

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

November 2024 • Vol 56 No 11

British Bible School Residential Study Week



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Love is the basis for our lives



EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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To receive *The Christian Worker Magazine* as a free pdf, send your e-address to jdgalloway@mac.com. Professionally printed copies are available at cost. Please contact Trevor for details – twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk.



Front cover: Mark Hill teaching for the BBS Study Week; above: Students in class during the Study Week..



CONGRATULATIONS!



Nia and Eira Antonio

New Christians in Newport!

We are delighted to report the baptisms of **Nia** and **Eira Antonio**. We have witnessed these two grow from babies to beautiful young women. On 15th September they committed their lives to Jesus Christ.

Their mother, Rowena came from the Phillipines in the early 2000s to work as a nurse and has been a faithful example to her daughters.

We pray for their continued growth.

David Winstanley

A new Christian in Swansea



Michael immerses Fikayo

Several families have been meeting in Swansea for over a year. They came to Newport to meet with us on 15th September as they needed to use our baptistry.

Michael Ogbeifun baptised a new brother into Christ, **Fikayo Ayodele**. May God be with Fikayo in his new walk and with the congregation in Swansea as they grow. Michael is the contract for this new congregation. His phone number is 07414 517860.

David Winstanley



Brian immersed by Edwin Offin with Adam Barr looking on

Another new brother in Cumbernauld!

Another brother has been added to the family! **Brian Cruse** has been studying with us and asking questions for a few months. On 30th September he was immersed into Christ. More rejoicing in Heaven as we witness another soul being saved.

Nicole Barr



British Bible School Residential Study Week

Eight students, three teachers, two cooks, and three teens spent a week together at Bassenfell Manor Christian Centre in the Lake District. This annual event continues to bring people together to study God's word.

Following on from our study of "The Kingdom of Israel" last year, looking at the reigns of Saul, David and Solomon as well as what happened leading up to the monarchy being established, this year we

concentrated on "The Divided Kingdom of Israel". Sixteen lessons were taught from 29th October-1st November covering both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah as well as the world empires at the time and the influence that they had on the history of the Israelites. Names such as Tiglath-pileser, Marodach-Baladan, Shalmanezzer, Sargon, as well as Nebuchadnezzar were spoken of frequently as world events were placed within their context and influence on what was happening in Israel and Judah.

This year we were pleased to have two cooks join us to help in keeping everyone fed. Suzanne Hill and Ruth Hardy provided a feast of sumptuous meals for all.

Those attending came from six congregations throughout England and Scotland. The week began on Monday evening when the group came together and ate together as we caught up on what was happening in each other's lives and congregations. Classes began on Tuesday morning and consisted of three classes each morning followed by lunch, a break in the afternoon for exploring the area or



just resting, and then a class before and after our evening meal. The evening was rounded off sometimes with a group game and sometimes just time visiting together. As a textbook the students were supplied with a copy of *Rogues in Royal Robes* by A.J. Monty White.

All agreed that it was a week worth spending looking at this vital part of Israel's history. We were reminded of much that we already knew as well as being introduced to aspects of that time period of which we were not familiar.

Plans are already being made for next year's Residential Study Week. We will soon be announcing the date for the week as well as the module that we will be studying. Why not plan to join us for a week of good fellowship and Bible discussion? In the meantime join us for our weekly online evening classes. You would be most welcome to be part of any of our activities and studies.

Jon Galloway



Jon Galloway teaching at the study week

Online Bible Classes

with the *British Bible School*

For twelve weeks commencing 26th September 2024

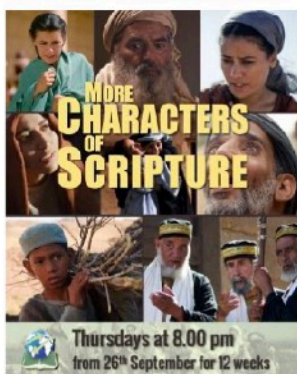
Mondays at 8.00 pm

God, His Covenants and Jesus

The story of God, as revealed through the pages of Scripture, tells of his desire to live in loving harmony with those whom he has created in his image. One recurring feature is the establishment of special relationships, formalised through the forging of covenants. Some are made with individuals, others with people groups, all with a common theme.

This series will explore a number of these significant covenants, each one leading to the establishment of the supreme covenant in which we are called into a special relationship with the very Son of God himself.

Presenter: Mark Hill



Thursdays at 8.00 pm

More Characters of Scripture

The Scriptures tell the story of God's loving pursuit of mankind. The story is revealed in the context of all sorts of different relationships, and introduces us to some of the most fascinating characters we will ever meet along the way.

This series will be brought to us by a number of different presenters, sharing with us characters which have been of particular interest and significance in their walk with God.

Join us on our journeys as we are introduced to both new and familiar faces, each one sharing with us something of their story – the story of God and us.

Presenter: Various

Occasional Fridays at 8.00 pm (check social media)

Bible Quiz Time!

Some light-hearted, educational, entertainment! This really is for everyone – nothing too testing (promise!).

You might want to have a pen and paper handy – plus a box of choccies to award yourself if you happen to win – or even if you don't. We'd love to present these personally, but under the circumstances this is a little tricky ...

We will hold these occasionally as availability permits – please check online.

Presenter: Steve Whitehead



AT REST

David Brunton (UK and Arkansas)

David Brunton passed away at home in Rogers, Arkansas, on 12th October with both his sons (Tom and James) by his side. He had a short fight with pancreatic cancer, having been diagnosed on 4th September.

David cared deeply for his family and for the health and growth of the Christians in the UK and was delighted to have been at the opening meeting in Leicester with Paul and Janet Hill. In his time living in Arkansas, David became involved with the Missions Committee at the Bentonville congregation and was able to lead a group to Leicester this past summer to share the joy and growth of the work in Leicester.

While we will miss him in this world, his friends and family are thankful for his witness, legacy and that he will be reunited



with his beloved Ruth and look forward to seeing them both again in God's time.

James Brunton



Narrow or Wide?
Matthew 7:13-14
Loughborough Youth Day
AGES 13+
PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM
7th December '24
10:00 - 15:45
Christians Meeting house
17A Oxford Street
Loughborough
LE11 5DP

Three Minute Videos by Tony Coffey

Jesus, the Bread of Life (1)

https://youtu.be/PWWbj4Y_jQ8

Jesus, the Bread of Life (2)

<https://youtu.be/OUlyHs0V0Ik>

Jesus, the Bread of Life (3)

<https://youtu.be/vz3Mnr6SVKQ>

Susan Morrison

(Corby)

21st February 1950-17th October 2024

It is with great sadness that the congregation in Corby, Northamptonshire, announces the passing of our beloved Susan Morrison.

Susan was born on 21st February 1950 in Hindley, Lancashire, to Isobel and Frank Worgan and had two brothers, Peter and Stephen. The family moved periodically over the years as Frank served as an evangelist at various congregations in the UK and Holland. From the age of five Susan grew up in Amsterdam and Haarlem, where Dutch became her primary language until, at the age of 11, the family returned to the UK.

After the family moved to Corby, she met Graeme Morrison in 1966 at a judo club. After sweeping him off his feet, they married in March 1968 and were blessed with four children, Anita, Pauline, Petra and Andrew. Tragically, Andrew died at the age of five in 1980.

Throughout their time in Corby, Susan and Graeme's home was known for being welcoming and open to anyone at any time. She frequently helped organise the hosting and catering arrangements for events at the congregation, including Holiday Fellowships and visits from the singers from Harding University. Susan also threw parties and get togethers for the youth in the congregation, which were great fun, enabling many young Christians to socialise in a supportive and safe environment.

Following Graeme's graduation from the British Bible School, the family moved to Skelmersdale, Lancashire in 1984, where Graeme worked as an evangelist alongside Raymond Glendinning. Susan faithfully supported Graeme in his endeavours.

When the family moved back to Corby in 1989, Susan worked for a number of companies until her retirement but the job she enjoyed the most was



working for the Northamptonshire Police in a civilian capacity becoming a specialist in examining CCTV footage, some of which could be quite harrowing. She was so knowledgeable and respected that Police Officers would ask for her thoughts on which of the possible applicable charges should be selected.

As far as family were concerned, Susan provided continual love and support to Graeme and her 'girls' in whatever they did but her favourite way to express this was via her cooking. Her Sunday roasts were amazing and her girls would often 'order' their favourite dishes when they visited.

In the last few years, Susan's health had begun to decline, necessitating some heart operations but, despite that, she was the primary carer for her father, Frank Worgan, enabling him to remain in his own home and reach the grand old age of 101 before he died in September 2023.

Unfortunately, following an error made during surgery on 21st September, she suffered complications that ultimately resulted in her passing away at a hospice in Kettering on 17th October 2024.

A service to celebrate her life will be held at the Holiday Inn, Corby, on 22nd November 2024 at 5.00 pm. All are welcome to attend and share their memories and stories.

Anita Morrison



FAMILY NEWS

MISSION GROUP

A group of young adults (aged 18-30) from the Pleasant Valley church of Christ in Arkansas, USA, are planning to visit the UK between the 23rd to 30th July 2025. Their purpose is to serve a congregation in accordance with its wishes, and to learn how UK congregations reach out with the good news of Jesus in a secular place. They will fund their own transport and accommodation.

Any UK congregation interested in hosting this group please contact Vince and Linda O'Donovan at the Brandon congregation.

e-mail: v.odonovan@btinternet.com
tel: 07789 607684 (Vince) or 07799 810749 (Linda).

Vince O'Donovan

NEWS FROM WEMBLEY

Health Talk – On Saturday, 5th October, a health talk on prostate cancer was presented by Olivia Adu-Anti, a Christian here and a Macmillan cancer specialist nurse. Olivia shared with us the risks and symptoms of this disease and also made available literature for us to take away and read. It is good to keep informed about these matters.

Work Day – A group assembled at the church building on Saturday, 12th October, ready to clean and tidy up inside and outside the church building. A skip was ordered and filled with rubbish from around the building. When we had finished the building and

grounds looked much better. We are thankful to all who turned up to help.



Wembley work crew

More than Music Workshop – We were delighted to have Alan Dod with us over the weekend of 26th-27th October. On Saturday Alan led a 'More than Music Workshop.' We learnt some of the basics of music theory, song leading, and worship planning, and enjoyed singing some new songs. Christians from Wembley and other London congregations were present. On Sunday Alan led our worship with enthusiasm and passion as we praised God together. It was an uplifting experience and we are thankful that God has blessed Alan with this gift.

John Griffiths



'More Than Music' Workshop with Alan Dod



A LONG ROAD TO SAFETY

Of the people who have to flee their country, only a few can simply get in a car or take the train or aeroplane. They often need a visa to leave their country – a visa that is only granted under certain strict conditions. Without a visa, it is not possible for refugees to travel by aeroplane or ferry, as these companies are required to refuse people without a visa. Refugees cannot cross a border without help, and that help they buy from a smuggler. Unlike the Israelites, who were guided and protected by God during the Exodus, refugees find themselves at the mercy of strangers. And those strangers often show no mercy.

The route many take to reach Europe is via the Mediterranean Sea and with the help of a smuggler. While smugglers do help refugees to leave their countries, the crossings are very costly and often extremely dangerous. In the eyes of a smuggler, a human life does not count.

Ali was one of those who took the route via the Mediterranean

Sea. He is from Syria. His wife and his little baby stayed behind in Syria with the intention of travelling to Europe later. Ali's flight took him through Libya, where he spent 3½ years, longer than he had thought and hoped. During his first attempt to cross by boat to Italy, he fell out of the boat

and ended up in the water. The Libyan coast guard intercepted him and he was forcibly returned to Libya, where he was detained for two years. Refugees intercepted while crossing the Mediterranean Sea end up in Libyan detention centres where they are forced to perform labour, are tortured, extorted, and, in the worst cases, murdered. Ali eventually managed to reach Europe, but he tells me that after his time in Libyan prison and the horrors he witnessed and experienced there, he feels like he has no future. During our first meeting, Ali gave me this brief outline of his journey to safety, seemingly without showing emotions. However, I could see the tears he could not shed behind his eyes. What an enormous amount of suffering, pain and sorrow lies behind his story.

Others make their journey entirely on foot. No cars, trains, or buses for them – they only have their shoes. A few years ago, I saw images on television of people making their way to safer places. I saw large numbers of people on foot, long lines of people that seemed to stretch endlessly.

One of them was Jamal. He is from a country where, prior to circumstances of violence, he had to flee. This young man, about 20 years old, came to Europe on foot, which means he walked about 4,300 miles. His journey took him eight months to complete, eventually reaching my country. Along the way, in the neighbouring countries, he was able to stay with fellow countrymen who had left Afghanistan earlier and who provided him with food. I hope they gave Jamal some extra care, given his young age and the fact that he was travelling alone. When crossing national borders, he was sent back by the police several times. In Europe, he stayed in refugee camps before finally arriving in my country.



A Long Road to Safety

He left his parents and brother behind in his home country and fled to escape the severe violence he had to endure in his country. His father was arrested by a fundamentalist group and is in prison. Jamal does not know anything about how his father is doing. He does not know if his father is even alive. Contact is not possible, and Jamal is very uncertain about his father's fate.

I try to imagine covering about 4,300 miles on foot, walking, for eight months and not always on decent roads. I try to picture what it would be like to walk that distance. How much luggage would I be able to carry, pops up in my mind. As a mother, I try to imagine that my children will undertake such a journey, that I have to say goodbye to them, and I don't know where my child will end up. Many mothers have had to say goodbye to their sons in this way and don't know if they'll ever see their children again.

This is Jamal, a friendly young man who could be my son in terms of age. His dream is to become a tailor. He doesn't speak English, so we communicate via a translation app. A sweet young man whose response to my announcement of a two-week leave was mistranslated by the translation app as "I will not miss you". That put a big smile on my face. A friendly boy like him would never say that, and I know that translation apps don't always translate correctly! Paying close attention is always a first requirement. It gives us an opportunity to laugh, which is also important.

One day, the manager said to me, "Jamal looks so happy now; he must be in love." It was his mother, with whom he had had no contact for nine months.

Ali and Jamal were only two of the many on their way to a safer place. The people in boats on the Mediterranean Sea and the huge stream of people walking that I saw on television. It is different now; I know stories of people among them. I no longer see them from a distance. I see people, each with their unique personality and feelings. It is bizarre that I have always had a heart for people in need, but at that time, I did not consider this group of people as people in need.

Anna

Disclaimer: To ensure the safety and anonymity of refugees, certain details in these stories have been modified. Names, locations, and identifying information have been changed or omitted. Any resemblance to real persons is purely coincidental.

SHEPSHED YOUTH DAY



SATURDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 2025
(DETAILS TO FOLLOW)

Livingston Church of Christ

Invites you to our youth day

OUT OF THIS WORLD



OUT OF THIS WORLD

Saturday 2nd November 2024

10 am till 8pm
Ages 10+

Please bring warm clothes, a jacket, waterproof shoes and an adult from your congregation for the landing site visit!

Please send names, ages and any food requirements to:
aminakabalo316@gmail.com
by Sunday 27th October

Church of Christ Livingston, Garden Place, Eliburn, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 6RA

MALAWI

There is no better period like this time of year as people have just harvested and sold their farm produce. The wise have managed to keep some for food as we are about to get into October when food will start to become scarce. More importantly during this period is the gospel meetings and Bible schools in the villages. Most active leaders and congregations make sure that Christ is being preached so that none at the end should give an excuse that he was not warned. (Ezekiel 33:6-9)

Ekwendeni is a fast growing semi-urban town of over 70,000 people and we have seen an influx of man-made churches promising those in need wealth, a good job, marriage and general prosperity. We have been vigilant against this by door-to-door preaching, following up the backsliders and offering our support in time of need like funeral or illness. There has been slight improvement in attendance mainly in Tumbuka where the average number is

130. The other good news is that we had five baptisms and seven restorations over this period.

Outreach programme – Currently there are 38 congregations and each one expects me to visit at least once or twice a year but due to health problems and lack of support this is not possible – I try to take opportunities when there are village gospel meetings. Most congregations cannot afford a full-time preacher, which brings its own problems.



Preaching in villages

Ekwendeni Bible School – Despite congregations being started in this area over 100 years ago there have been many challenges which has resulted in lower growth than might be expected. Most prayer houses are dilapidated and funds are low in the congregations – very few have a full or part-time village preacher which has led many to backslide.

The Ekwendeni one week school tries to train local Christians who are able to read and write so that congregations can worship on Sunday and the Christians remain faithful. Most of the



Baptisms during gospel meetings

2024-05-25 01:17

Around the World



Ekwendi One Week Bible School

teachers at our school are our own local preachers trained by the second generation of missionaries and the participants are picked from the local congregations along with their leaders (elders). So it's hands-on and they value that they can also contribute with food and materials, allowing them to understand the importance of being involved. I make an appeal to cover the shortfall as our country economy and the Christians come from families of low income of less than a dollar or two per day.

We had a gospel meeting in Ekwendi at the end of the Bible School. Christians started arriving before the school finished and we ended up with 723 in attendance on Sunday with four who were immersed and seven restored.



Ekwendi gospel meeting

Ladies and Youth – On 31st July there was a area Ladies' meeting in Ekwendi centred around families and encouraging women to do what they can to start a small income generating activity. During the Bible School the youth also had time to discuss issues affecting them like lack of jobs, school fees and early marriages which sometimes affect their faith as they think God is not answering their prayers.

My thanks to you all for the help to have the Manolo church building now operational. The other remaining work can be done as we have time now that we have fixed the door – next week we hope to fix the windows and start



Manolo church building

plastering and flooring. (I was being laughed at as this was my home congregation but with this development I will leave a good legacy and die as a happy man.)

On benevolence, not much has been done but in the coming months, there will be great need of food (maize). We are yet to see how the government will handle this shortage.

I thank God for your continued support and prayers. May our mighty God continue to bless you for the growth of his people in Malawi and the entire world.

Davison Ndhlovu

Around the World

WORK AMONG REFUGEES

My name is Cody. My family and I moved to the UK nearly two years ago to serve and help refugees coming from Africa and the Middle-East. During our short time here we have encountered so many people who God is calling to himself. We are asking for you prayers in the way God is using us as well as prayers for the asylum seekers and refugees in their efforts to establish a safe home here in the UK. My consistent prayer for them has been Psalm 40:1-3.

Lord, we ask and wait in anticipation for you to lift up those who are seeking you. Lift them from their unstable ground, out of the pit, and place them on the rock that is solid footing. Lord, we ask that you establish their lives with blessing and consistent homes and community and work, O Lord. But more than physical blessing we ask that you give them a new song to sing in their heart. A song of praise to you, for your glory and honour. And we pray that other people will witness them and come to trust and follow you. All of these things we pray for your honour, and in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Cody Marceau
marceaumissions@gmail.com



that the volcano does not erupt violently as it did five years ago.

Nevertheless, we were able to enjoy another Ladies' Fellowship in Cavite recently and another one in Metro Manila. These were a much needed blessing for our soul.

Cavite will be hosting the National Ladies' Retreat in Tagaytay City 22nd-25th April which is only 26 weeks from now. I was 'volunteered' as the chairman of the organising committee; thus making me in charge of the entire event.

The Philippines will also be host and organiser of next year's Asian Mission Forum set for 1st-5th August. Lord willing, it will be held in Cebu City. I am helping organise it too.

Meanwhile, Cavite is putting together a Seniors' Day to bless our church family members aged 60+. I am helping organise this too. We welcome any donation towards this cause. We hope to be able to serve 100 senior citizens through a medical mission. We will be needing help buying medicines, supplies and gifts to bless all the prospective participants. All the volunteers including our physicians offer our services free of charge.

Please continue lifting us in your prayers. We are grateful for you.

Gigie Carranza

PHILLIPINES

We have had typhoon after typhoon these past few months. We had severe flooding in several areas. Thankfully, my home is in a higher part of Cavite so we do not have to worry about floods. However, we are less than 23 miles from Taal Volcano which has been emitting sulphur dioxide almost everyday these past couple of months. Please pray with us



THIRTY YEARS OF HOUSE-TO-HOUSE, HEART-TO-HEART

“House-to-House” started in 1994 as just a magazine but, in our thirty years, we have shifted into an extensive evangelism programme that any congregation can use to grow. “House-to-House, Heart-to-Heart” is known primarily for our work in the United States. Some may not know that “House-to-House” does almost as much work internationally! So far, we have worked with congregations in 124 different countries. We hope eventually to work with a group of Christians in every country.

“House-to-House” is printed monthly in English, bi-monthly in Spanish, and frequently in British English, Chinese, French, Korean, Latvian, Nepali, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Ukrainian, and several Indian dialects. Congregations all over the world are using “House-to-House” to reach their neighbours.

When your congregation participates in House to House, we will customise the magazine on the front and back page with your congregation's information, and we will mail it to you to share with Bible study prospects, and those you meet as you go through your day.

So far, we have sent out 325 million copies of the “House-to-House” magazine in

English and several other languages. We have worked with 4,400 churches of Christ in all fifty United States and in 124 countries. We will also build, host, and maintain a free congregational website. We currently maintain more than 600 websites for congregations.

The “House-to-House” School of

Evangelism travels to local congregations and trains the saved to teach the lost (see <https://evangelism.housetohouse.com/>.) We host about fifty evangelism seminars a year. In addition to these seminars, our staff speaks on a variety of topics all over the world. See if we will be close to you! (<https://housetohouse.com/house-to-house-speaker-schedules/>).

You can see hundreds of other materials that we own and produce, including tracts, Bible correspondence courses, and the famous Jule Miller videos here: <https://gladtidingspublishing.com/>. We recently started podcasting with “House-to-House” Studios: <https://www.facebook.com/housetohouseStudios>.

Individuals can ‘follow’ us on Instagram “House-to-House” (<https://www.instagram.com/housetohousehearttoheart/?hl=en>) and House to House School of Evangelism (<https://www.instagram.com/housetohouseschoolofevangelism/>). Also, you can ‘like’ us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/housetohousehth> and find teaching materials, inspirational videos, and evangelistic content.

Thousands of conversions and restorations have been reported to us, not to mention those we will never know of in this life. We have had more conversions from “House-to-House” mailings in the last year than we have had any previous year. In 2023 alone, 1,403 baptisms were reported from our work. That is an average of almost four per day. People are looking for the truth.

You can learn more about House to House here: <http://get.housetohouse.com> or by emailing Matt Wallin at matt@housetohouse.com.

Matt Wallin





DIARY

November

2nd – **Livingston**: Youth Day – “Out of This World”, ages 10+. Send names, ages, food requirements to aminakabalo316@gmail.com by 27th October.

4th – **British Bible School** evening class: “God, His Covenants and Jesus” led by Mark Hill each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for eleven weeks. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

4th-12th – **Trip of a Lifetime**: Seven Churches Tour of Turkey, led by Ian Starrs.

7th – **British Bible School** evening class: “More Characters of Scripture” led by various teachers each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

23rd – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting (6.00 pm-8.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyankiah@hotmail.com.

December

7th – **Loughborough**: Youth Day – “Narrow or Wide?”, for ages 13+, 10.00 am-3.45 pm. Venue: Christians Meeting House, 17a Oxford Street, Loughborough LE11 5DP. Please email Calum.Hill@hotmail.co.uk or Liam.bates1992@gmail.com to receive a registration form.

2025

February

8th – **Shephed**: Youth Day – Contact: Stephen Woodcock (stephen.woodcock@hotmail.co.uk).

April

5th-6th – **Liverpool**: Young adult fellowship weekend – “Influenced or Influencer? – Which one are you?”, Ages 18+. Arrive 10.00-10.30 am on Saturday at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. RSVP to Rexford (rboahen@gmail.com) or use the EventBrite link.

July

4th-11th – **Camp Heatherbell**: Theme: “Transformed.” Cost = £185. Venue: Compass Christian Centre, Glenshee Lodge, Blairgowrie. Contact: Adam Barr (07889 631218), Graham McDonald (07748 787744), or email info@campheatherbell.org.uk for more information or to request an application.

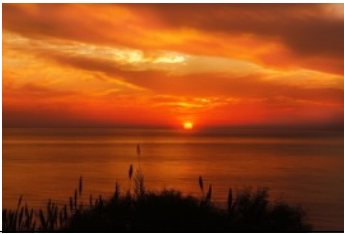
Liverpool Young Adult Fellowship Weekend
Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th April 2025
Arrival Saturday 5th 10:00am-10:30am

**Influencer or Follower?
Which ONE are you?**

Ages: 18+



Address: Liverpool Church of Christ, Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH
RSVP to Bro. Rexford by email on rboahen@outlook.com or through Eventbrite link



THE FINAL WORD



Love is the
basis of our
lives

"If anyone loves me he will obey my teaching."
(John 14:23)

Over the years there has been great emphasis in our fellowship about belief and obedience, all of which is good, but it is not what is of first importance. It is very possible to believe in someone and to keep or follow their teaching, but Jesus taught, *"If you love me"*. Our teaching must be based on love, and our fellowship with Christ is maintained because of our love for Jesus as his love for us never fails. Christianity is not based on teaching but a deep, passionate, emotional love.

Near the middle of Bristol there is a road known as Muller Road named after a man who originally came from Prussia and named George Mueller. His faith in Jesus was so strong that he would do nothing without talking it over with Jesus. Taking the passage from Psalm 81:10, which says 'Open your mouth and I will fill it', George would do nothing without talking it over with the Lord. This led to over 3,000

orphans being looked after solely through prayer. If you have never read the story of George, then let me encourage you to do so as soon as possible. George died and his body is interred in Arnos Vale Cemetery. When we lived in Bristol I went and found this grave of a man who loved Jesus so much that he believed that God would hear his prayers, and the need was fulfilled.

Love for Jesus filled the life of George Mueller; prayer was the centre of his life. Congregations must be a place where the gates of Heaven are rattled, where our pleas flow in common bond to the throne of grace. God can hear the cry of a single soul, and it is important to him, but prayers which are said by prayer leaders on behalf of the congregation often sound as if they come from people who talk little with the Master. There seems to come a sound of weary voices who have not often had conversations with the Majesty on high. Above all things we must not be afraid of declaring our love for Jesus because faith is built on this

love and the greatest of all matters is love. Let me encourage those who pray publicly to pray with passion, declaring the love that Jesus has for us and the love that we have for Jesus.

Father, hear the prayer we offer. Sometimes we do not know what to say. Sometimes the words do not come easily but help us to praise to you. And if nothing else, help us to tell you that we love you. Amen.

Trevor

