

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE



October 2019 • Vol 51 No 10

Summer Camps, part 2

Two new Christians

**European Christian
Workshop: The Journey**

Letton Hall Family Retreat

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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MY PERSPECTIVE



Christians
need
each
other

Spending time with Christians...

If we were to give a theme to this month's magazine, it would have to be 'fellowship.' There have been many gatherings of Christians throughout the country during August and September and we have reports and articles about these activities.

It has been good to have been part of some of these events. While at Letton Hall many expressed how good it was to just be together with Christians for a weekend without worrying about their children, who were playing with other children outside, or about work. It was good to be in Peterhead for their annual social the last weekend in September, as we were encouraged by fellowship, singing and lessons. Again, many expressed how good it was just to be together, even though many drove several hours to spend the afternoon together.

When we read the book of Acts, we discover that, at the very beginning, disciples of Jesus spent time together – in fact this was something they devoted themselves to.

"They were devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts, praising God and having the good will of all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number every day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42-47 NET)

Why did they devote themselves to spending time together, even sharing meals in their homes? Do we go out of our way to spend time with other Christians?

Most of us realise that we need the encouragement that other Christians can give us. Being with others who are facing what we face helps give us the resolve to keep on going, even when times get tough.

I read this poem many years ago – it expresses well how we need each other.

*The fire, 'twas warm, each coal glowing bright,
The flames making shadows to dance in the night;
All was so peaceful, so calm and so well,
When a rumbling was heard as a burning coal fell
From the haven of warmth, to hearth of stone,
The coal was left lying – now still, now alone.
First it glowed red, as the coals on the fire,
But its radiance soon dulled – its life did expire;
Till no life was left in that solitary coal,
That far from the blaze, its being had stole.*

*The Christians met often together for prayer
Each one had been taught, for each other, to care;
Each meeting brought strength and new courage
to all,
Lest on life's dark pathway some pilgrim might fall.
But one found the going a burden too great,
The world showing pleasures that "just couldn't
wait";
For meeting with saints, he'd no time any more,
And turning his back, he'd walked out the door.
So leaving his brethren, and going alone,
Now frail and dying – cruel cold heart of stone.*

Let us not take spending time with Christians lightly. Let us take advantage of opportunities to meet with our local Christian family as well as traveling to special events.

Jon

Summer Camps, part 2



British Bible Camp

Since its humble beginnings, British Bible Camp has grown immensely over the years. This year we had a total of 150 campers and staff members - our largest camp to date. Held again for the 6th year at the Youlbury Scout Activity Centre in Oxfordshire, we were blessed with a fantastic week of temperate weather, soul nourishing fellowship and general merriment.

The theme this year was *Surge: the Power of God*, focusing on the awesome power demonstrated by Jesus through his miracles. Sometimes these accounts can become so familiar to us in our Christian walk that we become desensitised to the impact of the miraculous power of God – how his power can provide, cleanse, transform, animate and restore. Hopefully throughout the week, this came alive for everyone involved, gaining new perspective and understanding.

Morning assembly times were filled with joyful interactive songs and comedic sketches that provided a prelude to the morning class. With the presence of superhero *Surge*, with trusty sidekick *Fuse* (who had the tendency to trip a lot), they encouraged campers to plug into the ultimate power of God, rather than relying on their own power. This was in contrast to the roguish *Duracell's* false claims to true power, who's conniving attempts were foiled like a battery trying to make it on its own.

Campers were also immersed into elements of the gospel accounts through culinary fare: wedding

cake from Cana, stormy bowls of soup to float our crouton boats and pulled pork sandwiches which were thankfully demonic-free. It's details like these that add a multifaceted dimension to teaching outside of the classroom.

It was good to see a continuation from last year of the amazingly positive attitude and growing faith of the Senior boys. Each day they voluntarily created

an episode of "Bible Rangers" for the whole camp that reinforced the stories taught in the Bible classes whilst lining up for food. The Senior boys also took a significant role in leading worship around the campfire and could often be found in deep spiritual discussion (even when they were meant to be in bed!).

If there was one thing that we felt the strain of this year, it was not having as many counselling staff as we have had in the past. We recognise that being a staff member at camp is a commitment and appreciate all those who have given their hearts, time and money to serve. If you feel moved to support and serve in this life changing ministry, request a staff form and apply to be part of next year's camp.

Next year's dates are Sunday-Friday, 2nd-7th August 2020 – see you there!

Crystal Holder





Camp Tayside

Celebrating our 30th year of Camp Tayside, we were once again blessed with a fantastic group of campers and dedicated staff to demonstrate God's love for them.

Our theme this year was SEE, and saw us looking at Paul's time in Athens, specifically in Acts 17:16-34. Here we get a vision of how Paul discusses evidences and arguments regarding Jesus. Each day we looked at the world through a different perspective, understanding how others may see the world and how we may discuss Jesus with them.

An extended camp marked our 30th anniversary. The extra day allowed for even more classes, games, activities and of course, another campfire!

We're excited at the work God continues to do through Camp Tayside, and all camps around the UK, and we look forward to what he has in store for the next thirty years!

Aubrey Boyns





CONGRATULATIONS!



New Christians in Leicester

The congregation in Leicester are thrilled at the recent baptisms of **Daniel Blake** and **Bethanie Hill**.

We thank God for this important change in their lives, Beth had been baptised in her early teens but felt that it was not done for the right reasons.

We pray God will watch over them both and protect them in

their new walk with him. We rejoice and give God all the glory.

Paul Hill

Wedding Bells



Mark Masih from Bristol and **Ujvara Haxhiraj** from Wembley were married in Devon on 3rd September.

Every blessing on your future together.

Trevor Williams

A new baby at Newcastle

Congratulations to Amos and Chinwendu Ajibo on the birth of their second child, a daughter. **Amarachi Victoria Ajibo** was born on Monday, 9th September. She was 6 lb. 6 oz. (2.88 kg) and is a sister for Nnamdi Ryan Ajibo.

Graeme Stickings




Mark Woodward is in Europe and has a few weeks available to spend training congregations to use FriendSpeak. This is provided at no cost – all that is needed is to provide a place for the training and to have a few people prepared to spend about 3 hours in equipping. He is available any evening or day of the week between 10th-20th November.

This is a great opportunity for any congregation that would like to learn an effective strategy for outreach to immigrants and refugees. If interested, e-mail Mark as soon as possible: mark.woodward@LST.org. He will work directly with you to organise training.



European Christian Workshop

"The Journey"

This year's theme for the European Christian Workshop was "The Journey". The keynote speaker was Tony Coffey from Dublin, Ireland, who is well-known to many in the UK family. Tony shared his insights of the Prophets and related their work to our journeys today.

Speakers from across the country led a wide range of lessons, all exploring our journey with Christ and what that could look like to others. Attendance was up from last year – this gathering is one that should be put on everyone's list. It is a refreshing time of fellowship and study.

We should not be discouraged by 'difficult' lessons or topics that are challenging because it is the one sure way to growth and maturity in Christ. Some 59 people from 26 congregations representing 9 countries attended the workshop. Why don't you plan to join us in 2020. You will be blessed.

One speaker was Johnathan Hanegan, a young American missionary serving in



Buenos Aires, Argentina. Johnathan presented thought-provoking and challenging lessons on being Christlike ambassadors in the 21st Century. Other speakers included Jack Paton and Patrick Boyns from the British Bible School, Scott Tominey from Perth, Michael Gaunt from Peterhead, and Gigi Khonyongwa-Fernandez from London. Jason Snethen from Bristol led the gathering in our worship in song.

The workshop was housed in a new location this year due to construction work at the university, and while parking, etc., may have been less than ideal, the whole weekend was well worth the time and money. The university staff provided good meals with plenty to eat, and the spiritual nourishment was amazing.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for two British Bible School graduates from Andhra Pradesh, India to enjoy the lessons and fellowship and renew acquaintances with the BBS staff.

Ken Kendall-Ball (Falkirk)





BBS Letton Hall Retreat

This is where we find rest

I had been working 12 hour shifts the past few days before the retreat, on top of the stress of my new job application, and not getting to bed until 12.00 to 1.00 am. To top that off, on the day we left, our home internet was not functioning. Joy frantically called the broadband provider and spent the entire day trying to resolve the issue. I finished work at 5.30 pm on that day, then rushed home to pick up Joy, Jocelyn and Luke. By the time we set off for Letton Hall, Shipdham, it was almost one hour later.

Google Maps led us through small, narrow and dark paths. Luke was car sick, Jocelyn was down with flu and I forgot to pack my socks. We had to stop at Tesco to buy tissue and socks, and to clean Luke up. The journey was supposed to be just under a three hour drive but it took 45 minutes longer.



By the time we arrived at Letton Hall, it was 9.00 pm. My family and I had a rough week but we were welcomed by smiles, greetings and friendliness from

people whom we had never met before, people we call brothers and sisters in Christ. All of the stress, burden and misery vanished instantly that weekend. We indulged in God's Word, were inspired by songs and praises, fellowshiped with each other, cooked and cleaned together, let our children roam freely.



It felt like everyone went into spiritual rest after surviving struggles of the world. The weekend in Letton Hall was a taste of paradise in God's presence, a tinge of heaven with spiritual family and we did not want to leave. This family retreat gives us a glimpse of how it will be to be with God and fellow Christians eternally, if we remain faithful till death. It provides us perspective, it realigns our aim and goal in this life, and helps to prepare us for the next life, the eternal life.

Khuen Foong Ng (Leicester)





BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Letton Hall Family Retreat

This was our second year at Letton Hall and what an absolutely splendid event it turned out to be. Not only were our numbers significantly up on last year's event, but the sun came out and stayed out all weekend.

As you will know if you have been to one of our Family Retreats, these events are not at all intensive, but rather times for reflection and renewal among fellow believers in quiet and relaxing settings. Our Autumn Family Retreat is held at Letton Hall in the heart of the Norfolk countryside.

Letton Hall is a splendid Georgian mansion, designed by Sir John Soane in the second half of the 18th century – and yes, he's the chap who went on to design the Bank of England and Dulwich Picture Gallery. Not only is it a delightful property, full of space and character, but it has a spacious garden enabling us to make the most of the sunshine.



Following a couple of teaching sessions in the morning, led by Steve Whitehead and Trevor Williams, most of us spent the afternoon on the lawn playing cricket and enjoying each other's company. Our evening activities and barbecue were followed by some hearty singing led by Spencer Eastland and plenty of healthy time together as family.

On Sunday we shared together in communion with Jesus, we sang to praise God and to encourage each other in our faith, and we were led in another teaching session by Guy Sandison. With plenty of food to feed an army, we finished our weekend of sharing and service, resolute to return again next year.

So look out for details of this and our other events throughout the year on our website and on social media. You might want to watch a video of this weekend Family Retreat on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/britishbibleschool/videos/2379667632130274/>). And thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Patrick Boyns
britishbibleschool.com





FAMILY NEWS

WEMBLEY (LONDON)

The summer months have been busy with various activities to strengthen our faith and fellowship. In June a weekend retreat was held for married couples at which Jim Holway from Florida was the speaker.

In August twenty-six of our children, young people and adults attended the British Bible Camp in Oxford and came back sharing what they had learned. This was followed by a three day youth event led by Jon Podein (from Vaughn Park Church of Christ, Montgomery, Alabama) and Paul Spurlin (from Palisades Church of Christ, Birmingham, Alabama). Some thirty young people from various congregations enjoyed this time of learning and fellowship.

The August Bank Holiday weekend was the hottest on record and after our Sunday worship we added to the heat with a barbecue for the congregation and friends.

On Saturday ,14th September, 48 of us boarded a coach for a day trip to Margate. We were dropped off at the seafront and most people headed

straight to the beach. Margate has a lovely sandy beach and the children enjoyed digging in the

sand and making sandcastles. Some chose to enjoy the sun by relaxing on deck chairs or paddling in the sea. Others walked into town to explore the shops, cafes and the shell grotto. The more adventurous ones went into Dreamland to experience the thrills of the fairground rides.

All of these events have strengthened our bonds of fellowship and love for one another and provided us with the opportunity to grow in our faith and love for the Lord.

This summer we have also had to cope with the loss of two of our longest-serving sisters in Christ. On 24th August Betty Miller went home to be the Lord and on 24th September Kathleen Skeete joined her in the Lord's presence. Both of these sisters had been baptised at Wembley in the 1970's and had faithfully served the Lord for over forty years. We thank God for their lives and examples of love and faith and rejoice that they have finished their races and rest from their labours.

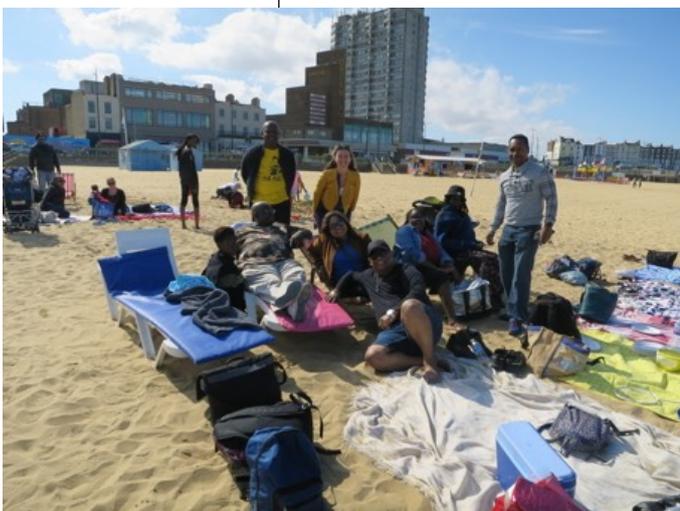
John Griffiths

EAST KILBRIDE

The summer provided opportunity to spend time together. We organised a barbecue in August which started well enough but we were driven indoors due to heavy rain.

Mike Heinemeier presented a weekend series of lessons in September on theme "Jesus Cares". These were encouraging for the congregation.

Jon Galloway





APPEAL UPDATE

ISHABY TINARWO

In the last update on Ishaby’s situation (CW, August 2019) we said that the heart surgery unit in Zimbabwe was closed due to lack of facilities and that Augustine Nyamatore was organising for Ishaby to go to South Africa with a written report on Ishaby’s condition. We also said it would probably be more expensive for his surgery in South Africa.

The information we received back from South Africa stated that the cost for Ishaby’s open heart surgery would be over \$34,000 (US dollars) which was way beyond our reach.

Augustine Nyamatore contacted the church leaders in Zimbabwe to see if there was any other way for Ishaby to have his surgery. They said that they had been involved with a lady, who was a Christian in one of the congregations there, who had a similar condition as Ishaby and that they organised to send to India for her surgery. They offered to contact the

hospital in India for a quote for the cost of Ishaby’s surgery there.

The quote that came back was \$9,200 (US dollars). This is broken down as follows:

1. Cost of Surgery: \$8,000.00
2. Initial assessment: \$200.00
3. Expenses (lodging and food for three weeks): \$800.00
4. Medication for two months from Hospital: \$200.00

Total: \$9,200.00

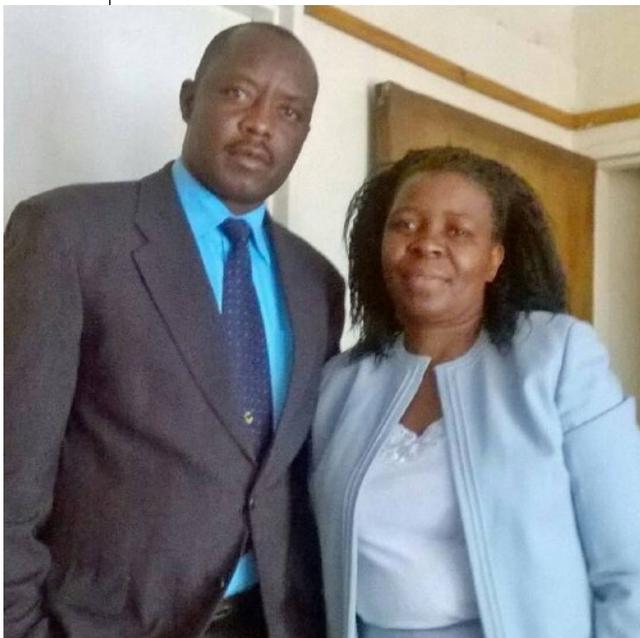
Due to the amazing response to our appeal, we raised £8,265 which is equivalent to just over \$10,000 (US dollars). We then had to consider tickets for airfare for Ishaby and his wife Happiness, who will accompany him from Harare to Delhi. This will cost somewhere between \$2,000 and \$3,000 dollars.

Then an amazing thing happened: a Christian in Zimbabwe sold some of his cows for \$1,850 dollars to help pay for the airfare. Praise God!

The good news is that Ishaby and Happiness have received their visas and tickets and will have flown to India on Thursday, 19th September, arriving in Delhi the next morning. He will attend the hospital on Friday for an assessment prior to his surgery which should happen within days of his arrival.

I want to thank all you who made this possible through your generous response to our appeal. I will keep you all informed of Ishaby’s progress.

Dave Carscadden (Corby)



Ishaby and Happiness Tinarwo

NOTICES

church of Christ
Who are we? We are simply Christians

HOPE

Saturday
19th October
@1pm

Everyone welcome!

The Green Hut
538 Kings Road, Stretford, M32 8JT

www.stretfordcoc.org

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

IS GOD RELEVANT?

**SPEAKER: JON GALLOWAY
(EAST KILBRIDE)**

**FAITH MISSION,
GILMERTON ROAD, EDINBURGH**

**18TH & 19TH OCTOBER
7.30PM**

Ezekiel

East Kilbride
Scholar's Gate
G75 9JL

Saturday, 26th October 9.00am to 5.30pm
Sunday, 27th October 11.00am to 1.15pm
Saturday, 16th November 9.00am to 5.30pm
Sunday, 17th November 11.00am to 1.15pm

Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway
www.britishbibleschool.com

Thought by some to be a difficult book, this module shows the writings of Ezekiel to be both clear and full of excitement, as well as very relevant to the work of mission today.

All are welcome to either or both weekends!
For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook.

Two Study Weekends ... One Beautiful Letter

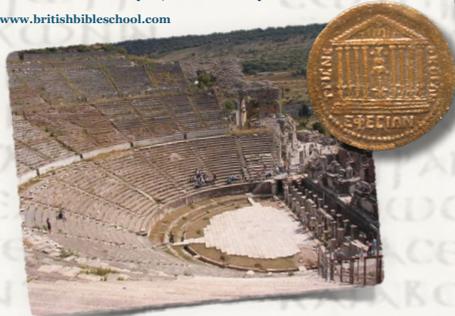
Morley

3 Zoar Street, Morley, Leeds, LS27 8JD

Friday, 8th November 7.00 to 9.30pm
 Saturday, 9th November 9.00am to 4.30pm
 Friday, 6th December 7.00 to 9.30pm
 Saturday, 7th December 9.00am to 4.30pm

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!



THE DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL (THE BOOKS OF JUDGES & RUTH)

British Bible School
 Autumn Study Week

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District
 Monday, 4th to Friday, 8th November 2019

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company
- All inclusive cost: £150 per student

Continuing one of the most exciting episodes of Israel's history, from the time of Joshua to that of Samuel. This module examines the books of Judges and Ruth in the contexts of the history of Israel and of God's purpose for the whole of mankind, considering also the relevance of its message in light of contemporary events and culture.



For full details visit our website:
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."

Wembley

92 Barnhill Road
 Wembley
 HA9 9BS

Friday, 1st November 7.15 to 9.30 pm
 Saturday, 2nd November 9.00 am to 5.15 pm

Friday, 29th November 7.15 to 9.30 pm
 Saturday, 30th November 9.00 am to 5.15 pm

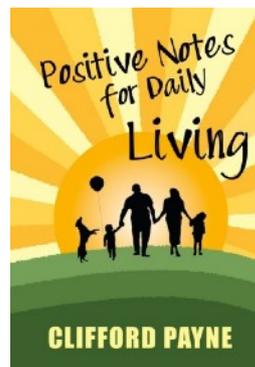
Teachers: Bob Eckman, John Griffiths and Jack Paton
www.britishbibleschool.com

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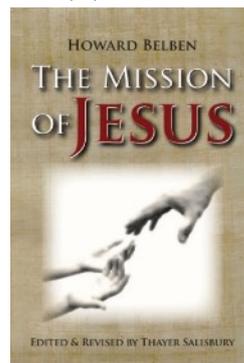
Books by Christians recommended by Thayer Salisbury. All are available on amazon.co.uk.



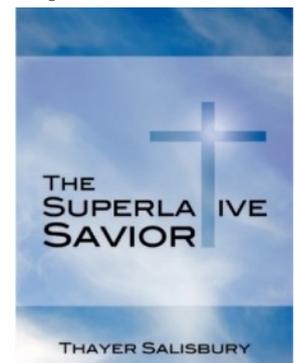
200 devotional thoughts.
 £3.94 paper



An additional 200 devotional thoughts
 £5.14 or £1.59 kindle



Jesus' mission and method
 £4.47 paper or £1.27 kindle



26 lessons from Colossians and Isaiah.
 £3.88 or £1.59 kindle



DIARY

October

4th-6th – **Glasgow area**: Joint gospel meetings between **East Kilbride** and **Clarkston**, venue: 1 Scholar's Gate, East Kilbride G75 9JL, speaker: Bob Eckman; Friday & Saturday, 7.30 pm; Sunday worship: 10.30 am. Contact: Jon Galloway (07906 060618 or jdgalloway@mac.com).

5th – **Newtongrange**: Social, speaker: Niall Scobbie, 1.00 pm. Contact: John Kneller (johnkneller4gpr@btinternet.com).

11th-13th – **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; £35 non-refundable deposit required to confirm booking (remaining balance due by 1st October). Contact: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com.

18th-19th – **Hyvots Bank, Edinburgh**: Outreach meetings at Faith Mission, Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh, 7.30 pm – "Is God Relevant?"; speaker: Jon Galloway. Contact: Nick Wilson (hnrwilson@blueyonder.co.uk or 01506 493290).

19th – **Stretford (Manchester)**: Special meeting: "Hope", 1.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon Raja (dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

25th-27th – **Livingston**: Youth Weekend. Contact: Wendy Montgomery wendymontgomery76@gmail.com.

25th-27th – **Bristol**: Youth Group Weekend. To confirm attendance or ask details, contact: Jason (07795 560990).

26th-27th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Ezekiel" (part 1). Friday – 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday – 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. www.britishbibleschool.com

November

1st-2nd – **Wembley (London)**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Galatians" (part 1). Friday – 7.15-9.30 pm; Saturday – 9.00 am to 5.15 pm. Teachers: Jack Paton and John Griffiths. www.britishbibleschool.com

4th-8th – **British Bible School**: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Teachers: Patrick Boyns, John Griffiths, Jack Paton and Steve Whitehead. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

8th-9th – **Morley**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Ephesians" (part 1). Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Mark Hill. www.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).

16th – **Northampton**: Ladies' Day – "Love Letters", 10.00 am-3.00 pm. Contact: Karen Johnson (liburdkaren@hotmail.com).

16th-17th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Ezekiel" (part 2). Friday – 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday – 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. www.britishbibleschool.com

29th-30th – **Wembley (London)**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Galatians" (part 2). Friday – 7.15-9.30 pm; Saturday – 9.00 am to 5.15 pm. Teachers: Jack Paton and Bob Eckman. www.britishbibleschool.com

December

6th-7th – **Morley**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Ephesians" (part 2). Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. www.britishbibleschool.com

DIARY

13th-15th – Dundee: Young Adults Weekend. Venue: Windmill Christian Centre, Arbroath, DD11 1QG. Cost: £40 per person. Speaker: Patrick Boyns. For any bookings please contact Dan Jones: jonesdp1116@gmail.com.

January 2020

17th-19th – BBS Family Retreat: “In the Steps of the Master”; venue: Bassenfell Manor Christian Retreat Centre near Keswick. Contact: britishbibleschool.com

February

28th-29th – Hyvots Bank & Kirkcaldy: East Coast Joint Meetings – “2020 Vision”, 7.30 pm. Speaker: Mark Hill. Friday at Hyvots Bank, Saturday in Kirkcaldy (Hayfield Community Centre). Contact: Alan Moyes (alan.j.moyes@gmail.com) or Nick Wilson (hnilson@blueyonder.co.uk).

14th – Great Barr: Bible Seminar. Venue: Main hall, Collingwood Community Centre, Collingwood Drive, Birmingham. B43 7NF. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

April

11th – Kirkcaldy: Annual Social Day, 1.30 pm. Speaker: Adam Barr. Contact: Alan Moyes (alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com).

August

27th-29th – European Christian Workshop: Lancaster University. Theme – ‘AWAKE’. Contact: Stephen Woodcock (01509 768789 or registration@europeanchristianworkshop.com).

September

5th – Great Barr: Fellowship Day. Venue: Main Hall, Collingwood Community Centre, Collingwood Drive, Birmingham. B43 7NF. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

European Events Calendar

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.

30th September-3rd October – 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).

February 2020

17th-23rd – Gemünden, Germany: Advanced Bible Study Series. Arrive Monday evening for ABSS I, which begins on Tuesday morning. ABSS I – Tuesday-Friday; ABSS II – Friday-Sunday. Contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com).

27th-1st March – European Ladies’ Retreat in Burg Lichtenberg, Thallichtenberg, Germany. Theme: “A Royal Priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9). Organised by Christian women in the UK. Contact: elrorganizers@gmail.com. Website: <http://elr.yolasite.com>.



THE FINAL WORD



Slips, trips and falls

Some of our readers will know about an organisation for the retired and semi-retired called U3A. There are over 400,000 members across the UK and I am the chairman of the Stapleford branch.

One of our responsibilities is to make sure that everyone is physically taken care of at any of the meetings. Some of us attended a CPR session and recently we attended a first aid course organised, free of charge, by the Red Cross. We went through basic procedures, all of which were really common sense – if indeed sense is common. There were no bandages or splints involved but the directive was to contact 999 for emergency or at least 111 for information. We were told that if someone is seen lying on the floor, 98% of people will walk past – either being too scared, too busy or not wanting to be involved.

At the end of the two hour session I started to think about it all and realised a few pointers.

First of all, are our meeting places safe? Do we have odd bits of matting

about with edges that curl up? Are there slippery surfaces? Do we have a basic first aid kit available and are the leaders of the church, youth group, Sunday School, etc., knowledgeable enough and able to cope in an emergency? All church groups have a duty of care.

Apparently the Red Cross will visit groups from 4-20 people, free of charge, to help understand some basic aspects of First Aid. There is also an app, British Red Cross, which can be used for advice and information. If someone collapses in your worship services what would you do?

My next thought was somewhat more spiritual. If 98% of people are willing to walk past someone lying in the street how many of us are willing to share the gospel with those who have fallen over or away from Jesus. Salvation is free but, like First Aid, someone has to tell the story of Jesus first of all.

May God bless us in our physical duty of care in our activities and our spiritual duty of care in demonstrating and being Jesus to others.

Trevor

Father, we pray that you would soften our hearts to our elderly neighbours—that you would stir us to love them in both word and deed.

*Move us toward action,
help us to slow down,
to take the time to offer care and assistance
to our elderly neighbours
for whom daily life has become a struggle.*

Amen

