appearance as Christians and our need to continue to develop as Christians and to strive to be Christ-like.

The weekend was a great opportunity to catch up with friends and to make new ones. The Loughborough Street fair was also in town and time was given to visit and walk around the stalls.

Thanks to everyone who came along and helped make this an enjoyable and encouraging weekend with like-minded young people.

Liam Bates

East Kilbride: We have had a very busy autumn! In September we held an outreach meeting with Jack Paton presenting lessons on “Getting to Know Jesus.” There were visitors from the community who came due to being invited by friends in the congregation.

We hosted two study weekends for the British Bible School in October and November. Jack Paton and Mitch

Vick led us through a study of “A Letter to the Galatians.” Fourteen were able to be a part of these weekends. The teaching was excellent and we would recommend to more congregations that they consider hosting a study weekend.



November saw our annual joint outreach meetings with the Clarkston and Lomond congregations. Patrick Boyns was our speaker and presented four

excellent lessons about Jesus. We are thankful to all who supported these efforts.

Jon Galloway

The Voice

With the December issue 2017 (No 36) of *The Voice* we complete three years of this 8-page monthly magazine. It is free, comes as a pdf download, and is geared 'in-house'

towards Christians in the UK congregations to strengthen faith, broaden thinking and deepen understanding. We try to produce a variety of articles in as interesting a way as we possibly can, usually with two main articles and some short thoughts. The articles are just a little bit meatier than the lead articles I was able to publish in the *Christian Worker* as Editor, because my space allocations are not quite as restricted – you're getting slightly better value for your free 'money'!

Articles coming up are:

December: 'In defence of the Archbishop' (Rowan Williams on Christmas); 'The Hands that created the world' (Jesus as Creator in Mary's arms). (Both seasonally inspired.)

January: 'Fight the good fight' (Our need to defend Christian values in a post-Christian world); 'A Snowball Theory' (Yet another



silly scientific attempt to explain the origin of life, the sort of thing which gets thrown at us every so often.)

February: 'When Good Men Do Nothing' (The 'Nashville Statement' on the biblical view of homosexual and transgender issues and the 'Denver Statement' opposition, and wondering why 'we' do not engage positively on the side of truth and right – could be challenging!); 'The writing on the ground' (What did Jesus write when faced with the challenge of the adulterous woman?).

All you need to do to join in is to send me your email address and I will add you to my e-mail list. Many brothers and sisters tell me they are enjoying the benefits of these magazines, and you can too. It's as easy as saying PDF.

Graham Fisher
gafisher888@aol.com

Notices

We are planning to hold a **50th Anniversary Celebration in Kirkcaldy on Saturday, 13th January 2018**. We will begin with something to eat at noon and plan to finish by 3.00 pm. This will replace our April social day just for the one year. PLEASE HELP with the catering arrangements by letting us know ASAP how many you anticipate will be with us on that occasion.
joan-tony1974@virginmedia.com



**For More Information
Contact us at
Registration@EuropeanChristianWorkshop.com
or on 01509 768789**

Payment Plan Available to Help Spread the Cost

Advanced Bible Study Series

Join us in Gemünden, Germany...

19-23 February 2018

ABSS I – Monday pm to Friday noon

ABSS II – Friday pm to Sunday noon

To request complete programme information or book your place, contact ABSS Coordinator:
Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com)

I want to know JESUS

... learning to know Jesus, not just about him

Autumn Family Weekend Retreat

Friday, 14th to Sunday, 16th September 2018
at Letton Hall in Norfolk



www.britishbibleschool.com

Diary

December

2nd – **East Kilbride**: “Sing Praises to the Lord”, 1.30-5.00 pm.

January 2018

13th – **Kirkcaldy**: 50th Anniversary Celebration (of meeting in their current location), 12.00-3.00 pm. Contact: joan-tony1974@virginmedia.com

19th-21st – **Bassenthwaite Family Retreat** at Bassenfell Manor (Lake District). Organised by the British Bible School. (All spaces are taken.)

February

3rd – **Cumbernauld**: Men’s Day.

9th-12th – **Cumbernauld**: Youth/Young Adult Retreat at Rowerdennan Youth Hostel (G63 0AR); Theme: “Keeping Up With Christ.” Cost: £35 for two nights or £40 for three nights. To book your place contact: Nicole Barr (nicole8barr@gmail.com).

16th-17th – **Hyvots Bank and Kirkcaldy**: East Coast Joint Meetings, 7.30 pm (Hyvots Bank on Friday and Kirkcaldy on Saturday). Speaker: David Murray. Contact: Alan Moyes (alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com) or Nick Wilson (hnwilson@blueyonder.co.uk).

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/>)

March

2nd-3rd – **Aberdeen**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Galatians” (part 1) presented by Jack Paton and Mitch Vick. Friday: 7.00–9.00 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.15 pm. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com

10th – **Great Barr**: Bible Seminar.

July

20th-27th – **Camp Heatherbell**: Auchengillan Outdoor Centre (Allander Chalet); theme: “5G”; Contact: Adam Barr ((07889 631218), Graham McDonald (07748 787744) or email 5G@campheatherbell.org.uk for more details and camp forms.

21st-25th – **Commonwealth of Dominica**: 8th International Women’s Lectureship – “Wise Woman, Hold On, the Best is Yet to Come.” Contact: eighthiw12018@gmail.com.

September

8th – **Great Barr**: Fellowship Day.

14th-16th – **Letton Hall Family Retreat** in Norfolk (IP25 7SA). Theme: “I Want to Know Jesus.” Cost: £70 per person. Organised by the British Bible School. To book, visit the BBS website: <http://britishbibleschool.com/upcoming-events/letton-hall-family-retreat-2018>

November

5th-9th – **British Bible School**: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Module: “The Conquest and Settlement of Canaan – a study of the book of Joshua”. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com

The Final Word: "Jubilee"



The next edition of the *Christian Worker* begins our 50th year of publication and thanks must go to the many people who have helped in so many different ways. Albert Winstanley, the original editor, was given the job on top of his normal evangelistic work, in a publishing world that was very different from now. Computers, emails, the world wide web and mobile phones were space-age dreams. The world was in many ways a different place, socially, politically and religiously.

One thing that has not changed is the need for people to respond to the love of Jesus Christ. Some countries 50 years ago had relatively few people claiming faith in Christ but now have many thousands praising Jesus; some had more but are now less. Missionaries were needed then and even more so now as the world has increased in population. Missionaries' needs also have to be met. Brexit has so far done little to help the exchange rate and those to whom we send money often receive less. It was only recently that we realised that the Indian brother the Ilkeston congregation supports was receiving 20% less because of the exchange rate. We have now adjusted that so we make sure he receives a standard rate his end. However with increasing prices in India there is a need to increase his wages. When we last visited Malawi the rate was 225 kwacha to the pound, it is now 1000. We think our economy is bad! Monetary devaluation is so great that those who we encourage to repay on the loan system often have to pay considerably more for the same value. Obviously this is an illogical way of trying to help out. The revolving fund idea does not always work.

Under the Mosaic law at the time of Jubilee – every 50 years – land went back to the original owners and a new start was made. Perhaps your congregation needs a new start. Why did Christians begin meeting there in the first place? Has the congregation kept up with the needs of the people and the locality it is placed in? If not, why not? Sometimes congregations have to be recreated, with new vision, new purpose, new ideas, new people. Worship is not a repeat performance. It may be difficult to try new things. New thinking does not come easily, old ways are hard to change. God's word does not change but sometimes congregations need to think about what they are doing and find ways of doing it better. There is nothing wrong with a new start – that is what Christianity is all about and that is why we need a year of Jubilee. Join us in our celebration by sharing your ideas, plans, news, events. That was why the *Christian Worker* first started and that is what we are trying to do. We send our love to all our readers.

Trevor

*Glorious Father, who delights in granting renewed opportunities,
Grant to your people vision, hope, and strength.
As we are reminded of the Jubilee, let your people see with new vision.
As we are reminded of the Lord's birth, let us rejoice in our rebirth.
And we give you thanks for your salvation by grace and love through eternity.
We praise you.
Amen*