



CHRISTIAN WORKER

Vol. 51

No. 3

March 2019



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Gemünden
(p.3)**

Being 'in Christ' (p.5)

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



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Deadline: 21st of each month

February is a short month! As such it seems to always have me scrambling to complete the *Christian Worker* on time. It has been a busy, but productive, month.

Our banner logo this month is the third that was used, introduced during Albert Winstanley's second time as editor and continued into the first few years of Graham Fisher editing the magazine.

In our 'From the Archives' section this month, I have selected the first in a series of three or four articles which were published in 1971 and 1972. These were written by James Dillenger from Cardiff. I have never met him and would be happy for someone to enlighten me as to who he is/was.

In his article featured this month he talks about a "famine of the word of God". If this were true in 1971, I would suggest it is even more true today. We need to be reading, studying, and getting to know God's word. There simply is no substitute for this if we want to grow to be more like Jesus.

It seems that often our 'lives' get in the way of spending time with God. We hear frequently of Christians who choose to work or allow activities to prevent them from being at worship or at Bible study times. Yet you rarely hear of Christians missing activities because it conflicted with a time of worship or Bible study. Perhaps we have our priorities skewed? Surely if being a Christian is who we are and serving God is the most important part of our lives, we will make time for worship and Bible study.

Do we know God's word? We not only have easy access to almost any translation we would want, there are also many opportunities to study God's word. Have a look at the 'Diary' to see what is on in your area.

May we truly live up to the admonition the apostle Peter made at the end of his second letter:

"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." (2 Peter 3:18 CSB)

Jon

ABSS in Gemeinden

Once again Christians from throughout Europe and America descended on the small village of Gemünden in the German countryside just north of Frankfurt. They gathered for the annual Advanced Bible Study Series.

This year there were 26 who came from Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, England, Scotland, Canada and the United States.

The speakers this year were Charles Rix, Patrick Boyns, and Max Dauner. Charles is the Dean of the College of Bible at Oklahoma Christian University. He presented lessons on 'Pain and Suffering', drawing much of his material from the Old Testament.

Patrick's lessons were on 'Authority of Scripture'. The canon of the Old Testament was discussed and that of the New Testament introduced. It was emphasised that scripture's authority does not come from its inclusion in the Bible, but rather it is included because it is recognised as being authoritative – breathed out by God.

Max is from CEM in Marseilles (a French programme training Christians for mission). He brought lessons emphasising the typology that can be found in Jesus' teaching and signs.



This year there were evening sessions and discussion brought by Mark and Sherrylee Woodward and Paul Brazle.

The week concluded with the traditional 'Gemünderner Follies', always

described as a 'low-level talent show'. This year they were named in memory of Doyle Kee, who frequently served as the MC for the evening. He went to his reward in January. Following the Follies, we enjoyed

'the Doyle Kee Memorial Ice Cream Bash' – Doyle instigated this last evening eating of ice cream many years ago.

Overall it was an enjoyable week with good

teaching and fellowship with Christians across Europe. Plan to join us the third week of February next year!



Jon Galloway

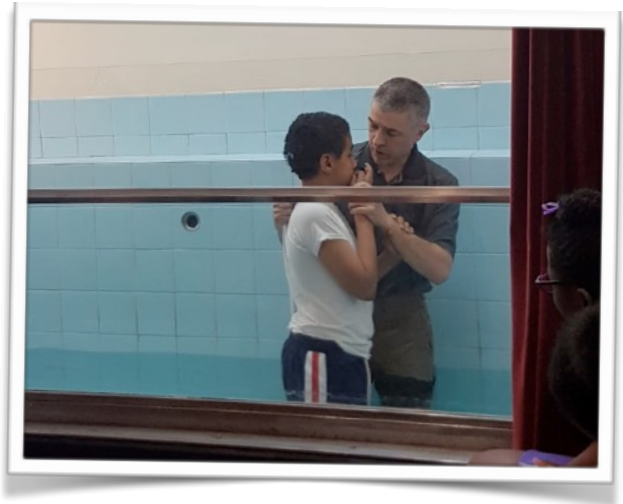
Congratulations!

Wembley (London): Sunday 24th February was an emotional day as we witnessed and rejoiced over **Alejandro Fernandez-Khonyongwa's** baptism into Christ.

Alejandro is twelve years old and blind, a consequence of his premature birth. During his short life he has endured many challenges but is always cheerful.

It has been wonderful to see his faith and trust in God grow and his love for Jesus expressed in his decision to be baptised. For those of us who take our sight for granted stepping into a baptistery full of water is not a big deal, but for Alejandro it was a daunting experience. He was very brave and with the reassurance and support of his mother Gigi he stepped out in faith and trust in God and was baptised into Christ. Please pray for him as he begins his new life in Christ.

John Griffiths



Directory Update – New Congregation

LONDON (East London)

Christians: ? Children: ?

Meeting place: University of East London (Stratford Campus, R Building, Room 13)
Water Lane, off Romford Road, Stratford, London E15 4HA

Send post to: usenekpo@gmail.com

Sunday meetings: not advised

Contact: Usen Ekpo. 📞 (07986) 955230 🖨️ usenekpo@gmail.com

Called Home

Arthur Wharton

Ilkeston

Scripture declares, "blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..." which was so true of our brother Arthur. He was a remarkable man who suffered greatly over many years but he maintained a faithful life throughout.

We were privileged to attend his funeral and pay tribute to this lovely man. For many years he was a Christian and part of

the congregation here in Ilkeston. He was present when our doors were opened. We will miss our beloved brother. Our loss is heaven's gain.

Our sympathy to his wife Jean and to his family.

Ken Mullan

BBS Notes: Ephesians

One cannot read the opening section of Paul's letter to the believers in Ephesus without being impressed with the idea of being "in Christ". Such are the numerous blessings to be had in him that it seems absurd to seriously consider life anywhere else. It is, he states, in Christ that all spiritual blessings are to be found in the heavenly places.

The idea of these 'heavenly places' is certainly not unique to this letter, though the phrase is found only in it. It becomes something of a theme to what Paul writes here. The idea is certainly of a realm of reality beyond all that we see and experience on earth. And it is here where true blessings are to be found, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, and where we are also seated with him.

If ever there was a letter written to encourage us to look beyond all we can even imagine, to that which cannot be seen, it is this letter to the Ephesians. It is here that Paul prays for "the eyes of our hearts" to be enlightened that we may know "the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe"; and later that we may "know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that [we] may be filled with all the fullness of God".

In light of this transcendence, the call to unity is one that essentially surpasses all physical endeavours. It is, firstly, the unity of the Spirit to which we have been called in the bond of peace. It is of no human origin, but of the Spirit by whom we have been immersed into one body. To maintain that unity we must continue to walk by that same Spirit by which we are being filled with all the fullness of God.



These truths are profound, and they lie at the very heart of our being the body of Christ. Our unity is never dependent upon universal agreement, nor upon membership of anything less than the body of Christ himself. It is to be found only in Christ and as such is a unity born of grace. And it is a very beautiful thing.

As we spend time in this letter, peeling back the outer layers, contemplating the depth of God's grace, we are called to places we may not have been before. The reality of these heavenly realms is both wonderful and, at times, potentially frightening – unless we have put on the whole armour of God and found strength standing in the strength of his might. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places".

And stand we will, for victory is assured for those who walk by faith and are found in Christ. Be encouraged by the words of this book to rise far above the mundane existence of this life; to see that which cannot be seen; to know that which surpasses knowledge; and to take up arms in this deadliest of battles, confident of every blessing of life in Christ Jesus.

Patrick Boyns

www.britishbibleschool.com

BRING THE BOOK!

I can remember the time when members of the Lord's church were thought of as Bible carrying, Bible quoting and Bible living people. Today congregations have to furnish Bibles in class sessions – often for their own members. Many of our people cannot even quote Acts 2:38. It is very likely that some of the old-timers would be shocked at the life style of modern Christians. Don't get me wrong! I am not in favour of tradition for tradition's sake; but I am in favour of knowing what the Bible has to say, and then doing it.

A New Start

In the book of Nehemiah we find the same type of situation. The Scriptures had not been read among the Israelites for a long time. After their return from Babylon, the people had a chance to start over again. They got off to a good start. They commanded Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the law of Moses to them and to read it (Nehemiah 8). It was read in a way the people could understand. They listened from morning until mid-day. When the book was opened the people stood up and listened attentively. All the people wept when they heard the words of the Law. When they heard what the Bible said, they did it. We need to be like those people. We need to bring the Book!

We need to bring the book because there is a present-day

Famine of the Word of God.

In Judges 2:10 we read that there arose a generation that knew not God. How terrible! But look around you today. Friend, we are living in a generation which knows

not God. It has led to much evil, crime, hatred and immorality. The prophet Amos spoke of times like these (8:11-12). Although he did not have the twentieth century in mind when he wrote the words, he certainly did contemplate a similar situation. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro and seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it."

If we do not bring the Book to the world the same situation will develop. Our children will grow up without the counsel of God. They will live in a lawless society. Their generation will perish in iniquity. The Bible is the only deterrent to evil. Bring the Book, my friend. I need it. You need it. The world needs it.

"Like a star in the morning it its beauty,
Like a sun is the Bible to my soul:
Shining clear on the way of love and duty,
As I hasten on my journey to the goal.

Holy Bible! My precious Bible!
Gift of God and lamp of life, my beautiful
Bible!

I will cling to the dear, old holy Bible
As I hasten to the city of the King."

*James Dillenger
(Cardiff, Wales)*

And from the 'news and views' that month...

Northern Ireland Bible School: Beginning with the next session, Joe Nisbet will be director of the school, Gene Wolf having returned to the USA...

*The Christian Worker, Volume 3, Number 12
A.E. Winstanley, editor*

Edmonton (London): We held a marriage enrichment evening on 16th February. Stephen Eusell (evangelist from Stockwell), was our guest for the evening. We were encouraged by the word of God, shared our marital experiences and enjoyed a three-course meal.

Charles Banin

Hyvots Bank (Edinburgh): Jerry Rushford will be back in Edinburgh with his Hymn Tour group, on Tuesday 21st May. A full tour group of 39 will be at St Andrew's & St George's, George Street, Edinburgh from 7 pm to 9 pm. Jerry extends an open invitation for all to come along for an evening of singing and fellowship. (Keith Lancaster and his wife Sharon will also be part of the Hymn Tour group this year.)

Helen Kerr

Free – A French Retreat for Church

Leaders and Their Wives: 'Double Honour' is a ministry of encouragement and refreshment for evangelists, shepherds, preachers, Christian workers, and their wives. In Europe, Double Honour rents a large 18th century house in the tranquil and beautiful village of Saint Georges sur Erve 53600 France, for their five day retreats.



In 2019 there are two weeks of these retreats. The first is Monday to Friday, 6th-10th May. The second is Monday to Friday,



13th-17th May. Travel, meals and accommodation are all paid for.

The format for the week will be daily, short sessions of discussion and prayer conducted in English by James Robinson, an experienced speaker with an ability to lift up Christian workers. Couples are given plenty of free time to relax and explore the surrounding areas, which include the Loire Valley and Normandy. The retreat is hosted by Jerry and Caroline (Zoobi) Jones, who have served in the UK and the US for more than forty years. Up to four couples per week will have the opportunity to be filled with fresh hope and energised for further service free of

charge. The cook will be Trevor Williams, so the meals will be fantastic!

Contact us with your interest, or let us know if someone else could be blessed by this

retreat, or feel free to share the information: elite.not.elitist@gmail.com

Jerry & Zoobi Jones

Algerian Christians banned from worshipping even in a tent, after church building sealed.



Christians in Algeria were forced out of a tent they were worshipping in by police on 28th January after their church building was sealed by authorities.

The tent, set up in the grounds of Azaghar Church enabled the 300 strong congregation to continue worshipping following the forced closure of their church building for spurious 'health and safety' reasons.

The church in the village of Azaghar, around 110 miles south-east of Algiers, lost the use of its building in October 2018, despite the congregation responding to requests to install fire exits and fire extinguishers.

Bulgarian government backs down after evangelical Christians and others protest crackdown.

The Bulgarian Parliament has agreed not to pass into law prohibitive amendments to the nation's Religious Denominations Act after thousands of Christians protested against a crackdown on the religious activity of minority religions.

The parliamentary Committee for Religion and Human Rights met on 19th December 2018 to discuss changes to the Religious Denominations Act with representatives of

minority religions including members of the Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance. The final vote on the changes, without the severe amendments, took place two days later on 21st December.

Christians had gathered in Sofia on three consecutive Sundays on 11th, 18th, and 25th November to protest against oppressive amendments that would have placed limitations on evangelising, banned worship outside officially recognised buildings and restricted church leader training. Religious groups would also have needed 300 members before being officially recognised.

Unprecedented gathering of 130,000 Christians in officially Islamic United Arab Emirates.



An event held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 5th February was attended by over 130,000 Christians; a startling occurrence in a region where Christian worship is tightly restricted and Christian converts from Islam risk imprisonment for apostasy.

The UAE has one of the fastest growing Christian populations in the world, mainly due to the inward migration of Christian workers. The country has recently gained a new cathedral, 16 new churches and has around 700 Christian congregations.

from Barnabas Fund

Wanted - Evangelist with Focus on Youth

The Church of Christ in Livingston seeks an Evangelist with a particular focus on expanding and developing a new generation of young believers, in both numbers and faith. The hope is to develop a strong resilient and vibrant body of believers eager to grow in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ. The work will entail a strong community involvement and continual outreach, as well as developing and growing existing youth members. The successful applicant would also be involved in leading the congregation in general evangelistic outreach and share in other areas of ministry in the church.

The person is expected to be highly motivated in the service of Christ. Financial support will be provided as appropriate and necessary. This can be guaranteed initially for the first few years. The individual will be accountable to the Leadership Group.

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

If you would like more information please contact Church of Christ, Elburn, Livingston, West Lothian, Scotland EH54 6RA. Tel: 01506 414789. E-mail: charlie@ChurchofChrist.co.uk

Two Study Weekends ... One Beautiful Letter

Great Barr

Collingwood Community Centre,
Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 7NF

Saturday, 9th March ~ 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday, 10th March ~ 11 am to 1 pm
Saturday, 23rd March ~ 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday, 24th March ~ 11 am to 1 pm

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

Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Mark Hill
www.britishbibleschool.com



Study Weekends provide opportunities for short periods of instruction in a group setting. Participants can expect a fast-paced, intensive approach, covering a significant amount of material from a selected module.

For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook.

All are welcome to either or both weekends!



SOLUS

ACAPPELLA

MARCH 24TH 2019 | ST GILES CATHEDRAL

6:00PM | FREE



Galatians

"The dangers of legalism are never far away and always to be opposed. This module examines the text of this letter in light of its first century context and draws some important lessons from it for today."

Northampton

Christian Fellowship Centre
Shadowfax Drive
NN3 8DB

Friday, 15th March 7.30 to 9.45 pm
Saturday, 16th March 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Friday, 12th April 7.30 to 9.45 pm
Saturday, 13th April 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Teachers: Jon Galloway and Jack Paton
www.britishbibleschool.com

Study Weekends provide opportunities for short periods of instruction in a group setting. Participants can expect a fast-paced, intensive approach, covering a significant amount of material from a selected module.

For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook.



Bristol Ladies Day

Saturday 23rd March 2019
10am - 4pm

Agape Amour Cariad Liebe Pyaar
LEARNING TO LOVE EACH OTHER BETTER THROUGH WORD AND DEED

Speakers:
Words of Affirmation (Beryl Wallace), Quality Time (Gigi Khonyongwa Fernandez),
Acts of Service (Merryn Pollard), Physical Touch (Amanda Appiagyei) & Gifts (Evie Johnson)

Bristol Church of Christ
298 St John's Lane, Bristol BS3 5AY

Contact Crystal: 07951 668 739
obi_belt@yahoo.co.uk



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



HEBREWS

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

Aberdeen

393 George Street
Aberdeen
AB25 1EQ

Friday, 29th March 7.00 to 9.00pm
Saturday, 30th March 9.00am to 4.15pm

Friday, 10th May 7.00 to 9.00pm
Saturday, 11th May 9.00am to 4.15pm

Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Jack Paton
www.britishbibleschool.com

Study Weekends provide opportunities for short periods of instruction in a group setting. Participants can expect a fast-paced, intensive approach, covering a significant amount of material from a selected module.

For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook.

All are welcome to either or both weekends!



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*

PROBLEM? SOLVED +

Location:
John's Lee Wood
Scout Campsite
Markfield Lane
Markfield
Leicestershire
LE67 9PS

Join us for a fun filled week of games, singing, crafts and Bible study at our new venue!

Age 7-13? Monday 12th August—Friday 16th August 2019

Age 13-18? Sunday 18th August—Friday 23rd August 2019

Price: £95 or £90 if a deposit of £20 is paid before
April 30th 2019

**(From the people who brought you Camp Maplewell)
Camp Charnwood**

For more information for younger week:

Simon Hardy on 07728028636 or
simonthehitman@hotmail.co.uk

Or Debbie Hill on 07940 160634 or
j.hill147@hotmail.co.uk

And for older week : Guy Sandison on
07791101397 or guysandison@hotmail.co.uk

Or Debbie Hill on 07940 160634 or
j.hill147@hotmail.co.uk

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.



Autumn Family Weekend Retreat

Friday, 13th to Sunday, 15th
September 2019

at Letton Hall in Norfolk

Stories of JESUS

... listening to the master storyteller



www.britishbibleschool.com

Field of Refuge

Selah
Be still and know that I am God
Psalm 46:10



Women's Renewal Weekend 2019

11th to 13th October

Tulliallan Castle
Kincardine
FK10 4BE

Contact fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com for more information

March

1st-2nd – Scotland East Coast: Joint gospel meetings – “Faith in Uncertain Times”. Friday at Hyvots Bank building, Saturday at Hayfield Community Centre, 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, 10.00 am-4.00 pm – “Learning to Love Each Other Better Through Word and Deed”; speakers: Beryl Wallace, Gigi Khonyongwa Fernandez, Merryn Pollard, Amanda Appiagyei, Evie Johnson. Contact: Crystal Holder (07951 668739 or 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

8th – Cumbernauld: Christian Leadership Seminar – “Walking Where Jesus Walked: From Bethlehem to the Jordan”; speaker: Jon Galloway. 9.30 am-12.30pm. Organiser and contact: Jack Paton (jgpaton@outlook.com).

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: Bennoch 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 of 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 – “Jesus – at the Cross”. Light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

21st – Hyvots Bank (Edinburgh): Hymn Tour evening with Jerry Rushford. Venue: St. Andrew’s & St. George’s, Edinburgh; 7.00-9.00 pm. Contact: Helen Kerr (hkerr412@yahoo.co.uk).

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 – “Conflict in the Local Church”, 9.30 am -4.30 pm. Venue: 1 Foxglove Close, Edmonton, London N9 8LW Contact: Charles Banin (charlesbanino@aol.com).

19th-21st – Liverpool: Youth Weekend, arrival on Friday from 6.00 pm. Venue: Corner of 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 – “Jesus – in the Church”; speaker: Jon Galloway. Light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

12th-16th August – Camp Charnwood: Ages 7-13 – “Problem? Solved †”. Cost: £95 (£90 if pay £20 deposit before 30th April). Venue: John’s Lee Wood Scout Campsite, Markfield Lane, Markfield, Leicestershire LE67 9PS. Contact: Simon Hardy (07728 028636 or simonthehitman@hotmail.co.uk) or Debbie Hill (07940 160634 or j.hill147@hotmail.co.uk).

18th-23rd August – Camp Charnwood: Ages 13-18 – “Problem? Solved †”. Cost: £95 (£90 if pay £20 deposit before 30th April). Venue: John’s Lee Wood Scout Campsite, Markfield Lane, Markfield, Leicestershire LE67 9PS. Contact: Guy Sandison (07791 101397 or guysandison@hotmail.co.uk) or Debbie Hill (07940 160634 or j.hill147@hotmail.co.uk).

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.

September

13th-15th – BBS Family Retreat: “Stories of Jesus”; venue: Letton Hall, Norfolk. Contact: britishbibleschool.com

28th – Peterhead: Annual Social Day, 1.00 pm. Speakers: Ian Davidson and Mark Hill. It would be appreciated if an indication of numbers coming two weeks in advance, to help with catering. Contact: William Strachan wstrachan007@gmail.com.

October

11th – Field of Refuge: Women’s renewal – “Selah”. Venue: Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine FK10 4BE. Cost: Shared Room £120 (£112 if booking confirmed before 1st June), Single Occupancy £145 (£135 if booking confirmed before 1st June); £35 non-refundable deposit required to confirm booking (remaining balance due by 1st October). Contact: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com.

November

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

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

European Events Calendar

February

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

18th-20th – Albania: Retreat – “Revive us, O Lord, for the sake of your name”; speakers: Bill McDonough & Dominique Dos Santos. Venue: Rafael Resort, Shengjin, Lezhe. Cost: 2700LEK per day (about \$50). Register by 2nd April. Contact: Shkelqim Kafexhiu (cimish2000@yahoo.com).

26th-28th – Gemünden, Germany: European Singles’ Retreat. This is a Christian weekend retreat held twice a year, in April and September, at Gemünden, Germany. 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. Cost: €65 (€10 reduction if pay before deadline). 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 if not held in English. Contact Eleni (emelirry@aol.com) or Trevor Williams (twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk).

September

20th-22nd – Gemünden, Germany: European Singles’ Retreat. This is a Christian weekend retreat held twice a year, in April and September, at Gemünden, Germany. 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. Cost: €65 (€10 reduction if pay before deadline). For more information: <https://www.singlesretreat.net/about.html>.

28th – Gemünden, Germany: 50th Anniversary of Gemünden Bible Camp.

29th-4th October – Gemünden, Germany: Work week for Gemünden Camp site.

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: "A Look at Worship"



One of the interesting things about being able to visit a number of our congregations is to see how they do things slightly different from the church where we currently worship. This has nothing to do with doctrine but with methods of approach. Without pointing the finger at anyone let me share a few thoughts.

The 'Hymn Leader' (or whatever you call the person who starts the singing). First of all, well done for knowing so many hymns and being

willing to put yourself on the line for pitching the first couple of notes at least. This is not an easy job. However, let me encourage you to look at the congregation. You can speed things up or slow them down, make a loud noise or quiet the sound – it is up to you. Some of our churches now use projectors for the words but it is important for the leader to know what is being sung. There is no need to constantly look at a hymn book or the projector; you are there to lead and you cannot if you do not look at the people. Then if the meeting leader is not leading the hymns the one who is pitching should know what is likely to be sung.

Secondly it is often the practise in worship to have a thought about the Lord's Supper. This is an excellent practise but sometimes I have wondered what the words spoken have to do with what is about to happen. I have heard all sorts of things talked about which may have been interesting but little to do with what Jesus initiated. Often there has been no reading of scripture. Sometimes the length of time used has been of sermon proportions. Sometimes there has been no introduction at all and I have wondered about the visitors among us if they understand what is happening.

Thirdly, repetitious prayers. When I was growing up, the Elders of the church told me that to say the Lord's Prayer was not a good practise as it was repetitious, yet I hear the same phrases used over and over again in public prayers. I am thankful that those who are absent from the assembly 'for whatever reason' are prayed for, yet those in the meeting, who are there despite reasons why could be away, are not prayed for. If brethren are ill, pray for them by name. If brethren are away especially on mission trips of preaching elsewhere, pray for them by name. General prayers receive only general blessings, specific prayers can receive specific answers.

One other thought. The gathering in of funds is not a part of The Lord's Supper, yet is often taken up immediately afterwards. I am told that this is convenient. After attending the Lord's Table for nearly 60 years I am not sure that our thinking on this is quite right. The gathering in of funds is NOT a command but based on an example for the Corinthian church, though we are not told how they did it. Some churches leave the offering to another part of the service, some leave the basket on the table for people to put in after the service. Several gift to the church through their bank every month and now we can give through GIVT on our mobile phones. I know of one church with a bucket by the door and another that takes up no offering at all, all gifts are given through the bank. As the Lord loves a cheerful giver lets make this a happy part of our worship.

Lord we want to know you and worship you in spirit and in truth. Open our minds, open our hearts to see you in your glory. Amen

Trevor