

April 2022

YFR 2022 29 June to 3 July



We are delighted to confirm that YFR in person, face to face, sitting beside each other, is due to be held in a few short weeks! So act now to book your spot. In fact, acting sooner rather than later enables you to have a discount on the cost. This expires after the end of April. The theme this year is BEHOLD – the Man, the King, the Christ, God on Earth.

It is indeed something to thank God for, that we've been able to arrange this

and do trust Him for the plans still being made. The online event in July 2020 was a great filler but this 'real' event promises to deliver the same great times that so many have experienced from the first one way back in 1992.

Your Fellowship Rally means everyone is welcome, i.e. this is not limited to any age range and sessions have been arranged to cater for various needs. A typical day will contain ample time to chat to new and old friends whether at mealtimes or during coffee/cake breaks, as well as ministry sessions, discussion times, praise and prayer sessions and a chance to catch up with various Fellowship programs and groups. Families can be assured that facilities on site will keep the young, and those still young at heart, entertained during free times.

Many have enjoyed fabulous times of fellowship, study and praise at previous YFRs and we're sure this event will be the same. So do please consider joining for the whole event this time. Yes, we can and do accommodate weekenders but after so many months with limited opportunities to be in each other's company, do think about coming for the full time.

The event is once again being held in mid-Wales in Cefn Lea Conference Park <https://www.cefnlea.co.uk/> starting Wednesday 29 June at teatime.

On Sunday morning we will travel to Birmingham to remember the Lord, followed by a final ministry talk.

Further details including price and venue information is available on the website at <https://yfr.churchesofgod.info/event-info/>, on Facebook at [Your Fellowship Rally | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/yourfellowshiprally/), or on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/yourfellowshiprally/>

If you have any questions we can be contacted by email at yourfellowshiprally@gmail.com

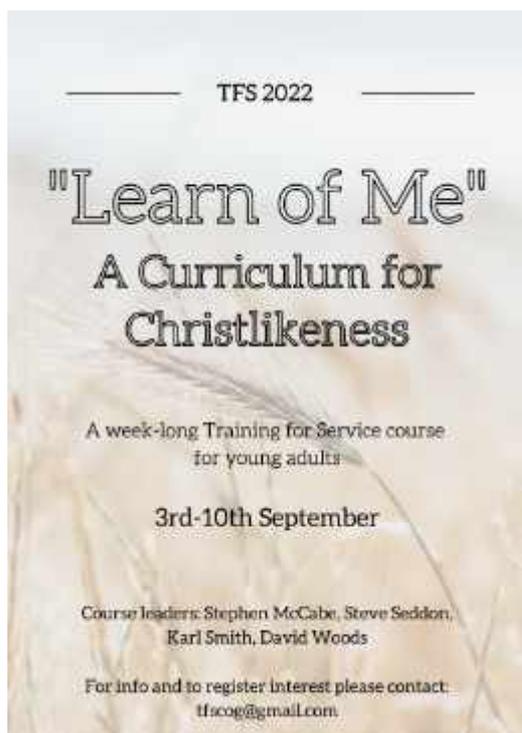
Heather McCarthy; Ben Strachan

God the Invincible

We know that God can do anything, anything but fail. He is sovereign and succeeds. Man's first attack from Satan was in the Garden of Eden, where Satan's method was to raise doubts, *Has God said?* God responded that Satan's head would be bruised by the woman's seed (Gen. 3:15). God's successful plan of salvation was already in place. When mankind multiplied and God saw their wickedness He sent a flood over the whole world, yet saving one family in an ark divinely designed for Noah to build (Gen. 6, 7), and afterwards a rainbow with His promise. When men wanted to reach up to heaven independently from God by building their own tower, He confounded their speech and thwarted their unity of purpose (Gen. 11). When God intended to save an entire nation from slavery, He caused them to be "let go" and took that nation through the Red Sea on dry land. Then He fed them with manna and quail and guided them through the wilderness. As time went on God fought many of their battles, giving them victories.

God is always successful. Failure is man's part and that is due to indwelling sin. The answer to that was for God to send His Son from heaven to be the Saviour of the world (1 John 4:14). That would bring the most resounding victory of all. The Lord Jesus Christ, having lived a perfect and holy life, was crucified by wicked and lawless men. The disciples laid his lifeless body in a rich man's tomb and on the third day He rose victorious over death, hell and the grave. *Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Cor. 15:57). He is the woman's seed bruising the serpent's head referred to so many millennia ago. God's success knows no bounds, our God is invincible. His powerful secret is love and that never fails (1 Cor. 13:8) - *The Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me* (Gal. 2:20).

Neville Coomer



Blessings and Challenges for the Myanmar Churches

1. Spiritual Matters

Pyidawtha

- A camp event was held in Pyidawtha from 1-5 March, and then extended for 2 more days.
- It was mainly to encourage the Assembly, and most were able to attend except when work prevented a few. Some cooks were brought in from the village to ensure the sisters enjoyed the ministry.
- It ran from 9am to 8pm daily with a focus on both proclaiming salvation and teaching truth, using the story of Naaman and also focusing on worship.
- Usually, 30 or more persons were present including children and there were also 8 visitors from the village.
- There was support from Munlai but fewer than normal were able to attend due to commitments in Munlai.
- A trip was taken to a large helicopter sized rock nearby and Psalm 94: 22 was engraved on the surface.
- Follow-up work will take place, including continuing to bring the Gospel to the children.



Munlai

- The Remembrance, Lord's Day ministry, and Saturday prayer are held each week as face-to-face meetings.
- In addition, there are Zoom meetings on Lord's Day evenings, Thursday and Friday evenings.
- Small groups with specific needs are identified for face-to-face good news sharing or teaching during the daytime, usually every weekday.
- Recently 4 teenagers acknowledged Jesus as their Saviour and were baptised on 13 March.
- A new daily group has just commenced bringing good news to younger children.
- Happy times were possible for the Church together at the end of 2021, despite the issues facing the country. New Year's Eve was a Zoom event.



Suangphei and Khumnuaui

- Face to face meetings are all taking place

Yangon

- The Remembrance is held but prayer and Bible study is a Zoom meeting.

2. Everyday life

Covid

- In Yangon the Omicron version of Covid is widespread. In the north, there is little focus on Covid now. None of the saints in Munlai have been vaccinated.

Impact of the new government

- Inflation is having an impact, on rice and fuel especially, though the latter is more global.
- Some parts of life are returning to normal, such as marketplaces, but the shadow of the military is always looming.
- Kalaymyo is quieter than recently in terms of military action but the nearby area just to the north, around Pyidawtha, has fighting between the People's Defence Forces and the government forces. It is a concern for the saints. The military did inspect the individuals travelling in the Church truck on their day out on the Friday of Camp but took no adverse action.
- There is also much fighting in Chin State, and whilst Suangphei is untouched many people in the state have fled to Mizoram in India.
- Banks are now open again in Kalaymyo, but hours are reduced, access is via a side door and withdrawal amounts are very restricted. For some banks that is just 100,000 kyats (44GBP) every two weeks.



Out and About

- There is a curfew, strictly enforced at 8pm each day
- Any person travelling can be searched by the forces, who are particularly inspecting phones for evidence of any 'crimes' against the state.
- Travel to Suangphei from Kalaymyo can be very dangerous and often messages are conveyed to the town by the grapevine that travel should be avoided for particular times.



Blessings and Challenges for the Myanmar Churches

Communication

- The Internet has been switched off in Chin State and recently most of Sagaing State too. Thankfully Kalaymyo (where Munlai is) has accessibility. The switch-off often includes access to phone calls. Virtual private networks can be accessed but they are outlawed by the government.

3. Education Opportunities

- Schools are still shut, for over two years due initially to Covid and then the refusal of teachers to work for the new government.
- Covid interrupted plans to educate children in the community facility of the hall in Munlai, but with the virus reduction it has been possible to recommence lessons.
- This is carried out by 5 brothers of the Assembly. A few other local churches do have some education classes, but the range offered by the Church in Munlai is wider and unique.
- 3 age groups have language lessons every morning from 8am to 11. There are two computer classes each day: one being a basic level and the second a level 2 course teaching Design and Photoshop. This latter class does have some young adults attending.
- There is also a daily nursery school run by two sisters and a third providing food. It runs from 9am to 3pm.
- The nursery, for which a small fee is charged, is at its maximum of 25 children. More would attend if possible. The school has 75 students daily.
- A unique feature is that each school day starts with 30 minutes or so of sharing God's word with the students. On Mondays James takes the groups together and for Tuesday to Friday, Khupboih takes two classes and Muanpi takes the youngest class.
- The majority of the attendees are not from Church families.
- The community around the hall is aware of the impact of the PPS – (translated as Education Department of the Church of God.)
- In Suangphei two sisters meet with Church family children in the Assembly guest room teaching the Chin language and the Bible. This is every weekday from 9am to 3pm.
- The pre-existing Suangphei post-school class now runs all day in the house room and covers all the subjects the children would have been taught in school.

4. Prayer

Thanks

- For safety in difficult circumstances.
- For the new facility completed in 2019 in Munlai.
- For the opportunity to reach many children, in particular, that would not have materialised without the coup and the new facility.

Prayer

- May God overrule in the country of Myanmar, especially for the unrighteousness in ruling now as it brings so many difficulties for prices, visiting the saints, and schooling for students. To have a righteous ruler would be great.

James; Khupboih

Happy 90th Birthday, Billy

Our dear brother Billy Bell celebrated his 90th birthday with Kirkintilloch Assembly after the Remembrance on 30 January. We enjoyed a Covid-safe lunch together, followed by a delicious birthday cake and presentation of a card and gardening vouchers. Billy, his wife Helen and their extended family had also celebrated together the day before. They were joined by some surprise guests, including two of Billy's former work colleagues. Billy is a founding member of the Church of God in Kirkintilloch; both Billy and Helen are well respected by the wider community.

Most will be aware of Billy's faithful service over many years in recording and distributing Taped Ministry. His love for the Lord, his interest in outreach and warm-hearted care for the Assembly is much appreciated.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit" (Philem. 25).

Tony Smith; Rodney Johnston



We are delighted to report the addition of three brothers to the Church of God in Warri, on 6 February. From left to right are Samuel Ojiri, Joseph Kanbofa and Amaju Fregene.

Shadrack Obarogbi; Jerusalem Obokeno



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LIVERPOOL ONLINE EVENT
Saturday May 14 2022

Join us on Zoom: Please log on by 1.55 for a start at 2.00,
Zoom Logic: 950 6785 2711
Passcode: Uu@14May

Steve Peers, Andy Seddon,
Andy McBree

Heat the word of the Lord



South East Men's Study Day, 5 February

Most of us at one time or another will have wished we could have been that 'other disciple' on the road to Emmaus, privileged to receive from the Lord a master class in exposition of Himself from 'all the Scriptures' (Lk. 24: 27). Inspired by the Emmaus journey, our District study day this year had as its subject 'The Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament'. Because of continued caution around Covid, the event was structured by the Church in Hayes on a hybrid basis, with a small group of physical attendees in Hayes hall as pictured meeting virtually with a larger group and its sub-groups via Zoom.

We calculated that even walking at the slowest pace the journey of seven miles or so could not have taken above 6 or 7 hours, and we do not know the stage at which the Lord joined the travellers.

In that time, He opened up to them the entire Jewish Scriptures in all their rich proclamation of His character, work and worth. Where were we to begin in considering such a vast subject in the space of just a few short hours? David Viles began by examining some of the ways in which the Spirit reveals the person of Christ in the Old Testament – through detailed and explicit prophecies, types, symbols and shadows, pictures and parallels. This led to discussion groups considering key OT Scriptures foreshadowing the great offices of the Lord – Prophet, Priest and King; possible pre-incarnational appearances (Christophanies); and specific types of the Lord. Steve Brooks brought us back down to earth with his talk 'Lambs, Rams and Lions', focusing on the OT's presentation of these animals (among others) as richly delineated pictures and symbols of the life and death of the Lord Jesus and the glory that followed.

After a break for lunch, Stephen Oxley led us to some of the poignant and glorious portrayals of the Lord in the prophecies of Isaiah – Servant, Saviour, Seed and Stone. This theme led us almost seamlessly into discussion groups around the theme of the Scriptures from Isaiah, and from Zechariah and the Psalms, put to music so memorably by GF Handel in his 'Messiah'. We could hardly refrain from bursting into song as we moved through the questions. Bill Sands brought the day to an end with a moving devotional talk – 'Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'

All in all, the hybrid arrangement worked well - we even managed to Zoom-cast hymns sung by the Hayes brothers, so we missed only the fellowship of the full group.

David Viles, Stephen Oxley

Opportunities for Outreach (by Pauline Renfrew)

In early March, I joined the crowds in Trafalgar Square who had gathered to support the suffering people of Ukraine.

I had some copies of *John's Gospel* with me and some tracts and prayed that God would lead me to talk to some of them. I saw a group of young men on the outskirts of the crowd and stood nearby for a few moments. Then, one of them moved away from the others and I approached him. I opened the conversation by saying that many Christians were praying for his country and offered him one of the Gospels. He took it, saying that his friend (who was nearby) would help him with the English. The friend was British and described himself as Greek Orthodox. A third friend then came along and was introduced as a Jain (of Indian origin). He also took a Gospel that had the word '**Hope**' on the cover and his comment was 'we all need hope'.

I moved on and climbed the steps to the balcony in front of the National Gallery which overlooks Trafalgar Square. There I talked to a young woman whose parents had left Kyiv in the early days of the war and were among thousands waiting to cross the Polish border. She hoped they would be able to join her in England. She also gladly took a Gospel with one of the tracts '**Nobody is not loved**'.

Then I had another conversation with an older lady from the East End of London. She was old enough to remember the sound of the sirens in WWII and was processing the memories of a father who went to war in Egypt. She did not meet him until she was five years old. We shared concerns about the trauma which the current generation of young people in Ukraine are experiencing and the need for future support. Janet called herself an atheist and said she did not go to a church service with a friend because she felt that would be hypocritical. At the end of the conversation, I offered her the '**Nobody is not loved**' leaflet which she took without hesitation. I was so glad that I had obeyed the 'nudge' to make the journey to Trafalgar Square.

We face the challenge of praying for an end to the war in Ukraine and of supporting those who are directly affected, but we should also be open to the opportunities it gives us to share the good news of the Gospel.

'Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.' Eccles.11:6

'My word that goes out from my mouth ... will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.' Isaiah 55:11

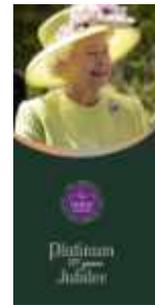
The leaflet '**Nobody is not loved**' is available from Hayes Press <https://www.hayespress.org>

Copies of *John's Gospel*, with a variety of covers and clear Gospel presentation, are available from the Pocket Testament League <https://www.ptl.org>

Pauline Renfrew, Jo Johnson, Gilbert Grierson



New Tract for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee



The Tract Committee was delighted to receive this submission for a tract, written by Rosemary Johnston, about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a unique event in the history of the British monarchy. Hayes Press has published it as an attractive tri-fold leaflet.

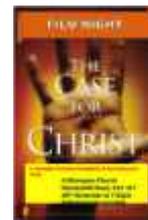
You can buy it here:

<https://www.hayespress.org/product/platinum-jubilee>

We encourage Churches and individual saints to order a batch and distribute the good news of the Gospel through this medium, in the run up to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June.

The Tract Committee

Kilmarnock Film Night



On 28 November the Assembly organised a showing of the DVD "**The Case for Christ**".

It centres around the true personal journey of a newspaper journalist, Lee Strobel, in his search for the evidence

of Jesus. The film lasts for nearly two hours and has a rating of 12. It is compelling viewing and we would recommend it. It was enjoyed by 12 visitors, not in the Church, and gave the opportunity of good conversations afterwards over a cup of tea.

Len Burgoyne; Ian Lithgow



23rd Church Anniversary, Rajahmundry, India

The Church of God in Rajahmundry, India, was the first Assembly planted in Andhra Pradesh on 14 February 1999. God is so gracious to enable us to stand firm. We had a special prayer meeting on 20 February to thank the Lord for all the mercies showered on us in the years that have passed. We celebrated the occasion with thanksgiving, prayer and meditation on the word of God.

You are aware of the fact that we are living in a land opposing the very existence of Christianity. Joy in the truthful service of the Lord made us forget the troubles, trials and obstacles we have experienced in these 23 years. Sadly Covid-19 affected many and we lost one sister as reported. We couldn't meet in the hall for two months but managed to enjoy fellowship on Zoom.

Dr G.S. Moses led us in a consideration of serving the Lord in our generation based on Acts 13:36 and Psalm 145:4-5 "One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. I will meditate on the glorious splendour of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works".

We started with a small group of believers 23 years ago, and with their children grown up in the Fellowship we have a considerable number of saints in our Assembly. We praise Almighty God for His lovingkindness towards us

We appeal to all believers in our Assemblies to pray for our testimony in this country until the Lord arrives to the air to receive us all to heaven.

Dr Samuel Moses; Brother K. Isaac Raj

Happy Events in Ravulapalem, Andhra Pradesh, India

India Republic Day - 26 January

Over the years, we have conducted an annual conference, family seminar, youth programme, Delta conference and kids camps on this holiday. This year we conducted a YPM and had a talk on young Joseph, young Samson, young Daniel, young David, young Jesus and Young Timothy. Brothers Edward, Satyanaray, and Bhaskar explained the importance of Joseph's faithfulness, Samson's dependence on God, Daniel's prayer life, David's repentance, Jesus' authority and righteousness and Timothy's fleeing from youthful desires.

Church Anniversary - 20 February

The anniversary followed on from the breaking of bread. How great it is to complete 23 years in His grace and celebrate our 24th year. We praise God for 14 companies worshipping the Lord in truth. We remembered the saints who have left this world and entered into peace. We thanked God for the missionaries who taught and brought us up in spirit and good faith. The Lord has blessed us abundantly over all the years and the Church is eagerly waiting for our Silver Jubilee celebrations in the years to come. The Lord made us humble and helped us to learn of His meekness. Brother Edward spoke on reading the Bible by Ezra and Jesus in Neh.8: 9 and Luke 4: 17, praying in Neh.9: 32 and walking together in Neh.12: 37,38. We remembered:

- 1) Neh. 13: 14 - good things done for the House of God.
- 2) Neh. 13: 22 - spared according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

- 3) Neh. 13: 31 - thanks for the wood offerings, first fruits and for all good things.

Folks enjoyed the occasion and hailed the Lord with thanksgiving. Sisters Suneetha and Swaroopa arranged Biryani packets to take away as Covid-19 still exists among the groups. As per government guidelines, the saints are not allowed to eat on the premises.

Dr S.J.M. Edward; Brother Satyanarayan



For Prayer Ministering Brethren

(April and onwards)

John Black

I hope to visit Nigeria and join in the centenary celebration at Akarakumoh on 15 April DV. This was postponed from last year due to Covid restrictions. The event will recall the planting of the first Church of God in Lagos on 8 May 1921 and trace the development of the testimony over the following years.

Gbenga Fagbenle

I am going to be working in Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria in March and I hope to be at the Conference of Overseers in April. Please pray for the Embassy to grant a visa to attend.

Craig Jones

An unexpected trip to Trinidad and Littleton has come up for the second half of March, which will lead into the first few days of April. After that, I'll be over in the UK for 10 days, for the Overseers' Conference. The rest of the month will be local and District responsibilities.

Geralde Magasura

I plan to work in Alon and Bansil while continuing with work in Nabunturan.

Tony Nemi

In March/April, I hope to be with the newly planted Assembly in Badagry, Lagos State, for both outreach and ministry of the word to encourage the saints.

Karl Smith

In addition to my usual activities, April for me includes the Conference of Overseers and Barrhead's Easter Sunday service.

At home with the Lord – Florence McKaig, Wishaw, Scotland



It is sad to report a further saint being called to glory in these turbulent times, leaving us numerically weaker, but when the call came it was a relief for Florence to leave behind the pain, worry and suffering she had been enduring. It was less than two calendar months after her husband Robert was called home. She had a fortitude that reflected her dependence and trust in God, that when you asked her how she was keeping we seemed to get the same answer – “I’m fine”.

Florence was a Sunday School girl, along with others who came into Fellowship in Hamilton Assembly (Scotland) as a teenager. In Lanarkshire in summer, many a get-together with picnic teas was enjoyed on Saturday afternoons. This kept the young people together and friendships and relationships were formed. Florence met Isaac Gray of the Crossford Assembly and eventually married and settled in various homes around the county. Isaac was called home about 21 years ago, and Robert McKaig then came on the scene. In due course, they were married and mainly settled in Wishaw Assembly. Sadly, Robert passed away in December 2021 and his obituary was published in March Intelligence. Florence had an ever open door and extended hospitality to so many.

At the funeral service, Alex Brown spoke to family, friends and neighbours who had gathered of the many happy times these young people with their families had spent together, including holidays in different parts of the UK. Memories were shared but Alex focused on Florence’s statement of “I’m fine”. She refused medical treatment and spent the last six

weeks with her younger son Steven and his family. Alex noted that as she spoke to him on the telephone she expressed her inner peace, just as the Scripture in John 14:27 says - the peace of God was hers. It could be said on the day when her body was being laid to rest that her statement was more true than ever as her faith in Christ Jesus was fulfilled. Alex also read from the Psalms of God’s peace that we can all share so that our eternity is certain when we have the Lord Jesus as Saviour.

At the graveside, notwithstanding the strong and bitterly cold winds that prevailed, there was a goodly company gathered together. Colin Brooks gave a brief message of encouragement to the family, and also a word of exhortation to all to consider Solomon’s words in Ecc. 7:2, “This is the end of all men, and the living will lay it to his heart”. Happy are those who, like our departed sister, had settled this decision early in life having come to faith in the Lord Jesus as her Saviour and Lord in her teenage years. Having experienced her share of trials in this life she never wavered in her faith, even to the end. Among the mourners gathered there was a number of her grandchildren and other family members and our prayer for them is that they too will be led to embrace the same faith in the Lord Jesus that had been the anchor in life and in death of our dear sister.

Colin H Brooks; Alex Brown

At home with the Lord – Julian Norman Parker, Stoke-on-Trent, England



Always known as ‘Norman’, our dear brother was called home, aged 91, on 10 January.

Along with his late brother Bert and their widowed mother, he was transferred to Stoke Assembly on 10 December 1967 following the closure of the Assembly in Cheadle, Staffordshire. As a youth, he would cycle with the family 17 miles each way from Stafford to Cheadle, and following his salvation and baptism he became a committed disciple in that Church. His journeys were eventually less strenuous when he became a keen motorcyclist, and subsequently won the hearts of the young disciples in Stoke with pillion rides.

During World War 2, he and Bert registered as conscientious objectors and served their National Service as ambulance drivers. By profession, Norman became an accountant in industry, and his careful attention to detail manifested itself in various ways. For many years, and well into his retirement, he kept the accounts for both Stoke and Buxton Churches. He was meticulous in every aspect, and this level of dedication was carried over into his service as an overseer for many years. In both his public ministry and in discussion with his brethren, the importance of detail was evident.

By temperament Norman might have given the impression that he “did not suffer fools gladly”, but in truth, there were many instances where individuals received a kind and thoughtful word of encouragement, even a hug, from him.

Later in life, Norman married Eileen, the widow of his late brother Bert, but sadly by 2020 for both their health had deteriorated to the extent that they had to go into the same care home, where Eileen was called home after only about two weeks. Norman’s health continued to decline until the Lord answered his longings and called him home. Through their final years, Norman and Eileen were lovingly and most faithfully supported by Audrey Parker, the widow of Bert and Eileen’s only son Roger who had died in 2014, aged 62.

In his funeral address, Phil Brennan read Isa. 22:16-26 and contrasted two men, Shebna and Eliakim. The former was arrogant and full of self-importance; in contrast, Eliakim was a reliable, conscientious servant who became a source of security and strength for others. Norman was like him over many years.

At the graveside, Adrian Goodgrove spoke fittingly of precious memories of Norman’s service and care for others, and especially recalled the warmth of his welcoming two-handed handshake in the vestibule on Lord’s Day mornings. Matt. 11:28,29 was read in conclusion.

We would especially ask for prayer for Audrey whose life over the last few years has been dominated by the stress of Norman’s and Eileen’s needs. She does not have the best of health herself and your prayer support would be much appreciated.

Malcolm Bootherstone; Alan Sands

At home with the Lord – Dora Moores, Stoke-on-Trent, England

Our dear sister Dora was called home aged 90 on 5 February. Dora has been numbered in Stoke since 14 August 1994, when she was received following local outreach work involving Harry King. Before joining the Churches of God, Dora had been attending Open Brethren meetings at their Gospel Hall in the Staffordshire village of Madeley where she lived throughout her life, before its closure in 1991. Here she was saved and baptised.

Those who knew Dora will remember a quiet, private lady who was extremely well presented, elegant and dignified at all times, not wanting to be the centre of attention herself but always ready with kind words and caring thoughts for others.

Dora had experienced great sadness in her life following the unexpected loss of her son Stephen aged 25 in 1980, which hit her very hard. She would also go on to lose Geoff, her husband of 47 years, in 2001. Although living alone, Dora did have support from her niece and nephew, neighbours and her husband's friend Gerry in subsequent years, especially when health issues made walking difficult. However, she continued to regularly attend the Remembrance at Stoke, often driving herself to the meeting in her car, demonstrating her confident driving skills learned from her much younger days. The last such time was on 16 January, just under 3 weeks before her home call.

At the funeral, a clear Gospel message was presented to the attendees based on Lk. 2: 36-39, with simple comparisons between Anna and Dora who both experienced seeing the Lord Jesus Christ for themselves. At Dora's wish, there was no further attendance at the graveside.

Dora is among 5 saints called home from Stoke in 2022 and so it seems most appropriate to recall a poem written to her by Ruth Parker, who herself was called home on the morning of Dora's funeral:

Does everybody here know Dora, the lady with the
Lovely golden hair?

She prays to her Lord for courage and strength
And safely arrives at His service at length.
With elegant grace, she values her place
With the people who gather in His name.

She honours His fame despite all her pain
And one day He'll honour her too.

She's kind and she's caring all others' grief sharing
And when life is hard she'll find just the right card,
And write you a message that comes straight from her heart.

So when you speak to God
His protection to claim – just mention her name!



Malcolm Botherstone; Adrian Goodgrove

At home with the Lord – Samuel (Sammy) Thompson, Armagh, Northern Ireland



Our brother Samuel Richard Byers Thompson was called into his Master's presence on 10 February. Sammy, whose parents were founder members of the Church of God in Armagh, was saved as a young man and was later baptised and added, with his wife Joyce, to the Assembly. Along with his brother David they carried on the family egg-producing business which is still being successfully operated by their families.

Sammy was a great man of prayer with a strong desire to see souls saved. He played an important role in outreach among the young, collecting children for the Assembly Monday night club. For several years he and Joyce opened their home on Sunday nights when many gathered for fellowship and Gospel witness. Sammy loved the old-time Gospel hymns which he enjoyed singing with gusto. Sadly, during the last few years his health began to deteriorate and he was lovingly cared for by his wife, sons Richard and Andrew and other family members.

At the funeral service in his home, Lewis Milligan paid tribute to him and reminded the family of the wonderful place that God has prepared for Sammy and all those who have placed their faith in Jesus. He read from John 14 and 1 Cor.

2:9. Psa. 23 assured all that as we pass through the valley of the shadow of death God is with us. Following the interment, at a nearby church graveyard, Willie Johnson led those gathered in prayer.

A service of thanksgiving was then held in the Armagh City Hotel where many friends and business associates were present to recall and reflect on Sammy's life; among those who participated were his grandchildren who held a special place in his affections.

Please remember in prayer Joyce, Richard, Andrew and their wives and children, along with his brother David and sister in law Eileen and all the extended family.

Lewis Milligan; Willie Johnson

Special focus

N. Ireland Men's Study Day, 5 February



We had hoped to have our Men's Study Day in the comfortable accommodation of the Rosspark Hotel, but Omicron put paid to that. Nonetheless, we had a most profitable time of fellowship and study using Zoom technology. Our subject was **'Christ – the Root, the Vine and the Branch'** and to lead us in this delightful study we had our brother Steve Seddon from Manchester.

In Steve's opening ministry our contemplation was **'The Root and Offspring of David'**. We learned again of how the arm of the LORD was revealed to Israel from the stump of Jesse, but for many of them it was unbelievable. Using such Scriptures as Isa.10: 33,34; 11: 1-3; 53: 1,2 Steve spoke to us of the making of the Servant King: planted (root: permanent humanity); potential (tender shoot: uniqueness); preparation (growing up: dependent on the Holy Spirit); presentation (before Him); perfection (always well-pleasing to God); peculiar (out of dry ground).

The challenging question then was: How are we in the world?

Our discussion time was on **'The Vine – fruitfulness'** and as we worked through Steve's questions drawn from John 15, we explored the context, audience and timing of this wonderful discourse and what it means to remain in the vine; to be thrown away as a useless branch; why a vine, what is pruning like, and what is fruit that will last?

We were encouraged to walk by the Spirit and so bear His fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal.5: 22,23).

Steve's closing talk was titled, **'Christ – the Branch'**, and what a joy to consider the One who is greater than Joseph, in His character and fruitfulness. Drawing from Gen.49: 22; Isa.11: 1-10; Zech.3: 6; Rom.15: 7-12; Rev.5: 5;22: 16, Steve spoke of the reach of the Branch, the banner for the peoples and that day when the place of His rest will be glorious. In the meantime, we are to be His ambassadors. Will our lives be like His, in character and fruitfulness?

Steve also gave us a most informative, and encouraging talk on the situation in Myanmar. We continue to pray for the saints there that the Lord will protect and provide through such difficult times. All of Steve's talks have been recorded and the links are as follows:

<https://youtu.be/g4NYplO2xY0>

<https://youtu.be/IDZ-TOwetv4>

<https://youtu.be/L1S4cl6iCU8>

We are deeply indebted to Steve for all that he brought to us of Christ. We have been further encouraged to serve Him faithfully, our Servant King, and, as we remain in Him, to bear fruit that will last and be to God's glory.

Lindsay Woods; Stephen McCabe

Notice Board

April

- 11-13 Conference of Overseers of the Churches of God
- 15 North America Good Friday Conference (Brantford)
- 18 North America Easter Monday Conference (Kingston, Jamaica)
- 19-23 North America Vacation Bible School (Kingston, Jamaica)
- 23 North America Conference (Vancouver)
- 24-30 Fellowship Week of Prayer

Text for the Month

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

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