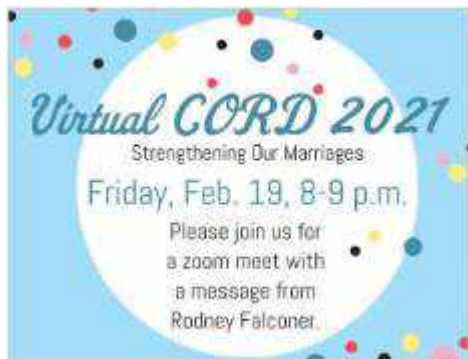


Virtual Cord 2021



Although this year we were not able to get away for a retreat, instead we met online to enjoy an evening couples' get-together. You may remember that we call our couples' retreat CORD for two reasons: 1. It is an acronym for Couples Operating Relationships Diligently, and 2. It is really referring to Ecclesiastes 4:12, which says: "...a threefold cord is not quickly broken". Really, it is that use of the word "cord" that led to us figure out what words we could use to form the acronym. Hope you like it!

Our couples' retreats are not designed to fix broken marriages. They are events that help us strengthen each other in our marriages. We know that for this to happen it is most important that we see three, not two, in our marriage with the Lord Himself in the centre. As a couple we each need to

have a shared love for the Lord Jesus and a desire to bring His word into our decisions. Then there is room for growth.

An online venue enabled more to join in this year, and we were particularly happy to see our friends from British Columbia, as well as Ontario-based friends. So, it was good to see over 30 smiling faces! Well, we were smiling before Chris and Alissa sent us racing around our homes to find household objects in the ice-breaker game. We all benefited from fellowship, fun and a challenging talk by Rodney Falconer. He used examples from the book of Esther to highlight some do's and don'ts as we

build our relationships. These included the positives and negatives in: privacy, compassion, mutual choosing; communicating; happiness; judging; generosity; sharing; unity. Relationships take work, but the work is worthwhile! We have a video recording of the whole event, including Rod's talk, if you would like to see more.

Now we look to the Lord to continue His blessings in all our marriages, to His glory. With thanks to Chris and Alissa Seddon and the rest involved in organizing this event.

Craig Jones and Geoff Hydon



Bring Back The King

This world is globally in chaos, things are not right. In King David's day they had forsaken him and gone after his vainglorious son Absalom. Civil war resulted and things were not right. Absalom was killed and soon after the call from all Israel was "Bring back the king". Order was restored when King David was given his rightful place (2 Sam. 19:8-12).

This speaks loudly to us today to "Bring back our King" the Lord Jesus Christ. Give Him His rightful place! The hymn says "King of my life, I crown Thee now". In David's day, his great friend Jonathan said "David, you will be king and I will be next unto thee" (1 Sam. 23:17). Fine words, but he still followed Saul and lost his life at Mount

Gilboa. How different things might have been!

How do we "Bring back the King" today? We all know the enemy is Satan - the devil interfering in our lives - but do we realise there is an even closer disruptive force that hinders our spiritual progress? It is called Self, it's me. I can be my own worst enemy. For us to "Bring back the King" in our lives we need to get rid of Self. The Apostle Paul said in Gal. 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ". Paul, the former Saul of Tarsus with Adam's nature, had been crucified with Christ. The new man was Paul. "Not I" - says he, "but Christ liveth in me." Now he is "alive unto God in Christ Jesus" (c.f. Rom. 6:6,7,11; Eph. 4:22).

It has been said "If Jesus is not Lord of all, he is not Lord at all." There is only room for one to be enthroned in our heart. If in your mind's eye you could picture a large heart and in the centre is a throne - who is on that throne? Is it Jesus as King of your life? - or is it self? It cannot be both. The Apostle Paul said a lovely thing about Timothy, "I have no man like minded ... they all seek their own things ... not the things of Jesus Christ" (Phi. 2:19-21).

We cannot put the world to rights, but we can listen to Jesus who said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Let us "Bring back our King". May God help us to put Jesus Christ first.

Neville Coomer

WEST OF SCOTLAND SPRING CONFERENCE

Saturday, 24th April 2021
at
6.00pm

Speakers

Stephen McCabe [Belfast]
Stephen Hickling [Birmingham]
Hymn-singing interlude [15 minutes]
Ira Williamson [Trinidad, Colorado]

This conference will be available on Zoom
ID: 820 0119 9003
Passcode: 610623
Please connect by 5.50pm
to ensure an on-screen window.



SEARCH FOR TRUTH

radio broadcasts



23 January – 24 April

Europe

Listen live online @ www.twt.org.uk/live.htm Saturday 18.50 and Sunday 06.50.

You can also listen to Search for Truth in the UK on Sky Digital channel 0138 (11.390 GHz.. ID 53555) and on Freesat channel 790 & on Freeriew 733, Saturday 07.30 and Sunday 06.45

Malawi

Sunday on TWR Malawi FM Network at 06.45 local time

South Asia

Thursday to South Asia at 14.30 UTC (25m band SW, 11825 kHz.) on Reach Beyond – Australia

Zimbabwe & Mozambique

Saturday on TWR Swaziland at 16.00 UTC (1170 kHz MW) and Friday on TWR Malawi at 08.30 local time on DSTv155

Check out <http://searchfortruth.podbean.com/> for Search for Truth podcasts

Accompanying books available to buy from:
**Hayes Press, The Barn, Flaxlands,
Wootton Bassett, Swindon, Wiltshire
SN4 8DY, UK sft@churchesofgod.info**

Locked Down but not Locked Up



Living in isolation is nothing new for some Churches, Victoria and Vancouver in British Columbia being amongst them, but with the pandemic of 2020 even the occasional visitors - be it family or friend - dried up. That said, we may have been in lockdown for almost 12 months (at the time of writing), but we in Vancouver have not been totally locked up!

YFR gave us a break and insight as to what might be possible, with a dozen turning up at 6am for the live event which became a real bonding experience and blessing with fellowship. We enjoyed a spell of meeting together from early June through to October before being closed down again; but we're grateful for the initiative taken by Stoke-on-Trent. Ten people were able to meet with safety protocols in place to enjoy the messages, so much so that more were requested. In November, we hosted the speakers from the Belfast Conference with twelve people joining us on that occasion.

These events, along with the example set by Swindon with its SVS Programme, and with the unlikely prospect of being open for a Christmas Service, we were able to record the event and put it out on YouTube. The children from Sunday School, which continued for most of 2020, were able to assist with this. We praise God for the response of over 270 viewers, many of whom got in touch to thank us for doing this.

Like most Churches we meet every Sunday via Zoom, and we have been able to complement this with over 30 short Gospel messages and appropriate hymns and songs. Several visitors have joined us on Sundays. On Wednesdays we meet for prayer with a combination of local and international ministry gleaned from Fellowship resources. We also have personal emails and encouraging video clips being circulated that are always appreciated.

Having received the keys to our new hall in March, we had high hopes of a fresh start to evangelise the area, but little could be done on site due to the constantly changing regulations. However, with all the developments and increased use of Zoom we have been able to start The Life Explored course online, with five women in attendance. This we hope to follow up with a further Bible Study for them, and to begin a new beginners' study called 'Thinking'. By the time of reading this it may be Easter, and we should have produced an online service for that also.



The Apostle was under house arrest for many years but never failed to use the media available to reach out with the good news of divine truth. Psalm 31 v 24, "Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord."

November saw the Sisters' International Day of Prayer event meeting via Zoom. Each sister shared poignant aspects of the Lord's coming based on the material supplied, a time for prayer and follow-up cards sent to women associated with the Church who needed encouragement

Kevin Jones; Jim Bell



N. Ireland Men's Study Day 6 February 2021

It's hard to believe that last year we had our Men's Study Day in the comfortable accommodation of Rosspark Hotel when our invited speaker, David Woods, was able to be with us to teach us about our God and His purposes as revealed in Habakkuk. Little did we realise then that within weeks we would all be in lockdown because of the Covid global pandemic. One of the hard questions that Habakkuk asked the LORD, 'How long?', has become a reality for us during this pandemic, but we know that our God is sovereign and we now have, through His divine intervention with the successful vaccines being developed, renewed hope of once again having 'normal' Church services and district events.

By God's grace we were able to enjoy our study this year using Zoom and our invited speaker, James Needham, brought us inspiring ministry on the glorious subject of **'Mount Zion – the City of the Living God.'** In answer to our prayers for the Spirit to lift our vision from this sad world to our God and the things above, James spoke to us in his opening talk of **'The stronghold of Zion'**. With readings from Psa. 78:67-72; 2 Sam. 5:1-10; 1 Chr. 15:1-3; 6:31,32, we enjoyed thoughts of: Melchizedek, priest of God Most High and King of Salem, descending Zion to bless Abram and bring him bread and wine; the place of God's choice, Mount Zion, reflective of what is in heaven where God has built His holy mountain; the stronghold, the place of God's strength, conquered by David and then everything changing when the people of God elevated the man of God's choice to his rightful place in Jerusalem; Melchizedek and David are two OT characters archetypal of Christ, Melchizedek foreshadowing the man of heaven and David the king on earth; when the throne of God (the ark and the mercy seat) is brought to God's resting place (Zion) the service of singing begins, reflecting again the unceasing praise in heaven.

Then we broke up into our three discussion groups to explore the questions James had prepared for us under the heading, **'Our approach to Zion'**: the comparison between Mount Sinai and Mount Zion as described in Heb. 12:18-24 and Gal. 4:21-31; the Lord being the chief cornerstone; our on-going coming to the Lord Jesus and our building up as seen in 1 Pet. 2:4,5; considering with reverence and awe all that's happening in Mount Zion today as described in Heb. 12:22-24; what our motivation should be to worship in this place today as we receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken; and how this should affect us as described in Heb. 12:12-17; 1Pet. 2:1-3.

After a short coffee break James gave us his closing talk entitled, **'Behold, your King is coming to you.'** Reading from Matt. 21:1-11; Is. 62:1-5; 4:2-6 James spoke to us of the King riding into Jerusalem to die and at the same time declaring His Messiahship as the One who would conquer death and the great enemy. This was but a foretaste of what will happen when the King comes to earth to set up His kingdom from Mount Zion as He restores that place as the centre of God's rule on earth, the place where again heaven meets earth (Zech. 9:9,10). The man of God's choice set in Zion, as Priest in things pertaining to God (after the order of Melchizedek) and King in things pertaining to men (of the seed of David). The Branch of the LORD, the priest on His throne, with the crown of beauty (the High Priest's mitre) and the royal diadem (the King's crown) (Is.4:2-6; 62:1-5). The name of that city is 'The LORD is there' (Ezek. 48:35).

If you would like to enjoy all this rich ministry, the links to the recordings are given below:

Talk 1 - The stronghold of Zion
<https://youtu.be/lvZR8GW5XIU>



Talk 2 - Behold your King is coming
<https://youtu.be/XrKjoMoouXw>



We are so grateful to our brother James for such an encouraging, edifying and inspiring study. And of course, to our God for enabling us to have such precious 'fellowship' using the Zoom technology. We had 'visitors' from other parts of the UK and even from as far away as Australia!

Hopefully, God willing, we will be able to meet in person next year and we are all no doubt looking forward to a more normal future when we can again worship our God in spirit and truth with no restrictions and with joyful singing in the heavenly sanctuary, in Mount Zion, the dwelling place of God, the place of His name.

On behalf of the NI District Events Committee

Lindsay Woods; Ian Lockhart

For Prayer Ministering Brethren

(April and onwards)

Craig Jones

I have nothing specific scheduled for April, apart from the ongoing local and District opportunities. Given that many Assemblies are using some form of online platform for ministry, and that this broadens the scope for inviting others to connect, just a reminder of my availability to help as may be needed for 'one-offs' or indeed a series of talks.

SB Khupboih and Lian Za Nang (James)

We plan to have a youth camp in Munlai from 22-27 March in God's will. We will begin on the evening of the 22nd, and from 23rd to 27th we will have three sessions each day, 9am-11am, 1pm-3pm and 7pm-9pm. Due to the current situation in Myanmar it may not be possible to hold the evening program.

Geralde Mag-usara

I will be visiting some Churches, helping Jimmy (a Gospel worker) in our outreach in Bollukan, and continue working in Malabog.

Laurence Onyokoko

I plan to work in Eket, Oloko, and Port Harcourt.

Karl Smith

In addition to my 'new normal' activities, the month begins with Liverpool's Easter service (4th) and Vancouver Conference (10th).

Robert Wood

A stricter Scottish lockdown has confined us even more to home. Very glad to continue zooming into Birmingham and Barrhead for their weekly meetings which keeps us close in fellowship and is an uplift and blessing. Occasionally the responsibility is mine for the talk, which is a good discipline. I look forward to Zooming into Melbourne and Bundaberg and Christchurch later in this month of March. The outreach has been suspended since Christmas due to the adverse weather conditions, but look forward to recommencing toward Easter when we hope the weather will be a bit more conducive.

John McIntyre (1856-1938) - Church of God in Blackburn

Death of 1938
Mr. J. McIntyre.

87 YEARS OLD DARWEN MARKET DRAPER.

The death occurred on Saturday of Mr. John McIntyre, of 72, Prospect-avenue, who was widely known in the town by his association with the drapery business in the Market Hall for something like thirty years. He was 82 years of age.

A native of Glarryford, County Antrim, Ireland, Mr. McIntyre came to this country to take a position in Liverpool over 50 years ago. About 1883 he came to Blackburn, and in 1906 removed to Darwen. After only a short time in the town he took a position with Mr. Oxley, of St. Helens, who had a well-known drapery business in the Market Hall, and in 1922 he took over the business himself. He celebrated his golden wedding eight years ago.

The deceased gentleman continued in the business until February of this year, when his daughter, Mrs. Darwood, took over the responsibility.

Mr. McIntyre, who took little active part in public life in Darwen, was associated with the Church of God Meeting House, Freckleton-street, Blackburn. He had not been in good health for some time, and his death followed a serious operation.

A widow, three sons and four daughters remain.

Following a service at the home the interment took place at the Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon. The last rites were conducted by Mr. J. C. Radcliffe and Mr. J. Burns, of Birkenhead.

THE MOURNERS.

The family mourners were: Mrs. McIntyre (widow), Darwen; Miss McIntyre (daughter), Darwen; Miss E. A. McIntyre (daughter), Darwen; Mr. and Mrs. George McIntyre (sons), Southport; Mr. A. J. McIntyre (son), Darwen; Mr. D. C. McIntyre (son), Isleworth; Mrs. W. D. Holden (daughter), Southport; Mr. and Mrs. Darwood (daughter), Darwen; Mrs. Holst (daughter), Blackburn; Mr. and Mrs. A. Parker (grand-daughter), Leicester.

Other mourners: Mr. and Mrs. Radcliffe; Mr. J. Burns; Mr. J. White; Dr. A. T. Doodson; Miss R. Turner (Birkenhead); Mr. McCormick (Barrow); Mr. W. J. Moores; Mr. R. Kewter; Miss Doris Henry (Bolton); Mr. J. Bullock; Mrs. Birchall; Mr. Jones and Son; Mr. and Mrs. T. Brown; Mrs. Smiley (Atherton); Mrs. G. Caren; Mrs. W. Carpenter; Mr. Richards; Mrs. S. Swift (Leigh); Mr. and Mrs. E. Haworth; Miss Haworth; Mrs. Barton; Miss Barton; Mrs. Freeland; Mr. and Mrs. Wilson; Miss Wilson; Miss Joan Gregson; Mr. Harrison; Mrs. Wamley; Miss Edna Wamley; Mr. Hillier (Darwen); Miss Parke (Nelson); Mr. and Mrs. M. Holden (Bent Bank); Mr. and Mrs. Cotton; Mr. and Mrs. A. Cotton; Mrs. H. Cotton; Mrs. Eddleston; Mrs. Chadwick; Miss Gregory; Mrs. Nuttall; Mrs. R. Fenton; Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Nixon (Blackburn); Mr. and Mrs. Ireland (Casswallcliffe); Miss Slater; Miss Lea; Mr. Appleton; Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Oxley; Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Oxley (St. Helens); Miss Coupe; Mr. and Mrs. W. Butler; Mr. S. Lythe (Southport).

Wreaths and floral tributes were received from: Mrs. McIntyre and daughters; Mrs. Holst (Blackburn); Mr. and Mrs. D. C. McIntyre; Nancy and John (Isleworth); Mr. and Mrs. A. McIntyre (Darwen); Mrs. W. D. Holden; Margaret and Stanley (Southport); Mr. and Mrs. A. Wyde and family (Glasgow); Miss Parke (Nelson); Messrs. Oxley (St. Helens); Miss Hillier (Darwen); Miss Joan Gregson (Darwen); Miss Edna Wamley (Darwen); the tenants Market Hall, Darwen; the Misses Holden (Darwen); Mrs. Singleton; Mr. and Mrs. R. Marshall and Harry (Darwen); Mr. and Mrs. Haworth (Darwen).

Many letters of sympathy were received.

John was born in 1856 during the reign of Queen Victoria in Glarryford, County Antrim, Ireland which is just 5 miles north of Cullybackey and derives its name from the ford which crossed the Clogh River. Ireland as a whole was still under the direct control of the UK Parliament under the government of Lord Palmerston. John was saved in 1877 at the age of 21 and would later be in the Fellowship from its inception for the remainder of his life. Sometime prior to 1880 he moved to Liverpool, where that year he married Annie Burford.

Annie had been born in Liverpool on 11 December 1859, the youngest of Samuel Burford's four children and the last born to his second wife Rebecca Swinburn. In 1861 the Burfords were living in Netherfield Road, Everton. Samuel, a journeyman boot maker from Waterford, Ireland married Rebecca in 1853, having sadly been widowed. His two eldest sons, Charles and Samuel, were born in Waterford during his first marriage; Rebecca's first child was John, born in 1856.

In 1881 John and Annie were living at 97 Salop Street, Kirkdale, Liverpool; near to Stanley Park and in between the Everton and Liverpool football grounds, it was just a 1.3 mile walk to where the Church of God meets today. John was employed in a sugar refinery; sugar has been associated with Liverpool for centuries and Henry Tate opened his new refinery in Love Lane in 1872. John and Annie were to have seven children:

1. George was the first, born in Liverpool on 6 September 1882. When George was 25, he married Mary Jane Gibson in 1908 and on 25 June 1910 their only daughter Margery Burford McIntyre was born in Darwen, Lancashire. By 1911 they lived at 5 Ryley Avenue Bolton, before eventually settling at Fisher Drive, Southport. George was a railway clerk. On 3 October 1936 Margery married Albert Donald Parker of Leicester in Southport. George was an overseer in Southport and from 1920 to 1955 was the longest serving Secretary of the Conference of Overseers. In May 1942 he and Mary moved to live in Leicester. On 19 November 1956 he attended the Midlands district oversight meeting in Derby and on his return home suffered a heart attack that rendered him unconscious. He was called home the following day aged 73. Mary was called home on 20 December 1962, aged 83.
2. On 7 March 1884 in Liverpool, John and Anne's second son was born. Alfred John would also become a railway clerk and in 1911, aged 27, he was living with all but his eldest siblings and parents at 72 Prospect Avenue, Darwen. This was to remain the family home. Alfred was an overseer in Blackburn Assembly and took up the reins of leadership when elderly brethren had passed away and the Assembly was left bereft. He lived at 74 Greenway Street, Darwen in 1939 with his wife Florence (née Edwards) whom he'd married in Birkenhead in 1931. Florence had been in Fellowship since 1918 and was a state registered nurse; she was called home on 15 May 1944. In the spring of 1947 Alfred married again to Ethel Rowan (née Cook) who was a widow in the Assembly with two children, William and Ruth. Ruth went on to marry Ron Tennyson and she was numbered in Liverpool, Wembley and Manchester Assemblies. Alfred was on his way to the district oversight meeting in Liverpool on 14 February 1948 when he collapsed and died instantaneously as he walked with several brethren.
3. On 26 April 1886 John and Annie's first daughter, Ruth Campbell, was born in Liverpool. Saved, baptized and added to the Assembly in Blackburn in early life, she spent her early working years as a cotton weaver in one of the 57 local cotton mills. However, on 12 December 1923 she enrolled as a midwife, having passed the Central Midwives Board examination. She was called home on 14 April 1951 aged 64 and laid to rest in Darwen cemetery, where James Martin of Wigan ministered for John 16:16-17.
4. David Charles McIntyre was the last of their children to be born in Liverpool, on 1 November 1888. In 1920 he married Ellen Scofield in Cocker mouth and went on to have three children. He was an art teacher, living in Isleworth in 1938 and then in Eton in 1939. He died in Worthing, Sussex in 1968.

On 9 January 1893 a "Letter of Separation" from the Gospel Hall, Oxford Street, Blackburn was signed by John William Galloway (1866-1936), Thomas Harkness (1854-1934) and William Henry Walton. Galloway's daughter Margaret was to become Arthur T. Doodson's first wife in 1919. Thomas Harkness and John McIntyre were the only two overseers in Blackburn by 1901. In 1893 John McIntyre and his family moved to 165 London Road, Blackburn and, after a short stay at Shadsworth Villas, Blackburn, in 1906 they took up permanent residence just 4.5 miles away at 72 Prospect Avenue, Darwen. John took a position with Charles Benoni Oxley of St. Helens who had a well-known drapery business in Darwen Market Hall.

5. The next daughter, Daisy May, was born on 30 March 1893 in Darwen. In 1923 she married William Dewhurst Holden and had two children - William Stanley (born 26 January 1926) and Margaret. Her husband died in 1937, and then on 19 November 1967 her son Stanley was called home aged 41. He had been in Southport Assembly and was an avid tract distributor. Daisy was called home on 12 January 1976.

6. Lydia was born on 19 October 1894 in Darwen. In 1927 she married Edward Baden Darwood and both were in the Blackburn Assembly. They lived at 73 Gillibrand Street, Darwen in 1939 and she worked in her father's drapery business. On 28 August 1968 Lydia was called home. Baden went onto to remarry in 1971 but on 2 August 1976 he, too, was called home.
7. The youngest of the seven children was Edith Annie McIntyre, born 13 January 1897 in Darwen. She became a schoolteacher and continued to live with her parents in the family home at 72 Prospect Avenue. She had been in the Blackburn Assembly for over 50 years when she was called home on 28 January 1964.

Prior to 1917 Thomas and John had been joined in local oversight by Lawrence Cotton (1874-1939). Lawrence, a cotton weaver by trade, said that he had been called into Fellowship out of the Church of England a few years prior to his father James Cotton's death in 1912; it was actually in 1904 when he came into Fellowship. By 1917 Luther Clayton (1851-1925) and George McIntyre had both also been recognized in oversight. In 1922 John took over the drapery business himself; his son George was to move to live in Southport prior to 1925 and Luther Clayton passed away on 14 March 1925. In 1930 John and Annie celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

On 25 September 1931 there was a visitor to the town of Darwen who would make world news. Mahatma Gandhi visited the town after accepting an invitation for him to see for himself the hardship being suffered by the East Lancashire textile industry, which had been decimated by the Indian independence movement's boycott of British goods. One of the old weavers tried to tell him how bad things were on his visit to Darwen; he simply replied: "My dear, you have no idea what poverty is."

On 5 November 1934 Thomas Harkness, John's fellow overseer, was called home aged 80. John continued to run the drapery business until February 1938 and as his health declined his daughter Lydia took over the responsibility. Prior to September 1938 Lawrence Cotton's son Arthur had been recognized in oversight and would briefly serve alongside John.

Whilst visiting one of his daughters in Southport in August 1938, John became seriously unwell and was taken to the Infirmary where he underwent an operation. He rallied for a few days after the operation but was called home at the age of 82 on Saturday 6 August 1938. He was buried near his home in Darwen the following Wednesday. About 100 people attended his funeral, which was conducted at the graveside by John Crosthwaite Radcliffe. Joseph Burns of Birkenhead had ministered in the house earlier. A list of mourners can be found in the newspaper article below; this may seem odd today, but it was normal to report in such a way back then.

John had been in oversight for over 40 years. He represented the Lancashire District at the Conference of Overseers for the first time in 1912 and continued to attend up until his final attendance in 1936. He was remembered as one who seemed to have little interest in the rush and hurry of the day and didn't like fuss. It might be said of him "with steady pace the pilgrim moved."

Mary Harkness, the widow of Thomas, was called home on 30 December 1939. Lawrence Cotton was intending to take part in the burial service and had called at the meeting room on the morning of 3 January in connection with the arrangements. The day before, he'd spoken at the Glasgow New Year conference, ministering from Matthew 11:28-30 and 1 Corinthians 1:9 in a way which powerfully impressed all who heard him. Few of them would forget that exposition in the light of subsequent events; whilst at the meeting room he was suddenly taken ill and removed to his son's house where he passed away, aged 65.

Annie had been unwell for some time and just 20 months later on 30 April 1940 she, too, was called home at the age of 80 at her home in Darwen. James Martin of Wigan ministered at her burial in Darwen cemetery on 3 May.

Arthur Cotton became the only resident overseer until he left Fellowship in 1960; he passed away in 1969 aged 61. With no resident overseer being in place for some years, Blackburn Assembly ceased in June 1971. Whilst the work of John McIntyre in Blackburn eventually came to an end, John and Annie's Fellowship legacy continues as they were the great-grandparents of John Parker (Cromer), Celia Brennan (Buxton), and Gillian Donaldson (Leicester) as well as great-great-grandparents to Jess Williamson (Trinidad) and Ashley Brennan (Nottingham). The story continues...

Chris Sutton

**LIVERPOOL ON-LINE
MINISTRY
EVENT**



Saturday 8 May 2021
Starting at 2pm
With hymn singing and a break

Ministry from:
Lawrence Onyokoko
Kevin Jones
Roy Dickson

This will take place on the Zoom platform. Zoom log-on will be given nearer the time or contact Graham Schleyer for details (gkschleyer@gmail.com or 07921763460)

LIFT UP



Fellowship Week of Prayer 18-24 April 2021

Blessings in Malabog



We praise God that amid various trials we face in Malabog, God is in control of the situation. We are pleased to report on our 4 newly converted sisters whom we baptized last week (11 February). They are Marissa Masangkay and Liza Talandang (pic 1); Jenny Dianos & Mae Joy Obenita. Please continue to pray for their spiritual growth and for their husbands as we currently reach out to them for Christ.

Geralde Mag-usara

Marriage at Pernampet



Ananda and Nithiya were married on 15 February.

R. Deivasagayam; P.Venkat

At home with the Lord – Pauline Grumett, Buxton, England



Pauline was first introduced to us when she brought her two boys, Sean and Breandan, along to the Kids Club at the Gospel Hall. Conversations ensued and, in time, Pauline came to accept the authority of the Bible; that brought her to an understanding of her need of Jesus Christ as Saviour, and also of the priestly service of the house of God. On 2 April 2006 both Pauline and Breandan were baptised and added to the Church of God in Buxton the next day.

Having been brought up a Roman Catholic, Pauline became very aware of the errors of Roman Catholicism, being convinced of "sola scriptura" - *by scripture alone* - fully accepting the Bible as the sole infallible source of authority.

A devoted care worker in the small market town of Buxton, those who knew Pauline spoke highly of her quiet, unassuming way. Nevertheless, she was always ready to give an answer for what she believed.

Pauline was an integral part of the little Church here, joining in our Bible classes with evident interest and often had a word of enquiry or encouragement for a speaker after ministry. She helped with the Ladies Night events, and enjoyed travelling to Stoke for the annual conference.

In June 2019, Pauline's husband died. Pauline herself suffered from poor health about that time and before the year was out she had been hospitalized with heart problems. Further problems developed while she was in hospital over a three-month period, but she was released to spend her last few days with Breandan, his wife Jordan and baby granddaughter, Edie.

On 27th April 2020 the Lord called Pauline home. A private burial was arranged by the family.

Since then we have been waiting to hold a memorial for Pauline at the Hall in Buxton, keen to testify to the faith that she so clearly lived by. We are still waiting. But as soon as C-19 restrictions are lifted we will arrange to proclaim the Saviour Pauline loved and served. Please pray that this will speak to her two sons and their families, and to friends and neighbours.

S J Wymer P J Brennan

At home with the Lord – Amy Randlesome, Cromer, England



Our sister Amy Randlesome went to be with her Lord on 23 September 2020 at the age of 82. She had been living in the Glendon House nursing home for 14 years, although she had to go regularly to the hospital for kidney dialysis. She was brought to the Remembrance sometimes when she was fit to attend, and she appreciated this when it was possible, as well as visits from saints. Her brother Peter was the only relative that we know of, and her funeral had to be very limited by Covid restrictions. Amy had been in the Church of God in Cromer for more than twenty years, but because of her health she could not take any active part in the life of the Church. Although Peter has no connections with the Church we should remember him in prayer.

John Parker; Peter Hickling

At home with the Lord – Agnes (Nancy) Luck, Leicester, England



Nancy Luck of Leicester was interred in the Wigston cemetery on Tuesday 2 March, after a service taken by Phil Brennan in Downing Drive hall. Some of her history was recalled and lessons from her life gave encouragement to us.

Nancy attended Hill End School in Greenock, where she lived with her parents, Archie and Nan McKinnon and later, Greenock High School. It was Nancy's ambition to be a school teacher, but she took a job at the Kincaids Shipping Company in Greenock, Scotland. Nancy was saved and baptised at Greenock Assembly to which she was added at the age of 15. In 1943 the family moved to Poole in Dorset and were part of the Church of God in Yeovil. While working as a tracer in the Hamworthy Engineering Company at Poole, David asked if she would take an afternoon off to go out with him. Nancy agreed, and this was the beginning of a rapid courtship, followed by a long life of married bliss. After their marriage, Nancy took on a Sunday School class in Northfield Hall Leicester. She worked hard at the Coffee Morning held for local residents each week, which still continues. They had two children, Penny and Stuart, and now have two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Nancy was a natural homebuilder, hospitable with a deep appreciation of things beautiful. Nancy was lovely and loving in so many ways, her love of young children and beautiful flowers epitomised her appearance and character. Just her smile and the loving expression in her eyes gave great warmth. A reminder that we all "blossom and flourish as

leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, - but nought changeth Thee!"

Phil Brennan read from Ruth 2 and 3 and 1 Kings 10, linking the life of Nancy with those of Ruth and the Queen of Sheba, both showing different kinds of strength and power in different ways. Ruth in her quietness and modesty and the Queen in her demonstration of position and power as she visited King Solomon. Ruth would not be swayed from her direction, showing her strength of character. Likewise, Nancy's faith was strong and she appreciated, like those Old Testament women, that the "half hath not been told" of all the blessings in Christ.

Nancy's choice of hymns, "O Lord my God", "When all my labours and trials are o'er" and finishing with "Face to Face with Christ my Saviour", were played from recordings, in line with government regulations during the present pandemic.

Please remember Nancy's husband David, very frail and at present in the Care Home, where he was with Nancy until her home-call. Also remember the rest of the family in their loss.

The family would like to add their thanks for the many cards and letters David has received from so many in the Fellowship. They were amazed to see and read them all, and are so very grateful to everyone!

Frank Gutteridge; John Martin

At home with the Lord – Ishbel Brown, Wishaw, Scotland



On 17 February our beloved sister Ishbel Brown, aged 96, was called home to be with the Lord whom she loved. She had spent her early life in the Scottish Borders having been born in the town of Jedburgh. She attended the Jedburgh Grammar School where she distinguished herself and was awarded the school's top award - Dux medal.

Still in her teenage years, the family moved to Comrie in Perthshire - the entrance to the Scottish Highlands. Later, Ishbel met and married John Brown from Lanarkshire. They settled down to work a smallholding at Stonebyres in the Clyde Valley. There they had three sons, John, Arthur and Allan, and three daughters, Mary, Fay and Ishbel, who all came to faith in the Lord Jesus and were subsequently baptised and added to the Assembly in Crossford. Ishbel was a loving and devoted mother to her family. Sadly, she lost her dear husband in 1996. Now a widow, Ishbel later moved to Hamilton Assembly when the Church in Crossford ceased, and then latterly to the Church in Wishaw.

With her attractive smile she endeared herself to many, and even into her 97th year she had a remarkable and clear memory for persons, places and events which others had forgotten. She reflected on the trip she made to Israel many years ago with our late brother Arthur Chamings and friends. Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren loved her dearly and she will be greatly missed. Meanwhile, we who remain await that resurrection morning when, at the Lord's coming, we will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air, so shall we ever be with the Lord!

Covid regulations restricted the number attending the service in the funeral parlour, where her daughter Fay on behalf of the family gave a very touching tribute to a dear mother. Colin Brooks referred us to a Scripture loved by Ishbel and indeed by every believer. These were the Lord's own words from John 14 :1-3 speaking of the believer's **Hope**, the believer's **Home**, and not least the believer's anticipation of meeting the Lord **Himself**.

At the graveside, John Black (Greenock/Auchenfoyle) spoke of Ishbel's hope and godly character, giving a solemn warning to all that if the Lord tarry we all must face this appointment, stressing the need of placing faith in the Lord Jesus as Saviour.

Prayer is requested for all the family.

James Brindle; Colin Brooks; Alex Brown

Special focus

22nd Church Anniversaries at Rajahmundry



14 February was our first day back at the Breaking of Bread in our hall at Rajahmundry after 11 months of lockdown. We conducted a thanksgiving service afterwards for all the great things God has done for us, and listened to a message on the subject of "Invitations" starting from 1 Cor. 1:9, "God is faithful who called you into the Fellowship of His Son". Greetings were read from brothers Brian Tugwell and Andy McIlree.

We are still a small flock but in the 22 years our tiny children have grown into stalwart men and women who know the truth and are active in it.

Brother Srinivas and sister Mary Grace were married on a Valentine's Day so we also celebrated their anniversary. They have been in the Assembly from the first day.

Dr. G. S. Moses



22nd Anniversary of Ravulapalem



Folks are so happy about the development of the Church in this area. A staff nurse Srilekha d/o Pilli Lakshmi was baptised on 27 February and added, along with sister Gunavathi w/o Rambabu, a baptised believer, on 28 February. We read the letters of Brother Brian, "Grow in the grace of our Lord" (2 Pe. 3:18), and of Brother Andy, "I thank my God every time I remember you because of partnership from the first day until now" (Phil. 13:5). We also received greetings from the Church of God in Chennai and other parts of our District - Rajahmundry, Podagatlapalli, Ramavaram and Choppella. The saints enjoyed the day, being the Lord's Day, and many visitors attended.

Dr. SIM Edward; Brother Satyanarayana

Notice Board

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

April

18 Fellowship Week of Prayer

Midlands Fellowship Day

The Midlands Fellowship Day, scheduled for 8 May on the Fellowship Calendar, has sadly had to be cancelled.

John Bowler

Your Local Contact:

intelligence

Editors:
Steve Peers & Guy Elliott
40 The Spinney,
Brackla, Bridgend, CF31 2JE
Email:
editors.intelligence@gmail.com

Published by Hayes Press
The Barn
Flaxlands, Royal Wootton Bassett
Wiltshire SN4 8DY
Tel. 01793 850 598
www.hayespress.org