

CHRISTIAN WORKER



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been found? (p.7)**

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**Advanced
Bible Study in
Gemünden,
Germany (p.3)**

From the editors:

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Is winter ever going to be over? Almost the entire country is under snow and this is set to continue for a few more days. We could easily wonder if spring will ever come! But I am sure by this time next month the snow and very cold temperatures will seem a distant memory.

Although it is winter and there are few congregation activities (there are no reports in 'Family News' this issue), other activities are on-going – we have featured the study week held in Gemünden, Germany this month.

Please keep **Mitch Vick** in your prayers. Mitch suffered a stroke a few weeks ago and is slowly recovering from it. Mitch is the evangelist and an elder at the congregation in Stirling and is also a teacher and governor for the British Bible School. His presence is already being missed, both in his teaching as well as preaching at many congregations. Pray that he will be restored to health so that he can resume the good work and teaching that he has been doing.

It is good to have Trevor and Pauline back in the UK! They spent the last few months in Australia visiting their children and on the way home spent some time in the Philippines visiting several graduates of the British Bible School. Next month we will spotlight the work that they are doing.

Continue to spend time with God's word and in prayer, both for individuals and that God's word will reach many throughout this country.

Jon



Spotlight: Advanced Bible Study in Gemeinden

The third full week of February sees Christians from throughout Europe travelling to the small village of Gemünden, Germany, for a week of Bible study. This series of studies has taken place annually since the 1960s, when it was hosted by the congregation in Verviers, Belgium. In recent years it has been held at the Bible camp which is owned by congregations in Germany. It is an ideal setting to study God's word in a beautiful part of Europe. Paul Brazzle, who works with the congregation in Antwerp, Belgium, serves as the coordinator.

This "Advanced Bible Study Series" is divided into two series of studies. The first begins on Tuesday morning (with participants arriving on Monday afternoon) and ends Friday at lunch. The second begins on Friday evening and concludes with worship and lunch on Sunday.

This year there were 29 who came to 'ABSS 1' from nine countries: Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Ukraine, Slovakia, Scotland, and the United States.

The keynote speaker this year was **Darryl Tippens**. Darryl is an English professor at Abilene Christian University and will retire from teaching in May of this year. He is an author and his latest book, *Pilgrim Heart*, was published in 2006. His lessons dealt with 'Spiritual Formation' and looked at various aspects of our growing spiritually as Christians and

how this is seen in our day-to-day life. He gave a small book to all participants, *That's Why We Sing*, which is an expanded chapter from *Pilgrim Heart*. He spent time in his last few sessions talking about the place of singing in worship and the attraction it can have to people who are not from a 'church' background.

During the weekend series Darryl continued with the same emphasis and spoke more extensively about the Lord's Supper.

The British Bible School provides a teacher each year for ABSS and this

year Patrick Boyns was scheduled to speak. As his first grandchild was due that week, he thought it best to remain in the UK and **Jon Galloway** filled in for him. Jon presented three talks on 'Walking Where Jesus Walked'.



Those who attended ABSS I



From left: Paul Brazzle (organiser) and speakers: Darryl Tippens, Max Dauner, Jordan Arnold, Robert Limb & Jon Galloway

These were based on the photos he and Arlene took while in Israel in January, relating the incidents that took place in the various locations.

The congregation in Marseilles have a year long training programme, Christians in Mission. They also provide a speaker each year for ABSS. This year **Max Dauner** represented the school. Max has been working in French-speaking Europe since the early 1970s and he has been in Marseilles for the last eighteen years. His lessons were centred on 'Jesus Before Pilate' and looked at the details of John 18:28-19:16 in seven 'acts'. This intriguing study emphasised how the meaning of the cross in God's purpose was revealed in the conversations between Jesus and Pilate, and Pilate and the Jewish leaders. He also emphasised how Jesus' Messianic kingship was revealed in these conversations.

The fourth speaker was **Robert Limb**.

Robert is known to many throughout the UK, although he has spent most of his adult life in Paris. His lessons were centred on 'Hope'. He looked at hope in the context of both the first Christians and the hope that

we should have today. Our society today is one that seems to emphasise pessimism and be devoid of hope. This is something that is relevant for our outreach and should be emphasised in the teaching we do in our contemporary society.

The final speaker each day was **Jordan Arnold**. Jordan is an American, a

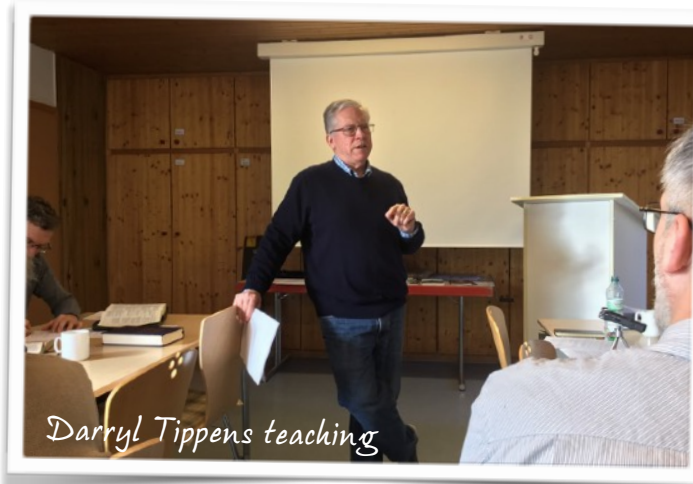
graduate of Harding University and the Sunset International Bible Institute, and has been working in Kosice, Slovakia, for the past four years. His lessons were on 'The Word of the Cross'. His emphasis was that the word of the cross is an action, a concrete disclosure of what God has done for us.

Evening highlights this year included

watching "Babette's Feast," a film which Darryl used in some of his discussions the following day. We also enjoyed the annual book reviews, singing, and we ended the week with the 'Gemündener

Follies', a time for those who came to show their 'talent'.

Next year ABSS will be held 18th-24th February.



Jon Galloway

Congratulations

Reading: Tony Pitt and Katja Rohmann visited the congregation in Reading on 14th January seeking Jesus. After two weeks of studying with them and Katja's mother, **Birgit Rohmann**, all three decided to put on Jesus in baptism. It was a great day of rejoicing as sins were forgiven and burdens were lifted.

Craig Benjamin



Tony Pitt



Birgit Rohmann



Craig Benjamin with Tony Pitt and Birgit & Katja Rohmann



Teresa Kelly immersed into Jesus

Liverpool: After much study and prayer, **Teresa Kelly** obeyed the Gospel on Wednesday, 31st January. Please rejoice with us and keep Teresa in your prayers as she begins her new walk with the Christ.

Mike Glover

British Bible School Notes

Studies in John's Letters and Galatians

As we approach Spring, we are looking forward to study weekends in both England and Scotland.

The first of these will take place in Northampton. Over two weekends Steve Whitehead and John Griffiths will lead a study of the Letters from John. The first weekend will be held 23rd-24th March with the second being 20th-21st April. Both weekends will be held at Northampton's Christian Fellowship Centre (2 Shadowfax Drive, Northampton NN3 8DB).

Truth and light are central themes to the letters of John and in much need in our world of darkness today. This study will give the opportunity to closely examine these letters and consider their vitality for present day application.

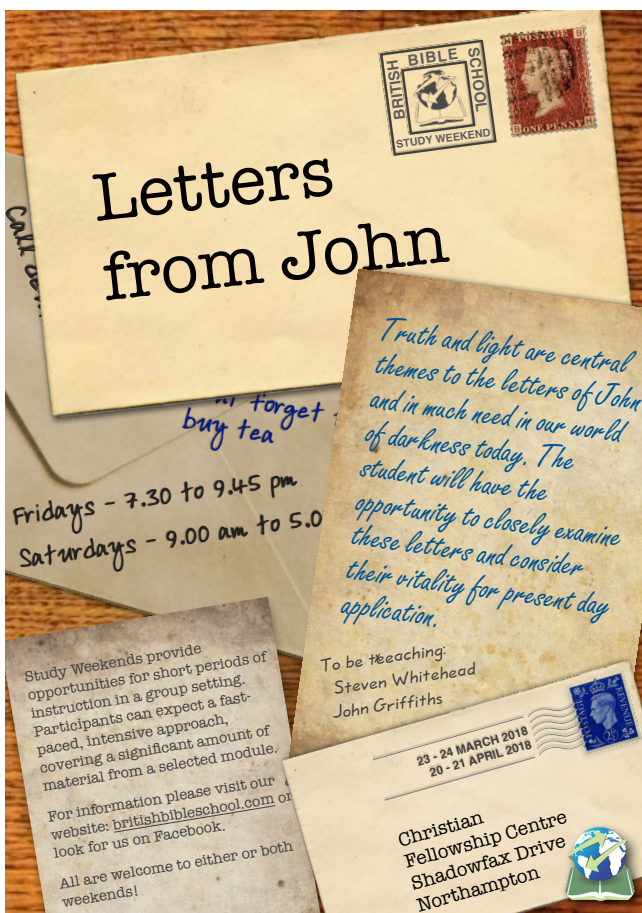
The second study weekend, studying Paul's letter to the Galatians, will be held in Aberdeen (393 George Street, Aberdeen AB25 1EQ). Please note the change in dates for the two weekends, due to the heavy snow the East Coast is receiving. The first weekend will be 13th-14th April with the second weekend taking place 25th-26th May.

Jack Paton and Jon Galloway will lead the study of Galatians. This letter deals with the dangers of legalism, which are never far away and always to be opposed. The studies will examine the text of this letter in light of its first century context and draws some important lessons from it for today.

If you are in either of these areas, feel free to join us in these studies of God's Word.

Jon Galloway

www.britishbibleschool.com



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."

Aberdeen

393 George Street
Aberdeen
AB25 1EQ

Friday, 13th April 7.00 to 9.00 pm
Saturday, 14th April 9.00 am to 4.15 pm

Friday, 25th May 7.00 to 9.00 pm
Saturday, 26th May 9.00am to 4.15 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.

In the News

It was announced last week (22nd February 2018) that archaeologists in Jerusalem may have found Isaiah's 'signature' (top photo). What they have discovered is called a 'bulla', which is an impression from a seal or signet – this is a preserved impression, in essence their imprinted 'signature'.

The 'Isaiah bulla' is not complete, as can be seen, but what is recognisable is part of a picture and Hebrew letters. This bulla is divided into three parts.

The top is a partial image of a grazing doe. The middle reads "leyesha'yah[u]" which means "[belonging] to Yesha'yah[u]" (the name is that of Isaiah in Hebrew). The bottom part is also partial and contains the letters *nvy*. If the Hebrew letter *aleph* was added to the end of the word (on the left), it would then read *nvy'* which is the Hebrew word for 'prophet'. There is also the possibility that an "h" is missing from the second line, which is the Hebrew for 'the'. This combination of words strongly suggests that this bulla belonged to Isaiah the prophet.

Did this definitely belong to Isaiah? The problem is the bottom part of the inscription. Without having the complete word for 'prophet' it could just be someone's name: *Nvy*. It is quite normal in a bulla to have the person's name and then 'son of' with their father's name. The name *Nvy* is known from other

excavations. That there is not a 'son of' in this bulla does not necessarily discount this being 'son of' as this is sometimes omitted when there is not space. What makes it more likely for this not to be the case is that

while there is sufficient room for 'son of' it was omitted. If we couple this with another find, it seems that it quite likely could have belonged to Isaiah the prophet.

Less than ten feet away the team of archaeologists had earlier found a bulla of

King Hezekiah (bottom photo). This seal has the name of Hezekiah along with his father's name, Ahaz, in the top part. In the bottom is Hezekiah's title, 'King of Judah'. In the middle is the symbol of a two-winged sun disk, flanked on both sides by an ankh (the left one is very faint).

To find bullas from both Hezekiah and Isaiah only a few feet apart in an area of Jerusalem (the Ophel) associated with their time in the history of the nation of Judah, almost certainly confirms that this was a seal impression of Isaiah the prophet, the one who wrote the book we have in Scripture.

Jon Galloway

(information and photos from the article in *Biblical Archaeology Review*, March-May 2018)



PHOTOS COURTESY BIRLA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



OURIA TADMOR © ELIAT MAZAR

Around the World

Greece: On 3rd December two more souls have received Christ into their hearts and are now walking with Him faithfully. One young man is from Iraq; he is 18 years old. Many of you who have visited Omonia during the last six months have met and loved him. In private messages you know who he is – and he knows how much you have contributed for him to say: “I want to walk with Jesus in my life.” This young man is next to Eleni every single day, from the time the church building doors open, until he helps her move her stuff into her car in the evening. Eleni loves him and coaches him as he is very teachable and has many God-given gifts of administration. A truly-inquiring mind and a perfect Arabic, Kurdish and English translator!

The other young man is from Syria. He has been visiting Omonia invariably since the summer of 2017. We have been extensively discussing and studying with him until he took his most important decision in life – to follow Jesus. Both young men have received asylum in Greece and they will making their new start in life in Athens. “Praise God from whom all blessings flow...”

Just three weeks ago a new assembly at Omonia has been formed! The new Arabic-speaking group is meeting regularly on Friday. They invite other believers, as well as their Muslim friends. We see God’s hand among these young men and their deep commitment not only to study and be fed themselves, but their zeal to teach others, so they can – in turn – teach others... “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” 2 Timothy 2:2 in action!

More refugees are arriving daily at the Greek islands; about two hundred of them. The camps over at the islands of Lesbos, Chios, Kos and a few more smaller islands are overcrowded. The Greek government is trying to process more asylum applications of refugees who are waiting on the islands – being detained so far – until their asylum application is processed.

We receive more and more families daily and try to accommodate their first needs. We are also focusing our efforts to help the families who have already received asylum in Greece get settled in apartments, find jobs and place their children into the Greek education system. In the meantime new babies are arriving – thus new joys – and new needs!

The second floor our church building is being used to accommodate a small area emergency clinic and a computer training lab for the young men and women. Our Arabic-speaking Christians have a meeting every week for the Arabic-speaking and Farsi-speaking new Christian and Muslim friends. The English classrooms will be renovated to accommodate the school lessons and the evening meetings with video projectors and a library with material in different languages.

We cannot think of any nobler lifestyle, any more worth living. Speaking of ourselves, we have never felt God ever using us in the past like now, we have never been happier than to wait at the door on the “community days” and say to the tired mothers: “Ahlan Wa-Sahlan (welcome), come in, sit down and rest. You are safe here and God loves you and cares for you and your children. This is a place of peace and of truce, away from a noisy and often unfair world.”

Alexander and Eleni Melivrytos

Free Quality Materials: The Internet abolishes geography, so readers of the CW in the UK may care to know of a lot of well-written, carefully researched material on a variety of biblical subjects. The author, Ashby Camp, was a practising solicitor when he was turned to the Lord by his brother. He has deep respect for Scripture and writes engagingly—not a C. S. Lewis, but nonetheless makes “righteousness readable.” Check out his home page at www.theoutlet.usa for potentially useful materials for your service to the Lord. –Philip Slate

Liverpool ∞ Skelmersdale Ladies Day

Saturday 21st April 2018

**Venue: Picton Road, Waterloo,
Liverpool L22 8QH**

9.30am – 3.30pm

(Registration 9.30am-10.30am)

The virtuous woman in the 21st Century

Speakers

Arlene Galloway (East Kilbride)
- *Is Proverbs 31:10-31 achievable?*

Funmi Oloko (Brighton)
- *Walking with God daily*

Laverne Davis (Leicester)
- *Relating to people*

Contact

Funmi Glover 07915389552
email: fynejp1@aol.com

**Come and enjoy a day of fellowship,
encouragement & fun**

Alert! My long-time server, AOL, decided

The
Voice



One crying in the wilderness

effectively to close down on its services. This has entailed a switch to a different email provider, though I have been able to retain my AOL URL, so you need not change anything. That’s my problem only and I have had to copy and redo my group mailing lists. It is therefore possible that I have omitted some addresses for *The Voice* by mistake and need to reinsert them a.s.a.p.

If you have not received the February issue, which opens up with ‘When good men do nothing’, and has smaller articles on ‘The writing on the ground’ (what Jesus may have written when faced by the adulterous woman) and ‘God and laughter’, please contact me. Other than asking via CW, I will have little or no chance to discover and correct any mistakes.

If you are not a subscriber (though it comes as a monthly PDF and costs nothing), and would like to do so, please contact me. In March we will consider: ‘Mechanistic salvation = mechanistic faith’, and ‘Peter and Herod’. It is usually eight sides (four pages) long so does not take forever to read, therefore you won’t suffer from overload!


Graham Fisher

gafisher888@aol.com



**For More Information
Contact us at
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or on 01509 768789**

Payment Plan Available to Help Spread the Cost



Identity

CYC CHALLENGE YOUTH CONFERENCE 2018

31st March, 12.00 pm at St Mary's Church, St Mary's Road, London, SE15 2EA
 1st April, 11.00 am at St Michael's Church Hall, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell, SW9 0DA

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Children 6-12: € 90 - Children 6 yrs. old or younger: Free

(Price per person reflects full board in double occupancy room)

Please contact:

ALEXANDER MELIRRYTOS

amelirry@aol.com (6944) 83 65 79

ELENI MELIRRYTOU

emelirry@aol.com (6945) 01 43 85

Diary

March

10th – **Great Barr:** Bible Seminar.

23rd-24th – **Northampton:** British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "The Letters of John" (part 1); teachers: Steve Whitehead and John Griffiths. Friday: 7.00–9.30 pm; Saturday: 9.00 am-5.15 pm. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com

24th-25th – **Ilkeston:** Outreach meetings with Jon Galloway. Contact: John Bullock (01158 543471 or 07986 562930 or john.bullock@ntlworld.com).

31st – **Liverpool:** Men's Fellowship, 9.30 am-3.30 pm. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07891 262910).

31st-1st April – **Stockwell (London):** Challenge Youth Conference - London; Saturday, 12.00 pm at St Mary's Church, St Mary's Road, London SE15 2EA and Sunday, 11.00 am at St Michael's Church Hall, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell. SW9 0DA. Contact: Nigel Best (07872 385593) or Philip Adubobie (07950 815993).

April

13th-14th – **Aberdeen:** British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Galatians" (part 1) presented by Jon Galloway and Jack Paton. Friday: 7.00-9.00 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.15 pm.

14th – **New Cross (London):** Songs Fest, 10.30 am-4.30 pm. Venue: Barnes Wallis Community Centre, London SE14 5LL. Contact: Hogan Udo, (hoganudo@yahoo.com or 07801 494938).

20th-21st – **Northampton:** British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "The Letters of John" (part 2). Friday: 7.00–9.30 pm; Saturday: 9.00 am-5.15 pm. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com

21st – **Liverpool:** Ladies' Day – "The Virtuous Woman in the 21st Century" (jointly hosted with Skelmersdale), 9.30 am-3.30 pm, at Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 8QH. Speakers: Arlene Galloway, Funmi Oloko and Laverne Davis. Contact: Funmi Glover (fynejp1@aol.com or 07915 389552).

21st-22nd – **Stapleford:** Weekend meetings with Paul Hill. Saturday: 7.00 pm; Sunday: 11.00 am and 6.00 pm. Contact: Bob Eckman (bbobeckman@aol.com or 07714 207279).

May

12th – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire): Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus – the True Vine”; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

25th-26th – Aberdeen: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Galatians” (part 2) presented by Jack Paton and Jon Galloway. Friday: 7.00-9.00 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.15 pm.

25th-27th – Northampton: Youth weekend. Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net).

June

2nd – Wembley (London): Ladies’s Day – “Love in Action,” 10.00 am-3.30 pm. Contact: Anne Airebamen (020 8205 8218 or 07415 135166 or Anne-andrew@live.co.uk).

20th-23rd – Athens, Greece: Christian Family Retreat – “The Harvest” (hosted by the Omonia congregation). Cost: €180 per person. Contact: Alexander or Eleni Melirrytos (amelirry@aol.com or emelirry@aol.com).

23rd – Liverpool: All Day Fellowship – “The Love of God,” 9.30 am-3.30 pm; speaker: Tony Coffey. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07891 262910).

July

14th – Edmonton (London): Men’s workshop.

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

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

29th-3rd August – Camp Tayside: Douglaswood Scout Camp, Dundee. Contact: Contact Aubrey Boyns (07502 220902) or camptayside@gmail.com

August

11th – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire): Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus – the Way”; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Jon Galloway. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

September

8th – Great Barr: Fellowship Day.

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

October

8th – Great Barr: Fellowship Day.

13th-14th – Stapleford: Weekend meetings with Ken Mullan. Saturday: 7.00 pm; Sunday: 11.00 am and 6.00 pm. Contact: Bob Eckman (bbbeckman@aol.com or 07714 207279).

November

5th-9th – British Bible School: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Module: “The Conquest and Settlement of Canaan – a study of the book of Joshua”. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com or visit: <http://britishbibleschool.com/upcoming-events/autumn-study-week-2018-the-conquest-and-settlement-of-canaan-joshua>

10th – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire): Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus – the New Beginning”; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

The Final Word: "The Sanctity of Confession"



"Therefore confess your sins to each another and pray for each other that you may be healed." (James 5:16)

It could be said that if there are no problems in the church then it is not really a church. The church was not built for perfect people but for those who rest their faith in Jesus. When problems show themselves, the guidelines of Matthew 18:15-17 are useful – firstly to sort out the problems between the individuals and secondly, if necessary, to have a small group to resolve the issue. If these do not work and if all else fails it may need to become a congregational problem.

But suppose a Christian has done something wrong, is repentant, and makes his confession to his brothers and sisters, how should people react? It may be a larger or smaller problem for some who have been told and then have felt let down, but repentance and confession has been offered. Galatians 6:1-5 gives some guidance in how we treat each other: *"restore gently"* and *"carry one another's burdens."*

Recently something that a brother did nearly 25 years ago was told to others who told others. Imagine the anguish of that brother and his family when this matter was raised. Repentance and confession had been made, yet the matter was raised again years later. The Roman Catholic Church is perhaps the most famous group for practising confession. It needs to be noticed, though, that the priest who takes the confession should not even talk to the one who has made that confession outside of the confessional. So strongly does the Catholic church teach this that the priest may lose his position if he tells others what he has been told in the confessional.

When we are faced with the problems of others, and when confession and repentance has been offered, we as 'Royal Priests' are entrusted with someone else's life. To discuss the matter outside of the situation and especially to others who have no need to know, is gossip.

When James teaches about confession it is in the context of being ill and being restored. We are not saved by confession but by the sacred blood of Jesus which has already been spilled.

In speaking to the people of Israel God said: *"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and remember your sins no more"* (Isaiah 43:25). As God did this for the people of Israel, so Christ does this for you and me.

Trevor

*Grant us, O Lord, wisdom to speak and to be silent,
Grace to forgive and to be forgiven,
Mercy to those who are struggling
And love to heal all heartaches.*