

Fellowship Resources

In these days of increased isolation due to the coronavirus, we're pleased to supply some details about, and web-links to, recorded audio and video teaching. We are aware that not everyone in the Churches will have internet access but, for those who are connected, we trust that these Fellowship resources will be a means of real encouragement and supplementary learning while many Churches are unable to physically gather just now (see attachment).

In addition, here's a link to a specially-recorded 20 minute video talk from Brian Johnston – 'Christian Certainty in Times of Uncertainty'. This, you should find, is very helpful in our current circumstances. We hope to supply more freshly recorded videos in the coming weeks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LAZraG7Tvg>

We are sharing these resources Fellowship-wide appreciating that local languages and dialects may make it difficult for everyone to understand what is being said (in English). We hope that local interpreters may be able to help by producing local language transcripts.

These online resources can be accessed by individuals at any time. It might be that some Churches will be able to use them as part of their online connections, if they are using such technology.

We pray that these resources will bring comfort and encouragement. Thank you for sharing.

If you need any help or further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

With love in our Lord Jesus Christ

Martin Jones; David Woods; Brian Johnston



Aim Higher

On 2 December last year there was a terror attack in London, England. Perhaps before it, relatively few people knew much about the Fishmongers' Hall, by the River Thames. It then became world famous for among the worst of reasons: violent extremism that made everyone feel unsafe.

Way back in the fourteenth century, charters had been given to London trade associations, sometimes known as guilds. As the various trades vied for prominence a royal charter acknowledging the work of the guild was sought after. The general merchants, called Mercers, were the first to get one, and they were followed by the Grocers, Drapers, and then in fourth place were the Fishmongers. The Goldsmiths were next, but in the so-called "order of precedence" there was subsequent debate about who came 6th and 7th, since both fur traders and tailors claimed that spot in the priority rankings. Eventually it seems they agreed to a compromise, whereby they would alternate each year in being either number six or seven in the list. This confusion about who was most important seems to have been the background to the English expression of "being at sixes and sevens". It means being in disarray, confused. That is something a lot of people have been suffering from again recently, as they have been forced to reconsider how safe they are, or rather, are not.

Christians are not free from being at sixes and sevens, but they can be. Feelings of self-importance must be the first thing to go if we are to be free. Next will be self-reliance. What is important, however, is not just what goes, but what fills the vacuum. We need to aim to show confidence that the God of Peace is truly in control, that He reigns over all and can lead us out of trials. In His hands we are safe. Here are some verses (worthwhile 6s & 7s) for us to reflect on and be challenged by:

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Pet. 5:6-7)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:6-7)

Geoff Hydon



Spotlight on Brian Johnston

school. Michael works as a software engineer in the Glasgow area; Anna works from home on a freelance contract as a textile pattern designer.

I have been a Christian for 54 years, and in the Churches of God for 50 years. I was saved at home in bed, being counselled by my mother after listening to evangelist Willie Stewart preach to a children's gathering at Duddingston School near Edinburgh on 19 October 1966.

I began to be sure I was experiencing God's call around 1984, and was commended into full time service at the International Elders' Conference (COCG) held at Nottingham University in September 1987. There were 4 of us commended that year, and Jack Ferguson addressed us - a treat for me as I'd regarded him as a kind of mentor.

Initially, I was itinerating around UK Churches; among the first ports of call were Portslade, Douglas (I.O.M.) and Wembley. Two have since closed, but I don't take the major responsibility!

Like many others, I think I was born curious with a large appetite for reading and a passion for learning. Over the years, I came to realise that the study of the Scriptures is the greatest field of study - and that the communication of it was the worthy pursuit of a lifetime. I find pleasure in attempting to share what God enables me to learn in as instructive a way as I can with God's necessary help.

Two things were in my sights at the time God was calling me. I'd been producing radio scripts for a couple of years by then, and was aware someone in Belgium had responded and there was the need for follow-up there. I recall having the strong desire to learn the language and to go to work there. I was also willing to make Fellowship radio broadcasting my main focus; however George Prasher advised me at that time to keep my application general and let my ministry find its own level under God ... which it has done, with a major in radio! On one holiday in 1992, I distinctly recall a young Chinese Christian woman asking me what I wanted to do with my life for God. Taken somewhat aback, and quite subconsciously, I am still shocked to hear myself saying 'to be used by God to plant Churches of God in foreign lands.' I'm truly humbled to have known God's hand on my life in many ways.

I'll share just a couple of incidents that I personally at least look back on with a smile ... Hayes Press once had me doing a book-signing at a Christian Resources Exhibition at Blackpool (with Selwyn Hughes on one side and Joni Tada Eareckson on the other). I was asked to give a local radio interview and obliged. The interviewer's opening line was: 'I thought you were dead ...' This was a reference to my namesake the cricket commentator who had then recently died. I was able to reply courtesy of Mark

Twain: 'Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.' Another time I was advised against going to preach up in the hills north of Tagum due to the proximity of communist rebels. I thought I'd check with the Tagum police department. After I explained my query, the duty officer looked me in the eye and said: 'You know Philippians 1:21 ('to die is gain'), don't you? What's your problem?' (I was later supplied with two guards sporting AK47s as escorts.)

My advice to anyone considering full time service is, don't even think about it unless you're convinced God is calling you. There are many times when you'll need to fall back on that absolute conviction. I am so grateful that the Lord very graciously clarified His call to me with three 'happenings' which were miracles of divine providence.

I am privileged to be able to see the Fellowship's growth in Africa and Asia and the power of God's word in the Gospel when the Spirit is working. On four occasions I have had the experience of preaching to crowds when what I would describe as a stillness has fallen. You become aware that every eye is rivetted, some with tears in them. Some stand, some bow their heads. On those occasions when an appeal is made dozens come forward, and it's thrilling to see them making their way into the local Church of God (most recently from Pandapan).

My encouragement to you is to say that having begun again in 1892 with over 100 churches but where up to 70% were in 1 country, the Fellowship has overall made steady progress for 128 years until now there are 123 churches in 19 countries. That's about twice as long in duration as the first Fellowship of Apostolic times, and it's nothing short of miraculous.

For Prayer, Ministering Brethren (May and onwards)

Phil Brennan

"Lockdown" having brought enforced cancellation of assignments in Ontario, Scotland and Northern Ireland, as well as visits in my home District of the Midlands, time is spent in maintaining communication with many via email, phone and even the old-fashioned postal service. Some messages have been/are being recorded, both audio and video, alongside further preparation of TFS material and other papers.

Mark Imoukhuede

I continue with Abuja Assembly by God's grace. With the lockdown we are experiencing, the Churches are now going the social media way. I link up with Surulere YPM Bible Study, Ksoa Study Centre and Abuja Assembly support. Pastoral ministry is through phone calls and the saints appreciate it.

This is to thank saints for their continued prayers for me as I am yet to commence my treatment. After the medications were prescribed by the UK Consultant, we searched all over Africa and USA for one of the drugs which is considered as the gold treatment for CLL, but to no avail. It can only be administered under supervision in the UK hospital and is very expensive. A new treatment regime is being proposed. We pray that the medication will be available in Nigeria and not too expensive. When to commence will depend on the improvement of the Covid-19 pandemic. We continue to seek the face of our God at this difficult time. Shalom

Brian Johnston

All speaking engagements are cancelled, other than internet hookups with Leigh and Antwerp, and running local errands. It's good to have a Bible Study and prayer time informally with the Antwerp Church people every Sunday.

I've also volunteered to work with local charities in food distributions to vulnerable townspeople (so the Easter tracts we ordered are still finding a way out).

However, I don't usually report that time each day is spent routinely with internet contact (Skype or WhatsApp mainly) with The Philippines, Malawi and Zimbabwe. It's usually evangelical guidance or pastoral counsel, but these days, of course, management of the COVID-19 threat looms large, including ensuring that brothers and sisters have rations. I'm also processing a translation of Where Is God's House Today for Malawi (through Tony and the Fellowship Literature Committee) and a new hymnbook for SECA (through Kevin and Central Gifts Fund).

Aside from that, writing Search for Truth material and collating Needed Truth material continues thus far as normal.

Craig Jones

All previous plans are indeed curtailed. Our annual Easter visit to Jamaica was cancelled. For the foreseeable future then, I'll be supporting local and district efforts to keep saints connected through virtual means, either recording or live-streaming ministry as needed. Hopefully, there will also be previously unexpected opportunities for further study and reading!

SB Khupboih

At this time it's difficult to plan things to do, but we have been sharing good news with some young people in the hall - , few in number, 7 or 8 people. We are unable to have meetings as usual because of the Government restrictions. We can't tell when things are going to become normal again. By God's grace we don't have the virus in Munlai at this time.

Geralde Magusara

If things return to normal, I will resume my work in Puting Bato, Pantukan, and Banaybanay. If not, I'll continue doing systematic Bible Study with families who have the capacity to video conference, first to my local, and then to other Churches. I am also translating Golden Bells, and will possibly undertake jeepney evangelism.

Andy McIlree

There are no plans for the foreseeable future, apart from maintaining online link-up with brothers and sisters in Kilmarnock for ministry and prayer.

Karl Smith

David Woods and I had planned to work together in Glasgow, and the Bridge event has been cancelled. I am deeply disappointed, but the Lord understands why. My in-tray is still busy with committee work, especially relating to the Malawi project. I am also trying to keep in touch with different people in the Churches who might feel especially isolated. Although outdoor outreach is not possible, I am doing my best to maintain contact with people by telephone so that meaningful relationships I have developed are not lost - and witnessing where the Lord gives an opportunity. Messages are being prepared and shared by Zoom and other technology.

Brian Tugwell

I am collating some information to write up the history of the work in India. I am also interacting with Liverpool saints through social media.

Robert Wood

Largely confined to home like the rest of the country. However electronic communications allow Edna and myself to get out of our home and in touch with others. Emails to Church friends with attached Gospel videos is a great uplift. Sunday morning thoughts to the Church and family hopefully is a help and stimulus. Video communication through such things as Zoom and WhatsApp allows us to speak together as a family and at times have a reading and a prayer. Such things lessen the isolation and make us feel as though we are still very close. We have benefitted from video Gospel and ministry talks from some. Our Father knows what we have need of.

David Woods

I was scheduled to be with saints in Glasgow in May (for outreach and encouragement), but that's looking unlikely just now. Time is presently devoted to coordinating and using technology to help brothers and sisters remain connected and encouraged in isolated times.

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Responding to Coronavirus in Aberkenfig

Across the world, Churches of God are having to respond to the coronavirus crisis which has closed many of our Churches and enforced social distancing.

Modern technology has allowed for some innovative approaches to maintaining fellowship, with software like Zoom and Messenger being greatly used. At Aberkenfig we began with Messenger but have realised the benefits of Zoom, which has given us wonderful times together in prayer and Bible discussion. Saints are encouraged to maintain contact with each other through the week in any way they can, and we have had some very enjoyable video call sessions with multiple people engaged on one chat. Saints who have been confined to their homes have shopping brought to their homes by faithful sisters.

Children's outreach is continued via Facebook, where regular activities and stories are posted for children to engage in - everything from craft to dance - and this has been well received. Adult outreach has taken place in different ways. We've been posting what we hope are thoughtful responses to the crisis on our website blog, pointing always to the Saviour. We've twice been able to distribute leaflets throughout the village, in which practical help is offered such as shopping, picking up prescriptions, providing a telephone buddy for the anxious and elderly, offering to pray, answering searching questions and whatever else people may need that we can provide. There is also a leaflet looking to provide some spiritual guidance.

We are now focusing on prescriptions, having become the first volunteer group in the country that Well Pharmacy have agreed can deliver prescriptions on their behalf, and we are doing so for two local pharmacies. We are seeing huge queues outside the pharmacies being reduced as people stay home and volunteers from the Assembly deliver their prescriptions, following very rigid social distancing guidelines. It's in its early days as we write, but it's already having a positive impact on our reputation as a Church, which we hope will have an eventual impact of increasing visitor attendance at our hall to hear the Good News and seeing people come to faith in the Lord. All this is done for Him, to the glory of God.

In Matt 11:5 the Lord told John's disciples to report back to John that "the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor." There is the practical application of responding to need whilst also proclaiming the good news. Both are needed in this coronavirus age if we are to see souls being saved. We show love to speak love.

Tony Jones; Steve Peers



'Our beautiful High Priest' – South-East District event, 14 March

Braving growing concerns about the coronavirus, around 70 were present at the Crofton Halls, Orpington, for the third SE District Event about the beauty of our Lord and Saviour, this time organised by the Church of God in Hayes and focusing on His high priestly service.

We were privileged to have Andy McIlree as our guest speaker. Andy ministered heartening, uplifting and challenging words on this exalted aspect of Christ's beauty, focusing on three facets of His high-priestly excellence. Exploring His **inferred beauty**, Andy took us to the beautiful Branch of Isa. 4:2 and to why He is fitting to be our Great High Priest in His holiness, harmlessness, purity, incorruptibility and exaltation (Heb. 7:26). He dwells forever in a place of matchless beauty - where it is our awesome privilege and joy to be invited to enter to worship week by week. The role and function of our High Priest is not limited to Sunday morning worship, and Andy went on to emphasise the **transferred beauty** of the High Priest - exemplified by Aaron moving around the camp bringing beauty and glory in practical ways to individual lives; he influenced their hearts and their homes as well as their worship in God's house. Christ as Son, Saviour, Singer, Sovereign and Suppliant has, or should have, a far more pervasive effect on our everyday lives than ever the Aaronic priesthood did. Andy took us movingly to what he described as an obscure passage - the law of the cleansing of the leper in Lev.14 as an example of the High Priest's beauty transferred to the individual believer - all that we touch and hear and how we walk (thumb, ear and toe) should glorify the Lord. And when we sin, we have a sympathetic High Priest who is able to save us to the uttermost as Intercessor (Heb.4:14-16). Finally, Andy drew profound lessons from Lev. 4:34 - the finger of the High Priest painting the horns of the altar with sacrificial blood. So too our beautiful High Priest stretches out His finger to write on our hearts something of Himself, so that we might manifest His **preferred beauty**. We were challenged - is Christ present, prominent or pre-eminent in our lives? The tinkling bells on the robe of the High Priest made an harmonious sound - the ministry of joy in our lives and our homes; is that our experience, our demonstration of His beauty?

Interspersed with Andy's ministry were times of joyful singing led by the (augmented) Hayes band and, by way of light relief, an entertaining interactive quiz led by Alan King. We also had two breakout 'carousel' sessions in which folks were encouraged to move from table to table (12 in all) recording their thoughts and reactions on topics relevant to our beautiful High Priest. The first session was focused on the Remembrance and our appreciation of the importance and privilege of what we participate in on Sunday mornings, and why. The second session sought views and reactions about our beautiful High Priest's role as advocate at the throne of grace. The carousel format enabled those participating to approach these topics from a variety of perspectives, providing output which was diverse, interesting and uplifting; the results were captured and will be made available for future thought and study.

We are very grateful to those who put so much time and effort into this event - in terms of planning, leading sessions for adults and children and arranging catering at a new and unfamiliar venue - and, of course, to Andy for taking the time to visit and inspire us in the far south-east!

David Viles; Jon Stanley



Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. He is our wonderful God and oversees the affairs in the world. He is never taken by surprise by events in the world!

I planned to be in Ghana for the month of February but was unable to do so until the first week in March, due to the process involved in the renewal of my International passport. The process became difficult because of the crowd who also intended getting the newly introduced National Identity Number (NIN). The National Identity Number was being synchronised with passport issuing, therefore my journey was delayed.

Having arrived in Ghana, the COVID-19 virus that has taken over the countries around the world was also affecting Ghana. Churches and other public institutions were closed, therefore things were scaled down. However, as the Scripture says: "All things work together for good...". We used the opportunity to go on door to door work in the Kasoa area, where we had encounters with people with regards to the Gospel. Before the lockdown which came later in the month of March, two people gave their lives to Jesus Christ. All glory be to our God for the enablement.

I am still in Kasoa, Ghana, not knowing when the "lockdown" will be lifted and the borders opened for me to go back to Nigeria. We pray on for God to demolish the plan of the Devil to stop God's work in our time!!

For the month of May, we look forward to the healing of our nations, Thanks to all brothers and sisters around the world for their incessant prayers for us who are in the field.

NB: I attached herewith the picture of one of the men who surrendered their lives to Jesus during our door to door work. From left is brother Jacob Asimanyi (Gospel worker), Brother Emmanuel Bodioh, Kasoa (Assembly Gospel worker).. The man to the extreme right is the one who surrendered to Jesus Christ. His name is Joseph Baah. We pray for his spiritual progress.



Report from Gbenga Fagbenle

At home with the Lord – Ken Owen, Mountain Ash, Wales

Our dear brother Ken was called home on Lord's Day 8 March, at the age of 77. He had been diagnosed sometime back with the cancer which would eventually take him into the presence of his Saviour. He had resisted treatments at the early stages, knowing, we believe, that the 'better by far' of Phil 2:23 was awaiting him.

Ken's early life was unsettled as his parents split up and he and his 3 siblings were fostered apart from each other. It was only in later life that several reunions happened. At work in his late teens, Ken was befriended by Reg Dodge in the Parks Department of Cardiff Council and in 1965, having acknowledged the lordship of Christ, was baptised and added to the Assembly in Cardiff. Jack Dodge spoke at the baptisms (Eira Palmer, née Dodge, was baptised that same day) basing what was said on John 14:15 and 15:14. Ken loved his Master all his days after. He was a bachelor throughout life and that status gave him opportunities in service. He was asked by Cardiff overseers to support the small Assembly in Aberfan, which he did faithfully. When that Assembly closed, he then transferred to Mountain Ash, where he continued his faithful work. He would travel the not insignificant distance even when feeling physically far below par, which was not infrequent. An operation on an inner ear malfunction in the early 80's left him with damaged vocal chords and frequent dizziness, but he never complained. Ken spent many hours visiting saints, often those who were not in the mainstream of Assembly life. His passion was being at South Wales Camp, which was a major focus in his life. The kids loved him, and he was the archetypical handyman, fixing/installing/inventing – without him camps would have been so much harder. He put hours of effort in every year, always going that extra mile. He was ever-present on the Camp Committee right until his last illness. He will be missed. He loved tea, and the bigger the mug the better!

Some words were given by fellow saints to describe his character, which included unassuming, devoted, sincere, grateful, reliable, loyal, thoughtful ... Due to the restrictions imposed by the UK Government, it was only feasible to have a service at the graveside which was attended by his sister, the only surviving sibling, and her two sons. Tony Jones spoke of the hope that the Lord's words in John 11 brought to Ken and encouraged his family to think carefully about that eternal message. It is planned, God willing, to hold a memorial service for Ken when restrictions are lifted.

Phil Allen; Tony Jones



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- 30 Bible video talks
<https://churchesofgod.info/video-teaching/>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCheNVXP1Uzuy8Ql4C5PKOA>
- Videos of talks at YFR 2012 and 2016 (under PAST EVENTS)
<http://www.yourfellowshiprally.com/>
- Searchable Needed Truth archive (Beta)
<https://archive.churchesofgod.info/>
- YFR 2012 Singing:
<https://www.pastemagazine.com/noisetrade/music/yfr/yfr-2012--the-battle>

Centenary Celebration of the Churches of God in Africa

In the year 2021 the trumpet shall sound forth from Africa calling for a convocation of the Lord's people, as it will be 100 years since the first Church of God was planted in Lagos, Nigeria, on the continent of Africa.

*"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light;
they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them hath the light shined"* (Isaiah 9:2)

All glory to our God for sustaining His testimony and igniting many more of His lampstands on our continent over these 100 years. Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

We plan a 3 day celebration during the Easter period of 2021, for which we are making a Fellowship-wide appeal for prayers and other support, including sharing of relevant personal and Assembly archive possessions, photos and other intellectual materials on the evolution and development of the work in Africa over these 100 years, for publication in the Centenary handbook.

Materials intended for sharing should be sent to the Centenary Celebration Committee via either:
ericampou@gmail.com or olukayodeadelaja@yahoo.com

Thanking you in anticipation of your prompt and positive response.

For the Centenary Celebration Committee

Kayode Adelaja; Eric Sampou

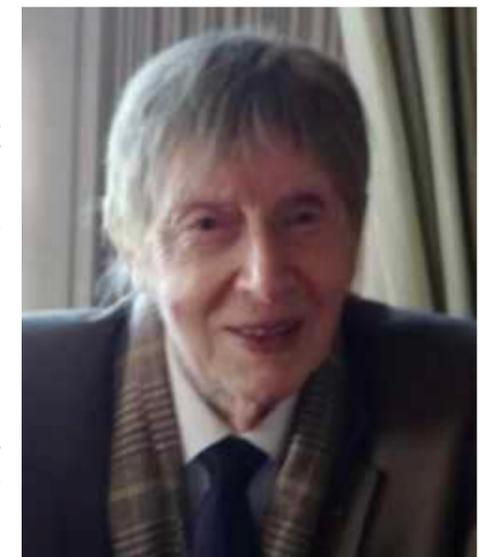
At home with the Lord – Isobel Gault, Greenock, Scotland

Our beloved sister Isobel Gault was called home on 1 March and was buried on 11 March at Cardross, Dumbarton, where her husband Jack was buried and not far from where she was born on 10 September 1923. She was the last of six children in the McKenzie family. Her father was a master butcher in the area. They grew up without the mod cons of our time but were a happy family with lots of cousins and friends nearby. Isobel made her commitment to the Lord by being baptised in 1939 and was added to Dumbarton Assembly. She trained as a shorthand typist and was employed in the area. This was a skill that helped her make a very valuable contribution to the Fellowship. When the revised P.H. & S.S. was published in 1971, Isobel had proof-read both words and music - a massive task.

She and Jack were married on 26 April 1950 and lived in various places as Jack pursued his career in the Post Office, taking them to several Assemblies over the years. Carlisle was the final stop in that respect. In each of their Assembly homes Isobel found a niche, serving the Lord in various ways. She was known for her efficient hospitality from which young people especially benefitted. A few years after Jack was called home she moved up to Kilmacolm to be nearer her family, and for the last seven years she was with us in Greenock where we grew to love and respect her, and where she will be missed. One author, commenting on Anna in Luke 2, described her as 'an elderly, dignified, quiet, devoted woman,' characteristics summing up our beloved sister very aptly. Someone who knew her over sixty years said that she was the most contented woman he had ever met. Her own testimony was, 'I have been blessed with a happy and contented life.' Paul said, 'Godliness with contentment is great gain.'

At her burial service we thought of the various places Isobel had lived, all temporary until the Lord took her home to the place He had prepared for her in His Father's house, and for which she was prepared through faith in her Saviour. 2 Cor. 5:1-10 seemed particularly apt, following this theme, as was Rom. 9:23 with Paul's comment about objects of God's mercy which He has prepared beforehand for glory. 1 Cor. 15 gives us the assurance that death is not as final as it would appear to be. We look forward to the day when we will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye, and we shall bear the likeness of the Man from heaven. This is a great assurance as we mourn our sister's passing, and that of others who have placed their confidence in our Lord Jesus. The Assembly is the poorer now, as is Isobel's family who would like to thank all who have sent cards and remembered them in prayer. Please remember Brian and Margo, Elspeth and Alister, Peter and Penny, her six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren who have lost a dear one, who was aptly summed up in the reading of Prov. 31 about 'A wife of noble character' by Margo at the service. Granddaughter-in-law Rachel played a guitar piece, and a song written by Rob was played as the coffin was taken out from the auditorium. She has left us an example to emulate as we take to heart Paul's words in 1 Cor. 15:58 with its exhortation to service and promise of sure reward.

John Black; Gordon McKay



At home with the Lord – Harry Baxter, Cullybackey, N. Ireland

Our dear brother Harry Baxter, aged 91, passed peacefully into the Lord's presence on Friday 21 February 2020. He was born in Glasgow where his father was employed. The family moved back to the home village of Cullybackey, Northern Ireland, when he was 7 years old and he lived with his grandparents close to where the Assembly was located. In those days there was a vibrant testimony in the village, and Harry was sent to Sunday school and attended the Gospel meetings. He was convicted of his sins under the Gospel ministry of Lord's Servant John Drain, and put his trust in the Lord Jesus when he was 16 years old. He was baptised by Lord's Servant John Mawhinney, and added to the Church in Cullybackey.

At 21 years old Harry married Doreen, a young sister in the Church, who, though she suffered Parkinson's Disease from the early age of 27, was a committed disciple of the Lord and faithful in her service in the Assembly until her death in May 1999. Harry was employed as a bus driver and then moved on to become a driver for the Ambulance Service of Northern Ireland. As a result, he was well known in the village and nearby town of Ballymena.

Although out of Fellowship for some time, he was restored 21 years ago and we have fond memories of his devotional appreciation of our Great God and our Lord Jesus, expressed in our Remembrance meetings. He had a great memory of Scripture and also knew a lot of hymns, their authors and the history of their making. The Lord blessed him with a clear mind and excellent memory right up to his last short spell in hospital.

John Hutchinson paid tribute to Harry in the funeral home and John McCarty (Belfast) gave a clear Gospel challenge at the graveside. "To this end Christ died and rose and lived again that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living." (Rom 14:9)

Harry lived on his own and had no family, but we are thankful for the opportunities as an Assembly to have had fellowship with him, and being able to read and pray with him even in his last hours before he passed into the presence of his Master.

John Hutchinson; Lindsay Woods

Special focus

The Midlands Sisters' Weekend



It was with eager anticipation that we met together at Hothorpe Hall in Leicestershire on 6 March to study our topic *'The Heart of Holiness'*. We didn't know then that it would be one of the last times we would be able to meet together for a while. We enjoyed fellowship together, a time of praise on both Friday and Saturday evenings, and our usual light item which this year included musical napkins and making sweet melody with kazoos.

Our guest speaker David Woods led us by opening on Friday night, speaking of *'God Most Holy'*. We were taught concerning both God's incommunicable and communicable attributes. Holy is all that God is, but He has also enabled us to share in this divine characteristic. David then introduced our time of discussion on Saturday morning with *'Be Holy, Because I am Holy – God's purpose in Our Holiness'*. The group discussions that followed were based on many Scripture references relating to justification, sanctification and holiness. This took us through a consideration of what God has done for us in Christ: (positional holiness), to what we are required to do in response to what God has done: (progressive holiness). On Saturday night we focused our attention on *'Jesus Christ our Lord – the Holy and Righteous One'*. It was a lovely end to the day to focus on the perfect expression of holiness as seen in the Saviour.

We enjoyed fellowship with the Church of God in Leicester in keeping the Remembrance on the Lord's Day. David brought the weekend to a close in the afternoon with an address on *'The Heart of Holiness: the Daily Pursuit of Being like God'*. It was humbling to consider how God is holy and yet, through Christ's sacrifice, He allows us to share in derivative holiness because we have been justified and sanctified through salvation.

As we left the weekend, we were certainly challenged to ensure that we allowed ourselves to be open to the Holy Spirit's work in us, in making us holy and more Christ-like. We record our thanks to David for his instructive and heart-searching ministry.

The Midland Sisters' Weekend Committee

Breaking News – YFR Cancellation for 2020

The 2020 YFR event at Cefn Lea Wales will not take place due to covid-19 virus restrictions. It will be scheduled for a future year, God willing, at the same venue, which allows a zero cost postponement.

YFR Committee

Notice Board

We are aware that due to COVID-19, events are cancelled, however some may happen via online methods.

May

- 01 North American District Sisters' Weekend (Guelph, Toronto)
- 02 Midlands District Event (Normanton-on-Soar)
- 02 North West District Oversight
- 09 North American District Overseers' Meeting
- 09 North West District SOH
- 09 South Wales District DySGu
- 10 **Deadline for June Intelligence**
- 16 Midlands District Vine Event (Nottingham)
- 16 Northern Ireland District Women's Study Day (Rosspark)
- 16 North West District Conference (Liverpool)
- 16 West Scotland District Youth Event – The Bridge
- 23 Northern Ireland District Camp Recruitment
- 29 North American District Spring Alive

KEY:

DySGu - District Study Group, S. Wales
SOH - Sisters' Open House
MFC - Mount Forest Camp
YC - Young Christians
YPM - Young Peoples' Meeting
TTT - Ten to Thirteen

Brian Tugwell

Brian points out that cheques should no longer be sent to Bootle but to

Santander Processing Centre,
PO Box 12744, Harlow, CM20 9QH.
Account details are the same.

Text for the Month

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24 (ESV)

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Published by Hayes Press
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Wiltshire SN4 8DY

Tel. 01793 850 598

www.hayespress.org