

CHRISTIAN WORKER



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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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It is hard to believe that September is here! Schools are going back (or have been back for a few weeks in Scotland). Life returns to a degree of normality (whatever that is!).

September is also the anniversary of Trevor and me taking on the editorship and production of the *Christian Worker*. We have now completed our third year and with this issue begin our fourth year. We are trying to make this a publication that both informs and encourages. We very much appreciate all the encouragement that we have received over the past years.

It has been an eventful summer. This issue of the *CW* has become our annual camp round-up as we feature the reports and photographs of what many of our young people were involved in this summer. We are thankful for the three camps who have sent this in.

Since the August issue, two well-known Christians have gone on to their reward. **Alastair Ferrie** left this life on Saturday, 12th August. We will publish tributes of his life in the October issue. Alastair had a huge impact on my life as he invited Arlene and me to move to Glasgow to work with him, resulting in our moving here in 1985. A memorial service was held on Saturday, 19th August, in Livingston with around 200 in attendance. Our prayers are with his family.

Sue Whitehead, from the Buckingham Park congregation in Aylesbury, went to her reward on Monday, 14th August. Sue was very active in providing hospitality over the years, she and Derek keeping many who travelled through (including myself). She was also part of the team who assembled the printed copies of the *Christian Worker* for many years. A tribute to her is in this issue. Her memorial service will be on Wednesday, 13th September, at noon in the Rivets Sports and Social Club, Whitehead Way, Aylesbury HP21 8AD.

Please note that October's issue will have less space for news due to several tributes for Alastair and his life and work. Do send them, but realise they may not be published until November. Thanks!

Jon

Spotlight: Summer Camps in the UK

Camp Maplewell: This year, Camp Maplewell was again divided into an older and a younger week. For a bit of a change, we had different themes for each week.

For the younger week, held 23rd-28th July, we focussed on the construction and the building up of our faith through looking at examples in the Bible. There were seventy 7-13 year olds who were with us for “Faith Builders.” Thematically there was an underlying current of well-known Danish plastic construction materials, and this was reinforced through a number of the games and activities, where small coloured bricks made an appearance. The idea that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, masterpieces of the Master, was the overlapping motif.

For the older week we had forty-two teenagers with us to experience “Fruition: 2017.” During the week, we looked at the ‘fruit of the Spirit’, and the idea that as



new creations we need to be bearing fruit in our lives. It was a little different to previous years, spending the whole week looking at just two verses, (Galatians 5:22-23), but it allowed us to delve a little deeper. A number of the campers commented that before the week, the ‘fruit of the Spirit’ was just a list to them, but by the end they

understood that these are qualities that should be evident in their life if they are living by the Spirit. They also understood more about each one of these qualities.

Thanks should go to the class teachers for both weeks for their fine work in planning and delivering

enlightening and inspiring lessons.

A number of activities helped to reinforce the theme of each day. One example would be when we were looking at patience, the puddings were

wheeled out at lunchtime, but they had to wait until dinner to eat them.

Mention should be made of the work of the head chefs, Petra and Mandie, who were assisted by Charif, Shemar and Sarah during the first week, and Suzanne and Tania the second week, as well as an assortment of daily helpers, including Trevor (our not-quite-retired baker). They made nourishing and enjoyable meals. Of particular note this year was a gigantic birthday cake, and a spectacular range of trifles.

Sports, Games and Activities play a key role in the fabric of enjoyment at camp, and this year was no exception. Fierce but friendly competition was in full swing, amidst such varying pursuits as classics like 'Capture the Flag' and 'Sock War' to new games, such as one best (but not aptly) described as 'Staff v Campers Treasure Hunt Marbles'. Also of note was the fleeting appearance of George of the Jungle during a game in the woods. My thanks go to all the staff involved in the planning and organising of the games, for making them such an exciting part of the week.



There were around forty who made up the staff during the two weeks, as well as some who helped for one to four days. Indeed, it wasn't for these young (and not quite so young) servants, giving up their time and energy, camp couldn't happen – and it wouldn't have been the success that it was. Their dedication to their roles,

whether it be a class assistant, washing the dishes, leading our evening devotions around the campfire, or setting out the dining room, as well as their eagerness to serve in any fashion for the campers, is something to be thankful for.

Thanks also go to those who entrusted to us the care of their children. Camp is a great time of being lifted up as we praise God as well as be reacquainted with old friends and make new ones.



Next year the theme will be: "Problem... Solved." We

look forward to again spending a week with the campers.

Guy Sandison

British Bible Camp: Our theme for this year was “Stronghold.” We stood firm with Christ as we took a deeper look at Ephesians 6 and what it really means to put on your spiritual armour.

Spirit-filled would be best way to describe this year’s camp.

With strongholds, campfires and a Bible quiz it was truly a great experience for the record breaking 154 people who joined us in Oxford.

We thank God for his great grace and all his servants that made the week possible.

Heidi Snethen

Camp Heatherbell: We had yet another successful year at Camp Heatherbell. It was an extra special year as it was our 50th anniversary since the camp was founded by Claude Parrish and Willie Steele in 1967. Given the special occasion, the theme this year was ‘Gold’.

Our main goal every year is to show the campers Christ in our lives. Our staff put in another another year of hard work and dedication to achieve that goal.

Worship at Camp is a great opportunity for the campers to experience the presence of

God through our praise, prayers and His word. It is the first worship experience for many of these children and it is great to see them respond to something that is clearly so important to Christians.

Our teachers based their classes around the theme ‘Gold’, focusing on the idea of

how gold is so precious to us in today’s world and showing the campers how God looks at us the same way – as precious as gold. No matter your background, skin colour, age, etc, God always sees the potential in each and every one of us to do His will and to be His.

Every year, our activity staff excite the campers by coming up with some cool new games and ideas to make their camp experience fun and memorable.

The last night was our talent show and many friends and family were able to come along and see

what camp is all about.

It was encouraging to see a good number of parents/grand-parents and other family members show their support.

Paulo Budlong



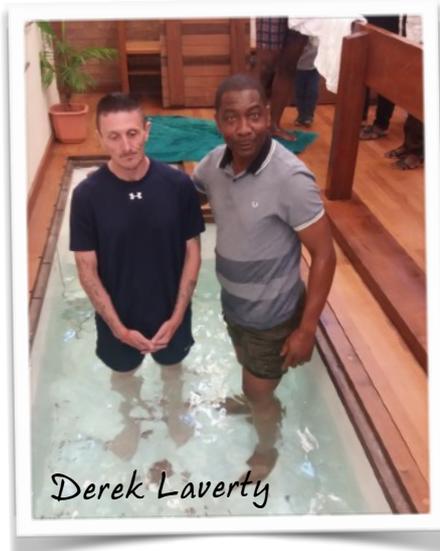
Congratulations!

Summer Lane (Birmingham): We are thrilled to announce that **Kwame Sarkodie-Addo** and **Derek Laverty** were immersed into Christ on Saturday, 19th August.

Please keep these new brothers in your prayers as they start their walk with the Lord.



Kwame Sarkodie-Addo



Derek Laverty

Trevor Ralph

Ilkeston: On Sunday, 27th August, **Josiah Sparks** was immersed into Jesus by his father, Aaron.

We pray that he will have a long life serving the Lord.



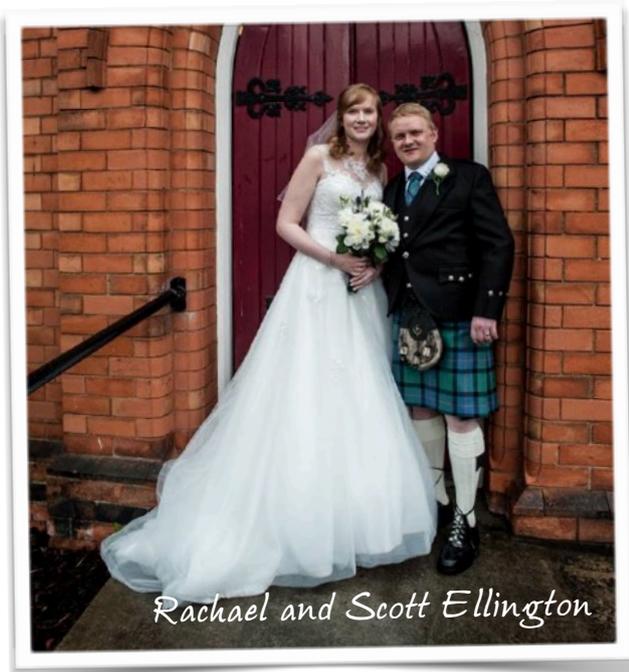
Josiah Sparks

Trevor Williams

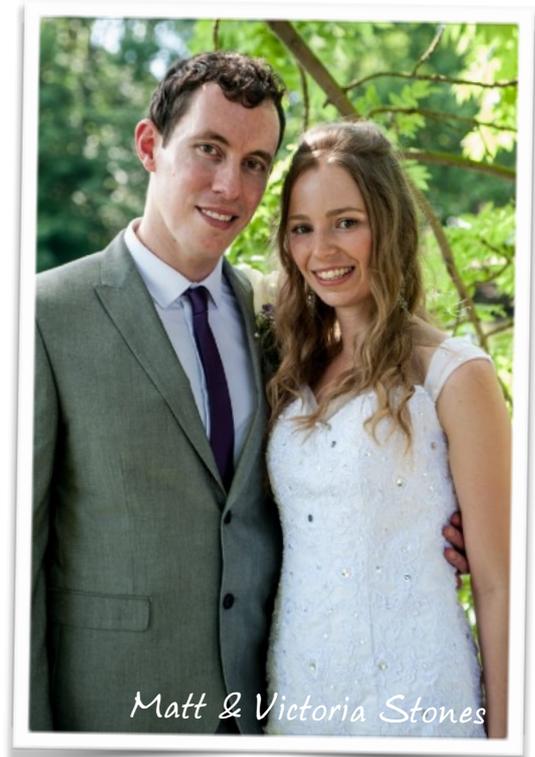
Loughborough: We have been blessed to see two couples married earlier this year.

Rachael Flood married **Scott Ellington** on 19th May. Rachael is the daughter of Stephen and Stephanie Flood. **Victoria Hill** married **Matt Stones** on 17th June. Victoria is the daughter of Paul and Janet Hill.

Jason Hill



Rachael and Scott Ellington



Matt & Victoria Stones

Sue Whitehead (1937-2017)

Aylesbury, Buckingham Park

Sue's body died on 14th August as she'd lived her life, quietly and peacefully. She'd had a fall ten days earlier and never woke up but, in a sense, she 'died' about two years earlier when she developed dementia and had to be lovingly tended by her husband, Derek, and her family. Her loss to both her earthly and spiritual families is immeasurable; she is irreplaceable, but you might hardly have noticed her had you visited the congregation, for she never pushed herself forward, nor loudly proclaimed her views, nor did anything to be other than a godly woman and sister, under the guidance and leadership of those brothers who saw to such tasks. Yet she was multi-talented, had a towering intellect – though she'd deny it – and made a magnificent contribution to the congregations both nationally and internationally.

Sue was an only child and came from a talented family which numbered the famous poet and atheist, A.C. Swinburne in its ranks. Her branch of the Swinburnes contained Anglican clergymen and she was raised under its influence, but she had an enquiring, independent mind and felt dissatisfied beneath its spiritual umbrella; she became a diligent searcher after religious truth. She was a talented artist, a poet herself with an unpublished collection, largely because of her natural modesty. She was a good writer, producing a few books, mainly for her family, and one small fictional offering which she published privately. Later she was to originate the 'Sisters' magazine for the church's distaff



membership, and that still carries on today under a different editor, Sarah-Joy Maddeaux. She collaborated in a magazine with Barney Beard: *Sharing Christ through Correspondence Courses*, and spent hours and hours every week conducting correspondence courses herself, using her own money to send out Bibles, tracts and books to support struggling Third World evangelists in their ministry. Of course, she also helped them with financial support, but so quietly that few would ever have known it. She may never know how the influence of her untrumpeted work for the Lord touched the lives of people in Africa, India and other parts of the world, but God knows.

In 1963 the congregation in Aylesbury opened its building in Mandeville Road. They held a big campaign and posted hundreds of leaflets inviting the people of the town to come along. Sue ignored the one which came through her door, but kept it, for reasons she never quite understood! Some four or five years later she unearthed this leaflet and decided to pop along and give this church a try. The rest, as they say, is history. She found what she was long searching for spiritually and spent the rest of her life devotedly serving the brotherhood. She brought her two sons through the Sunday School and Steven and Alistair are still serving the local congregation as leaders. Steve also writes and teaches in the British Bible School programme and serves as a governor; you may have heard of him! As a BBS teacher his Mum typed all his handouts and exam

papers in the early days. She was a prime mover behind Ladies' Days and Ladies' classes in Aylesbury. Her home unofficially became the 'Aylesbury Congregation Guest House' at times and many a visiting speaker and youth weekend attendee enjoyed her, and Derek's, hospitality. She even accommodated some evangelists on a longer term basis. One, in 1992, stayed with them for ten months while he and his family tried to move down from Liverpool! Her home was always welcoming and for a while some services were held in it, and Bible Studies still are. On the Thursday before she died the study was conducted, as usual, in her home only her chair, sadly, was empty. She was one of the backroom workers on the production of the *Christian Worker*, when it was not being produced electronically. The list of service which Sue rendered over her many years of devotion to the Lord just goes on and on. Her legacy will continue as two of her grandchildren, Alice and James, were baptised fairly

recently, and Emma faithfully attends services and Sunday Club each Lord's Day.

Sue took to heart Paul's instruction in Philippians: '*in humility count others more significant than yourself*' (Philippians 2:3). Her natural shyness and meekness was not to be mistaken as weakness. She used regularly to go out leafletting and door-knocking. Though the sister she went with was definitely not shy and therefore took the lead, with Sue it just took courage – oodles of it! She was a godly woman, anything but spiritually weak, though she did have health problems over the years. She was a wonderful, powerful influence on all who knew and loved her. Many sisters in particular took refuge quietly behind her leadership and valued her advice. Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven and the words, '*Well done good and faithful servant*' we can be sure have already been spoken to her by the Lord she loved and served so faithfully.

Graham A. Fisher

British Bible School Notes

In danger of losing vital skills?

I wonder whether at times the phrase "Bible study" doesn't sound too academic, maybe out-dated or simply irrelevant and out of touch. Many years ago I remember asking the leader of a religious-based youth group what the Bible said about abortion. We had been discussing ethical issues and it seemed to me at the time to be a reasonable question. In response I was asked, "And what does that have to do with anything?" It was the late seventies.

Many years later I still consider that to have been a very unreasonable answer,

particularly in light of the disparaging tone in which it was given. However, in and of itself it is a very reasonable question. What does 'what the Bible says' have to do with anything? And of what relevance is Bible study today?

Perhaps the growth of the Internet with its ability to provide instant information on virtually any subject might tempt some to think that it is not only a useful source for Biblical information, but that it can also take much of the legwork out of lesson preparation and formation. I would be surprised if you have not heard a lesson

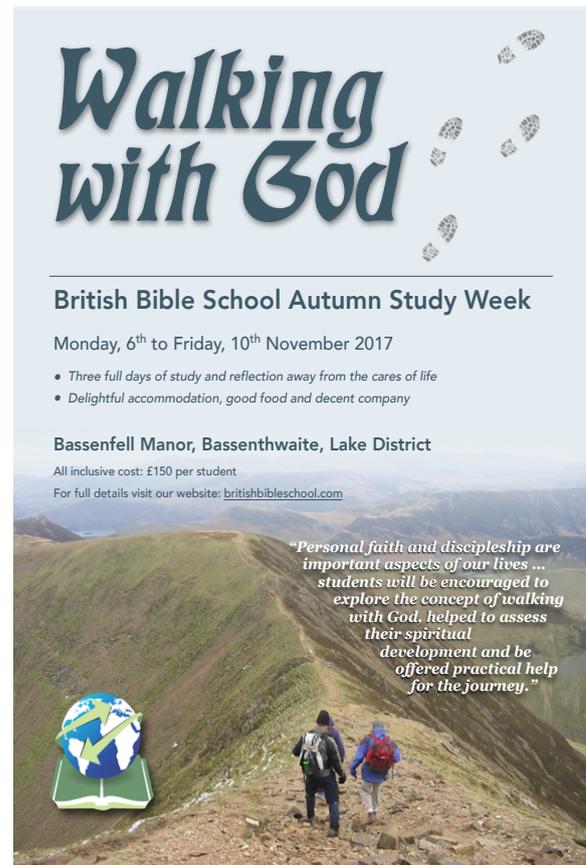
which had essentially been ripped off a website and tinkered with to provide a semblance of originality.

Though the internet with its myriad of resources may well be a useful tool, it can never take the place of serious, structured study or research built upon a foundation of good practice. Scripture was delivered to us in the context of human relationships, and is properly understood through a process of application and experience in a Spirit-led life. When we relinquish the human context and experiences of life from our pursuit of truth, we are in real danger of losing vital skills and developing little more than an instant and shallow understanding of God's word. It never was a matter of simply learning 'Bible facts'.

Your Bible School

Those who now govern the British Bible School do so with a determination to continue to provide some means of structured teaching and flexible training within the UK for British congregations and believers to help equip the people of God for the mission of God through the Word of God. Without homegrown teachers and leaders, developing and sharing the skills that are needed to understand the Scriptures and convey their truths, we run the real risk of losing sight of who we are and what is our role in the mission of God today. We risk losing our identity and becoming an irrelevance.

So we want to help prepare others to teach the Word to all the world, wherever our world might be. We want to help equip men and women of God to serve according to the abilities he has given us. We haven't always got it right,

A poster for 'Walking with God' featuring a landscape of rolling hills and two hikers. The title 'Walking with God' is in a large, stylized font. Below it, the text reads: 'British Bible School Autumn Study Week', 'Monday, 6th to Friday, 10th November 2017', and lists benefits like 'Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life'. It also mentions the location 'Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District' and a cost of '£150 per student'. A quote from a student is included: 'Personal faith and discipleship are important aspects of our lives ... students will be encouraged to explore the concept of walking with God, helped to assess their spiritual development and be offered practical help for the journey.'

Walking with God

British Bible School Autumn Study Week

Monday, 6th to Friday, 10th November 2017

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District

All inclusive cost: £150 per student

For full details visit our website: britishbibleschool.com

"Personal faith and discipleship are important aspects of our lives ... students will be encouraged to explore the concept of walking with God, helped to assess their spiritual development and be offered practical help for the journey."

but our heart is right where we believe it ought to be and we continue to look for ways to serve more effectively. How might we best do this?

Study Week and Weekends

Let me encourage you to think of attending our **Study Week** at Bassenthwaite this autumn. We know that this would be a special blessing to those engaged in teaching and leading congregations. Let me encourage you to come along to our **Study Weekends** at Birmingham, East Kilbride or Wembley. You will find details for all these on our website and elsewhere in this magazine. What about hosting a training event for your congregation next year? Let me urge you to think of how your British Bible School can be of service to you.

May God bless us all, that we might be a blessing to others,

Patrick Boyns

Family News

Liverpool: Although we normally host a Youth Weekend in the spring around the Easter period, we decided this year to have it in the summer, 7th-9th July – and we were glad we did! Around 25-30 young people made their way to Liverpool to look at “**Relationships**”. The lessons dealt with ‘Our Relationship with Our Christian Friends’, ‘Our Relationship with Non-Christian Friends’, ‘Our Relationship with Our Parents’ and ‘Our Relationship with God’. Thanks particularly to Jason Snethen, who presented all the devotionals using very thought-provoking illustrations.



In addition to the lessons and classes, there was great food, cosy accommodation, great weather, and a lovely trip to the Crosby beach where we all had fun with water, sand, cricket bats and footballs. There were also crafts, drama sketches, X-box games, lovely singing (with spelling lessons) and,



most importantly, the forming of new relationships and re-bonding of old ones.

We wish to thank everyone who attended and especially all the teachers who helped make the Youth Weekend a success. We look forward to having you again in the summer next year: *the beach still awaits!*

Laurence Okorafor

Leicester: The ladies in Leicester would like to offer a big thanks to all the Christian women who travelled to share our very first Ladies’ Day on 5th August. We were overwhelmed and encouraged by 59 who travelled far and wide to be with us.

Pauline Williams and Jean Eckman presented lessons on the theme ‘Mirror- Mirror’, taken from the letter of James. Both

were truly fantastic, which also included some fun activities which were loved by all.

We had a great fellowship lunch together followed by crafts based upon the topic. It was a joy to offer worship to God with our sisters from around the UK and we were all uplifted.

Janet Hill

Around the World

Greece: This June we enjoyed our 14th Annual Retreat in Ancient Corinth with the Omonia family and friends from the East, West, North, and the South. We enjoyed every bit of it; it has been the most successful retreat in these fourteen years. Nineteen different nationalities joined hearts for four days in the most loving and friendly environment. Our theme was “Love Your Neighbour as Yourself”. Keynote speaker was Jim Holway, evangelist from Miami, Florida. Other speakers included John Morgan and Trevor Williams from the UK, Dan Bouchelle and Chris Shelby from Texas, as well as Alexander from the Omonia congregation.



We continue to provide daily English classes; soon we will have our very own curriculum which is now prepared to meet the refugee needs on all different levels of their English language ability. Some speak quite good English, but there are few who are illiterate – even in their own language.

A number of our refugee friends tell us that they love Isa (Jesus) and that “Isa is God”, as they know that His mother Mariam



(Mary) had no husband. We love to hear these very special words quite often, lately. This confession of love, which many have made, is a very precious life decision of theirs to be followers of Christ. Even some of the volunteer workers took the decision to accept Christ. They confessed that they had never seen God walk among His people this visibly and powerfully. Seven new souls will see Heaven and we humbly come to celebrate with them.

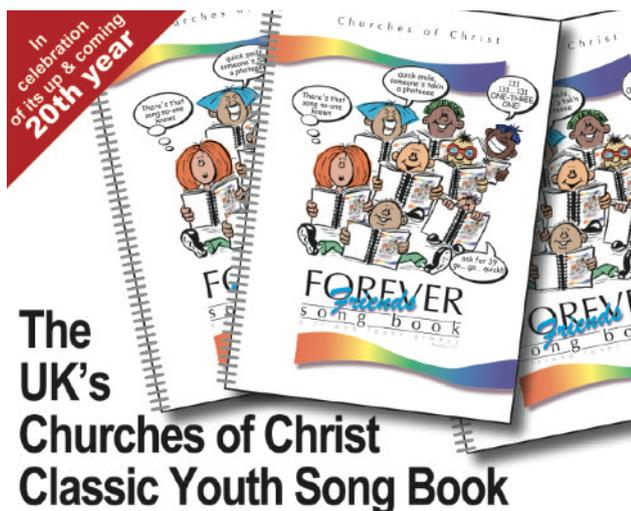
Alexander and Eleni Melivrytos

Malawi: The seed and fertiliser programme is slowly becoming self-sufficient. The project loan beneficiaries have started paying back their loans so we will be ready to purchase more fertiliser for this new growing season. The recipients are very thankful for all the Christians who have helped with this good work.

We are involved in a new programme to supply a female goat to a family. After it gives birth, the kid is given to another family. It is proving to be helpful to all who are involved.

We had a gospel meeting in the Nkhata Bay district with around three hundred attending. From 23rd-28th August I will be working with a team of evangelists preaching at Kazuni, which is far northwest of Mzuzu. Please keep us in your prayers.

Lungster Mlotha



The UK's Churches of Christ Classic Youth Song Book

Developed with the collaboration of Youth Workers, brethren and the young, print run 3.5 is about to be under way. If you or your the local congregation are interested in copies then just get in touch. Details opposite:

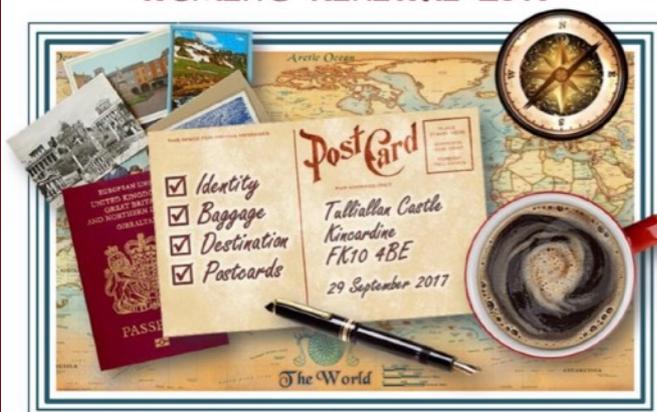
- cost £1.60 for sizes A4 or A5 (large print version on request - A4 only)
- personalised @ £2.20 (name on cover)
- sample copy is available on request
- favorite song not in there, get in touch and it will be added.
- Camp versions available (produced on rip-proof paper, costing varies, sample on request)
- Postage/packaging is around £6 (for orders of 5 copies or more)

Contact Kevin on: churchsongbook@gmail.com

This is a 'print-on-demand product' orders can be taken anytime

322 songs (and counting)

FIELD OF REFUGE WOMEN'S RENEWAL 2017



Date: 29 September 2017 for two nights

Arrival: Registration at 14:00

Cost: £95.00 per person (shared room with ensuite). Single occupancy is available at a higher rate. Cost includes accommodation and all meals. £35 deposit is required to secure your place.

Email: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com

Contact: 07450 296 427 (Yvonne Cass)

We have several Christian books that are in need of a good home, particularly the ones listed below. Please get in touch if you are interested in these. Or get in touch if you are looking for a specific publication, and chances are we might have it! Thank you.

Sarah-Joy Maddeaux / sjmaddeaux@gmail.com

- The Illustrated Variorum Aids to the Bible Student* (1898)
- A Public Debate on Christian Baptism, between the WL Maccalla and Alexander Campbell* (1842, repr. 1948)
- Wallace-Ketcherside Debate* (1953)
- JC Bailey, *What Think Ye of Christ? Whose Son is He?* (c. 1959)
- William S Banowsky, *The Mirror of a Movement: Churches of Christ as Seen through the Abilene Christian College Lectureship* (1965)
- Batsell Barrett Baxter, *I Believe Because...: A Study of the Evidence Supporting Christian Faith* (1971)
- Frederic W Farrar, *The Life of Christ* (1884)
- Graham Fisher, *Speak through the Earthquake, Wind and Fire* (1982)
- AW Fortune, *Adventuring with Disciple Pioneers* (1942) – lectures by Thomas Campbell, Barton Stone, Alexander Campbell, Water Scott, et al
- James Gray, *Towards True Baptism: A Sketch of Contemporary Movements in Baptismal Reform* (1948)
- Moses E Lard, *Commentary on Paul's Letter to Romans* (1914)
- John William McGarvey, *Short Essays in Biblical Criticism Reprinted from the Christian Standard 1893-1904* (1910)
- Jim McGuiggan, *The Book of Daniel* (1978)
- HPV Nunn, *Key to The Elements of New Testament Greek* (1953)
- WG Roberts, *Instrumental Music in Worship* (n. d.)
- George Salmon, *Historical Introduction to the New Testament* (1886)
- WE Vine, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (1964)
- Foy E Wallace Jr, *A Sermon on Instrumental Music in the Worship* (c. 1933)
- Isaac Watts, *A Short View of the Whole Scripture History* (n. d.)

Northampton Ladies Day
HE HAS MADE
everything
 Saturday October 21st 10-3pm
 Theme: 'Do not give up'
 Contact: suzannehill@uwclub.net
BEAUTIFUL
IN ITS TIME.
 ECCLESIASTES 3:11

**“Lift Up Your Eyes”
 and See God’s Purpose in Europe**



**Mainz, Germany
 October 4 -7, 2017**

Make plans now to meet us in Mainz, Germany, and share the amazing things that our Lord is doing in Europe. If you enjoyed the 2016 Refugee Conference in Greece then you will enjoy and benefit from being with us this year in Germany.

- Hear from European leaders and veteran missionaries about opportunities and methods for outreach in a European context/community
- Learn from those experienced in reaching refugees and immigrants
- Enjoy choral groups and a challenging speakers each night
- Enjoy a time of discussion, brainstorming, fellowship and encouragement from your coworkers from across Europe.
- Encourage and be encouraged by your coworkers.

To help, we invite two members of your congregation to be our guests. Lodging and meals for these two will be covered by the sponsors. All guests are responsible for transportation.

(All are welcome to come but we can only cover the lodging for two, sharing a double room)

For more information visit
www.sunset.bible/mainz

Leadership
 Saturday November the 4th 2017
 10am to 15:00
 Tea and coffee on arrivals

Speakers:
 Truitt Adair: President Sunset School
 Tim Burrow : (director of international schools)
 Brandy Kendall: (director of schools in Asia)

We hope you can join us for a great day of fellowship, talks, question times..
 Church of Christ Leicester: Newfound centre, 39-45 Pool Road, Leicester, LE3 9QH
 Contact: Paul Hill 07804 653690

Ladies Retreat 2017
 27-29 October 2017
 Holiday Inn West, Peterborough

The Blame Game: Why Me Lord?

Participant cost as follows:

- Single Package - £185.00pp
- Twin Package - £135.00pp
- £50.00 non-refundable deposit to be paid by 30th June 2017

Full payment by 1st September 2017

Account payment information:

Barclays Bank plc
 Sort Code: 20-67-88
 Account Number: 03980316
 A/c Name: Ladies Retreat Church of Christ
 Booking queries: Marsha Erysthee
 01733-351192 or 07541333908 email:
merysthee1@aol.com



Never blame anyone
 in your life.
 Good people give happiness,
 Bad people give experiences,
 Worst people give a lesson,
 Best people give memories.



Blame anchors us
 into the past: a
 place we cannot
 change.
 Acceptance frees
 us to the future

September

15th-17th – **Gemünden, Germany**: European Singles Retreat. Information:

<http://www.singlesretreat.net>.

16th – **Great Barr**: Annual Fellowship Day.

23rd – **Peterhead**: Annual Social Day.

23rd – **Loughborough**: Anniversary meeting – refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Ken Mullan. Contact: Jason Hill (j.hill147@hotmail.co.uk).

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

October

4th-7th – **Mainz, Germany**: Conference organised by Sunset Bible Institute: "Lift Up Your Eyes". For further information visit: www.sunset.bible/mainz

6th-7th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Galatians" (part 1) presented by Jack Paton and Mitch Vick. Friday: 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-5.30 pm.

7th – **Manchester (Stretford)**: Special meeting, beginning with lunch at 1.00 pm.

Contact: Pilomon (dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

13th-14th – **Wembley**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "The Letters of John" (part 1) presented by Steve Whitehead and John Griffiths.

21st – **Northampton**: Ladies' Day: "Do Not Give Up", 10.00 am-3.00 pm Contact: Suzanne Hill (suzannehill@uwclub.net).

27th-29th – **Livingston**: Youth Weekend.

27th-29th – **Sheffield**: Gospel meetings – "Is the Gospel Really Good News?" at Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 7 Christ Church Road, Sheffield S3 9HN. Contact: 07982 906618 or 07508 033534 for further information.

27th-29th – **Peterborough**: Ladies' retreat – "The Blame Game – Why Me Lord?" at Holiday Inn West, Peterborough. Cost: £135-185 (twin or single – full payment by 1st September). Contact: Marsha Erysthee (merysthee1@aol.com or 01733 351192 or 07541 333908).

November

3rd-4th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Galatians" (part 2) presented by Jack Paton and Mitch Vick. Friday: 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-5.30 pm.

3rd-4th – **Summer Lane (Birmingham)**: British Bible School Study Weekend. British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "The Letters of John" (part 1) presented by Patrick Boyns and John Griffiths.

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

6th-10th – **British Bible School**: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Module: "Walking with God" presented by Patrick Boyns and Ian Starrs. Cost for the week (room and board): £150. To register, go to britishbibleschool.com.

10th-11th – **East Kilbride & Clarkston**: Annual Joint Glasgow-area Gospel Meetings – Friday at East Kilbride, 7.30 pm, Saturday at Clarkston, 7.30 pm, combined Sunday worship at East Kilbride, 10.00 & 11.00 am; speaker: Patrick Boyns. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com) or Jack Paton (jgpaton@glasgowalumni.net).

11th – Eastwood: Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus: Prophet, Priest and King” (1– Prophet, 2– Priest & King); light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Bob Eckman. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

17th-18th – Wembley: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “The Letters of John” (part 2) presented by Steve Whitehead, John Griffiths and Patrick Boyns.

24th-25th – Summer Lane (Birmingham): British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “The Letters of John” (part 2) presented by John Griffiths and Patrick Boyns.

December

2nd – East Kilbride: An afternoon of song. 1.30-5.00 pm.

January 2018

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

February

3rd – Cumbernauld: Men’s Day.

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

19th-25th – Gemünden, Germany: Advanced Bible Study Series. ABSS I Monday-Friday, ABSS II Friday-Sunday. For further information or to book your place, contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com or +32 488 481 082). (Follow group on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/697781630273815/>)

March

10th – Great Barr: Bible Seminar.

July

21st-25th – Commonwealth of Dominica: 8th International Women’s Lectureship – “Wise Woman, Hold On, the Best is Yet to Come.” Contact: eighthiwl2018@gmail.com

September

8th – Great Barr: Fellowship Day.

14th-16th – Letton Hall Family Retreat in Norfolk. Organised by the British Bible School. (Details will be available shortly.)

Directory Update

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE (Tyne & Wear)

Christians: 5

e-mail address: newcastlecoc@gmail.com (our old address no longer works)

Website: <http://newcastlecoc.netne.net>

Sunday meeting: Breaking Bread 10.45 am

The Final Word: "All Things Are Yours"



When Paul writes to the young Corinthian church he says, "All things are yours: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life, death, present, future; all are yours and you are Christ's" (1 Corinthians 3:22). We generally look on Christianity as a positive religion, good works, kind actions, sacrificial life and in this verse all seems good apart from one gift – **death**. How can death possibly be an advantage for those we love? Our hearts break when we say goodbye to those we care for. It is so devastating when people who have spent their lives doing good, studying, learning, sharing and caring have left us. How can death be a gift?

We are mortal and this mortal must put on immortality (1 Corinthians 15:53). If we are to live with God then there has to be a process of change. At baptism we die to ourselves in order to rise and walk in newness of life. This is a change of being (Romans 6:1ff). In the fulness of our days there has to be another change; death must come so that we may receive that home which Jesus has prepared for us (John 14:2-3).

In some cases we welcome the release from this life for our loved ones because of the weakness of the flesh or the progress of illness. For some death seems to come all too soon and we ask why? Why do fatal accidents happen? Why are people born with problems that curtail this life? Why? Why? Why?

And we have no real answer other than life is precious. Everyone who can must make the most of every twenty-four hour period. Our lives should be filled everyday for as long as they can to be a blessing. Then let death take its course. Heaven's doors are open wide for us, for every one of us to go in. Death brings us to see Jesus face to face. Death releases us from the shackles of physical, earthly life. Death takes us home, forever. Death should have no fear for the believer in Jesus. His death brought resurrection and this is what is promised to everyone else.

Yes, we do have to say 'Farewell' to our loved ones but when it is our time to leave we say 'Hello' to those who are waiting for us.

Trevor

Prayer

For us there is no sting in death nor victory in the grave.

For us the victory is faith in Christ

*For us the battle was fought at Calvary, our salvation given,
our home in Heaven created, our Jesus enthroned.*

So we fall again at your feet, O God, and gladly proclaim.

We believe that Jesus is The Christ the Son of The Living God

To your honour and glory.

Amen

