

The CHRISTIAN WORKER



A bulletin of ideas for Christian workers
Published monthly by Trevor Williams &
Jon Galloway

Volume 51. Number 1. January 2019

Fifty years of the Christian Worker!

The Christian Worker
Volume 9 Number 1
2nd January 1977

CHRISTIAN WORKER
EDITOR.....Graham A. Fisher.
TREASURER.....Tony Styles.
PRINTING/DISTRIBUTION
Trevor and Irene Ralph.
Volume 26 Number 2, FEBRUARY 1993

CHRISTIAN WORKER
A bulletin of ideas for Christian workers
Published monthly by A. E. Winstanley
59, Frederick Street, Loughborough, Leics.
Volume 1. Number 1.

"SELL THE SIZZLE—NOT THE SAUSAGE!"
This was the advice that was given constantly to the salesmen of a sausage manufacturer when they were under training. The sausage sales chart soared.
It would be unrealistic to think that we could advertise Gospel meetings like commercial products, but there are many techniques of modern advertising that can be employed profitably and at least attract attention - which is the first vital step in arousing the interest of the reader.

DO YOU THINK BIG?
Culliver among the Lilliputians was a colossus; in Brobdingnag he was equally noticeable as a dwarf. It is by comparison that objects assume size or smallness. The knowledge of this fact is the key to arresting and stimulating advertising.

WHY FRONT PAGE?
Extra charges are generally made for front page adverts because **EVERYBODY** reads the front page as well as their "speciality" page. It is worth the small, extra cost.

CLUTTER ON THE SEARCHLIGHT!
Don't clutter your display adverts with unnecessary details. Remember that the paper is printed on its part of your advert, and can be used by ingenious methods. For instance, let me show you a mystery. Notice how

THIS WORD STANDS OUT IN THIS PARAGRAPH. Why is it prominent? Because I have used paper and space to set as a "searchlight" to draw the eye to it. If you cannot design your layout, leave it to the highly-skilled compositor - but leave him plenty of space to work in.

TAGS'RE NO NEED TO SHOUT
Small, inexpensive adverts can be effective. Sometimes, if we want to accentuate something we whisper rather than SHOUT. So with a small advert. Unfortunately very little imagination is used when we design our small ads. Some churches insert, week after week, the same advert with the same wording, until the saints themselves stop reading it. A principle of good publicity is repetition of a slogan or symbol but **NOT** text wording.

GRIP
Look at this example of a small advert, and notice how it attracts your attention by the use of one word in bold type. Notice too that the wise use of space is just as important in drawing the eye of the reader to your advert. (Joe G. Misset).

IT'S A GOOD IDEA... to have a "Visitor's Book" or "Guest Register" available at all services, and to invite all visiting Christians and friends to sign. It should always be made clear that the information will only be used to keep visitors informed of meetings and activities that will interest them, and that no-one will call on them unless they request it. When a Campaign or Gospel Mission is imminent, a letter of invitation to friends listed in the Visitor's Book will often bring good results.

CHRISTIAN WORKER
January 2018

CHRISTIAN WORKER
Your 'five a day' (p.5)

CHRISTIAN WORKER
One new Christian! (p.10)

CHRISTIAN WORKER
A seasonal thought and poem (p.6)

CHRISTIAN WORKER
New Year!

Editorial

"THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD"
A group of Christians were discussing this question: "What is the most effective method of evangelism?" Those involved clearly had an earnest desire to see others won for Jesus. Questions posed included this: "How can we get the gospel to more people?" And this: "How can the church have greater impact on the community?"

Many "methods" were mentioned, and evaluated: gospel campaigns, special missions, series of lectures, door-to-door evangelism, newspaper adverts, tract distribution, correspondence courses and home studies. All have been used by the Lord's people - and each has its advocates.

"No substitute"
In a final summing-up a statement was made to which all present assented: "Helpful as all these methods are, none of them is a substitute for the method the Lord ordained for his disciples: 'Go and tell!'"

The reference was, of course, to the final commission the risen Christ gave to his apostles: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). That command represents the Saviour's desire: that the whole human race shall hear the good news of salvation. But the commission as surely implies that each of us responsible - privileged - to "go and tell" where.

Believers
We make a the average church set the present "crowds of men" will we suppose disciples Lord went convulsions sessions used to (continue firm which require than all is this himself "go and tell" Luke to outflow. Jesus' apostle the bell everywhere about Bible" "Every every "Gospel come" There who w to th

From the editors:

This issue marks **50 years** that the *Christian Worker* has been published! The first issue appeared in January 1969. There have been several editorial teams over that time and different styles for the magazine. Bob Eckman, who was involved in various ways in the early years, has supplied the very first edition, which we have reproduced in full in this issue. It was only two sides of a foolscap sheet, but it contained quite a bit of information – it covers three pages today.

This is a special issue as we look back over the last fifty years. Below are photos of the various editors and recognition of the editorial teams who were involved. Each team has approached the production of the magazine differently. We are thankful for our current team of proof-readers who help to make sure we catch at least most of the spelling and grammatical errors before publication. We have never publicly thanked them so we are now.

Many thanks to those who have been supplying us with copies of back issues of the *Christian Worker*. Our goal is to convert them all into a digital format and make them accessible. We don't have every edition yet and will soon let you know what we are missing. *Jon*

Contents

- Front cover – The original masthead, first issue and representative issues
- 2 – Editors of the CW
- 3 – The first issue: January 1969
- 6 – "The Forgotten Editor"
- 7 – CW: The Beginnings
- 8 – Sept 1987-August 2014
- 11 – Thoughts on 50 years
- 12 – Concluding thoughts
- 13 – Family News
- 15 – Appeals
- 16 – Directory update
- 16 – Notices
- 18 – Diary
- 20 – The Final Word

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

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

Production editor: Jon Galloway
www.churchesofchrist.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk>

Deadline: 21st of each month



Albert E. Winstanley
Founder

Editor: 1969-1973; 1980-1987

News Editor: R.C. Eckman
Treasurer: J.E. Bullock
Typist: Jean Eckman



Robert C. (Bob) Eckman
Editor: 1973-1980

News Editor & Business Manager:
J. Stephen Sandifer
Youth Editor: John Partington
Typist: Jean Eckman



Graham A. Fisher
Editor: 1987-2014

Treasurer: Tony Styles
Printing & Distribution:
Trevor & Irene Ralph
Typist: Jean Winstanley



Trevor Williams & Jon Galloway
Editor-in-Chief & Production Editor:
2014-current

Treasurer: Jenny Sparks
Webmaster: Emmanuel Uwujare
Proofreaders: Patrick Boyns, Arlene Galloway, Steve Whitehead, Nick Wilson

The CHRISTIAN WORKER



A bulletin of ideas for Christian workers
Published monthly by A.E. Winstanley
59, Frederick Street, Loughborough, Leics.

Volume 1.

Number 1.

“SELL THE SIZZLE—NOT THE SAUSAGE!”

This was the advice that was given constantly to the salesmen of a sausage manufacturer when they were under training. The sausage sales chart soared.

It would be unrealistic to think that we could advertise Gospel meetings like commercial products, but there are many techniques of modern advertising that can be employed profitably and at least attract attention - which is the first vital step in arousing the interest of the reader.

DO YOU THINK BIG?

Gulliver among the Lilliputians was a colossus; in Brobdingnag he was equally noticeable as a dwarf. It is by comparison that objects assume size or smallness. The knowledge of this fact is the key to arresting and stimulating advertising.

WHY FRONT PAGE?

Extra charges are generally made for front page adverts because everybody reads the front page as well as their "speciality" page. It is worth the small extra cost.

SWITCH ON THE SEARCHLIGHTS!

Don't clutter your display adverts with unnecessary details. Remember that the paper it's printed on is part of your advert, and can be used by ingenious methods. For instance, let me show you a mystery. Notice how

this word

stands out in this paragraph. Why is it prominent? Because I have used paper and space to act as a "searchlight" to draw the eye to it. If you cannot design your layout, leave it to the highly-skilled compositor - but leave him plenty of space to work in.

THERE IS NO NEED TO SHOUT!

Small, inexpensive adverts can be effective. Sometimes, if we want to accentuate something we whisper rather than SHOUT. So with a small advert. Unfortunately very little imagination is used when we design our small ads. Some churches insert, week after week, the same advert with the same wording, until the saints themselves stop reading it. A

principle of good publicity is repetition of a slogan or symbol but not text wording.

Look at this example of a small advert, and notice how it attracts your attention by the use of one word in bold type. Notice too that the wise use of space is just as important in drawing the eye of the reader to your advert. (Joe G.Nisbet).

GRIP

the attention of readers by isolating a word in heavy type.

IT'S A GOOD IDEA...to have a "Visitor's Book" or "Guest Register" available at all services, and to invite all visiting Christians and friends to sign. It should always be made clear that the information will only be used to keep visitors informed of meetings and activities that will interest them, and that no-one will call on them unless they request it. When a Campaign or Gospel Mission is imminent, a letter of invitation to friends listed in the Visitor's Book will often bring good results.



WHAT? ANOTHER BULLETIN?

Yes - and we make no apology for it.

This bulletin is not intended to be in competition with any other publication; but it is believed that it can "fill a real need".

First it will be a means of diffusing ideas on how to do the Lord's work as effectively as possible. We want to be helped to be better servants of the Lord Jesus. Any article which serves this purpose will be welcomed.

Second, we shall publish news and views concerning Christ's kingdom as these come to our desk. No partiality will be shown. To us any information about the plans, activities and efforts of God's children will be welcome news. If you want us to give publicity to anything that deserves it - just let us know!

For the present we shall use a foolscap sheet, duplicated both sides. If the Lord makes it possible for this to develop into a more ambitious paper, we shall be glad. All expenses will be met by freewill offerings from Christians, and any such will be gladly acknowledged by R.C.Eckman, 221 Derby Road, Loughborough, Leics.

NEWS AND NOTES

Those who attended report helpful studies and devotional session at the Christian Workers' Meeting, held at Wembley, January 6th-7th...The next meeting will be held at Morley on March 10th and 11th...There is nothing exclusive about these gatherings ...any brother is welcome to attend...A new congregation is being started at Kilearn, Northern Ireland...Jim McIlroy, working there, has the full support of the East Side church in Belfast...They are appealing for funds to buy a suitable hall...Any who can help are urged to write Brother McIlroy or the congregation...Address: 144 Upper Newtonards Road, Belfast 4...Nat Cooper (originally from Belfast), until recently worked with the church in Opa Locka, Florida, but has now moved to Lubbock, Texas, and is labouring with the Monterey congregation...Joe and Linda Wilkinson, who came to Loughborough in mid-August, began working with the church in Summer Lane, Birmingham, January 1st...Peter Hill recently began a new job in a Birmingham

factory, so he and his family will also move shortly to that city from Loughborough...Marie Fowler has been transferred to Birmingham, and she and her sister Susan have just moved into a flat there...Campaigns for Christ are planned for Loughborough (July-August; preacher: Jay Lockhart, Tyler, Texas); Morley (August; preacher: James R. Petty, Montgomery, Alabama); and Corby (August; preacher: C.E. McGaughey, Oklahoma City... Pray for these, and all efforts to spread the truth...Harry Hardy, a member of the congregation in East Ardsley, is anxious to enrol in the Wembley Training Programme... He has the full recommendation of his home church, but lacks funds and is appealing for help... His address: 31 The Grove, East Ardsley, Wakefield, Yorks... Information may also be had from Edward Pickerspill, 7a New Bank St., Morley, Leeds, Yorks., or Philip Partington, 6 Corporation St., Morley... The Northern Ireland Bible School commenced on January 6th in Belfast... Jim McGuiggan and Jack Stevenson are teachers... At present there are seven students... Study courses involve six hours a day for five days a week... The Don Wright family are expected to arrive in Dublin about March 1st to work with Dan and Dora Proffitt... Also during March, Donna Wiley, a member of the Manhattan church in New York City, will move to Loughborough... She is a nurse and hopes to concentrate on social work... She is praying that the Lord will "open doors" so that she can be supported to devote all her time to his work... Anyone able to help should inform A.E. Winstanley... Ulverston brethren plan meetings for Saturday, April 5th... Sessions will be at 3.30 p.m. and 6 p.m. with J. Black and J.W. Dodsley participating... Another new congregation!... Alan and Gretchen Ashurst recently moved from Wigan to Manchester, and now hold meetings in their home... They are anxious to hear of members of the Body of Christ - or interested friends - in that area... Their address: 60 Kenwood Rd., Off Edge Lane, Stretford, Manchester, M32 8PT... Eastwood congregation appealed for help in repairing their building, damaged by vandals... We understand that they had an encouraging response... It is good to hear that the congregation in Corby has secured a building site... Plans are under way for a church building there... Let's live as though Christ died yesterday, rose today, and is coming again tomorrow... Never forget that "the Lord is at hand"... (A.E. Winstanley).

FUTURE ARTICLES will include the following: "Has It Happened to You?"; "Pure Religion"; "Give A Tract Or Pamphlet"; "Personal Evangelism"; "Building Up The Church". If any reader writes - or reads - anything he feels would be useful to us, we'd be glad to hear of it.



The original equipment used to type and produce the Christian Worker.

"The Forgotten Editor"

There are times when I have referred to myself with that title – the “forgotten editor” of the *Christian Worker*! Occasionally people have said, “You were never the editor of the *Worker*,” and I’ve had to correct them on this. More often than not, though, I took this to be a backhanded compliment in the sense that the change in editorship from Albert Winstanley to myself was so seamless that there were many who didn’t even notice!



It was never my intention to ‘change’ the CW and make it mine. Yes, there were changes, but this only reflected the use of more modern equipment and the input of the thinking of others. My desire was simply to continue with the same vision that Albert had of the *Worker* right from its inception: a tool for helping in the spread of the gospel and in encouraging one another, and a means of disseminating news among the churches in the UK and further afield.

In some ways, it’s a shame that Albert is no longer with us to share his side of the story of those early days of the *Worker*, which in truth was his ‘baby.’ It is my hope, though, that what I relate and (more importantly) what Jean relates that we together will do our best to tell Albert’s story. In her article, Jean will cover those early days in Loughborough when the very first edition rolled off the press fifty years ago, in January 1969.

When Albert moved from Loughborough to the new work in Skelmersdale in 1973, he relinquished his role as editor, and I became the editor in May of that year and continued to be editor (by my reckoning) for about six years. For the first couple of years, my main duty was to provide the Editorial each month, as well as any larger articles, with Steve Sandifer handling the news and John Partington the youth editor. The *Christian Worker* was typed, printed, and distributed from Skelmersdale until

Albert relinquished involvement and all of the equipment was moved to Ilkeston where I was by then working with the church.

From that time on Jean continued in the role of chief typist, printer, collator and distributor, somehow mixing this with the work of being a wife, the mother of two young children, and a prime worker in the church in Ilkeston. As Jean will relate, we expanded our ‘team’ once a month after church on a Sunday night with tremendous help from the young people at Ilkeston in collating, stapling, folding, and addressing the paper. It was a Sunday night that all of us looked forward to, involving lots of laughter and loads of fun. I learned back then that young people don’t want so much to be ‘entertained’ but to feel that they, too, have an important role in the church. They want to be used.

Sometime in the early 1980s, with Albert now living in the Corby area and teaching full-time in the British Bible School, once

more his 'baby', the *Worker* was returned to his care in editing and producing, and my involvement with it came to an end. I will always be grateful to Albert for allowing me to be involved in and editing this wonderful paper. I learned so much during those years, especially how God is constantly doing wonderful things in His kingdom. We just need to look beyond our own little corner to see what He is doing elsewhere.

Graham Fisher in time took over the editorship from Albert, doing a tremendous job for so many years and keeping it going. In recent years, with responsibility for the

Worker being in the hands of Trevor and Jon, it goes from strength to strength. I feel confident that Albert would be pleased with the way "his paper" has grown into what it is today. Trevor and Jon, though, would still say that it depends on those who read it and those who are in God's church to send in news and information and to support it in every way. I am so pleased to hear that people the length and breadth of the country still look forward each month to the arrival of the *Christian Worker*.

Bob Eckman
(Nottingham)

"Christian Worker" – The Beginnings

Back in the late 1960s, up and down the country "Christian worker" meetings were held for all "workers in the kingdom" to meet together for study and to share what was happening in their area. I believe it was out of these meetings that Albert Winstanley developed the idea of an information/news sheet to help develop ways of working to spread the gospel and to disseminate news among the churches, as a means of encouragement and of adding more impact to the Lord's work. Hence, the "*Christian Worker*" bulletin/magazine/news sheet was 'born' with Albert as editor.



Albert was working in Loughborough at the time, and with his lovely wife Jean usually doing all of his secretarial and typing work for him, it became increasingly necessary for her to dedicate her time to caring for

her mother. Coincidentally, I had received support (from a group in the Glenwood congregation in Tyler, Texas) to work full-time for the church in Loughborough – primarily taking on Albert's typing and administration. So, while Albert initially set up and edited the *Christian Worker*, he and Jean trained me in all of the intricacies of typing stencils – literally "cutting and pasting" to insert pictures, etc. We started with a manual typewriter, typing stencils (with the use of lots of correcting fluid!) and using a hand-cranked duplicator, stapling pages together and typing a roll of address labels to distribute them throughout the country – and world! Eventually we 'inherited' an old 'address machine'. After typing addresses onto small stencils and pasting them in cardboard

frames, it then made it easier to address the “CW”.

As time passed, Albert would hand over all the articles, dates, and his editorial – usually, I believe, the first Friday of the month, and the expectation was that the *Christian Worker* would be ready for distribution on the Sunday. As time passed, we were able to modernise, getting a ‘golf-ball’ electric typewriter and an electric duplicator! This production method continued whilst Albert was in Loughborough, and we had a shop/office to work from (and I continued to be supported financially).

In 1968 Bob Eckman came to Loughborough to train under Albert and to work with the youth. Bob also joined the production line of the CW. Bob and I were married in 1971, and Albert and Jean moved to Skelmersdale in 1973. Albert handed over the editorship to Bob and production and distribution was moved to Skelmersdale. It was also at this stage that John Partington became the paper’s youth

editor and Steve Sandifer the news editor and treasurer. (Right from the start the CW has been supported and maintained by freewill offerings.)

In time, the publication was moved to Ilkeston, with Bob as editor and me doing all of the setting up and typing. John Bullock took over the finances. Our “team” expanded even more as we utilised our youth group in the Ilkeston church in collating, stapling, and folding the *Christian Worker* each month. It was an activity enjoyed by all and having loads of fun together while being very useful.

Sometime after this Albert moved to Corby (as a teacher in the British Bible School) and once again, he took over the *Christian Worker* duties, including production and distribution.

These are my thoughts and memories of the *Christian Worker*. I thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with it and learned so much at the same time.

Jean Eckman (nee Reilly)
(a native of Loughborough)

The CW: September 1987-August 2014

It was the summer of 1987 when Albert Winstanley, then Editor of CW, had a stroke and could not continue with this work. Who made the decision to invite me to take it over, I do not know, though subsequently I was told, ‘You were not the first choice to become the Editor’. This did not surprise me as I had neither applied for the ‘job’ nor coveted it, but felt humbly honoured when Albert telephoned and asked me to accept it.

The responsibility was enormous for, unlike the British Bible School or the *Truth For*

Today magazine, there was no eldership or congregational oversight of this important service for the UK brotherhood. I would be on my own. The responsibility would be mine. I knew that the brethren would hold me to account – or some would! – if they did not like what I did but ultimately my ‘boss’ was the Lord Himself to whom I was one day going to be answerable. For the 27 years I fulfilled the function of Editor that notion never left me and I would frequently ‘consult’ Him when things became difficult.

I settled into the task and tried to continue with the policies Albert had followed in this and other matters so as to effect as smooth a transition from his editorship to mine as was possible. I did not intend to be a new broom sweeping clean.

Some brethren understandably found my introduction as Editor to be difficult. They had got used to Albert. But I was not an Albert and never could be. I did not write the sorts of leaders which he did and thus my style was uncomfortable to them. I was accused early on of being anti-American. I

was actually being actively pro-British not anti-American because I tried to champion a British approach to the work over here. The critics could not know that my degree was in Geography and American Studies, that I was married to a wonderful American lass, and our children were dual nationals (they both now live and work in the USA). Being pro-British in my attitude to our work does not make me, or anybody, anti-American.



It was a bumpy ride at first but the Lord got us through it. Initially we had a weird working system. I had the easy part. I used a red pen and edited what came in. Then I sent it from Liverpool, where I was living at the time, up to Ulverston, where Jean, Albert's wife, typed up the material on to paper masters, and also produced address labels for the postage. She then sent her

productions down to Trevor Ralph and his band of helpers in Birmingham (Summer Lane) where they had a printing press. They printed, collated and posted the magazines each month. It was hardly an efficient way of doing things but it had evolved thus and seemed generally to work. Meanwhile I moved down to Aylesbury in January 1992, but nothing much changed initially until photo-copying and copy-printers came in, then home computers arrived, and made presenting graphics and pictures easier to reproduce, as desk-top publishing packages

speedily altered the quality of the work we could present each month. It was nothing short of a rapid revolution and things have never looked back on this score since then.

Jean was a wonderful typist but did not take to home computing. Realising that I could produce a more professional-looking finished

article she handed over the type-setting and page layout to me, though she diligently continued to produce the adhesive address labels each month for Trevor Ralph. Then we suffered a body-blow when Trevor had an horrendous car accident which almost killed him and put him out of any sort of action for a very long time. I had some idea of how to operate the copy-printer we were now using so it made sense that we transferred the whole production line down to Aylesbury, where I was blessed with a wonderful team of

willing collators. So Jean finally retired after years of service, and that's how it happened that from a relatively minimal commitment at first I developed slowly into virtually doing everything. I could never have done all of this in 1987.

It was not, however, everything. One thing I never ever did, and kept away from as much as possible, were the *CW* finances. Tony Styles was the Treasurer some years before I became Editor, and he continued in that rôle after I stood down.

Towards the end it was only Tony and myself who could sign cheques and have access to the funds. What if one of us were to die? All responsibility would fall on one man's shoulders, and remembering how the *Truth For Today* magazine fared after Len Channing died, I did not want a mess like this for the brethren over *CW*. To cut a long story short, I mentioned the need for at least two more brothers to become responsible as signatures on cheques, if necessary, and they could both access funds and assist if such an emergency arose. Trevor Williams and Jon Galloway responded to my request and were duly placed on record in this capacity.

When I was forced to step down, I told Tony, Jon and Trevor, expecting them to work together to think of somebody to take over as Editor, and was delighted, and very surprised when Trevor and Jon agreed to take it on themselves because both were already very busy men. The rest is now their story not mine.

On reflection most brethren settled down and quickly got used to me, encouraging me considerably over the years. I thank them from the bottom of my heart. My eyes have partially recovered, though I've not

driven now for nearly three years, and I have been blessed by being able to continue writing the sorts of articles I frequently put in *CW*. This has developed a life of its own since some readers during my tenure said they would miss them. *The Voice* has become a monthly, eight-page, PDF magazine (free, of course), with around 200 readers both at home and abroad (any who want to join in just let me know!).

The benefits and service to the British brotherhood of the *CW* monthly news and views magazine has been a great blessing to me and I think to the churches as a whole. One amazing observation I made over the years was the tremendous generosity of our members, especially to financial appeals. And this is not just from the larger congregations. Many small congregations cannot do much by way of outreach but they can help others financially in all sorts of ways. I know that hundreds of thousands of pounds have been collected as a result of the appeals going out via *CW*. I would not be surprised if it is in millions now, or the equivalent of millions over the 50 years we have been operating. Only the Lord will have a tally on this truth. As Albert always said, "The Lord is no man's debtor." 'Well done good and faithful servants.'

'The storm may roar without me (and sometimes did). My heart may low be laid (and sometimes it was)'. But the work and the *Worker* were the Lord's and they still are. It was a privilege to have played my part in it.

Graham A. Fisher
(Editor emeritus)

Thoughts on Fifty Years of the Christian Worker

It had never occurred to me – (nor had I ever even thought about it!) – but I believe that I really am the sole survivor of those who, fifty years ago, met in the meeting-place of the Loughborough Church, and decided that we needed a publication of some sort, to publicise information concerning the activities, both past and planned, of the congregations in the UK.

This was not a new idea which struck us like a sudden bolt of lightning, but rather the expression of a long-felt need, because there was a widely felt awareness of the fact that there was very little communication or contact between the congregations, with the result that they knew very little about each other.

I recall that, in the 1940's, when Albert Winstanley and I were the only two (young!) evangelists working among the congregations, they occasionally met in what was known as 'The Old Paths Conference' which, although it was not a legislating event and never attempted to impose decisions of any kind on the churches, brought brothers and sisters together for encouraging edification and fellowship. Brethren in small congregations, serving the Lord in difficult places, learned that they were not alone and felt blessed by attending the various sessions.

But, apart from this there was very little else that created a feeling of unity. (I am

aware that the 'Scripture Standard' circulated among some churches but there were others that the magazine did not reach.) And, in any case, the purpose envisioned for the publication planned at the Loughborough 'Christian Workers' Meeting' was very different.

It was decided that its purpose should be simply informative – no articles or correspondence; no airing of problems or difficulties, but just news events – past, present and future! We wanted our sister-congregation to share their news with us.

We unanimously decided that Albert, who, at that time was serving the Loughborough Church as evangelist, should

become the first Editor. He prepared the material for publication, and Jean, his very capable wife, printed it, using what in those days was known as the 'Duplicator'.

It is not part of my remit to write about the years which followed, during which these two servants of the Lord faithfully produced this important bulletin, or the subsequent years during which our brother, Graham (Fisher), devoted his not-inconsiderable editorial skill to the task when Albert resigned. I am sure someone else will do that. It is enough to say that the 'Christian Worker', in the hands of its current editors, has moved with the times, and obviously bears little resemblance to the mimeographed sheet which I knew fifty years ago.



And I express my approval – nay! – my admiration of the thoroughly professional appearance of the current publication! It has become a magazine that we are able to place in the hand of ‘non-members’ without embarrassment, and I congratulate Trevor

and Jon for what they have produced. My only hope is that all our congregations will support it and use the opportunities for communication that it presents. And use it!

Frank Wlorgan

Concluding Thoughts

I have thoroughly enjoyed putting this anniversary issue of the *Christian Worker* together. Fifty years is something to be commemorated.

As I read through the various articles that were submitted, there is much I can relate to. In Graham’s longer submission (I had to edit it for space) he talked about some of the heartaches he went through and the encouragement he received. Fortunately for Trevor and myself, the heartaches have been virtually non-existent and the encouragement has been frequent. Many thanks to all of you. Graham also mentioned his surprise at Trevor and I taking on the editorial responsibilities. I must admit, I was surprised too!

One of the changes Trevor and I decided on as we began our ‘term’ as editors was to move to a digital format. This means that we can prepare the *CW* more quickly than in the past. As a point of comparison,



below is my desk as I was preparing this edition of the magazine. Times have really changed since the days of typewriters, cut and paste and mimeograph machines!

It has been a joy for me to work with Trevor. I think we could say that the production of the magazine is a real team effort. Trevor receives the articles to be included and sends them on to me, making editorial suggestions usually on length and what is appropriate. I then take a day and put the *CW* together (occasionally it takes longer than a day, as this one has done). I also write any extra items that need to be included, decide on what we will ‘spotlight’ for the month, update the diary, and edit what is to be put in. Once I am finished it is e-mailed back to Trevor for approval and possibly changes. It also goes to our team of proofreaders who read through it and help correct any spelling and grammatical errors. Then on the first of the month it gets uploaded to MailChimp and distributed from there.

Fifty years and we have moved from typewriters to computers, printing to pdfs. There are still improvements to be made as we continue to hold to Albert’s original goal for this publication. May God continue to bless our efforts!

Jon

Family News

Nottingham (Stapleford): For the past ten years or more, the congregation has undertaken the task of putting together Christmas shoeboxes to be sent to Eastern Europe. Each year Christians assemble between 75 and 80 or more Christmas-wrapped shoeboxes, filled with all kinds of both gifts and practical items for families in some of the poorest people in the poorest countries in eastern Europe (Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, etc.). Each box would be for one family. Some boxes would be especially filled with items for the elderly who would often be living on their own.

About four years ago Jean and I went with a load of these boxes to Bulgaria. I cannot adequately describe the conditions in which some of these people lived, but in every case, the reception of these boxes brought tremendous joy to many. It humbled us when we thought of our tree back in the UK with so many wrapped gifts and parcels under it, when here there were families for whom this one shoebox would be all they had.

This year, 75 boxes were put together by the ladies of the congregation. During the early weeks of December they were delivered. Each box was put together with love. This work has attracted quite a bit of attention from people in the area who are



not part of the congregation. Some have joined in and filled their own boxes while others have given us items to go in them. They see this as the church doing something for those in need, and it connects them with the church. We commend the ladies of our congregation for this labour of love that over the years have sent close to 1000 of these boxes to people desperately in need.

Bob Eckman

Wembley: Sunday 4th November was a joyful day as we witnessed the baptism of **Amma Adomah Adu**. Amma is the wife of our brother Alfred and had been attending for a few years before making this decision. We rejoice with her and her family.

December began with the second of our BBS study weekends on the book of the prophet Isaiah. Patrick Boyns and John Griffiths shared the teaching of this exciting and interesting book. Although it is not possible to complete an in-depth study of the book of Isaiah in two weekends, we were able to get an overall view of the message and focus upon some of the key texts. We hope that all who attended gained a better understanding of this wonderful book.

On Saturday 8th December we held a children's day on the theme 'Refuge', organised by Athena Theodotu and ably assisted by others in the congregation. The children learned that story of Jesus' birth with particular attention to the refuge Joseph, Mary and Jesus sought in Egypt. There were also craft, cooking and drama activities for the children to enjoy. The children learnt the importance of helping others by putting together gift packages for

those with no homes. Those from the congregation then took these to give to people they met who were in need.

The children were involved again on Sunday 16th December when they shared with the congregation some of the lessons they had been learning in their Bible classes over the past year.

During December the congregation collected food, toiletries and toys to deliver to our local food bank, women's refuge and children's charity.

We are thankful to God for His blessings of the past year and look forward to serving Him further in 2019.

John Griffiths

Corby: I have just updated my website to work better on Phones and Tablets I hope you can find something useful on the site <http://www.graembibleresources.com/>

Please be patient sometimes because some of the Topical PDF in-depth study files are large but I hope you will find that that they are worth the wait. I have tried to deal with lots of questions people ask about subjects in a helpful manner.

There are also sermons by Jim McGuiggan, Frank Worgan and others.

Graeme Morrison

The screenshot shows a website interface with three main columns: 'View: Pdfs', 'Listen: MP3', and 'Watch: Video'. Each column has a 'CHOOSE from' button. Below these are three icons: a notebook and coffee for 'More lessons', an open book for 'Correspondence', and a green arrow for 'Useful links'.

Ilkeston: The congregation collected and gave new toys for local families having difficulties. Ten boxes of food were also collected and sent off with the toys. Food



was also collected for the Ilkeston Night Shelter which is being held for the first time in the town this year. We commend our sister Jenny Sparks who will be helping out there as well.

Trevor Williams

Bristol: The last 6 weeks of the year are always busy in Bristol. And this year was no exception.

Our annual Thanksgiving meal was on 22nd November. In our little chapel we were able to seat about 140 people for dinner. Many of those who came were friends and family members, who do not



normally attend. Jason Snethen, with the help of a small army of volunteers, provided and cooked the food. It was a wonderful time with plenty of tasty food and great fellowship, as well as activities for the children.

Our Christmas Party and Fellowship Meal was on 9th December. The theme for this year's children's party was 'Prince and Princess', where the children had shield design competition, had a 'build a castle' table challenge, games and there was also



a carriage photo booth.

For many years, we have gone street

carolling in the local neighbourhood. As well as entertaining people with carols, it gives us the opportunity to hand out leaflets advertising our *Evening of Carols*, *Christmas Community Dinner* and *New Year's Day Service*. It was well received, with some coming out of their homes to listen and others looking on through their windows.

The Sunday evening immediately following out street carolling, was our Evening of Carols. Traditional carols were sung, with our youngest children leading us in 'Away in a Manger'. There were plenty of mince pies and cakes afterwards.

In the week before Christmas, we made our annual donation to St Mungo's, a charitable organisation who help ladies who need shelter. We put together forty stockings of gifts, as well as a financial donation.

For the third year, we held our Community Christmas Dinner for those in the area who are either spending Christmas on their own, or who are unable to provide a suitable dinner for their family.

Appeals

Ilkeston: Trevor Williams, editor of the *Christian Worker* and well known preacher, will spend four weeks working with the Omonia congregation in Athens, Greece 9th March to 6th April. The congregation here want him to go with £2,000 to cover accommodation and emergency funding whilst there. Trevor will be helping teach English as well as the word of God.

The brethren in Greece say: "Trevor has been one of the few, very, very pleasant surprises – surprise with his knowledge of the word of God, surprise with his vibrant

spirit, surprise with his very effective communication skills with all people around him – from the age of the bassinet, the stroller and all the way up to that of the wheel chair!"

If you would like to be involved with his support on this trip, please send funds to the Ilkeston Church of Christ via John Bullock, 2 Park Drive, Ilkeston, Derbys, DE7 5NR or contact Trevor on 0115 8376895 for further information.

John Bullock

Directory Update

New Directory: As part of our 50th anniversary recognition we are planning to update and publish our directory of congregations.

We will be sending each congregation, by e-mail, your current details to be updated or confirmed. By replying you are

accepting that your details will be held by us in our directory and on the website.

I will begin contacting congregations in a few weeks to begin to get this put together.

As always, thanks for your help.

Jon

Corrections in **red**, the rest is correct (and not reprinted here).

READING (Berkshire)

Christians: 50 Children: **20**

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

Contacts:

Anthony Newman (w. Alma). ☎ (01189) 626402 📱 (07780) 741097 🖥

an7honynewman@hotmail.co.uk

Nic Nyamatore. 📱 (07598) 198225 🖥 nyama111@icloud.com

Edmund George. 📱 (07930) 505957 🖥 e.george@gmail.com

Notices



Advanced Bible Study Series

Join us in Gemünden, Germany for ABSS...

18 - 24 February 2019

ABSS I - Tuesday AM to Friday noon / ABSS II - Friday PM to Sunday noon

Keynote presenter: Charles Rix (Dean, Bible College - Oklahoma Christian)
speaking on: **"Pain, Suffering, and the Love of God"**
(and "The Ten Commandments and the Stories We Tell" - ABSS II)

Additional presenters: Patrick Boyns (Peterborough, UK); TBA (Marseille, FR)

For complete program information, contact ABSS Coordinator - Paul Brazle (email: abss.gemunden@gmail.com Site: abssgemunden.be or Facebook: ABSS - Gemünden, Germany



Livingston Ladies Day

Saturday 30th March 2019 10am – 3pm

As the saying goes, "you can't pour from an empty cup." In other words, you can't give what you don't have. We should take time to recharge so we have the strength, and energy to pursue those things God has called us to do, so that we overflow with His light and power to glorify Him in our lives and be more like Jesus.

"Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with everything God has for you." Ephesian 3:19

Lessons

Fill our cup with Peace - Barbara Starrs

Fill our cup with Courage – Marianne Dale

Please send names and dietary info to wendy@monty73.co.uk by 14th March

**EUROPEAN
BIBLE
LECTURESHIP**

18th – 21st April 2019
*Theme: Leadership, A crying need
for the Church*

*Fees: Adults - £120;
Children (Age: 6 -12) - £80
(Accommodation & meals)*

*Contacts: K. Bright - 07985205561
K. Gyebi - 07956863020*

*Venue:
ST. ALBANS ALL SAINTS PASTORAL
CENTRE*

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WORKSHOP

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

22nd-24th August 2019

Theme: THE JOURNEY

Fee: £150 (Before 31st May), then
£160 After.

We can set up an easy payment
scheme for you.

Please contact: Stephen Woodcock

Phone: (01509) 768789

Email:
registration@europeanchristianworkshop.com

www.europeanchristianworkshop.com

Looking forward to seeing you there.

January

18th-20th – Bassenthwaite Family Retreat at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Theme: “Good News is Jesus...” Cost: £60 per person (children ages 5-16 sharing a room with parents are half price, 0-4 are free). Fully booked. Organised by the British Bible School.

February

9th – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire): Quarterly Outreach meeting. Light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

March

1st-2nd – Scotland East Coast: Joint gospel meetings. Friday at Hyvots Bank, Saturday at Kirkcaldy, 7.30 each evening; speaker: David Chapman. Contact: Nick Wilson (nick-donelda@blueyonder.co.uk) or Alan Moyes (alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com)

9th-10th – Birmingham (Great Barr): British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “A Letter to Ephesus” (part 1), teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway.

15th-16th – Northampton: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Galatians” (part 1), teachers: Jack Paton and Jon Galloway.

23rd – Bristol: Ladies’ Day. Contact: Crystal Holder (obi_belt@yahoo.co.uk).

23rd-24th – Birmingham (Great Barr): British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “A Letter to Ephesus” (part 2), teachers: Patrick Boyns and Mark Hill.

24th – Edinburgh: *Solus* singing at ‘St. Giles at Six’ – St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, 6.00 pm. (*Solus* is a singing group made of Christians from congregations throughout the central belt of Scotland.)

30th – Livingston: Ladies’ Day – “Come and Be Filled”; speakers: Barbara Starrs & Marianne Dale; 10.00 am - 3.00 pm. Send names and dietary info to Wendy Montgomery (wendy@monty73.co.uk) by 14th March.

April

12th-13th – Northampton: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Galatians” (part 2), teachers: Jack Paton and Jon Galloway.

18th-21st – 16th European Annual Bible Lectureship: “Leadership – a crying need for the church.” Cost: £120 (adults), £80 (6-12 year olds) – this covers accommodation and meals. Venue: All Saints Pastoral Centre, Shenley Lane, London Colney, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL2 1AF. contact: Bright (07985 205561).

27th – Kirkcaldy: Annual Social Day, 1.30 pm. Venue: Bennochy Parish Church, 3 Elgin Street/ Meldrum Road, Kirkcaldy KY2 5LP. Speaker: Graeme Morrison – “Jesus—the Light of the World.” Contact: Alan Moyes (alan.j.moyes@gmail.com) or Tony Clark (joan-tony1974@virginmedia.com).

May

11th – Liverpool: Ladies’ Fellowship, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm at Corner or Picton Road and Wellington Street, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Maria A. Anane (07505 158004 or mgyaa5@googlemail.com).

11th – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire): Quarterly Outreach meeting. Light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

June

15th – Liverpool: Annual All Day Fellowship, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm at our church building. Theme: “If you Love me, keep my commandments.” Contact Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

28th June-5th July – Camp Heatherbell. Venue: Auchingillan Outdoor Centre, Blanefield, Glasgow G63 9BA. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

July

13th – Edmonton (London): Men's workshop. Contact: Charles Banin (charlesbanino@aol.com).

19th-21st – Liverpool: Youth Weekend, arrival on Friday from 6.00 pm. Venue: Corner or Picton Road and Wellington Street, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Lawrence Okorafor (07456 483374 or lawrence.okorafor@yahoo.com).

28th-2nd August – British Bible Camp. Contact: Jason Snethen (jsnethen@hotmail.com).

August

10th – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire): Quarterly Outreach meeting. Light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofcastwood@aol.com).

22nd-24th August – European Christian Workshop: "The Journey," at Lancaster University. Cost: £150 (if register before 31st May, £160 after). www.europeanchristianworkshop.com Contact: Stephen Woodcock (01509 768789) or registration@europeanchristianworkshop.com.

November

4th-8th – British Bible School: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

9th – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire): Quarterly Outreach meeting. Light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofcastwood@aol.com).

European Events Calendar

February

18th-24th – 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/>)

28th-3rd March – Dreisbach-Mettlach, Germany: The European Ladies Retreat (ELR) is a four day Christian conference/retreat for ladies from any part of the world, who speak English and would love to have a time of fellowship and learn more from God's word. It is organised by congregations in Europe. This year's theme is: "Wait for Gold." For further details: <http://elr.yolasite.com>.

April

26th-28th – Gemünden, Germany: European Singles' Retreat. This is a Christian weekend retreat held twice a year, in April and September, at Gemünden, Germany. It's an uplifting weekend where people from different countries and nationalities come together to learn from God's word and to fellowship. This event is for EVERYONE who is 18 or older, and not married, who wants to be spiritually encouraged / have fun in a Christian environment. For more information: <https://www.singlesretreat.net/about.html>.

June

19th-23rd – Athens, Greece: Family fellowship for all ages, hosted by the Omonia congregation. A beautiful hotel based retreat near the site of ancient Cenchrea. Morning devotionals and fellowship; free afternoons with evening meetings. A chance to visit Corinth and the Corinthian Canal. For those who can stay longer visit and worship with the church in Athens – an unforgettable experience. Christians from several countries will attend. Meetings will always have a translator of not held in English. Contact Eleni (emelirry@aol.com) or Trevor Williams (twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk).

October

2nd-5th – European Vision Workshop: A time for meeting Christians from congregations all over Europe, hearing about the blessings and problems of their work for Christ. This past year 140 gathered to celebrate, encourage, learn and share. Contact Trevor for more information (twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk).

The Final Word: "Our Year of Jubilee"



The *Christian Worker* started fifty years ago as an idea of encouraging the churches to share with each other news and ideas. I remember that start and it was a welcome change to see and read something positive among the congregations. Thanks must go to everyone who has helped over the years, especially those working in production one way or another. Even now I can spend about 15-18 hours a month on gathering information, etc. A special mention for Jon Galloway who has modernised our magazine by using his ever developing technical skills.

Thank you to all who have sent in news and information.

Leviticus 25:8-13 and Deuteronomy 15:1-11 teach that when the people of Israel had entered the Promised Land they were to receive a portion of land that was to be theirs forever going through their generations. This was a brilliant idea. Not everyone was a good farmer and some may have had to sell the land, but it was all geared up to the Year of Jubilee when everything went back to the original owner or their descendants. This way the poor could have the chance to restart and the large landowners were kept in check. The scripture passages are well worth reading to see how God regarded agriculture and the ownership of the land. Not only was the land to go back to the original family owners but the land was to be given the chance to rest.

In previous generations farmers in this country would rotate their fields giving the land a chance to revive itself by not farming every field every year. Crop rotations were in order so the minerals taken from the ground in one year would be replenished with a crop that built the land up the following year. Sadly many countries, including our own, have forgotten about resting the land. Our fields produce the same sort of crops for years creating all sorts of problems that can only be dealt with by chemicals and fertilisers creating an unnatural environment and causing untold damage to the land and rivers. We demand everything all the time and so we have managed to create a world where farmers cannot receive a true price for their crops and we fly food into our country from poorer countries that often tastes like nothing. The result is that we have created false economies and end up with food that has to be processed with additives. Okay, I know I am getting political here but as the Israelites were required to look after their land so are we and most of us do not. We complain about those who seem to vary in our understanding of doctrine and leave alone those things that God also commends.

In this new year of 2019 let me encourage our readers to be more 'green'. If you have a garden grow something in it; fruit, flowers, herbs. Enjoy creating your own food and try something different. With our finances be creative. If you are in debt do your best to get out of it. Do some financial home checking. Get the best out of your job and qualifications. Every one of us has exactly the same amount of time in a day, I am only too aware that some of us do not move as fast as others but we can create something good. Encourage others, be better than we were. Then above all things *REJOICE IN THE LORD*. Perhaps you can make this New Year a year of Jubilee with new beginnings.

Trevor

Bless us, O Lord, to remember our beginnings, to have your vision for the future and be effective in the present. Amen.