

# CHRISTIAN WORKER



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**Bible reading  
for the New  
Year** (p.3)

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(p.10)

**A seasonal thought  
and poem** (p.6)

*Happy New Year!*

## From the editors:

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A very Happy New Year to everyone! 2018 is now upon us. We have a year ahead of us...a year to grow spiritually to be more like Jesus...a year to lead others to know him as their saviour.

This begins the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the *Christian Worker*. Note that we have not completed 50 years of publishing nor is this our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary – that all happens next January. But this does mark us entering our 50<sup>th</sup> year of publication. I mention this because as we approach our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, we have plans to look back on the last 50 years.

As we prepare for this anniversary it would be good to have an archive of all issues of the *Christian Worker*. If you have back issues of the magazine, particularly for the first 15 years, and would either part with them or allow us to make copies, please contact me ([jdgalloway@mac.com](mailto:jdgalloway@mac.com)). Once we have an archive of all the issues we will see about making them available in a digital format. From a historical perspective alone, this would be a good resource for the future. If you can assist us, please contact me.

Being a new year might be a good time to begin a regular Bible reading plan if you are not already doing this. Our 'Spotlight' article this month looks at Bible reading and the BBS *Notes* reminds us of the need for a regular time of devotion.

Although the Christmas is now past, we have included a poem by Nick Wilson from the Hyvots Bank congregation that looks at the seasonal period – we thought you would enjoy it.

During the next few weeks most congregations will be making plans for the coming year. Be sure to send the information to us so that we can include it in the 'Diary' section to let others know about it. Also, feel free to send in any detailed plans you are making for the year to include in our 'Family News'. By exchanging ideas, we might help others as they think about what they can do.

The *Christian Worker* was begun as a means of exchanging news and ideas between the congregations in the UK. May we continue to have this as our emphasis.

Jon

## Spotlight: Bible reading for a New Year

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to begin a new Bible reading plan. Whether we plan to read the entire Bible or just a part of it, consistent, frequent Bible reading needs to be a part of each Christian's plan to grow.

It is sad when people have been Christians for many years, yet they have grown very little if any. This is a problem which Christians have had to deal with in every generation. We see this even in the first few decades after Jesus. *"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach*

*you again the basic principles of the oracles of God"* (Hebrews 5:12 ESV). Christians should grow to the point that they can teach others, but sadly too many still do not understand the basics of what we believe.

How do we correct this?

There is only one way that we can change this and it has to be done individually. We need to know God's word! The only way we can get to know God's word is to spend time reading and studying it, and then putting it into practice.

When someone has never dealt much with the Bible, it can be rather daunting. For a book, it is quite large. For most beginning to read the Bible they do what seems logical: they start at the beginning. *Genesis* is a good read and they are off to a good

start as they read about Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. As they enter *Exodus* the narrative continues with Moses and the Israelites leaving Egypt. But about halfway through *Exodus* they encounter the first laws. And these continue to through *Leviticus*, *Numbers*, and *Deuteronomy*. For a new Christian without a knowledge of what the Bible is about, they usually don't make it this far!

For someone just beginning to read the Bible, I suggest that they begin in *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke* and *John*. These books give us a greater understanding of Jesus as we look at

both what he did and what he taught. If we begin here and concentrate on the books of the New Testament, we are reading about what we should be doing as Christians as we live to reflect Jesus in our lives.



This is not to say that reading and studying what we refer to as the Old Testament is not important. It is important because it is necessary to better understand what we find in the writings of the apostles. Although we can learn from *Hebrews* and *Revelation*, we will understand much more if we have spent time in the books of the Law and the prophets. But for a new Christian trying to develop a habit of Bible reading, beginning in the New Testament can be useful.

Some people like to use Bible reading plans. These can be good as they provide a

systematic way to read through the Bible. Some concentrate on sections of scripture while others provide a systematic way to get through all sixty-six books in a year. For those just beginning to read the Bible I would suggest using a plan that does not overload you with long sections but can be done in five to ten minutes each day. As you get used to spending time with God's word you will want to increase this time so you will be able to read more of the text each year.

Let me recommend three types of Bible reading plans.

The first is one that I publish each week for *Forthright* magazine ([forthright.net/biblebytes](http://forthright.net/biblebytes)). The goal in my articles for *Forthright* this year will be to read half the New Testament in the first half of the year (we began reading through the New Testament in July 2017) and to read roughly 1/4 of the Old Testament in the last half of the year (we will begin in Judges).

This plan requires reading 30-45 verses per day and I provide an article each Friday which covers something in one of the chapters for the next week. This requires reading five to ten minutes each day. There are other reading plans on [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and other Bible study websites.

For the more advanced reader you may want to attempt reading the entire Bible in a year. There are various plans that can be found on the Bible study websites that

organise your readings to allow you to complete the entire Bible. Some read through the Old Testament and then the New, while others have readings from both sections each day.

A third type of plan concentrates on reading a book of the Bible in one sitting each week (some weeks have several books combined). This allows the reader to better see the message of an entire book or letter and how they fit together. To learn more about this type of Bible reading see [www.desiringgod.org/articles/three-tips-for-better-bible-reading](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/three-tips-for-better-bible-reading) and [www.radicallychristian.com/a-new-sort-of-bible-reading-plan](http://www.radicallychristian.com/a-new-sort-of-bible-reading-plan). Although I have read some of the apostles' letters in one sitting, I have never read each book of the Bible this

way, so I am looking forward to doing this.

However you choose to read through God's word, the important part is to begin. Choose a reading plan and begin reading! This time next year

you will have grown in your knowledge of God's word and in your knowledge of Jesus. As you learn more about Jesus you will be able to be more like him in your daily living.

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."* (2 Peter 3:18)

*Jon Galloway*



## Your five a day

When we encountered Jesus of Nazareth, we were called to deny ourselves, daily take up the cross we are given to bear and follow him. It was a call to discipleship - to a way of life radically different from that of the world in which we are living. Somewhere down the line we might have been tempted to make do with simply being members of a church, whatever that might mean, but the call to discipleship is as radical today as it was when first given by Galilee.

This disciplined life to which we have been called does not come to us naturally. That is not to say that it is in any way burdensome, but it does require effort and deliberate action on our part. As we follow in the steps of Jesus, we too will learn from him to set aside time away from the crowds to devote ourselves to prayer and meditation on the word of life.

I suspect that not many of us were instructed in the art of setting for ourselves daily times of prayer, as had been the practice of many who went before us. Though we have likely heard the instruction to “pray without ceasing”, we hardly expect our lives to be lived perpetually in the proverbial closet. However, if we are going to take the call of Christ seriously, we will need to regularly shut ourselves away in our closets to devote ourselves to prayer and meditation.

Whether we decide to set aside three times of prayer each day, as seems to have been the practice of our forefathers in the faith, or decide to adopt some other discipline,

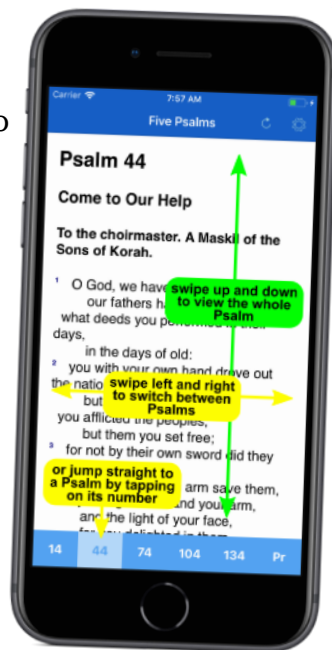
these ‘alone’ times are the valuable moments we look forward to each day that we plan to spend with our loving Father. We understand the importance of making time for our earthly relationships, so it makes sense for us to do the same to nurture our friendship with God.

Let me share with you something I discovered a little while ago that I have found useful in my daily devotions. Though I have written prayers to guide me in my conversation with my loving

Father, I had not forgotten that God has himself given us a book of prayers to help us develop our relationship with him. I had already planned to read a psalm or two during each of my daily ‘alone’ times with God even though it didn’t and doesn’t always work out that way.

The discovery was an App called “Five Psalms” and it does exactly what it says on the tin. Each day one is given five Psalms to read so that by the end of the month one should have read through the entire book of 150 Psalms. And the same again each month. Of course, you could adopt the Benedictine practice of reading them all each week - or the daily trudge of some Coptics - but once a month works well for most of us lesser mortals! I’m sure those who use mobile devices will have no trouble finding it.

Whatever discipline works well for you, may God enrich our lives daily in the service of Jesus, through the word of his life.



*Patrick Boyns*

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

# Season's Greetings

(The following was written by Nick Wilson, from the Hyvots Bank congregation in Edinburgh. It was based on Clement C. Moore's "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" and initially delivered in 2001 as a lesson. This version was revised and delivered to the East Kilbride congregation in December 2017. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did!)

*'Twas the night before Christmas when all  
through the church house,  
Not a creature was stirring not even a church  
mouse,  
So let us take time now to pause and reflect,  
Lest in season's excesses our faith we neglect.*

*Though we know Jesus' birth was not on  
Christmas Day,  
The truth still remains that he did pass this way,  
But we must travel back to when time first  
began,  
To understand fully why God became man.*

*"Let there be light!" God said at the start,  
But man was the closest of all to His heart,  
They walked in the garden with no pain or  
strife,  
And to make man complete God gave him a  
wife.*

*But into the garden the serpent did crawl,  
To bring about the start of man's fall,  
Deceiving Eve with lie after lie,  
While Adam the "leader" stood silently by.*

*All three were punished by God that sad day,  
And Creation subjected to death and decay,  
And though we might think that God's plan  
had gone wrong,  
He'd catered for this in His plan all along.*

*Many years passed and man's wickedness grew,  
God was so angry but knew what to do,*

*He sent forth a flood that would cover the earth,  
And in Noah ensured that man had a rebirth.*

*All people spoke the same language we find,  
So they built up a tower in praise of mankind,  
"We'll be like God by our own strength," they  
thought,  
But God quickly told them "Oh no, you cannot."*

*He said "I don't like this, I am not amused,"  
So their language was changed and they all  
got confused,  
But nations were born because of this scam,  
And God chose the Chaldean man Abraham.*

*He told him that through him the world  
would be blessed,  
He told him that through him He'd give what  
is best,  
And Abraham trusted in all that God said,  
Believing that God could and would raise the  
dead.*

*God asked him to sacrifice Isaac his son,  
And just as the deed was about to be done,  
God then provided a ram by His grace,  
And now we all marvel at Abraham's faith.*

*From Abraham, Isaac & Jacob as well,  
A nation was born and was called Israel,  
One of Jacob's 12 sons, who was Joseph by  
name,  
Had something peculiar as his claim to fame.*

*Jacob loved Rachel's son Joseph the best,  
So he gave him a coat to keep him smartly  
dressed,  
The other sons coped with the coat so it seems,  
But they just couldn't handle their brother's  
strange dreams.*

*So they plotted and sold Joseph off as a slave,  
And let Jacob think that he'd gone to his grave,*

*But way down in Egypt, Potiphar bought  
poor Joe,  
Potiphar captained the guard of Pharaoh.*

*But Potiphar's wife was a scheming young minx,  
Or maybe a cougar inspired by the Sphinx,  
She tried to seduce him and when her plan  
failed,  
She claimed "It was Joseph!" and then had  
him jailed.*

*But down in the jail with the butler and baker,  
Joseph still trusted the Heavenly Maker,  
He interpreted dreams that were dreamt by  
these two,  
And before very long both their dreams had  
come true.*

*Two years later when Pharaoh's dreams  
troubled him so,  
The butler remembered and told about Joe,  
So Joseph was called up to hear Pharaoh's  
plight,  
And interpret the visions he saw in the night.*

*And God granted Joseph the skill to reveal,  
They'd have seven full years with plentiful meals,  
So he told them to store up a fifth of the food,  
Or the seven full years would do them no good.*

*Then Joseph became such an important man,  
That the people came to him from faraway  
lands,  
Even his brothers who did not recognise  
That the man they now bowed to they once  
had despised.*

*So Jacob and sons stayed in sumptuous style,  
In the country of Egypt, the land of the Nile.  
But Joseph ensured that his bones when he died,  
Would be taken from there to the land  
prophesied.*

*And as the years passed Egypt got a new king,*

*Who didn't know Joseph or Jacob's offspring,  
He perceived that these people were plain  
parasites,  
He just had no time for the Israelites.*

*He thought them a plague and told midwives  
to slaughter  
All of the boys born to Israel's daughters,  
The midwives feared God and did not comply,  
So again he condemned all male children to die.*

*But out of this madness was an Israelite spared,  
And Pharaoh's brave daughter did what no  
one dared,  
Defying her father as her son she raised,  
A man who would cause mighty God to be  
praised.*

*God called to Moses from a bush that was  
burning,  
And sent him to satisfy Israel's yearning,  
He'd promised them land and His plan would  
now be,  
But they had to leave Egypt and cross the  
Red Sea.*

*Moses then tested if Pharaoh was fair,  
He said "Let us go now and end this despair,"  
But Pharaoh was stubborn and time and again,  
He kept saying "No," until after plague ten.*

*God promised that this time the price would  
be high,  
The first born of all in each household would  
die,  
But homes with the blood of a lamb round  
the door,  
Were safe as those homes the Lord would  
pass o'er.*

*Pharaoh then let all God's people depart,  
But once they had gone he then hardened his  
heart,  
His army gave chase to the mass escapees,*

*But while Israel crossed they all drowned in  
the sea.*

*God wanted His people to be different so,  
He told Moses "Up to the mountain you go,"  
He gave ten commandments on tablets to Moses,  
The first tablets broke so He gave him two doses.*

*The Israelites wandered around many years,  
They moaned and complained and they cried  
many tears,  
They eventually came to their own promised  
land,  
And they only got to it by God's guiding hand.*

*They fought many battles and waged many  
wars,  
And soon there were as many people as stars,  
The wars that they won were with God on  
their side,  
But they always lost battles when God they  
defied.*

*Their rulers were judges and God was their king,  
But they saw other nations and copied their  
thing,  
A king was appointed and so it began,  
And from trusting in God they tried trusting  
in man.*

*The kings came and went, some good and  
some bad,  
But even the best was a bit of a lad,  
David: "A man after God's heart," they said,  
But when he saw Bathsheba – Uriah was dead.*

*The penitent David was granted a son,  
Who became the wise man we now call  
Solomon,  
He built a great temple to honour the Lord,  
A place where they worshipped and heard  
God's own word.*

*But the kingdom divided, good times did not  
last,  
The people all struggled to learn from the past,  
Though prophets rebuked them they went  
their own way,  
And faced Babylonian captivity.*

*All through their troubles a remnant remained,  
Belief in their God on their hearts was  
ingrained,  
The conquering nations rose up and then fell,  
Until the Romans took charge for a spell.*

*And into this world God had promised to send,  
A special young man who would teach, heal  
and mend,  
God so loved the world that He sent forth His  
son,  
With a message of peace, so the world would  
be one.*

*A virgin was chosen to carry the child,  
By whom God and man could become  
reconciled,  
He was born in a stable and he slept on some  
hay,  
And brings joy to the world so the angels did  
say.*

*Down throughout time mankind could not keep,  
The whole of God's law, they just found it too  
steep,  
And while God's law was perfect, mankind  
was not,  
Though some tried to do it with all that  
they'd got.*

*So Jesus, creator, came down as man,  
To fulfil the law and show that a man can,  
He loved us so much that he then saved our face,  
By replacing the law with his redeeming grace.*

*All through his life Jesus gave God the glory,  
His life is now seen as the world's greatest story,*



*He revealed the truth, he turned water to wine,  
He was God in the flesh and yet fully divine.*

*He was tempted by Satan again and again,  
Then he asked some close friends to be fishers  
of men,*

*He went to the people and said "You must do,  
Unto others what you'd have them do unto  
you."*

*Out on the hillside five thousand were fed,  
And all that he had were two fish and some  
bread,*

*He was teaching a lesson inside someone's  
home,  
A multitude listened, would he free them  
from Rome?*

*When up on the roof there arose such a clatter,  
And Jesus looked up to see what was the matter,  
Some men lowered a friend on his bed to the  
floor,  
For their faith Jesus said, "Your sins are no  
more."*

*The people all murmured "What's this he has  
done?  
God forgives sins, no one else, no, no one!"  
So Jesus then said "What is easier to say:  
'Your sins are forgiven' or 'get up, walk away?'"*

*The people all stared as the man stood up tall,  
I dare say that some were expecting a fall,  
But Jesus said "Pick up your bed from the floor,  
And instead of the roof, go home through the  
door."*

*There are many more miracles that Jesus did,  
While all of the chief priests and scribes  
flipped their lid,  
So they plotted together to bring his demise,  
With traps and trick questions and just  
downright lies.*

*But Jesus kept preaching and teaching his men,  
"To see the new kingdom you must be born  
again,*

*This kingdom will always be open to all,  
As long as they answer and heed to my call."*

*He broke bread and blessed it and then he  
said "Eat,  
This is my body, which makes you complete,  
And this fruit of the vine which you can all see,  
Is my blood, when you drink of it remember  
me."*

*He went to the garden of Gethsemane,  
And prayed "Father, please let this cup pass  
from me,  
But no matter what, please let your will be done,  
And most of all Father may my people be one."*

*For three years the ministry flourished and then,  
Judas betrayed Jesus to sinful men,  
They took him to Pilate and demanded he die,  
He tried to say "No," but they yelled "Crucify!"*

*So as Jesus hung on the cross that dark day,  
He suffered in pain as his life ebbed away,  
He cried out, "My God, where have you gone?"  
Then he laid down his life as he said, "It is  
done."*

*He was born in a stable as the inn had no room,  
And they buried his body in a borrowed tomb,  
With nothing he came and with nothing he  
lived,  
With nothing he died, yet he's God's greatest gift.*

*In just three short days the whole world  
would be changed,  
The first witnesses must have thought they  
were deranged,  
When they went on the Sunday to visit the  
grave,  
They found nothing more than a cold empty  
cave.*

An angel was there asking, "Whom do you seek?"  
They answered "Our friend who was buried last week,"  
The angel replied to their statement and said, "Why seek the living out here with the dead?"  
They couldn't believe it, they laughed and they cried,  
Hadn't they just seen their Lord crucified?  
And then he was with them, and then they all knew,  
He lived, died and rose to redeem me and you.

He stayed with them a while and told them to wait,  
For the Spirit to come, then they'd open the gate,  
The kingdom would come down with power to the earth,  
For once again God had provided new birth.

And as they watched Jesus rise into the sky,  
An angel was once again asking them "Why?"  
"Why do you stand looking up, don't you know,  
That this man will come back just as you see him go?"

For those who do not want to sin be enslaved,  
Jesus provided the way to be saved,  
Believe him, repent and confess him as Lord,

Be immersed in his name and follow his word.

Though Jesus may not have been born in December,  
It does us some good just to pause and remember,  
That God came to earth as a baby one day,  
And grew into a man who takes our sins away.

It's not just the babe in the hay we recall,  
Nor the man on the cross who was dying for all,  
Nor the tomb which was empty three days after he died,  
But the Lord Jesus Christ beside God, glorified.

So this Christmas and always take time to reflect,  
Lest in season's excesses our faith we neglect,  
That the message is peace and goodwill to all men,  
And of sins forgiven again and again.

It's a message of faith and of hope and of love,  
That came from our Father in heaven above,  
Let us long for the day when our faith shall be sight,  
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

*Nick Ullson*

(With acknowledgement & thanks to Clement C Moore)

## *Congratulations!*

**Kirkcaldy** has a new baby in Christ!

We are delighted to announce that **Lauren Hughes**, one of our young people, decided to put on her Lord in baptism on Sunday, 24 December 2017. Lauren is 14 and is the granddaughter of Robert Hughes. Please keep Lauren in your prayers as she begins her new life in Christ.

*Alan Moyes*



# Family News

**Livingston:** The congregation at Livingston hosted a 'Men's Day' on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> November. Around 35 men attended this day of study and fellowship.

The guiding principle for the day was: "Let all things be done for edification" – and they succeeded so well in doing this. The day began with Jon Galloway (East Kilbride)

leading the men in singing for thirty minutes – and the men sang with enthusiasm. This was followed by three speakers who brought lessons from 1 John – Enoch Kabalo (from Livingston), Niall Scobbie (from Dennyloanhead) and Graham McDonald (from Cumbernauld). During the day the entire letter of 1 John was read in three sittings, preceding each lesson.

Halfway through the day the men were treated to a meal of soup and sandwiches, served by the ladies of Livingston congregation.

It was a great way to spend a Saturday around God's word with fellowship with Christian men. Many thanks go to the Livingston congregation for organising this day!



**East Kilbride:** On Saturday, 2nd December, we hosted an afternoon of "Singing Praises to the Lord." The goal of the day, besides singing together, was to learn a few new songs and learn ways to improve our

singing. The day was divided into various segments to concentrate on aspects of our singing.

Scott Galloway took the first section and taught a chorus that he had composed earlier in the year. This was followed by Kenneth Nisbet

looking at ways we can improve our singing of some familiar hymns. After a break for snacks, Jon Galloway led songs written by Fanny J. Crosby as well as a few hymns that were not known by many.



To provide a break from singing, *Solus* was on hand to sing three sets of five songs. The last set also introduced our final segment of the day, being carols.

It was an enjoyable time together. The blending of voices singing the various parts at times sounded as good as a chorus! We need to spend more times together as Christians and singing praises to God. It is our hope that more will organise days of singing.

*Jon Galloway*

*Jon Galloway*

## Outreach: Helping Seekers Obey the Gospel

In the December 2017 *Christian Worker*, I wrote about World Bible School “Connect”, a tool designed to help congregations share the Gospel message with seekers in their local community. This month I want to address an equally important topic; how you can assist WBS students who are ready to obey the Gospel or who desire face-to-face Bible study.

Every month, WBS teachers refer thousands of seekers to us for follow-up. These referrals are people who have been introduced to the Gospel using WBS online or printed lessons. They are eager to meet a Christian for face-to-face Bible study, to worship with believers or to obey the Gospel in baptism. When we receive these requests, we attempt to match each seeker with a nearby Christian who can help them.

The process for successful WBS follow-up works like this: When a WBS teacher submits a follow-up request through the WBS website, that request is communicated to follow-up partners (FUP) in that student’s country. A FUP who is

near the student will then ‘adopt’ that follow-up request, contact/assist the student and report the results of their follow-up efforts back to the WBS teacher on the WBS website.

Follow-up partners provide an invaluable service as they help seekers who want to know Jesus. Unfortunately, we sometimes can’t pair a seeker with a FUP because we don’t know of Christian contacts in their specific location. As a result, we are always looking for new FUPs to perform this vital work.

If you would like to learn more about the WBS follow-up process, or if you would like to sign up to be a WBS follow-up partner, please go to [www.worldbibleschool.net/followup\\_applications/new](http://www.worldbibleschool.net/followup_applications/new).

If you have questions please write to [edie@worldbibleschool.net](mailto:edie@worldbibleschool.net).

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Bill Colwell*  
World Bible School



## Directory Update

**LONDON** (Leytonstone)



Christians: 34 Children: 27



**Meeting place:** Nexus Centre, 3 Snowberry Close, Leytonstone E15 2AH

**Send post to:**  leytonstonecoc@gmail.com

**Sunday meetings:** Worship and Breaking Bread 10.00 am

**Contacts:**

**Frank Agyapong** (w. Evelyn).  (07808) 727914  [nerofa401@gmail.com](mailto:nerofa401@gmail.com)

**Kwame Nkansah** (w. Lillian).  (07860) 621578  [nkansahi28@yahoo.com](mailto:nkansahi28@yahoo.com)

## Evangelist wanted for Livingston

Are you passionate about preaching the Gospel and sharing your faith? Would you be keen to make a difference in the lives of others in our community? Do you have a commitment to teach and equip others? If so, you may be the one we are looking for to join our spiritual family and work with us in reaching out to our community.

'Living and sharing the good news about Jesus Christ as one loving spiritual family.'

If you would like more information about this position as a full-time evangelist, please contact Church of Christ, Eliburn, Livingston, Scotland, EH54 6RA email: [Charlie@ChurchofChrist.co.uk](mailto:Charlie@ChurchofChrist.co.uk)

We are planning to hold a **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Kirkcaldy** on **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:joan-tony1974@virginmedia.com)



**For More Information  
Contact us at  
[Registration@EuropeanChristianWorkshop.com](mailto:Registration@EuropeanChristianWorkshop.com)  
or on 01509 768789**

**Payment Plan Available to Help Spred the Cost**

## Single Christian Workshop

Issues facing the Single Christian (Br Everett Chambers) (USA)

Issues facing Single Christian women (Sis Maureen Paul)

Guidelines for Christian dating (Br/Sis Joseph)

What is wrong with premarital sex? (Br/Sis Fisher)

Compatibility -What to look for in a potential spouse (Br Eusell)



Date: Saturday 27 January 2018

Time: 1:00pm-5:30pm

Venue: St Mary's Church Hall

63 St Mary's Road

London

SE15 2EA

Contact: Sydney Lewis 07504529827 Hosea Sonko 07906065163

Hosted by: The Lewisham Church Of Christ

# Advanced Bible Study Series

Join us in Gemünden, Germany...

**19-23 February 2018**

*ABSS I – Monday pm to Friday noon*

Keynote speaker: Darryl Tippens (USA); other speakers: Jordan Arnold (Slovakia), Max Dauner (France), Patrick Boyns (UK), Robert Limb (France)

*ABSS II – Friday pm to Sunday noon*

Speaker: Darryl Tippens (USA)

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

# I want to know JESUS

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

## Autumn Family Weekend Retreat

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
at Letton Hall in Norfolk



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

# Diary

## January

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

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

27<sup>th</sup> – **Lewisham**: Single Christian Workshop, 1.00-5.30 pm, at St Mary's Church Hall, 63 St Mary's Road, London SE15 2EA. Contact: Sydney Lewis (07504 529827) or Hosea Sanko (07906 065163).

## February

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

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> – **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](mailto:nicole8barr@gmail.com)).

16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – **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](mailto:alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com)) or Nick Wilson ([hnwilson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:hnwilson@blueyonder.co.uk)).

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). (Follow group on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/697781630273815/>)

## March

2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> – **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.

10<sup>th</sup> – **Great Barr**: Bible Seminar.

## April

13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> – **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.

## July

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

21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> – **Commonwealth of Dominica**: 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Lectureship – "Wise Woman, Hold On, the Best is Yet to Come." Contact: [eighthiwl2018@gmail.com](mailto:eighthiwl2018@gmail.com).

## September

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

14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> – **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

5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> – **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](mailto:study@britishbibleschool.com)

## The Final Word: "Jesus loves you"



It is so much easier to read the Bible than to apply it to our own lives. We can read and know what it says but to apply it to every day for the rest of our lives is difficult even for the most faithful of Christians. Our thinking and thought patterns change with changing years, sometimes this is good and sometimes not so good. Fifty years ago homosexuality was decriminalised and in my ignorance I had never even thought of it being illegal or legal. I needed to begin thinking about how this could affect us as Christians.

Our world is now very different. In most western societies homosexuality is acceptable and it almost seems as if it should be the norm rather than the exception. We are now faced with transgenderism also as a norm. As far as marriage is concerned the norm for marriage has been set out, one man for one woman for as long as they both shall live. It is easy to say 'God hates divorce' (Malachi 2:1). But it is not for the benefit of God that this is written but the benefit of those in marriage and going through hard times. Not everyone is the same and marriage can be difficult. For some being married for twenty years would be horrific. Indeed as the years roll on people do change physically, mentally and spiritually. For some, every day is a balancing act of working through the day and trying to hold on to those around them or to Jesus. Then the balancing act drives them to look elsewhere and disaster becomes all too evident.

One thing is certain: a 'gay' person is anything but gay; they will have been hurt, humiliated and humbled trying to find who they are and what they are. The transgender will also have felt trapped, disorganised and frightened. The divorcee can also feel ashamed, betrayed and broken. The list goes on. What of those who feel that they should have married but did not? Emotions can be high as they see others in a relationship they cannot have. Life and our needs can be worlds apart.

As far as society is concerned everyone is given a choice of what to do, to think and to act as the individual wishes. Ultimately society says you can do what society says according to the thinking of the day. There are unwritten codes and manmade opinions that are still in force. Society says it is fine for teenagers to be involved in sexual activity or to dispose of an unwanted unborn baby or to play with drugs. The result has to be that as long as the teen turns out to be a hard working citizen they should have no regrets. Do what you want and leave it all behind cry out the people. But society does not feel the heart break or the tears or the memory of failure.

The reason for Jesus' birth was to show that HE can heal the broken-hearted and be the light in the dark place of our souls. Organised religion was ousted on the day of Jesus' birth and Christians must not build those shaky walls again with tradition. The teaching of scripture speaks about the frailty of our desires and shows us the face of Jesus. His sacrifice brings us life and his salvation brings our renewal. Problems do not go away either by ignoring them or by acknowledging they exist but by allowing Jesus to overshadow us. 'Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is my belief that Jesus loves those who struggle with their sexuality, or those who feel different or those who may think differently to others. The gospel is for everyone, absolutely everyone. It is Jesus who offers salvation freely by grace, covered with mercy. And this applies to everyone, whoever they are.

*Trevor*

*Jesus, thank you for your love, your passion, your hope;  
Remake us to be like yourself to be of value for you. Amen.*