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NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU TO ANSWER THE CALL TO PRAY ON 16 SEPTEMBER

By Rev Lynda Rose

WILL A NEW PRIME MINISTER SOLVE THE NATION'S PROBLEMS?

THE BLUNT ANSWER IS 'NO'. **BUT GOD CAN.**

In these chaotic and testing times, only God can save us from the challenges and dangers that lie ahead.

Only God can bring order to this disordered world with its cost of living crisis, increasing Russian and Chinese aggression and the threat of war, collapse of the global economy, cultural disintegration, famine and climate change.

On the current trajectory, things are going to get worse, and our only hope of deliverance is God.

The bottom line is, God stands ever ready to help – but while we continue our hedonistic and selfish lives, he won't.

We have faced the threat of destruction and unbearable suffering before.

Though many do not yet fully realise it, we face a similar crisis to that of WW2.

In WW2, alone and faced by what looked like certain annihilation before the relentless advance of the German forces, King George VI called the nation to pray on no less than seven occasions.

The nation responded magnificently, packing out cathedrals and churches across the land. And on seven occasions, by an act of God, we were delivered.

When our troops were stranded on the beaches of Dunkirk and

trying vainly to shelter from constant strafing by the Luftwaffe, it was impossible for our big naval ships to get close enough to pick up our soldiers. Churchill was told we would be lucky if 30,000 men could be brought home.

Faced with the annihilation of most of our army, the King called the nation to pray.

At the same time, in response to a plea for help from the Prime Minister, over 850 small boats, some hardly bigger than rowing boats and crewed by ordinary men and women of all

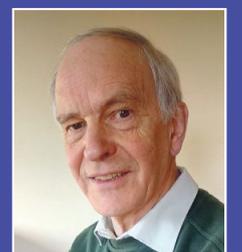
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ages, volunteered their help. Ordinarily, the majority would never have made it across the Channel's turbulent waters, but a wholly unforeseen and unexpected calm suddenly descended, enabling them to cross in safety.

Simultaneously, a violent storm in France grounded the German planes, so that they could no longer carry out their deadly attacks.

Of the 400,000 men cowering defenceless on the beaches, 338,000 were rescued and our army was saved – allowing us to continue the fight ... and eventually win.

WILL YOU STAND WITH US?

This is a call to the people of God across the nation to come together and pray – in churches, fellowships, halls, and private homes – anywhere people can gather to pray humbly for the salvation of the lost and the deliverance of our nation.

Invitations have gone out to churches, fellowships and the main denominations. Even the Met police has already arranged its service for 16 September and has sent out links inviting people to join via the online streaming service, Teams. It is expected that other police forces will also join us.

See p16 for prayer points. For flyers and information, email info@vfjuk.org

Your Country Needs YOU

National Day of Repentance and Prayer

Friday 16th September 2022

Covid, increasing Russian and Chinese aggression and the threat of war, collapse of the global economy, cultural disintegration, climate change, famine, political turmoil and cost of living crisis ...

What next?

In WW2, standing alone before the might of Nazi Germany, we faced what looked like certain defeat. Seven times the King called the nation to pray, and seven times we were miraculously delivered.

Now we face another and perhaps even greater Battle for Britain.

In these chaotic and testing times, only God can save us from the challenges and dangers that lie ahead. Only God can bring order to this disordered world.

Join us to pray for the deliverance of our nation.

National Day of Repentance and Prayer

Friday, 16th September 2022



Rev Lynda Rose is leading this national day of prayer initiative, along with Brenda Taylor of Dovetailshalom Ministries, Bishop Henry Scriven and the many other groups which combined forces to put on the Missing Millions abortion repentance day in March. She is a former barrister, now CEO of VfJUK (Voice for Justice). VfJUK also hosts Followers of the Way, an online community meeting: email fofw@vfjuk.org

FIGHTING ON THE BEACHES

INSPIRING SHORT FILM AND BOOKS

1. A ten minute film, 'A dramatic Answer to Prayer – the Miracle of Dunkirk' can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8vyfp0aVHk>
2. 'When a Nation prays', a book by Pastor Peter Simpson, highlights the remarkable hand of the Lord in controlling the weather at the time of the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940 and the 1944 D-Day Day landings, together with the Lord's aid in ensuring that the nation remained fed during the war years. The harvest in 1942, for example, was one of the most abundant on record.
3. 'Beyond the Odds', a book by John Scriven, charts providence in WW1 (including the miraculous retaking of Jerusalem by General Allenby, a Christian, in 1917), WW2 and the Falklands War. It includes a chapter on Churchill's Christianity.

Both books have been previously advertised in this paper.

SILENT SEATS OF POWER

As reported in this paper as far back as 2017, calls from Christians for a national day of prayer have not met a positive response from Buckingham Palace, Lambeth Palace or Number 10.

Therefore others have stepped into the gap, but as Lynda Rose points out, "It is up to you to issue your own call and organise the event."

If your church cannot host the event, invite friends to your home or hire a local hall for all the local churches.



The call to prayer in 1940

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Founding editor: Melanie Symonds

HEART



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PEOPLE & PLACES

“MY HEART OPENED DURING LOCKDOWN”

In our April/May issue we featured the 'Jesus loves Bexhill' outreach.

One of those taking part was Petra Auzinger, originally from Austria, who teaches German at a local school. Sharing her story with guests at a dinner, she explained: “I attended the Roman Catholic Church during my early years, but Jesus was just an image, nailed to a cross.

“For nearly ten years I taught in faith schools, hearing the same stories again and again, but a day came when I started to read the Bible to see what else it contained. One day I heard a priest talking about his faith and how God loves every one of us.

“That was it! Sitting on the sofa during lockdown, my heart was opened and God’s love poured in, along with an unbelievable peace. I discovered that the Christian faith is not a set of rules that you choose to obey or not. I now love obeying God, not because of his commandments but because he loved me first and he has come to live in my heart.”



■ During the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations in early June, many churches took the opportunity to put on events for their community. St Mary’s in Horsham, West Sussex, held a floral festival with local organisations contributing scenes from the Queen’s life which contained floral representations of key elements. Here one of Her Majesty’s famous red boxes made entirely of red camellias is on ‘her’ desk, but the eye is drawn to the witty addition of Paddington, the lovable bear who came to tea with the Queen in a short film which delighted the nation.

■ Another of the displays at St Mary’s, Horsham, was of the Queen’s long association with the Girl Guides. This notice explained how the young Princess Elizabeth was enrolled in the 1st Buckingham Palace Guides and Princess Margaret became a Brownie. Their mother, the late Queen Mother, was patron of Girlguiding.



Ben’s free bookstall

■ When he’s not working in McDonald’s, Ben Coupland spends his time ordering Christian booklets and Bibles to give



away to passers-by outside his church.

Ben started the project during lockdown when shops and churches were closed, but people were allowed out for an hour’s exercise a day. So Ben, who is 40 and married, saw an opportunity to reach people when they were seeking answers and started displaying evangelistic booklets and Bibles outside Free Grace Baptist Church in Belvedere, Kent.

Since April 2020 he has seen over 3,000 books taken by passers-by, including 1,151 Bibles. He displays the books in clear plastic bags so they can stay out in all weathers. Some of the books are free, and some have to be purchased. To find out more, contact his aunt, who is one of HEART’s local distributors: jdrobson@hotmail.com

Do I need this?

BEING A CHRISTIAN is about a relationship with Jesus Christ, the only Son of the living God, who died in our place, to pay the price for our sin. He desires to welcome you into God’s family here on earth and into heaven when you die.

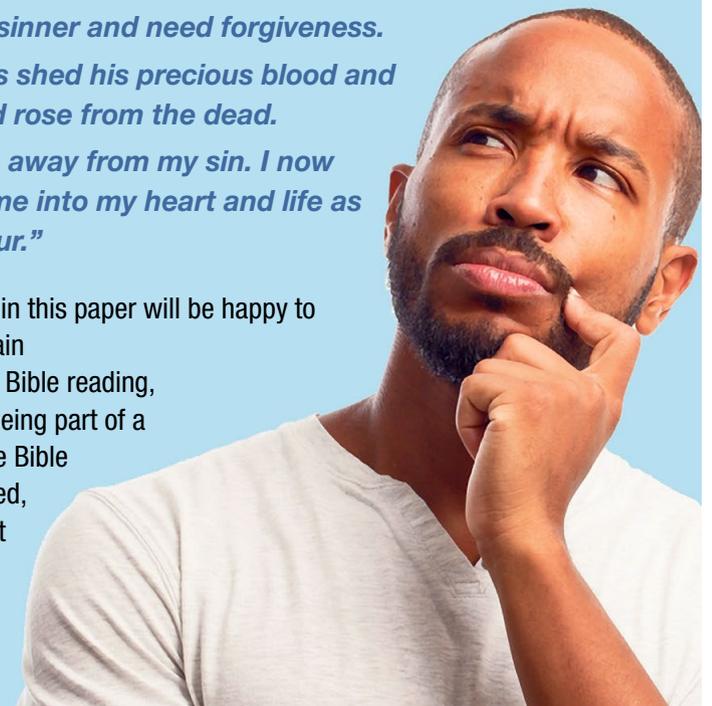
To start this relationship, simply pray the following prayer; if you mean it, he’ll respond, because the Bible says that God looks at our hearts.

“Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness.

I believe that Jesus shed his precious blood and died for my sin and rose from the dead.

I am willing to turn away from my sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart and life as my personal Saviour.”

The churches featured in this paper will be happy to welcome you and explain the importance of daily Bible reading, daily prayer, baptism, being part of a congregation where the Bible is preached and believed, and telling others about what Jesus has done for you.



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NATIONAL NEWS by Andrew Hallaway

DOWN'S CAMPAIGNER APPEALS ABORTION LAW AGAIN

Heidi fights for unborn babies like her

Down's syndrome campaigner Heidi Crowter is hoping to change Britain's abortion legislation through her hearing at the Court of Appeal.

The UK permits unborn babies with a disability to be aborted up to birth

Currently the UK permits unborn babies with a disability to be aborted up to birth, whereas the limit for other babies is 24 weeks. Heidi and others want to stop this discrimination, and are continuing their fight at the

Court of Appeal after the High Court rejected their case last year.

Heidi's mother Liz told The Christian Institute that those with Down's syndrome are still "made in the image of God"; they just have "one extra chromosome".

Heidi told Sky News: "In 2022, we live in a society where disabled people are valued equally after birth but not in the womb... this law is discrimination and needs to be changed."

A ruling is not likely until late autumn.



Heidi Crowter, who is appealing the High Court's verdict on abortions of Down's syndrome babies

PARENTS LOSE APPEAL TO SAVE BOY ON LIFE SUPPORT

Boy's parents refuse to see their son euthanised

Saying that only God should decide what happens to their son, 12-year-old Archie Battersbee's parents have lost their legal appeal after a second High Court decision that life support should be removed. As we went to press on 25 July, the family had been given 48 hours to make an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

Archie was found unconscious after what is believed to have been a tragic accident in April.

A High Court judge agreed with doctors that he should be allowed to die, but Archie's parents, Hollie Dance and Paul Battersbee from Southend-on-Sea, refused to accept that and appealed for a review. On 15 July, that review went against them again. At the Family Division of the High Court, Mr Justice Hayden decided that it is in Archie's "best interests" for life-support to be switched off.

Archie's mother Hollie reacted in a statement: "With all due respect to Mr Justice Hayden, it is not in Archie's best interests to die. Planned death is another name for euthanasia, which is illegal in this country."



Archie Battersbee's mother, pictured here on 13 June outside the High Court in a Sky News broadcast (centre), battling for her son's life

She added that removing life support is not a dignified death but is "profoundly cruel. It is for God to decide what should happen to Archie... We will be appealing this ruling and we ask for your prayers and support."

Hollie said earlier: "Until it's God's way I won't accept he should go. I know of miracles when people have come back."

Andrea Williams, chief executive of the Christian Legal Centre, said: "Behind the back of Parliament and the public, Courts seem to have developed a concept of 'dying with dignity' which amounts to euthanasia in all but name."

Archie and the whole family were baptised in the hospital as his parents fulfilled Archie's request before his accident that he should be christened.

VICTORY FOR GRANDMOTHER ARRESTED FOR PRAYING OUTSIDE ABORTION CLINIC

A grandmother who was arrested and fined £200 after silently praying outside an abortion clinic has been vindicated.

Rosa Lalor, 76, was walking alone and praying when she was stopped by a police officer during lockdown in February 2021. She was accused of protesting and issued with a fixed penalty notice, but charges against her have now been dropped by Merseyside Police.

Lalor commented: "I took this challenge forward with support from ADF [Alliance Defending Freedom] UK to show that we do all have a fundamental right to pray - not least pray as I did, in the privacy of my own mind. It was wrong for the police officer to tell me that I could not pray in a public street."

Her case comes amid efforts to introduce more 'buffer zones' outside abortion



Vindicated: Rosa Lalor was arrested for praying on the street

clinics, aimed at preventing pro-life volunteers from offering support to pregnant women. Ealing already has a buffer zone and there are calls to introduce one in Bournemouth. As we went to press, the case for buffer zones in Northern Ireland, which the Westminster government forced to allow abortions from 2020, was being heard in the Supreme Court.

WEB SAFETY BILL DELAYED

'Online harms' bill could damage free speech

The Online Safety Bill, which aimed to force pornography websites to protect children, has been pushed back until the autumn.

However, the delay does allow more time for campaigners to persuade MPs to reject other



Online Safety Bill may not be safe for people with traditional views

aspects of the Bill which could have damaging effects on free speech.

The Bill would have implemented age verification systems to stop under-18s from viewing explicit content, but it also empowered social media companies to ban 'legal but harmful' online speech - and gave government ministers the power to decide what is 'harmful'.

"This dangerously vague approach risks censoring mainstream biblical teaching"

The Christian Institute's Ciarán Kelly commented: "The Bill attempts to regulate social media content that the government deems 'harmful' to adults even though it is perfectly legal. This dangerously vague approach risks arbitrarily censoring mainstream biblical teaching on sexual and medical ethics."

Many politicians are also concerned about the definition of 'harmful', including former Tory leadership candidate Kemi Badenoch, who tweeted: "The Bill is in no fit state to become law" and we "should not be legislating for hurt feelings".

milliamarketing via Wikimedia Commons

NATIONAL NEWS

by Andrew Hallaway

Politician sacked for Christian views

“Marriage between a man and a woman” is now ‘hate speech’

A Christian People’s Alliance mayoral candidate has lost her local government job because her political manifesto supported a biblical view of marriage.

Maureen Martin was sacked by L&Q Housing after the housing association received three complaints about her manifesto. With the aid of the Christian Legal Centre she is now suing L&Q for unfair dismissal, discrimination and harassment.

Martin was standing for Mayor in the London borough of Lewisham when she was accused of gross misconduct. She had worked for L&Q for 13 years with an exemplary record.

Her manifesto, sent out in April, said: “Marriage: I pledge to cut through political correctness and simply state the truth that natural marriage between a man and a woman is the fundamental building block for a successful society, and the safest environment for raising children.”

‘Offended’ Twitter users complained to L&Q’s CEO, accusing Martin of ‘hate speech’ and calling for her to face disciplinary action.



Maureen Martin – sacked for supporting traditional marriage

Following an investigation into the complaints, Martin was suspended, hindered from campaigning and then fired. Her dismissal letter said her beliefs could be “perceived to be discriminatory, hurtful and offensive views towards members of the LGBTQ+ community, non-traditional families, and abortion.”

Martin says: “We either have freedom of speech in the UK, or we do not... I had stood as a political candidate while working for L&Q for six years without any issues. It is disturbing how Christian beliefs on marriage... are being silenced and treated with such hostility and disdain... I am determined to fight for justice and to ensure that no other Christian political candidates and employees go through what I have.”



Christian Concern, Christian Voice and other ministries have investigated

POLICY AREA	RISHI SUNAK	LIZ TRUSS
Faith background	Is a Hindu and took his oath at the House of Commons on the Bhagavad Gita (Hindu holy book), not the Bible. Has described Britain as “a secular country”	Has reportedly described herself as a Christian and has supported efforts to curb Christian persecution worldwide
Abortion	Abstained from vote on making DIY abortion permanent	Voted for Westminster to liberalise abortion law in Northern Ireland in 2019; abstained from vote on making DIY abortion permanent
Transgenderism	Has said he is “led by the biology”	In 2020, said that the government should protect children “from making... irreversible decisions”, and spoke in favour of protecting single-sex spaces
Assisted suicide	Abstained from vote	Abstained from vote
Same-sex ‘marriage’	Was absent from vote on imposing same-sex ‘marriage’ in Northern Ireland	Voted for same-sex ‘marriage’ in 2013; voted for its imposition on Northern Ireland in 2019
Mandatory vaccines for care workers	Was absent from vote	Voted for
Conversion therapy	Views unknown	Introduced the ‘conversion therapy’ ban but has said that free speech should be protected
Brexit	Voted leave and supported no-deal exit in April 2019	Campaigned for remain but later changed her mind; brokered post-Brexit deals with Japan and Australia as International Trade Secretary

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON ISRAEL

Neither Rishi Sunak nor Liz Truss are outspoken critics of the Jewish state.

Prophecy Today UK reports that Liz Truss in particular has spoken very warmly of Israel and last November we reported on the agreement she signed to partner with Israel in cyber, tech and defence.

In a speech to the Commons, Rishi Sunak also spoke admiringly of the Jewish population in the UK: “Despite only ever forming a small

percentage of the population, British Jews have shone in almost every field. They have inspired and entertained, created and innovated.”

Kemi Badenoch, whose leadership bid was admired, although she was eliminated, has written in The Jewish Chronicle of the horrors of the Holocaust and the importance of remembering it. She has also spoken out about the BDS stance of Ben & Jerry’s, the ice cream producer.

DID A SERMON BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT?

Javid resignation triggered by message on integrity

Former Health Secretary Sajid Javid, initially among the many candidates to replace Mr Johnson as Prime Minister before pulling out of the race, revealed that a sermon on integrity had prompted him to quit the government.

Invited to a parliamentary prayer breakfast by a Christian MP who is a good friend, Sajid Javid listened

to Rev Les Isaac, founder of Street Pastors. This was in the wake of Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s promotion of a colleague despite being made aware of earlier misconduct.

Javid told the BBC’s Sunday Morning Show: “I was listening to him talking about the importance of integrity in public life and, just focusing on that, I made up my mind.”

Evangelical Alliance leader Gavin Calver said that this was surely indicative of “the power of prayer and our message in the midst of chaos in our nation.”



Richard Townshend/Wikimedia Commons

FUTURE PM WILL BE “WEF GLOBALIST”

Both Conservative party leadership candidates are “World Economic Forum stooges”, according to Christian politician David Kurten, leader of the Heritage Party. Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss have both spoken at WEF conferences.

In addition, Sunak “has family ties to a technology partner of the World Economic Forum [WEF] that has advocated for a Chinese Communist Party-style economy complete with trackable, digital identities and currency,” according to The National Pulse.

His father-in-law is the founder of information technology company Infosys, an official partner of the WEF. The Infosys president, Mohit Joshi, has written in favour of “unique digital identit[ies]”, citing Chinese Communist Party policy as an example. There are concerns that the WEF could use such technology to develop a global social credit score system.

Writing in The Daily Telegraph on 16 July, Rishi Sunak said he would shorten clinical trials, which is concerning for those who think the Covid injections were rushed.

PLEA TO LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES: STAND UP FOR CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES

Christian members of the Conservative party have written an open letter to the leadership candidates, urging them to uphold Christian teachings if they become PM.

The letter states: “It is Christianity that has driven true social progress, from the abolition of slavery to universal education and prison reform. As a potential leader, you have the opportunity to build upon this heritage by... boldly standing for the truths of the Christian Gospel.”

Conservatives for Christ is a new organisation, led by Daniel Dieppe, seeking to promote Christian values within the Conservative Party.

Continued on page 6

“I WILL RAISE UP A FOREIGNER”

Boris Johnson's downfall was prophesied in January by Tomi Arayomi of Pioneers Church, who has previously prophesied Brexit and the resignation of Theresa May.

In a YouTube video dated 22 January, he related a prophecy he had received for the UK: “Number 10, your days



Tomi Arayomi sharing his political prophecy received on 13 July

are numbered. I have not found a man who can fill this seat, so I will raise up a foreigner and an outsider shall lead them – a backbench betrayal, resignations and dismissals. For with just one finger I will shake those who

thought they were mighty. For the bridge that was needed to get you on the other side of Brexit I will declare I no longer need.”

On 13 July he received a second prophetic word which we attempt to summarise here: “I'm turning over a new chapter. Not only a new chapter; a new book and a new day is dawning for the UK. It will be similar to the days when Barack came into presidency...”

“You have crossed over past the old bridge... I will expose your puppet masters that I might cut the strings.”

He also saw two Scottish referendums, with the Scots wanting to be free of the UK Parliament, but told Scotland, “Do not be deceived: it will advance the spirit of Europa and not the Spirit of God.”

There was a warning for the Scottish leader, without naming Nicola Sturgeon: “I have audited Boris and I will audit your Scottish leader. The horn that exalts itself above me I will humble. I will show you, Scotland, that a face of independence has another face of dependence...”

NEW SCHOOLS BILL THREATENS PARENTS' RIGHTS

Parents' rights to choose how their child is educated could be handed over to faceless officials

By Wendy Charles Warner, Chair of Education Otherwise

Parents could lose their rights over their children's education, if the new Schools Bill is passed.

The Bill proposes to turn Britain, and particularly England, from being one of the world's freest places to home educate to one of the most restrictive.

This frightening government power grab would hand control of all education provision to the Department for Education (DfE) and local authorities – with no exceptions.

Draconian

At the time of printing, the Bill was due to be sent from the Lords to the Commons. Those of us who have scrutinised the Bill believe that it is not fit for purpose. Even former education ministers have baulked at its draconian first section, which would allow the DfE complete control over how schools are run, teachers employed and children taught. Happily ministers' objections led to Section 1 being withdrawn for review.

Alarm bells

Nonetheless, the rest of the Bill should ring alarm bells for anyone who thinks parents might know what is best for their child. Government and local authority officials will be empowered to inspect living-room home education 'settings', close private schools, enforce school attendance for a given child with no redress, prevent new religious schools from opening, relocating or expanding, ban tutors from teaching – even online – and force parents to supply any information or surrender any materials.

Ten major concerns

Under the remaining parts of the Bill:

1. Ofsted can seize anything from anyone it thinks might be running a school. It will be a criminal offence not to comply.
2. The Bill introduces a register of children not in school. This erodes the rights of home educating families and also of schoolchildren.
3. If your child has any off-site (ie music) lessons, you will even have to register time off school for medical appointments with your local authority.
4. You will have a duty to give your local authority any information that it demands, even about your religion, your diet, or private medical information. This is a real threat to privacy when we know that local authorities frequently share information in breach of data rules.
5. If you use out of school classes, the provider will be under a duty to provide your child's details to the local authority.
6. If providers do not supply the information, or make a clerical error, they can face fines and loss of their business.

7. Any 'setting' providing education for a special needs child – or for five plus children – will have to register as a school, face Ofsted inspection and provide your information to the local authority. No exceptions are made for relatives, childminders, tutors, after school clubs, forest schools or large home-educating families.
8. Children in the UK are among the unhappiest in Europe and mental health in schools is a real problem. The Bill takes away your right to remove your child from a school without local authority monitoring, even if that authority has failed your child.
9. If your child has special needs and you are served with a School Attendance Order (SAO), the Bill prevents you from ever having it removed, even if you move from the area.
10. The Bill gives the DfE the right to close down independent schools. Those schools will need to apply for DfE approval if they change even very basic details.

Badly written

The Minister for the School System, Baroness Barran, has repeatedly assured MPs and the House of Lords that none of these concerns are valid because the DfE intends to draw up regulations preventing them from occurring. So we are supposed to be reassured that a government department vaguely intends to clarify its own badly written legislation.

We are told that the Bill will safeguard children, yet the DfE has never produced evidence to back this up. Baroness Barran assured the House of Lords that valuable support will be given to families, but the Bill states that “the support to be provided is whatever the local authority thinks fit.”

It is highly unlikely that cash-strapped councils will have the funds to offer support, so this claim is a fairy tale.

Undermining parents

This Bill gives unprecedented power to faceless officials to decide what is best for children, undermining the primacy of parents. It has no limits as to the information that can be demanded of parents. It puts them at risk of fines of £2,500 or imprisonment for up to 51 weeks for failure to do exactly what the local authority demands of them, no matter how unreasonable.

This shoddy and hastily produced Bill must be withdrawn completely. Families deserve better.



Wendy Charles Warner is a retired legal professional and chair of Education Otherwise, the home education charity



If you want change, VOTE FOR IT!

FREEDOM • FAMILY • NATION

Our nation has a great heritage that has been given to us by our forefathers for us to enjoy and pass on to future generations. However, we desperately need a change from the old political parties which have let us down and are running our nation into decline.

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PREPARING FOR 'THE MOTHER OF ALL ECONOMIC COLLAPSES'

PART 2:

A practical response to the prophetic warning of economic collapse

The prophesied economic depression and food shortages are not years away now, but there is still time to get ready, and the Bible shows us how, says Chris Wickland

In the light of current inflation, war in Ukraine, Covid, 14 years of printing money ('quantitative easing'), staggering worldwide debt, and poor crop yields from around the world, one doesn't need to be a prophet to see that major troubles are on the horizon.

After receiving dreams and prophetic warnings about the time to come over the last 30 years, I (and others) have given warnings about economic collapse. It is not years away now; we are at the very beginning of economic depression. However, there is still some time to get ourselves ready.

"Please don't fill the people with fear, Agabus. Can you only stick to the positive feel-good messages about how God loves us"

So how should the Church be responding to the prophetic words given about the economic depression? The New Testament gives an example in Acts 11:27-30: "During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul."

So Agabus, under the prompting of the Holy Spirit, warned of a coming famine. That famine would have massive social, economic and political ramifications.

What is interesting is how the early Church responded to the prophetic word. Obviously it would have been first weighed and tested prior to any action being taken. The point to note here is that they did eventually take action and do something.

If Agabus stood up in today's Church, let's say at a charismatic convention and gave a similar word, I suspect he would be greeted with several possible scenarios, with which I am personally all too familiar.

A) "We don't believe predictive prophecy is for today, so please stick to the mandated 'EEC': encouragement, exhortation and consolation-type prophecy."

B) "Please don't fill the people with fear, Agabus. Can you only stick to the positive feel-good messages about how God loves us and how without us, God wouldn't know what to do with himself?"

C) "Thanks, Agabus. Now let's just rest in the fact that God supplies all our needs and God will just sort it out."

Answer C is, I think, the most dangerous of all responses to prophetic messages. This is where people claim to have faith but have no intention of doing anything about the prophetic word given. This is super-spiritual Christianity and it's very dangerous. It has the appearance of godliness but denies its power.

So how did the early Church respond to the message that Agabus brought? We can imply from the text that wisdom, care and attention was given to what the Spirit of God was saying through the prophet:

- They **HEARD** the word of God from the prophet
- They **TESTED** it
- They **RECEIVED** it
- They **ACTED** on the warning

We need to live by Kingdom, not Keynesian economics

They realised that God had warned his Church so they wouldn't be caught unawares and thus could thrive during a great famine, not just survive. This Church didn't respond in a super-spiritual way, but approached it very practically, like Joseph did in Genesis 41. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, then gave practical advice on how to remedy the effects of the famine to come. This is faith and works, not faith and denial.

As a community of believers we need to respond together, ie mass purchase of food and goods

Today we too need to respond to the prophetic warning to the Church that economic collapse is coming. Here's how:

- 1) Pray and test the prophetic word.
- 2) If you do believe it's from God then you need to act: everyone should store one to three months of food, bearing in mind you will probably have to share some of it.

3) Realise you cannot do this alone. There is no room for the mindset of 'me, myself, I and Jesus'. We need to operate as a community of believers and respond together, ie mass purchase of food, goods and clothing to help the church and the wider community.

Together we can give more, purchase stronger. Together we can pray harder and receive bigger answers. Together we can enable the Church to grow and thrive.

4) We need to be preaching and teaching on faith and giving. Sowing is the essential first step to reaping, as I stated in my previous article. We need to live by Kingdom, not Keynesian economics. 5) Be opportunistic. To survive financial famine we need to be expectant and believing for miracles. The world is going to be looking for help and answers. We can't be seen to be undone and running around like headless chickens. We need to be in the place of shalom, under the shadow of his wings.

Next issue I will share some practical ways to help individuals and communities through the coming economic depression.

Chris Wickland is Senior Pastor of Living Word Church Network which has around 200 members in four churches around Fareham, Hampshire. The network is a HEART Partner Church - see the back page of this paper. He and his wife Tracey have five children.

Previous articles by Chris Wickland in this paper are a prophecy about the future of the UK Church and government (Feb/Mar 2022), how his church started cultivating an acre of farmland (Apr/May 2022), and 'A Joseph generation' (June/July 2022), warning to prepare for economic collapse.



Chris Wickland leading worship at a meeting in Sussex in March

Together we can give more, purchase stronger. Together we can pray harder and receive bigger answers

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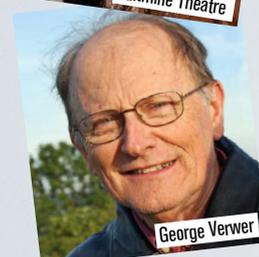
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS by Andrew Halloway

CHURCHES AND PRO-LIFE CENTRES ATTACKED AFTER OVERTURN OF ROE V WADE

Violence and vandalism against pro-life institutions

After the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution does not contain a right to abortion, contradicting the benchmark 1973 Roe v Wade verdict, abortion supporters in the US declared a “summer of rage” – which turned into violence and vandalism against pro-life institutions.

Largely unreported in British news media, activists targeted churches and pro-life pregnancy centres across the US, and threatened the safety of the Supreme Court judges who voted in favour of the landmark decision in June.

Protests broke out in major cities immediately after the court's decision, some turning violent. Rioters damaged a pregnancy centre and businesses in Portland, while the police claimed they “did not have resources” to make arrests, according to The Christian Post. In Arizona, pro-abortion protesters surrounded the state's Capitol building and the politicians inside said they were not able to reach a safe location until police dispersed the crowd with tear gas.

Pro-abortion protesters surrounded Arizona's Capitol building

Blue Ridge Pregnancy Centre in Lynchburg, Virginia, was the first pro-life centre

to be attacked. Windows were smashed and graffiti daubed on the building. The words ‘Jane's Revenge’ were spray-painted on the ground outside and the pro-abortion group took credit for the attack. It has previously vandalised several pro-life centres and churches.

Graffiti warned: “If abortions aren't safe, neither are you”

Tree of Life Pregnancy Centre in Paso Robles, California, also had windows broken and symbols painted on the building, including the letters ‘JR’. Attacks on other pro-life centres included Life Choices in Longmont, Colorado, which was set on fire and vandalised. Graffiti warned: “If abortions aren't safe, neither are you.”

St John Neumann Catholic Church in Reston, Virginia, was the first of several churches attacked following the ruling – which included an attempt to set fire to the church and graffiti sprayed on the building.

The pro-life Supreme Court judges have also been targeted



Public domain

The Supreme Court's landmark decision is good news for the unborn, but pro-abortion activists are protesting

with threats and intimidation outside their own homes. Abortion activists protested outside the residences of Clarence Thomas, Amy Coney Barrett, Samuel Alito, John Roberts and Neil Gorsuch, but the most serious incident was an attempted assassination of Brett Kavanaugh. Police arrested an armed man near Kavanaugh's home, who wanted to kill him for his pro-life views.

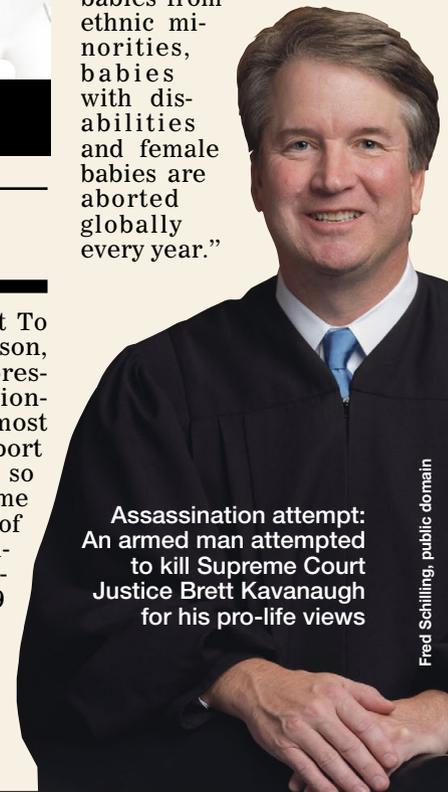
In the UK, Abortion Resistance founder Eden McCourt has been threatened with rape and death for her pro-life stance. McCourt told the Daily Mail: “It is difficult to be pro-life in Britain today. It's very scary and you're subjected to a lot of hate.” But she added: “If you can save one life, it's worth it.”

“Abortion is racist, sexist and ableist”

A spokesperson for Right To Life UK, Catherine Robinson, criticised the false impression given by pro-abortionists and the media that most women in America support liberal abortion laws, and so the male-dominated Supreme Court is denying ‘the will of the people’ and is anti-women's rights. She said: “Recent polling shows that 69 per cent of women in the United States believe that there should be significant restrictions on abortion” and “that abortion should be available, at most, dur-

ing the first three months of pregnancy, allowed only in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother, or never permitted.”

Northern Ireland politician Gemma Broly welcomed the overturning of Roe v Wade with the words: “Abortion is beyond doubt one of the greatest human rights violations of our generation... Abortion is racist, sexist and ableist... A disproportionate number of babies from ethnic minorities, babies with disabilities and female babies are aborted globally every year.”



Fred Schilling, public domain

Assassination attempt: An armed man attempted to kill Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh for his pro-life views

COVID ORIGIN COVER-UP ADMITTED US funded China lab's research

A federal health official has confirmed that the US government concealed data on Covid-19 origins at the request of Chinese scientists.

The acting director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) admitted to Congress on 11 May that access to the genomic sequences of Covid was restricted at the beginning of the pandemic. The New York Post reported that the data was “eliminated from public view” at the request of Chinese scientists.

The genomic sequences would have helped to confirm whether the virus leaked from a Chinese laboratory or was natural in origin.

According to Life Site News, the director of the Wellcome



Wellcome Trust/Wikimedia

Sir Jeremy Farrar, Director of the Wellcome Trust – an early proponent of the lab leak theory for the origin of Covid

Scientists didn't make it known in order not to undermine “science and international harmony”

Trust – a UK-based health research foundation – suspected as early as February 2020 that a lab had “accidentally created] a virus primed for rapid transmission between humans”. Other scientists privately acknowledged the theory was “likely” but didn't make it known in order not to undermine “science and international harmony”.

Republican members of the House Intelligence Committee have found “significant circumstantial evidence” that Covid leaked from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology and that some of the lab's research was funded by the US.

EU PARLIAMENT VOTES FOR ABORTION AS A HUMAN RIGHT

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution calling on member states to make “safe and legal abortion” part of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The 324-155 vote in favour on 7 July came as a direct response to the US Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v Wade.

Many conservative and Christian Democrat MEPs voted against the resolution.

Adina Portaru of ADF International, a Christian legal advocacy organisation, said: “The proposed text of this non-binding resolution is fundamentally inaccurate and misleading. There is no ‘right’ to abortion – on the contrary, Article 2 of the

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union upholds the right to life for everyone.”



The EU Parliament, Strasbourg

Continued on page 26



GARDNER'S WORLD

ISRAEL IS KOSHER

Jewish state's legitimacy clarified at parliamentary reception

by Charles Gardner



The Western Wall of the Temple encloses the Temple Mount, where Peter is believed to have preached at Pentecost, sowing the seeds for Jewish restoration

Israel is kosher – a Jewish way of saying that it's perfectly legitimate.

And this was made clear in no uncertain terms at a parliamentary reception in London on 6 July.

Held to mark the centenary of the British Mandate for what was then known as Palestine, the message of the event emphasised the international legality of the Jewish state, constantly questioned by politicians and media in today's world.

International lawyer Andrew Tucker said the finding of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) that Israel's 'occupation' of Palestinian territory was the chief cause of the Middle East conflict was a serious misunderstanding of history by those who had forgotten what the Mandate was all about.

It was in London in 1922 that the League of Nations approved a plan for Britain to effectively prepare the ancient Jewish homeland for statehood in a legal arrangement known as a Mandate. Following the collapse of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, France was given responsibility for Syria and Britain for Palestine.

In Israel's case, boundaries were drawn around a region far greater than that eventually settled by Jews. But Winston Churchill, then Colonial Secretary, ceded the vast area east of the Jordan River to the Arabs.

Unfortunately, the creation of Jordan set a precedent for ongoing territorial compromise aimed at smothering the fires of

growing resentment over Jewish immigration. And the cauldron smoulders on to this day.

"We already have a two-state solution"

Australian-born Mr Tucker, now based in Holland where he heads up The Hague Initiative for International Co-operation (thinc), believes Churchill's action amounted to the two-state solution we hear so much about today – still Britain's official policy.

At the very least, all the territory from the Mediterranean to the Jordan was originally earmarked for Israel in the 1922 agreement, which confirmed the intentions and decisions of the 1917 Balfour Declaration and the subsequent San Remo Treaty of 1920. In truth, Israel

occupied no-one's territory, either then or now.

"We already have a two-state solution in my view," Mr Tucker said in referring to the creation of Jordan.

The Mandate, he said, referred to the right of the Jewish people to settle in Palestine, which raised the question of how Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) – the very heart of Israel – could be considered illegitimate.

What happened was that Jordan illegally annexed those areas in the War of Independence of 1948/9 before Israel reclaimed them in 1967, while choosing not to exercise their authority there.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, meanwhile, are committed to the destruction of the Jewish state and, in any case, have never committed themselves to a two-state solution.

"We've allowed history to be forgotten," Mr Tucker said, adding that we are now seeing "a war of lawfare", with the United Nations consistently undermining Israel's position, whereas the Mandate was a genuine attempt to enable people to achieve the independence they deserved.

An insult to black South Africans

Also addressing the gathering was outspoken peer Ian Austin, who said the accusation by Amnesty and others of Israel being an apartheid state was "a com-



Lord Ian Austin: Accusing Israel of being an apartheid state is "a complete and utter disgrace"

plete and utter disgrace" as well as an insult to black South Africans who suffered under a brutal regime.

Also sharing his story was Shaya Charsit, a retired colonel with the Israeli Air Force and a survivor of the tragic ship Exodus's debacle of 1947, a particularly black moment in British history. With 4,500 Jews on board, the ship was refused entry to Israel by the British authorities and sent back to Germany, home of their tormentors!

Polish-born Shaya, 88, referred to the 1939 White Paper, which restricted immigration to the Holy Land at a time when his people needed it most, as a betrayal of the Mandate.

But he felt "on top of the world" when he finally made it to Israel, where he fought in a succession of wars for their survival.



The awesome Judean wilderness, where Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days while being tempted by the devil, is as much part of Israel as the rest of the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the River Jordan



GARDNER'S WORLD

GROUNDHOG DAY AT THE UN

After 21 nations denounced the UN Human Rights Council for its bias against Israel, Johannesburg's Olga Meshoe Washington, a Christian pro-Israel activist, joined in the chorus of condemnation.

Debunking accusations of Israeli 'apartheid' against the Palestinians, she said: "My people's history and experience is being used as an anti-Semitic tool to... delegitimise Israel."



South African Olga Meshoe Washington decried the 'apartheid' slur used against Israel

She was speaking at a UN Watch meeting held in Geneva in June, ahead of the UNHRC's first debate on its 18-page report on Israel. In what will be an annual report released on 7 June, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) said that Israel's actions were overwhelmingly to blame for Palestinian terror, citing a plethora of alleged Israeli human rights vio-

lations and war crimes. To which International Legal Forum CEO Arsen Ostrovsky responded: "In life, there are generally only two certainties: death and taxes. But we can add a third, that the United Nations will always find Israel guilty."

"My people's history is used to delegitimise Israel"

And former commander of British forces in Afghanistan Col Richard Kemp added: "It's a little like Groundhog Day: Hamas triggers a war, and the UN convenes a commission to condemn Israel for the war."

Digging for spiritual reality

Biblical archaeologist Jennifer Guetta has discovered the need in science for studying both physical and spiritual data. Currently working in the Galilee area of Israel, Jennifer used to believe the Darwinian theory of chance occurrences. "But then my family was confronted by an undeniable force of darkness and I became painfully aware of the conflict between darkness and light at war with each other and influencing us. Yeshua (Jesus) changed my perspective about coincidences in history and then I was able to see God at work in our everyday lives and in history."

Continued on page 12

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Stephan Christiansen

Stephan along with his wife Anne lead Jesus Church in Norway. They are also on the leadership of Israel Next whose vision is to reveal God's heart for his people Israel to the next generations.



Rania Sayegh

Rania is an Israeli Christian Arab from Nazareth and founder of HOPE (House of Prayer and Exploits) a training centre located in Nazareth whose goal is to raise a people who will stand in the gap for the land of Israel.



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GARDNER'S WORLD ...CONTINUED

Continued from page 11

Failure to combine the physical and spiritual, she explains, takes away the true context and leads to wrong interpretations of the past.

“Get out now” says Sharansky

Russian Jews may be hindered from immigrating to Israel after Moscow issued a series of stringent demands to the Jewish Agency, The Times of Israel reported.

This unusual move threatens to hamper the work of the Agency, a semi-governmental organisation which oversees Jews ‘making aliyah’ – immigrating to the land of their fathers.

However, the sanctions on Russia have caused most international airlines to stop flying to the country, and therefore potential immigrants are “stuck” in Russia, according to Israeli officials.

“People from the Jewish community have been feeling the Iron Curtain setting on them,” a senior source from Russia’s Jewish community told the Jerusalem Post in early July.

Another source added: “A number of Jews have said that the Russian authorities are trying to arrest them and that they fear for their lives.”

Natan Sharansky, a Ukrainian-born Soviet-era refusenik and former Jewish Agency chairman, called on Russian Jews to leave while they can.

The Agency denied breaking Russian laws and Israeli officials suspect Moscow’s move is retaliation for Israel’s support of Ukraine.

Around 150,000 Jews live in Russia. Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, an estimated 30,000 have already made aliyah, though many began their paperwork prior to the war.

Palestinian Christian who cries for the Jews

Palestinian Christian Sandra Solomon says her faith changed her view of Israel and the Jews. The niece of Saher Habash, one of the founders of the ruling Palestinian party Fatah and a leader in the campaign of terror known as the Second Intifada, she told Israel Today: “When I read the Old Testament, I learned so much truth about the Jews and how they suffered. I cried for the Jews for the first time in my life. Then I read that Jesus said to love your enemies, and he changed my heart.

“Growing up as Muslims, all we were taught about the Jews is that they are the descendants of pigs and monkeys, that they are infidels who must be purged from the land through jihad. Now I’m disgusted when I hear people cursing Israel and the Jews. They don’t realise that it’s by the power of God that Israel exists.”

She adds: “A true Christian would never turn their back on Israel or the Jews.”

Assassinated former Japanese PM was “true friend of Israel”

Former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe was murdered while giving a speech on 8 July, prompting condolences from Israeli leaders.

Abe was Japan’s longest-serving leader and visited Israel in 2015 and 2018. He also hosted Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in Japan in 2014, who wrote on Twitter of mourning his “dear friend” Shinzo Abe.

“Abe was one of the most important leaders of modern Japan, and a true friend of Israel who brought about flourishing and prosperous relations between Israel and Japan,” said Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid.



Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with Benjamin Netanyahu

Arabs in shock over truth about Palestine

Shockwaves rippled through the Arab Middle East when the offer of a \$100,000 reward went unclaimed. Dr Edy Cohen, Arab affairs correspondent for Israel Today, offered the money through Twitter to anyone who could name the Palestinian president and army chief of staff at the time Israel occupied Palestine, with attached photos of the men in question.

Of course, no-one could provide an acceptable response because there was no ‘Palestine’.

Cohen, whose post received 291,000 views, told his Hebrew-speaking followers:

“The Arabs were in shock. Slowly they begin to understand the brainwashing to which they have been subjected for 75 years.”

Ban on creation of Palestinian state

The Texas Republican Party convention has approved a policy banning the creation of a Palestinian state. The so-called ‘platform’ throws its support behind the “prohibition of a Palestinian state within the historical borders of Israel, as it would jeopardise Israel’s security and would force Israel to give up land that God gave to the Jewish people as referenced in Genesis.”

While state platforms apparently carry no weight in foreign policy, they can serve as a barometer of rank-and-file attitudes.



Ice-cream boycott melts

British consumer goods giant Unilever has announced the end of an anti-Israel ice-cream boycott that triggered sanctions by some US states and even provoked a lawsuit, securing a “new arrangement” for the sale of its Ben & Jerry’s brand “throughout Israel and the West Bank”. The ice-cream will now be sold exclusively under its Hebrew and Arabic names.

IN BRIEF

• The US Presbyterian Church has passed a series of hostile policies against the Jewish state. At their 225th General Assembly, they voted in favour of resolutions calling Christian Zionism “heretical and idolatrous” and comparing Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians to the Holocaust.

• Amidst much political uncertainty, Israel will be holding its fifth election in three years, probably this autumn, following the collapse of its coalition government, with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid serving as caretaker Prime Minister

until a new administration is sworn in.

• Rev Jerry Pillay, who accuses Israel of apartheid and backs the boycott campaign against the Jewish state, is the new general secretary of the World Council of Churches. Founded in 1948 – the same year Israel was reborn – the WCC claims to represent around 500 million Christians worldwide.

• Newly discovered documents are said to reveal that the British government conducted a secret Cold War-era propaganda campaign promoting anti-Israel incitement, with the alleged aim of driving a wedge between the Soviet Union and its Arab and Third World allies.

• British Home Secretary Priti Patel has declared her “unflinching and unequivocal” support for Israel and slammed the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement as “racist”. And former Health Secretary Sajid Javid said the UK-Israel partnership was unbreakable and that “Israel’s security is our security”.

• Former UN nuclear inspector David Albright recently claimed that Iran already possesses enough enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon. The rogue state has repeatedly vowed to wipe Israel off the map.

• Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has been urged to intervene over Iraq’s new law calling for execution or life imprisonment for anyone communicating with Israelis. Des Starritt of Christians United for Israel described the legislation as “barbaric”.

BIDEN’S POINTLESS ISRAEL VISIT

By Robin Benson



Cynics portrayed President Biden’s two-day visit to Israel as little more than a short layover, before he moved on, begging bowl in hand, to Saudi Arabia, and the real point for his long journey: more Saudi oil, at a lower price, to ease the severe economic pain his hapless administration is causing back home.

As would be expected, on his first visit to the Middle East since taking office over 18 months ago, the President said all the right things – amazingly without fluffing any of his lines – about the

importance of the strong bond of friendship between the USA and Israel. He visited Yad Vashem and apparently shed a few tears for all the millions of dead Jews remembered there.

To crown it all, he co-signed the ‘Jerusalem Declaration’ along with Israel’s interim Prime Minister, Yair Lapid. This document – not a treaty and with no legal binding force whatsoever – is full of high-sounding ideals. Lots of wonderful words, but that is all it is...empty words stored in an expensive binder.

Is this how you fight Jew-hatred?

For instance, there is a non-binding commitment to “never allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon.” This from the USA administration that is still pushing and pushing to resurrect some form of the useless Iran nuclear deal – the JCPOA – negotiated by the Obama administration in 2015.

Iran never signed nor ratified the deal, and has consistently ignored, indeed flouted, its terms ever since. This is the same Iran which the USA administration openly acknowledges has now enough nuclear material to manufacture at least one nuclear device. There is also the non-binding commitment “to fight every scourge and source of anti-Semitism.” This from the USA administration that continues to break its own laws by giving hundreds of millions of dollars to the Palestinian Authority, which daily incites its own people to kill Jews whenever and wherever they can! The PA then pays thousands of dollars to their citizens who end up in Israeli prisons as a result of their terror activities. Is this how you fight Jew-hatred? Really?

After two days of empty, meaningless rhetoric, Air Force One finally departed Ben Gurion Airport. With the red carpet rolled up and the flags stored away, Israelis returned to the real world, rather than the fantasy land inhabited by the current American president and his minions. One can only imagine the corporate sigh of relief felt in Israel.

Robin Benson has reported on current events in Israel for many years. He appears regularly on Revelation TV’s ‘Politics Today’ and ‘Middle East Report’

Other recent articles

Other recent articles by Charles Gardner, which can be found at www.heartpublications.co.uk, include:

- Life from the dead
- The British Mandate
- My personal Pentecost
- Towards reconciliation

Charles is also a regular contributor to Israel Today at www.israeltoday.co.il. His latest book, ‘To the Jew First’, is available from Christian Publications International. He is also author of ‘King of the Jews’, ‘A Nation Reborn’ (both CPI), ‘Israel the Chosen’ (Amazon) and ‘Peace in Jerusalem’ (olivepresspublisher.com & Eden).



What on earth does an ancient city have to do with the collapse of Western civilisation? Everything, says Philip Wren, who believes we are on the threshold of the upheavals that Jesus warned about

Global supply chains are breaking down.

Food is going to be in short supply.

There is a war in Europe which could easily spin out of control.

Wars could break out in the Middle and Far East.

Plans are afoot to reduce the global population and governments seek the means of controlling every aspect of our lives.

Society is disintegrating with the breakdown of traditional morality.

We are heading into a recession, and spiralling inflation is making us all poorer.

These and other trends cause people to worry about what the future holds. The only absolutely reliable answer can be found in the Bible.

Three final warnings

I believe that we are on the threshold of the upheavals that Jesus warned about, whose impact will see “men’s hearts failing from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth” (Luke 21:26).

The end of history is portrayed in Revelation, using vivid imagery to depict cataclysmic disruption. We see that God is patiently withholding his wrath over mankind’s rebellion and that three final events must take place beforehand, which Bible-believers who are watching and praying will understand:

- 1) The Gospel is preached to all people
- 2) ‘Babylon’ falls
- 3) The kingdom of the ‘beast’ is ruling the earth

What is the ‘Babylon’ that must fall? Clues are in Revelation 17 and 18, which go slightly back in time to the period before the reign of the ‘beast’.

Here Babylon is referred to as “Mystery, Babylon the great, mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth” (Revelation 17:5).

What Babylon represents

Firstly, we learn that God hates her (Revelation 16:19). She is described as a great harlot (17:1-6), a term God uses for spiritual adultery (Jerusalem was called

a harlot when she abandoned the true God for false gods – see Isaiah 1:21).

She leads the rulers and peoples of the earth astray through her “fornication”, teaching the people to worship other gods (interestingly, the Bible refers to “gods of wood and stone” which might represent our idolising of property and the time we spend on it rather than serving God). Having corrupted many others, she is called the “mother of harlots”.

She has global influence because she “sits on many waters”, which in Revelation 17:15 is interpreted as peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues.

She is seen seated on the beast, upon which she relies for her considerable wealth and security.

She persecutes those who are faithful to Jesus. Later we learn how she glorifies herself and is filled with pride.

A literal city?

Several times Babylon is called “that great city”. Is this a literal city? We are also told that she sits on seven mountains. New York, Rome, London and Mecca are all said to be built on seven hills.

But can any literal city be said to be the source of all the corruption in the earth?

Biblical Babylon’s wealth and trade make her more than a purely religious system; her harlotry makes her more than the world economy; she has existed longer than any end-time world government; she is older and more extensive than Europe.

The woman is not the same as the individual empires because she has an adulterous relationship with them all, spanning the whole of history.

In the light of the huge rejoicing in heaven at her fall and the global significance of her trade, Babylon represents something much bigger than a single city or country or even a religious system. That is why I believe that she represents the “kingdom of this world”.

The birth of civilisation

A clue which confirms her identity is found in Revelation 18:24: “And in her

was found the blood of prophets and saints and all who were slain on the earth.”

This means all who were murdered throughout history, which takes us back to Genesis and Cain’s murder of his brother Abel.

As his punishment, Cain is condemned to be a fugitive. Driven from the presence of God, he settles in the land of Nod and builds a city. This shows he is still trusting himself rather than God, because cities have always been regarded as places of safety, whose citizens can defend

Continued on page 14



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THE FALL OF BABYLON

Continued from page 13

themselves from their enemies.

After five generations Lamech is born into this city. He is the first to break with God's divinely appointed order of one man, one wife (Genesis 4:19) by taking two wives. The offspring of these rebellious relationships are very creative. Jabal develops agriculture, while Jubal is into the arts, developing music. Tubal-Cain is a metal worker.

The arts, technology and agriculture are the beginning of what we call civilisation. When mankind develops a new technology, what is usually the first use he puts it to? Sadly, it's usually harmful. Lamech boasts that he has killed a younger man; his son's metal work has enabled the production of weapons. With weapons Lamech can boast that he no longer needs God (Genesis 4:24).

Thus the kingdom of this world – which we call civilisation – becomes the focus of rebellion against God.

In Revelation 18:22, music and technology end with the fall of Babylon. The civilisation which began in Cain's city will end when God judges the harlot. (The music of heaven will far surpass anything this world has to offer!).

A new world, the same rebellion

Because of the violence filling the earth, God brings the flood, saving only Noah and his immediate family. Afterwards, God gives mankind a fresh start, commanding Noah and his sons to go out and fill the earth (Genesis 9:1).

But only four generations from Noah, rebellion against God arises again when Nimrod founds a kingdom (Genesis 10:8-12) and his first city is named Babel. Nimrod's Babel soon became the source of all false religion, fitting the description

the “mother of harlots”. Thus Babel, later named Babylon, becomes a symbol of man's rebellion against God.

Babel, later named Babylon, becomes a symbol of man's rebellion against God

Two kingdoms are now in conflict – the kingdom of this world and the Kingdom of God.

The beast

So if Babylon is the kingdom of this world, what – or who – is the beast the harlot rides on? It is no less than the manifestation of Satan, the god of this world. His power comes through kingdoms (represented in biblical imagery by horns) and empires (heads).

In the three final warnings, Babylon falls to make way for the kingdom of the beast. Ten kings, who arise at the end time to give their power to the beast, destroy the harlot (Revelation 17:16-17).

It is God who puts it in the kings' hearts to execute his judgement on the harlot's wickedness. He is sovereign and the Bible – and history – show how he uses one power (often a great nation) to bring down another.

Proud King Nebuchadnezzar of historical Babylon was used by God to conquer the rebellious nation of Israel after she had ignored his warnings about her godless ways. But Nebuchadnezzar was in turn humbled, forced to learn “that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, [and] gives it to whomever he will” (Daniel 4:17).

What is Babylon today?

At the end of her days, Babylon is a trading power filled with pride. She proclaims that she sits as a queen and no misfortune can harm her.

Preoccupied with increasing her wealth, she has enticed the leaders and the peoples of the world to pursue luxury. All the merchants and those who have grown rich through trade with her will mourn when she falls.

Our civilisation has a facade of greatness, but underneath it is proud and corrupt

In these closing years of the present age, it is the Western world which best fits the description of Babylon the Great. Built by man's attempt to live independently from God, our civilisation has a facade of greatness, but underneath it is proud and corrupt.

Western civilisation has grown out of European culture; it dominates the modern world and the world's rulers aspire to share in her wealth. Thus in Bible terms it “sits on many waters”.

The European Union adopted the symbol of Europa as a political statement

For man, Europe is the pinnacle of accomplishment, but in the sight of God she is evil, corrupt and soon to fall. She

is anti-God, seeking to reverse the judgement of Babel.

Tellingly, the European Union adopted the symbol of Europa, a woman riding a beast, as a political statement. We have already seen that the beast is the manifestation of Satan, the god of this world. (God has allowed man to adopt symbols to convey spiritual realities).

Ten kings

At the opening of Revelation 17, John is invited to witness God's judgement of the harlot by the ten kings, who give their power to the beast to destroy the harlot. The kings hate her and will “make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire” (Revelation 17:16).

Who are these kings? I used to think of them as ten nations which hate the West and have the power to destroy it. Yet the Bible describes them as ten kings without a kingdom.

To fulfil their plans, they will bring the Western world down

Could they be ten exceptionally rich men whose wealth lets them wield immense power? They operate above the level of national politics and keep hidden from view. I believe that men such as Bill Gates, the technology billionaire, Klaus Schwab (head of the World Economic Forum) and billionaire George Soros are their minions doing their bidding.

The hidden men believe passionately that they are acting to preserve the future of the human race. To fulfil their plans, they will bring the Western world down.

The Bible tells us that Babylon's fall will be sudden and complete. With the collapse of Western civilisation, the world will quickly descend into lawlessness.

World leaders believe mortality can be conquered through transhumanism

Satan will then offer his man as the world's saviour. But note – it is all in accordance with the will of God.

The leaders of this world plot the future of mankind in their cabals without any reference to God. Deluded, they believe they can conquer mortality through transhumanism and that artificial intelligence will enable humanity to aspire to new levels of achievement.

Two brides

After Babylon is destroyed, Revelation ends with a vision of the New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ. Her opposite number was Babylon the Great, the harlot bride of Satan.

The Bible tells us that “the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one” (1 John 5:19). Those who hate God and reject his ways are citizens of Babylon. All who have trusted Christ as their redeemer belong to the New Jerusalem.

Hope for the future

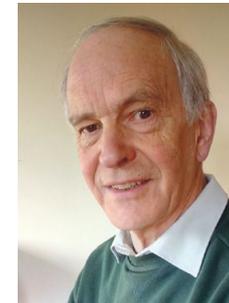
For the Christian, Babylon is not our home. We are pilgrims passing through. In the West we are in danger, for we have benefited from living in Babylon for too long. Babylon provides us with many comforts and luxuries.

Jesus calls us to be ready to let go of everything

We are warned not to be like Lot's wife who couldn't tear herself away from the comfortable life she was leading in Sodom; indeed, Jesus calls us to be ready to let go of everything.

Those who place their trust in Jesus Christ have nothing to fear. He will stand with us through whatever the future may hold. All those who display hope will be a witness to those whose hearts fail them from fear.

Our preparation for these times is to draw closer to Jesus and be guided by him. Maranatha, our Lord comes.

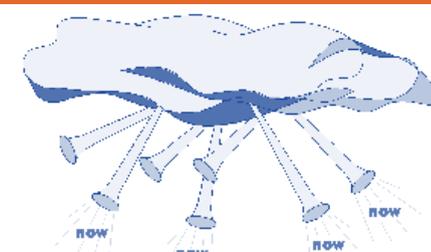


Philip Wren produces a quarterly prophetic newsletter, 'Trumpet Sounds'. It can be read free online at www.trumpetsounds.net

For a paper copy, email contact@trumpetsounds.org.uk

Previous articles by Philip Wren in this paper include 'Is there really a global elite?' which gives the history of the dream of a one-world government and the men behind it (April 2021). This can be read online at www.heartpublications.co.uk/ordering-papers/backissues

To order photocopies of the article, please send sae and a donation for photocopying (min £1 per copy) to the HEART office.



Watch – preparing for the unexpected

For the Christian there is nothing unexpected about the return of Christ. Only the timing of that return has not been revealed. The key word Jesus used when teaching on the end of this age was 'watch'. What does it mean to watch? To read a free booklet on line go to:

<https://www.trumpetsounds.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Watch-1.pdf>

For a paper copy write to Philip Wren, Unit 95242, PO Box 6945, London, W1A 6US.



The arts, technology and agriculture are the beginning of what we call civilisation

EVOLUTION EXPOSED!

Australian student knew God was real after encounter with microbiologist

by Charles Gardner

Over a quarter of a century ago, a newly-married Australian couple set off to see the world before they settled down.

But once they reached Israel, Aaron and Michelle Eime never looked back. Now blessed with three children, they are still there today, sharing the good news of the Jewish Messiah with all who will hear.

Disillusioned

Before they left Australia, Aaron had had an encounter that confirmed his faith in God as Creator of the world he so loved to travel.

He was already a believer, but had become somewhat disillusioned with things he was learning at university – until, that is, he attended a Creation vs evolution debate.

He realised, through a presentation of the amazing process of blood-clotting by microbiologist Dr Michael Behe, that there was no way it could have come about through evolution.

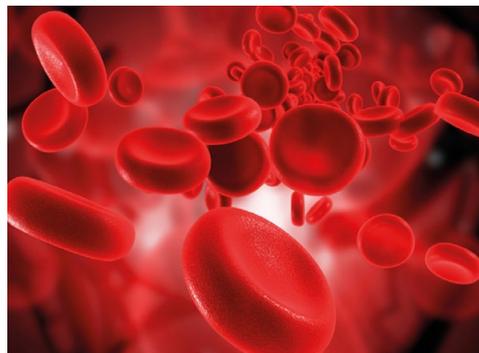
For it requires a sequential chain reaction of enzymes to bind up a wound when the skin is cut. Each one has a special duty but, if just one is removed, healing will not work. And yet it clots only the wounded area rather than the heart or brain, which would be fatal.

Floored

Aaron explains: “Evolution is the gradual increase of genetic information over time. But if all the enzymes are not present from day one, the blood cannot function and life cannot exist. Evolutionary theory provides no satisfactory evidence for how blood came about. It cannot possibly have evolved, so must have been created by a super-intelligent mind. This is why the Bible says that ‘life is in the blood’ (Leviticus 17:11).

“I knew then that a super mind (ie God) had created the world”

“Behe’s argument totally floored me, and that was the precise moment I knew God was real. I knew then that a super mind (ie God) had created the world, and



Evolutionary theory provides no satisfactory evidence for how blood came about

that he was intimately involved, even at the microbiological level, with his Creation. And ever since then, I have been a firm defender of the faith against the lie of evolution.”

Adventures

Born into a small-town farming community in Western Australia, where his dad was involved in the wool trade, Aaron moved to Brisbane where he studied psychology and social work, came to faith and got married to Michelle.

They duly took off on their adventures, exploring Canada, the United States and Mexico before coming to England where they hired a 1973 camper van and eventually drove all the way from London to Israel where a friend’s mother was a volunteer.

After taking a ferry from Greece, they arrived at Haifa in 1998, and have been in Israel ever since. They had planned to drive back to London, return to Australia and live there happily ever after!

Low point

But everything changed after camping by the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, and accepting a dinner invitation from neighbouring Bedouins. Aaron and Michelle both woke up next day “unbelievably sick” and in desperate need for somewhere to recuperate and get cleaned up (so it was a low point for them, too).

They found an advert for Christ Church, Jerusalem, boasting “nice gardens and clean toilets”!

After consulting the ‘Lonely Planet’s Guidebook’ (in the absence of Google), they found an advert for Christ Church, Jerusalem, boasting “nice gardens and clean toilets”!

Christ Church just happens to be the headquarters in Israel of the Church’s Ministry (CMJ) among the Jewish people. CMJ has been established in Jerusalem for nearly 200 years, reaching out with love and compassion to both Jews and Arabs there.

Community

Aaron said: “We duly made the wonderful discovery of a community of Arabs and Jews who believed in Jesus. But they were desperate for volunteers to help them, so we said we’d pray about it. We drove up to Galilee and returned three days later, fully intending to say ‘No’.

“I leaned forward to say ‘No’ and out came ‘Yip!’”

“But when we sat down beside then rector, Ray Lockhart, I leaned forward to say ‘No’ and out came ‘Yip!’”

As Solomon wisely put it: “The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord” (Proverbs 16:1).



Captivated by Creation: Aaron Eime’s faith came alive after a microbiologist explained the “super-intelligent mind” behind the process of blood clotting

So the couple stayed, had all three of their children in Israel and became a fixture at Christ Church. Micah was born in Bethlehem (he was named after the prophet who foretold that Messiah would come from there – Micah 5:2) while their daughters Atarah and Tirzah were both born in Jerusalem.

Hebraic roots

Aaron subsequently enrolled at the Hebrew University to study the Bible further and was duly ordained by the Bishop of Bolivia, later engaging in regular study with rabbis, who told him: “We would love to have Christian input into our studies.”

As well as this, he now tours the world again (especially Canada, the UK and Ireland) sharing in-depth teaching on the significance of the Hebraic roots of our faith, which has blessed countless Christians over the years (including this writer).

It may surprise some that Leviticus is Aaron’s favourite book of the Bible. But he explains that this is because “it shows us the heart of God and why he is holy, and how we can become better disciples of Jesus.”



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WHOSE CHILD?

UK Abortion, a Gospel Matter

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Amazon

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- A study of biblical and non-biblical sources.
- Aims to be an accurate, substantiated short overview of the situation in the UK.
- A positive book full of hope as well as the challenge.

**Prayer points for the National Day of Prayer on 16 September**

Pray, in his mercy, that the Lord even now intervene to deliver us from evil and renew a right spirit within us.

Pray protection over the unborn.

Pray protection over the minds and hearts of our young, in both education and the media. Pray they be allowed to be children.

Pray that faithfulness to Christ is once again recognised and valued, and that the Lord raises up godly men and women to positions of influence and power.

Pray that our leaders be given wisdom and insight, courage to lead without fear, and strength to stand against all the tactics and diversions of the enemy.

Pray that the eyes and ears of the lost be opened, so that they may know and acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, and be saved.

Pray for 'nominal' Christians in this nation to encounter Christ and be awakened fully to truth.

Pray that the foundations of our society be renewed and reaffirmed, and that we recover the values of truth, honesty, justice, righteousness, purity, discipline, courage in the face of adversity, and steadfastness.

Pray that the Church be purified and become once again a moral compass and beacon to the nation, fearlessly proclaiming the Gospel and steadfastly upholding truth.

Pray that spirits of chaos and confusion holding the nation be bound, and that the Lord bring clarity and unity of purpose to our fatally divided land.

Pray that those who wish to suppress truth for their own ends be supernaturally stopped, and that the full truth be revealed.

Pray for the protection of the nation from acts of terrorism, and from all those plotting covertly to undermine and subvert us.

For more prayer points and details of the day, email info@ufjuk.org

POINTS FOR PRAYER**Israelis head to polls yet again**

Amidst much political uncertainty, Israel will be holding its fifth election in three years, probably this autumn, following the collapse of its coalition government, with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid serving as caretaker Prime Minister until a new administration is sworn in.

Help stop Iran getting bomb, Hayley tells evangelicals

As President Biden seeks to negotiate a new nuclear deal with Iran, former US ambassador to the UN Nikki Hayley told the Christians United for Israel summit in Washington, "If America won't [stop Iran] then Israel must – and we should help them."

She added: "Iran will keep cheating to get what it wants. Anything [President] Joe Biden signs will all but guarantee that Iran gets the bomb. No deal is better than a bad deal."

God gave me a dream about the unborn**Why Christians must speak up for God's tiniest children**

By Sarah Begaj



Voice for the voiceless: mother of two Sarah Begaj at the March for Life in September 2021

On 18 February 2021 I awoke abruptly from a vivid and terrifying dream.

I was talking with Christian friends, congregated outside on a quiet cul-de-sac road. We appeared to be neighbours.

This pleasant dream quickly turned into a nightmare as I realised some of our children had gone missing. One child was found mutilated while another stood there looking almost doll-like, missing an arm.

Even more horrifying was the discovery that the relatives and friends among us were guilty of these heinous crimes. Needless to say, this was not a dream I wanted to retain in my memory, but just over two weeks later the Lord revealed to me the interpretation.

Between the dream and its interpretation I had been researching the Covid vaccines, feeling prompted to read Romans 14 – especially verse 22: "Happy is he who is not condemned in what he approves."

Aborted babies' organs are still being harvested for medical research

This led me to discover a number of Dave Brennan's articles posted on pro-life website Brephos – particularly 'Silver bullet or golden calf'. His articles referenced how the cell line used in the development/testing of the Covid vaccines came from an aborted baby.

I was shocked to discover how aborted babies' organs are still being harvested for medical research and became convinced that the Lord had drawn me to these articles to

reveal his heart of grief at the murder of the unborn.

The sheer magnitude of abortions taking place daily in England and Wales sickened me; we are losing well over 200,000 babies each year.

The armless child in my dream was reminiscent of an abortion procedure

On 5 March 2021 during a time of prayer, the interpretation of my dream suddenly dawned upon me. The armless child I had seen in my dream was reminiscent of an abortion procedure – the ripping of limbs from the torsos of the tiny babies.

Why were the Christians held accountable?

But why were the Christians the ones held accountable?

1 Peter 4:17 says "For the time has come for judgement to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God?" We are told to deliver those drawn towards death (Proverbs 24:11-12) and to open our mouths for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die (Proverbs 31:8).

There are many Christians who condemn abortion, yet because it is an unseen sin, sold under the banner of 'NHS healthcare', we give little attention to this abomination, turning a blind eye.

We were told to protect the NHS and others in order to "love thy neighbour", yet we are guilty of not loving the very weakest, frailest children of God.

Another dream on 26 March

2021 contained a clear warning of judgement for our wickedness: "Jeremiah and the potter" flashed before my eyes, which led me to Jeremiah 19, where he prophesies of God's judgement on Israel. Her people's wickedness included the shedding of innocent blood.

As we are the Church, we must not stay silent on this issue, but rather expose the hidden works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11), defending the voiceless ones, whom the Lord has known before they were in their mothers' wombs (Psalm 139). For indeed their blood cries out.

Sarah Begaj is a married mother of two who writes and records Scripture-inspired music "to sow seeds of faith through song". Her CD albums/digital downloads are available at www.sarahbegaj.com and all major digital outlets; her song videos are on YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/SarahBegajMusic





PERSECUTION WATCH by Andrew Halloway

United Kingdom

UK HOSTS MAJOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONFERENCE

Liz Truss quotes Bible in support of religious freedom

Britain led a major international conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) in London on 5 and 6 July.

The government is also conducting a review of the Truro Report into Christian persecution, having previously pledged to fully implement its findings.

The conference hosted over 600 faith, belief, government and civil society leaders from 100 countries to promote action to protect religious freedom around the world.



Chris McAndrew/Wikimedia

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss launched a Network of Freedom

have to die for their faith before governments around the world take decisive action?

Religious persecution is "collateral damage" in Russia's invasion of Ukraine

"The Truro Review has recognised that 80 per cent of the violence against faith groups worldwide is directed against Christians."

Speaking at the conference, Liz Truss said: "Authoritarians and oppressors feel threatened by the freedom of religion or belief, fearing it will encourage people to think freely and question their authority. We cannot allow them to win. That is why we're deepening links with our allies and partners to build a Network of Liberty around the world."

"As St Paul told the Corinthians: 'Be on guard, stand firm, be courageous, be strong.'"

religious persecution is "collateral damage" in Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Christian anti-persecution charity Release International called on the UK government to hold to its promises. Release's CEO, Paul Robinson, asked: "How many more Christians

80 per cent of the violence against faith groups worldwide is directed against Christians

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss announced £500,000 of funding and focused in particular on abuses in China, Nigeria and Afghanistan, adding that reli-

Ukraine

EVANGELICALS TARGETED BY RUSSIAN SEPARATISTS

In areas of Ukraine under Russian control, some evangelical Christians have been forced out and not allowed to return.

Russian soldiers have driven evangelicals out of their buildings

According to Christian Today, evangelical buildings have been confiscated and worshippers forbidden from congregating.

Release International also reports that Christians have faced searches by separatists who have taken equipment, demanded registration documents and closed churches. Voice of the Martyrs says Russian soldiers have also driven evangelicals out of their buildings.

Myanmar

CHRISTIANS BURNT TO DEATH

A report by Amnesty International says Christians are being targeted in Myanmar.

Julia Bicknell of Christian religious freedom charity Open Doors welcomed the report and told Premier News: "We've seen firm evidence of attacks against unarmed civilians in the predominantly Christian state of Kachin... I think we need to remind our politicians that we owe Myanmar at least a debt because it used to be part of the British Empire."

"We owe Myanmar a debt because it used to be part of the British Empire"

Myanmar's Christians are not attacked just for their faith but for political and racial reasons. However, the violence is shocking. Bicknell gave an example in which 35 men, women and children were burned to death, and said there have been air strikes on refugee camps.



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- We research and teach an objective approach to Islamic History, its form and faith.
- We help protect the persecuted. Many of the students we support put their lives and safety on the line by devoting their life to Christ.



Ron George,
Director of Eurasia Education Foundation



Mihai Malancea,
Academic Dean of Divitia Gratiae University

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Missions in the land of the white bear

"We don't know what the future holds, but now we sense God's presence and guidance over everything that is happening."

Being a Christian in the old Soviet Union was not encouraged. Mihai was born into a Christian Moldovan family whose father was detained in Siberian camps for being a church leader.

When Mihai refused to leave his faith the army sent him to Siberia in 50 below temperatures. Here he met Muslims who were also persecuted for their faith. He vowed to return to these cities with the Gospel.

As promised he now serves as a founder-leader of Divitia Gratiae University (DGU), a Christian university, training young disciples to reach Central Asian people. Some 1,800 have graduated. As the university degree is free for Central Asian students, they have learned to trust in the Lord and rely upon him. We strongly believe that national workers are the key to church expansion.

1. They know the language and culture.
2. They do not need a passport.
3. They often cost 10% of a western missionary.
4. They have natural networks to work through family and tribal links.

Mihai writes: "In the first two weeks of May, two of our teachers (Victor and Pavel) travelled to Tajikistan to teach in the satellite school from Dushanbe and Khujand. Victor taught methods of studying the Bible while Pavel taught about working with human trafficking and HIV victims.

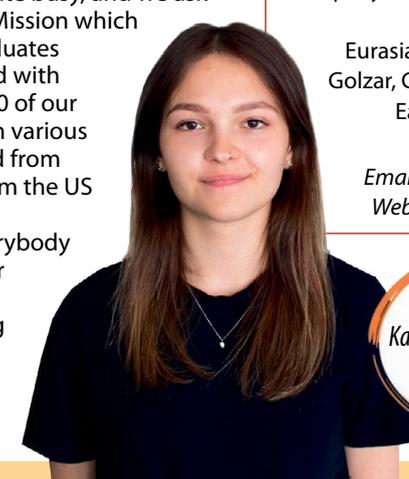
"Our students are now taking their exams with the theology and mission students 'breaking the ice' in June. They will be followed by the social work students and our management students will end the process. God willing, this year's graduation will have 41 graduates: 12 in the theology and missions, 11 in social work, and 18 in management.

"In this context we would like to introduce you to Karina a DGU student finishing her second year of studies in the social work programme. She is from Ukraine and has an interesting story about her ministry among the refugees and her life's mission in general.

"We don't know what the future holds, but now we sense God's presence and guidance over everything that is happening.

"The first two weeks of June were also quite busy, and we ask for your prayers for the Summer School of Mission which we hold every year so that pastors and graduates can continue their training and be refreshed with new ideas and teaching. This year around 80 of our previous graduates are currently involved in various ministries. This summer students will attend from Moldova and Central Asia with lecturers from the US and Estonia.

"The university is buzzing with life as everybody is doing their best to end the academic year well and this is encouraging. Will you help the university change Central Asia by giving a one-off donation, sponsoring a student for £10, £25, £100 per month or making a donation for the development of more colleges inside Central Asia?"



Watch this uplifting interview with Karina about her life and ministry among the refugees.
<https://bit.ly/3zwwgWqe>

PERSECUTION WATCH CONTINUED

Nigeria



TODDLERS GUNNED DOWN WHILE WORLD FOCUSED ON TEXAS SHOOTING



Worshippers at St Francis Catholic Church in Ondo state were attacked with bullets and bombs

Gunmen shot at least 50 people as they worshipped in a Catholic church on Pentecost Sunday – including children of two and three years old.

This atrocity failed to gain anywhere near the same news coverage as the Texas attack, even though more people died. Bishop Jude Arogundade of the Ondo Diocese said some gunmen invaded the church, while others waited outside to kill churchgoers who were fleeing in terror.

However, MPs did debate the growing violence in Nigeria in the House of Commons, led by Christian MP Fiona Bruce.

Gunmen waited outside to kill fleeing churchgoers

Morning Star News reported that, even a month after the attack, it was not known which extremist group was responsible. Officials in Nigeria reportedly blamed the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), whereas locals suspected Fulani herdsmen.

Last year more Christians were martyred for their faith in Nigeria than any other country, according to Open Doors.

Finland



CHRISTIAN MP HOUNDED BY STATE PROSECUTOR

The Finnish MP and bishop who are being taken back to court for ‘hate speech’ are hoping that the case will bring a victory for freedom of speech.

As reported in our last issue, Christian MP Päivi Räsänen and Bishop Pohjola were accused of hate speech for sharing the Bible’s teaching on homosexuality on social media, but were cleared of all charges. In March a lower court dismissed the case and ordered the prosecution to pay over 60,000 Euros in legal costs, resulting in Finland’s state prosecutor applying for a new hearing.

The state prosecutor wants them to be fined and censored in print and on social media

But the Helsinki Court of Appeals is re-opening the case against them as the state prosecutor wants Räsänen and Pohjola to be fined and censored in print and on social media.

Päivi Räsänen said: “After my

full exoneration in court, I am dismayed that the prosecutor will not let this campaign against me drop and yet, the prosecutor’s decision to appeal may lead to the case going all the way to the Supreme Court, offering the possibility of securing a positive precedent for freedom of speech and religion for all Finnish people.

“Also, I am happy that this decision will lead to the discussion of the Bible’s teachings in society. I am ready to defend freedom of speech and religion... as far as the European Court of Human rights, if necessary.”



Standing up for the Bible’s teaching: MP Päivi Räsänen

Freedom Watch

News you won’t hear on the BBC



BAN BEEF AND CLOSE AIRPORTS, SAYS NET ZERO REPORT

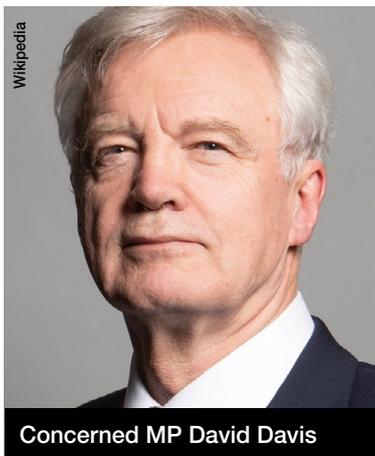
By 2050, eating beef and lamb will be illegal and all airports will close, if the government follows an alarming report on net zero emissions.

The 2019 document, produced by leading universities including Imperial College, Cambridge and Oxford, recommends drastic measures for the UK to meet its carbon reduction targets by 2050. These include conditioning schoolchildren to accept the ‘new normal’ and banning the construction of new buildings.

FREEDOM-THREATENING LAWS

The Queen’s speech contained several new bills which have raised alarm over their wide-reaching powers.

The **National Security Bill** could see journalists jailed for life for reporting “protected” official information in the public interest if they receive foreign funding. It could also grant immunity to ministers for “authorising crimes like murder and torture” overseas, according to David Davis MP.



Concerned MP David Davis

Whistleblowers and journalists could also receive lengthy prison sentences under the **Counter-State Threats Bill**, cur-

rently in progress. The Times said this Bill constitutes “the greatest threat to public interest journalism in a generation”.

The anti-protest regulations in the **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill** saw Greenpeace garner 169,000 signatures against it in the last Parliament, so the law was modified. But the anti-protest measures are reintroduced in the new **Public Order Bill**. Protestors would be banned from obstructing major transport works and locking themselves to infrastructure, while police stop and search powers would increase. The **Public Order Bill** also proposes to allow police to implement Serious Disruption Prevention Orders against protesters (essentially ASBOs).

The new **British Bill of Rights** could hand Parliament the power to decide how courts should interpret human rights, and force people to obtain court permission before bringing proceedings against a public authority.

Further information about these bills can be found at ukcolumnn.org, saveourrights.uk and opendemocracy.net



Big Brother targets religious gatherings

Those who regularly gather together may be targeted by a new digital sleuth.

An Israeli technology, developed by the Ehrlich Group, prioritises individuals for vaccination based on a social credit style score. Digital data would be gathered to estimate an individual’s “potential level of super-spreading activity”.

The product patent was registered in the United Arab Emirates in 2020 and approved in the US in August 2021. An extract reads: “In some embodiments, subjects that are prone to frequent religious or secular events, like in a synagogue, a church or a mosque or a dancing venue, where the people are in close proximity to each other, and talk, pray, sing and/or breathe deeply and/or mingle more, will receive a higher score... than those who do not frequent religious events.”

This comes amid increasing government surveillance worldwide in the name of public health.



Health Watch

Vaccine uptake lower than reported

Official UK government data reveal that 18.9 million eligible people in England remain unvaccinated as of 3 July, whereas a BBC report claimed it was under 3 million adults. Fifty per cent of the country has refused a third dose, while 90 per cent of Covid-19 deaths since April 2022 are among the triple/quadruple jabbed. (Source: The Exposé)

Covid jab: Pregnancy risks downplayed

Pfizer and medicine regulators have downplayed the risks of the Covid-19 vaccines to pregnant women by suppressing clinical data findings.



A total of 4,113 fetal deaths had been reported as adverse reactions to the vaccines as of 22 April 2022, with 3,209 of these reported against the Pfizer vaccine. In the 30 years prior to the vaccines’ authorisation in December 2020, there were only 2,239 fetal deaths recorded on VAERS (the US Vaccine

Continued on page 19

If you weren't there...

Readers' reports of events are welcome; please send at least one good quality captioned photo and up to 300 words to events@heartpublications.co.uk

HOW BIASED BROADCASTING INDUCED GLOBAL FEAR

Report from the Health and Truth Summit: Media Manipulation and Control, Motherwell, 11 June 2022

By Jonathan Weissman

Rarely has the media been as instrumental in shaping public behaviour as in recent times.

Relentless campaigns under the guise of life-saving public health interventions have encouraged self-imposed quar-

antines, invasive nasal swabbing, masks, novel genetic vaccines and the shunning of the unvaccinated.

Organised by a group of concerned Christians, the Health and Truth Summit followed an initial conference held in



Holding mainstream media to account. Left to right: David Clews of Unity News Network, David Scott of UK Column News, journalist Graham Crawford, Pastor John-William Noble, researcher Jonathan Weissman, host Tim Millar and Nigel Utton, COO of World Freedom Alliance



Northern Ireland last November.

John-William Noble, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Aberdeen, drew

parallels between Israel's rampant idolatry in Judges 19-21 and the blindsiding of churches today, where instructions from the television have been heeded above biblical commands. He called on the Church not to repeat Israel's mistake in covering up our recent corporate iniquity. He exhorted us to take responsibility for our decisions over the last two years and to repent wherever we have erred.

My own fully illustrated talk, entitled 'Examining the media's medical mismarketing', got us banned from YouTube! I had picked four media claims that motivated my deep dive into

the experimental Covid-19 'vaccine' biotechnology: vaccinal mRNA breaks down quickly, the spike protein is harmless, the pharmaceuticals could not hide data from the regulators, and everyone must be vaccinated. This presentation earned the Health and Truth YouTube channel its first strike; the video was banned prior to the playback premiere even streaming.

Relentless campaigns under the guise of life-saving public health

Graham Crawford, a former weekly newspaper editor, spoke about how the mainstream media has become our chief abuser. Drawing on almost 40 years of experience in journalism, Graham traced the

media's instrumental role in inducing global fear and how they have abdicated their duty to independently scrutinise the government's data and public health messaging that they so uncritically broadcast.

Unity News Network lead correspondent David Clews explored the lies behind the Covid narrative, uncovering private and government sources of funding behind the mainstream media broadcasters, who propagandise on their behalf. This led to an inspiring account of how independent media platforms like UNN have battled the odds to provide an alternative narrative.

In a powerful yet disturbing talk, UK Column News reporter David Scott proved that media manipulation was rife even prior to Covid. He described how UKCN has unearthed the stories shunned by the mainstream media, including the moving story of Robert Green, a courageous man imprisoned for fighting political corruption and child abuse in the high places of Scottish society.

By the grace of God, this was another highly successful event that came together under challenging circumstances. All talks are now available at healthandtruth.org.

Jonathan Weissman MSc is a full-time cybersecurity professional and part-time independent researcher into the Covid-19 vaccination programme. A fully referenced version of his slides can be viewed at alltherisks.com



Jonathan Weissman critiqued the media's "medical mismarketing"

Continued from page 18

Adverse Event Reporting System). Data also suggest that the risk of miscarriage following a Covid-19 jab is 1,517 per cent higher than following a flu vaccine.

Confidential Pfizer documents reveal 90 per cent of Covid vaccinated pregnant women lost their baby, but Pfizer claimed: "No safety signals emerged." (Source: The Exposé)

The FDA had wanted to wait 75 years before releasing Pfizer's trial data, but a judge ordered them to release it earlier this year. Dr Byram Bridle, an Associate Professor of Viral Immunology in the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Guelph, Canada, has written an article that voices his shock: "Of 29 pregnant women that had received Pfizer's

Covid-19 inoculation, only one had a baby that lived." (Source: The Exposé, 23 July 2022).

Baby death cover-up

Milton Keynes funeral director John O'Looney has revealed that six to eight dead babies at a time are arriving at his local crematorium direct from the nearby hospital. Unusually, the hospital has been acting as the funeral director, thus covering up the increase in deaths.

Mr O'Looney has previously described a 250 per cent workload increase following the first vaccine rollout in 2021. (Source: UK Column)

WHO'S GRABBING POWER



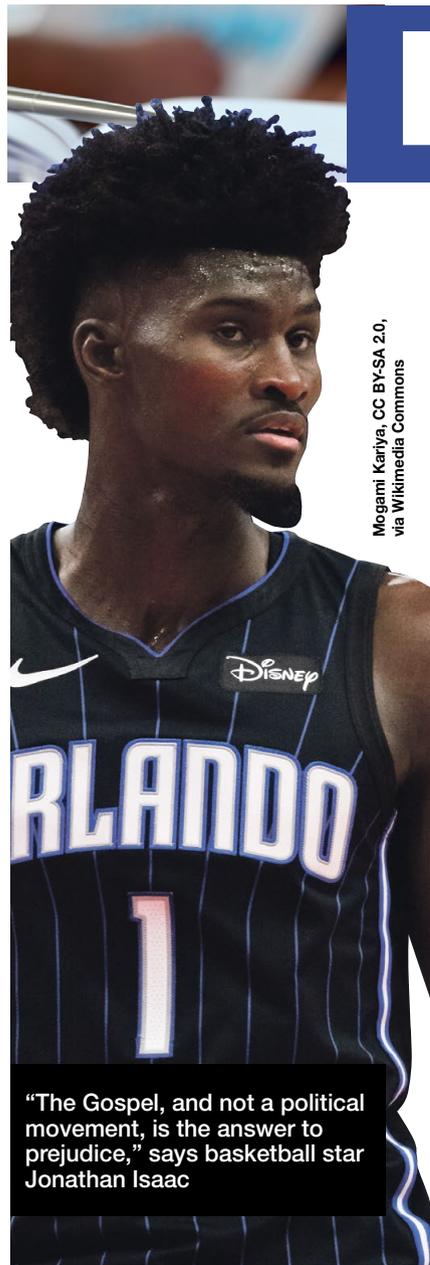
The World Health Organisation is continuing negotiations for a global pandemic treaty, which many fear will seize government power from member states in the event of a new pandemic. A preliminary draft was due in August. A petition demanding a referendum before the UK signs up to the treaty has gathered over 153,000 signatures.

The UN agency is planning to expand its budget by 34 per cent by drawing more heavily on membership fees.

Meanwhile, a WHO virologist has admitted that the WHO has a ten-year plan for future pandemics. Interviewed about the likelihood of a second pandemic, Dutch scientist Marion Koopmans stated, "Yes, this has been in the WHO's ten-year plan for some time. That plan says that there will be a major infectious disease crisis. Well, this was year one."

BOOKREVIEWS

By Gordon Pettie



Mogami Kariva, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

The Christian basketball star who refused to take the knee

How one man stood against the tide

Why I Stand

By Jonathan Isaac

DW Books

In 2020, US basketball star Jonathan Isaac sparked a media firestorm when he refused to kneel during the national anthem in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder.

The 24-year-old gave a simple explanation for his decision: "The Gospel, and not a political movement, is the answer to prejudice, racial unrest and pain. I believe that Jesus Christ is the answer to all the world's problems."

"I can tell you how to be great. You have to know Jesus Christ"

Don't let a book about American basketball put you off reading this inspiring story.

Isaac grew up with a sense of rejection, exacerbated by his parents splitting up when he was ten years old and then relocating from a predominantly black community in the Bronx to the "really white" city of Naples, Florida. Basketball brought Isaac identity, fame, girls and wealth, but didn't deal with his inner feelings of inadequacy.

"There was a pit in my stomach as he cried out"

During 2019 and 2020 he had a lengthy period off with injury. One day a man in an eleva-

tor told him, "I can tell you how to be great. You have to know Jesus Christ." It was the beginning of an amazing journey.

Then came the killing of George Floyd by a white police officer. Isaac writes: "The video of George Floyd's death was awful to watch. There was a pit in my stomach as he cried out. Understandably the response to that video reached deafening levels.

"My question was, what is the right way to respond? Where does Jonathan Isaac, and all of his experiences, fit into such a tragic moment? Black Lives Matter was demanding equality and an end to racism everywhere, but how were we to do it?"

As the basketball season approached, there was only one topic everyone was talking about. Were the teams going to kneel for the national anthem as a protest against George Floyd's death?

The night before Isaac's team, Orlando Magic, were due to play the Brooklyn Nets, the players

held a meeting. The message was clear: "There is not a choice to make. We have to kneel. We cannot be the first team not to take the knee."

"Then it was my turn to speak," says Isaac.

"Y'all, I'm not going to kneel or wear that [Black Lives Matter] T-shirt."

Bedlam broke out. It was hard to hear anything as conversations broke out and guys shouted over each other. One team mate grabbed his belongings and left, and then another, and another. "I stood alone."

The athlete admits that choosing to stand firm in the face of pressure has gotten him much "flack and a lot of backlash".

"I've settled on the fact that I'm going to be willing to stand up and share my opinions the same way that someone else is standing up or kneeling for the national anthem to share theirs," he said. "It hasn't been the easiest thing to do. But I know what I'm standing for."

"The Gospel, and not a political movement, is the answer to prejudice," says basketball star Jonathan Isaac

THE BEST BOOK I'VE READ THIS YEAR

A definitive biography of one of the charismatic movement's most popular yet controversial leaders

John Wimber: His Life and Ministry

By Connie Dawson

Self-published

This is by far the best book I have read this year.

The author, Connie Dawson, has a PhD in Church and Renewal History, an MDiv in New Testament and an MA in Theology so she knows what she is writing about.

Several books have been written about John Wimber, who died of a massive brain haemorrhage while recuperating from open heart surgery in 1997. This volume contains much unpublished material, and I anticipate that it will become the definitive biography of one of the charismatic movement's most popular yet controversial leaders.

The material in this book began its life as Dawson's dissertation for her PhD at Regent's University of Divinity, USA, where she became the first

woman to graduate from the PhD programme.

Wimber had an alcoholic father who abandoned the family home on the day he was born. Growing up, music became his passion and for a time he was writing music for the world-famous duo, The Righteous Brothers.

After he and his wife had radical conversions and experiences of the Holy Spirit, he went on to plant a church in Ahaheim, California, which grew to 8,000 members. He began the Vineyard movement, which became a denomination with thousands of churches attached to it. Although his base was America, he gained an increasingly international ministry.

He visited the UK at least once a year and had an impact on charismatic Anglican churches such as Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB), London, and St Andrew's, Chorleywood.

After one visit to David Watson's church in York, Wimber asked him, "How will you write up a report on my visit for your bishop?"

"The blind received sight, the lame walked"

After a pause, Watson replied: "The blind received sight, the lame walked... and the good news was preached to the poor."

On another visit to the UK he took a series of meetings at HTB. The Holy Spirit began to move and many were overcome. One young man who had previously been sceptical of Wimber's team was carried out. Wimber prophesied that God would give him the power to tell people about Jesus. Nicky Gumbel later became the initiator and leader of the Alpha Course, and since 2005 has been vicar of HTB.

Controversy followed Wimber's ministry, but he was not afraid to admit his mistakes. "After all," he used to say, "I'm just a fat man on my way to heaven." The book deals with the issues surrounding the Kansas City Prophets, his handling of the Toronto Blessing, his 'signs and wonders' ministry, some of the spiritual manifestations at

his meetings, and so on.

Perhaps I should give the final word to Bible teacher Andrew Wommack, who wrote a foreword and admitted that he seldom reads books – at most one a year – he prefers the Bible! He writes: "I am so glad I read this book. I knew virtually nothing about John Wimber but this book was enlightening and inspiring. I believe many will be impacted by it."



Author Connie Dawson based the book on her PhD dissertation



Gordon and Lorna Pettie

Gordon, along with his wife Lorna, is part of the leadership team of Revelation TV, a 24/7 Christian television station that broadcasts in the UK on Sky 581 and Freesat TV 692, and throughout the world via the Roku Box and Apple TV. Gordon's passion is writing and he is the author of eight books.

ADVERTORIAL



83-year-old veteran preacher Alan Rigby publishes regular study videos to his website Seeking the Truth. Check them and his full testimony out at www.alanrigby.com

“Faith has given me a life full of blessings”

This is the story of how becoming a Christian transformed my life from a juvenile delinquent to a pillar of the community.

At school I was a regular truant and trouble-maker and was placed on probation three times for various crimes. I also narrowly escaped a custodial sentence in 1956 by being sent to a London probation hostel for twelve months.

When I returned to the Potteries after a year away, my life revolved around the pub and working men’s club.

One Saturday night I was just beginning my annual fortnight holiday, and finding myself with lots of cash I decided to go on a bender. After drinking myself into a stupor I thought: “If this is living, I wish I was dead” – I was living a very selfish, self-centred life.

Until I was aged 19 I lived life ‘My Way’ and I was making a mess of it. A teenage thief with a criminal record; a miserable alcoholic who was sick of life.

Today, at the age of 83, I am a Christian with a very different story to tell. Instead of doing things ‘My Way’, I now do things ‘God’s Way’.

There is a proverb found in Proverbs 3:6: “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

This verse has helped and sustained me down the years, and here are just a few of the areas of my life where I sought direction from God.

I prayed very much concerning a wife, and next year Millie and I will have been happily married for sixty years.

We both prayed concerning a family, and God has blessed us with three wonderful children and four very special grandchildren, with a wonderful relationship between them all.

When it came to my working life, this I also prayed much about. I’ve had jobs that have given me satisfaction over the years; the final job I had was that of a post-mortem room technician, which I held for 30 years.

At my retirement party some 45 years after becoming a Christian it dawned on me just how much God had blessed me.

Once a teenage thief with a criminal record; a miserable alcoholic who was sick of life.

Now, I was on first name terms with Her Majesty’s Coroner, police superintendents, hospital consultants, and local council directors.

I also had the privilege to serve as a city councillor in the area I live.

Thinking back on my life and from where I started, I can say with conviction that God can do marvellous things with very inferior material.

www.alanrigby.com

Watch a series of studies looking very closely at the life of the Lord Jesus Christ: not just the things He said and did, but also what the motivation was behind the things He said and did. Among the topics discussed include:

- ◆ The birth of Jesus
- ◆ The silent years
- ◆ His baptism and temptation
- ◆ Calling His disciples
- ◆ Miracles He performed
- ◆ His public ministry
- ◆ His private conversations with Nicodemus
- ◆ The woman at the well

With each study there is a downloadable transcript, allowing you to cut and paste anything you may want to use yourself – and all this is completely free. Visit www.alanrigby.com

Some wars can get overlooked...

But marriage, especially Christian marriage, has been under attack for decades.

Marriage is not just a good idea
It is God’s Idea!



Pastor Les W Potter

The author of this new handbook on marriage, Pastor Les Potter, writes from experience: “My marriage was almost destroyed 40 years ago, but it resulted in me and my wife coming to Jesus!”

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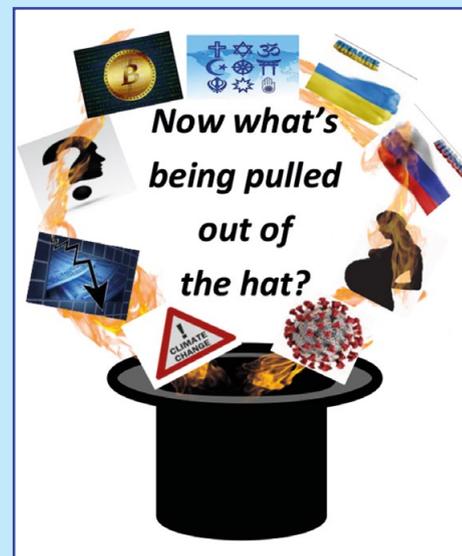
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21st Century Church Reformation

This popular booklet, by Pastor Paul Taylor, whose vision headlined our Feb/Mar 2021 paper, can be ordered from a new email address for the cost of postage only: hello@go2all.org.uk

AFTER COVID WHAT?



Andrew Baguley’s new book examines expert evidence about the man-made Covid crisis and attempts to set all this within the context of Christian faith and the prophetic promises of God. Copies available at £7.00 plus p&p by Text: 07973269521 Email: baguley406@btinternet.com www.andrewbaguley.co.uk


letters@heartpublications.co.uk

October/November letters deadline: 2 September 2022

Email letters@heartpublications.co.uk; we may not have the time or volunteers to retype letters sent by post. Add your name, town and county. Length should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

Comments sent via our website will be considered for printing unless marked 'Not for publication'.

Fishing in Ukraine

In 2007 and 2008, I spent time with a Christian charity in Ukraine, warning the Jewish people to leave the country if they could.

To demonstrate that God had not forgotten them, we used Jeremiah 16:16, which says that God will first send fishermen and then hunters to bring his people back to Israel. We had no idea just how right we were.

We need to keep praying for Israel and her people.

*John Harrold
Newport, Wales*

Miraculous provision

I heartily concur with the article on God's provision by Chris Wickland (June/July).

Some years ago, I was convicted that I was only giving away 6.5 per cent of my income. I determined to raise that to 10 per cent and increase yearly. I am

now on target for 40 per cent.

Logically, my financial assets (pensions) should have decreased accordingly, but instead, there has been an increase! That is mathematically impossible; the only explanation is a miracle.

When we give generously, God will give to us generously. It's not 'prosperity Gospel' – it's simply the Gospel!

How I wish that more believers would have the courage to take God at his word. When we give an account of how we used his resources, how many of us will wish that we had given more?

*Ken Nash
Dereham, Norfolk*

One world religion

During the Jubilee weekend, I asked the Lord: "Why would the Archbishop of Canterbury say that Christians come to God through the Cross of Jesus, but Muslims have their own way to God?"

"Why would the Pope espouse universalism, saying that everybody is saved, even atheists?"

"Why would the Queen break her coronation oath by allowing the Koran to be read as an act of worship in Westminster Abbey?"

I felt him reply: "They are preparing the way for a one world religion."

I've heard others warn of a one world religion, but this was the first time in 42 years as a Christian that I sensed the Lord speaking about this directly to me.

*Dean McBride
London SE17*

Frightened of silence?

Why are churches so frightened of silence?

Today, many churches put on a show, not a service. No hymns are included, just meaningless songs lacking reverence and awe.

When I asked some priests why the choir or band have to perform during communion, I was told it heightens the service! But does this most sacred public witness really need heightening? Perhaps some Christians have never heard the Holy Spirit speak to them because he is drowned out by all the noise.

We must ask: is our act of worship truly an act of faith or just an act? In the latter times we will be led astray by false teachers.

We need to return to the straight and narrow pathway through the narrow gate, preaching as Jesus and the disciples did. Then the churches might be filled once again.

*Bill Livingstone
Gately, Manchester*

What's wrong with Wesley?

In the 40 years since I came to faith in a Bexhill house church, I have come to the opposite conclusion to Paul Minter (Letters, June/July); we do need preaching and corporate singing.

What's wrong with the hymns, spiritual songs and carols, by the likes of the Wesley brothers, Graham Kendrick and Rev Mohr – the Austrian pastor who gave us the much loved 'Silent night, holy night'?

A piece of coal that falls from the grate onto the hearth eventually cools down, whereas if it remained in the grate, it is kept hot by the other coals.

We need to interact as a body, not solely by reading and speaking Scripture, because Jesus "gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service" (Ephesians 4: 11-12).

*Andrew Larkin
formerly of Bexhill, East Sussex*

Who closed the churches?

On 23 March 2020, just after the government ordered churches to close, then in June 2020, I heard two people separately quote Isaiah 26:20-21, where he warns the Lord's people to hide in their rooms while the Lord punishes the earth's inhabitants for their wickedness.

Then I heard a prophecy on Christian radio in December 2020: "The churches have put my Holy Spirit out of their lives; there's no room for me, only for their ministries, their songs and their words." They were not not singing to God to worship him, and, "It's become your church, your time, not God's any more. So as you have put me out, now I will put you out."

*Irene Kawakita
Beckenham, Kent*

Sanity saver

Picking up the HEART paper during lockdown was amazing as I had become totally bewildered by the way lockdown divided people's opinions, including among my friends.

The HEART paper helped return my sanity and renew my faith. It seemed I wasn't crazy but in a wonderful minority. I now distribute HEART and give it to those in my community who have eyes to see what is really going on.

*Clare Hinchcliffe
St Leonard's, East Sussex*

Pray for the Queen

On 2 July we found ourselves caught up in London's 'Gay Pride' march while on the way to the Officers' Club in Piccadilly, to celebrate my army officer grandson's engagement.

As a grandma and great-grandma, I was left quite traumatised. The shock to me was the roaring of the crowd in approval.

Once home that night, still heavily burdened, the following words came to me:

*I have seen a terrible thing –
the celebration of defilement
in the heart of the capital city.
Woe, woe, I will not be silent.
Watch, therefore and pray.
Pray for the innocents,
Pray long life for your Queen,
For I shall not act while she
lives.*

*Speak to my people – warn –
For the days are short
The harvest is over.*

Please weigh this message.
*Judy Wood
Crewkerne, Somerset*



In my own words
Readers' longer letters

Five ways to check if your church is biblical

The church needs some form of structure

If God wanted his Church to adhere to a specific model, he would have given one.

Christians sometimes behave as if they are the arbiters of the only correct church model ('Bible-based church', Letters, June/July).

The essence of the New Testament faith is a relationship between the believer and their redeemer Jesus Christ, through the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

New groups of believers were only referred to as "churches" after elders had been appointed

God knew that giving us a specific model would stifle the

work of the Holy Spirit and remove the individual's responsibility to develop a personal relationship with our Saviour. Religion and ritual give a false sense of security and spirituality (this explains why some Christians emphasise Jewish traditions over New Testament practice).

Of course, the Church needs some form of structure, otherwise we'd degenerate into a chaotic reign of people's opinions, which is just as bad as legalism.

Acts 2:42 is widely considered to be the closest thing we have to a statement of purpose for a church: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

So a church should:

1. Teach biblical doctrine
2. Provide a place of fellowship
3. Observe the Lord's Supper
4. Pray
5. Appoint elders

Too many Christians miss the significance of having elders.

The New Testament distinguishes a church from just any gathering of Christians by the appointment of (a plurality of) elders.

In Acts, new groups of believers were only referred to as "churches" after elders had been appointed.

Any other definition of church is merely "teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7).

*James Smith
Sheffield, Yorkshire*



James Smith preaches regularly at an evangelical church in the north of England



In my own words

Readers' longer letters



A right Charlie

Help! My friend Charlie identifies as a grand piano

My friend Charlie recently started identifying as a grand piano.

This has come as a shock to his friends and family, because last year he was a happy, middle-ranking executive.

Now he is a glowering grand piano who insists that relationship with him is a zero-sum game: you either accept his new identity, or you're no longer a friend. He wants his wife to recognise herself as a Hammond organ and believes this will make them a perfect pair.



Peter Sammons is an author and publisher who is on the editorial board of *Sword* magazine

All co-workers will call Charlie by his preferred pronoun, 'it', and use his new name, Steinway

How should I relate to Charlie and his grieving family? Unsurprisingly, his employer's HR department has been very supportive, insisting that all co-workers call Charlie by his preferred pronoun 'it' and use his new name, Steinway. Failure to do so will henceforth be considered as harassment.

Charlie is progressively changing his body, with alternate teeth painted white and black. He looks absurd, but I feel I cannot say so, as some do-gooder may accuse me of 'hate speech' and call the police.

Why should I be compelled to acknowledge an evident falsehood? Is my right to call Charlie a man lower than his 'right' to identify as a grand piano? Who sets this hierarchy of rights and why must the majority always be compelled to satisfy the demands of the minority?

The BBC plans a documentary series exploring the joys of transitioning to 'pianohood'. The C of E is planning new liturgy to celebrate transitioning, and breakaway 'priests' have declared they do not mind what instrument that transitioners propose to become, as God loves them all, equally. Their draft

liturgy includes the clarion affirmation, "In my Father's orchestra there are many instruments."

As families are wrenched apart by our new religion of 'transitioning', some political parties are recognising a potential new constituency of those aggrieved at the promotion of crazy, 'progressive' doctrines on the status of humankind. Many people are now becoming angered at a profound reduction of freedom to object and call a spade a spade (whether or not it identifies as one).

Perhaps a political upheaval is coming

The end of free speech? Perhaps a political upheaval is coming.

Charlie is imposing his worldview on his wife, his family, his co-workers and on society as a whole.

But Charlie is not a grand piano – and never will be.
Peter Sammons
Haverhill, Suffolk

The full version of this article will be available in *Sword* magazine

Time to shake off the old church structures

Post-pandemic, many have returned to traditions that they can control and predict

The pandemic has awoken many believers from a slumber of false security and comfort.

Believers have seen that the Lord is shaking all nations, as prophesied in Haggai 2:6-9.

But Haggai also declares that "the glory of [the] latter temple shall be greater than the former."

Their foundation was a living relationship with Jesus, not an institution

So believers are asking, "Where are the miracles and the manifest presence of God?"

In fact, following the pandemic, many have returned to traditions that they can control and predict. We have soulless substitutes for the glory of God, designed to keep people happy. In the spiritual realm

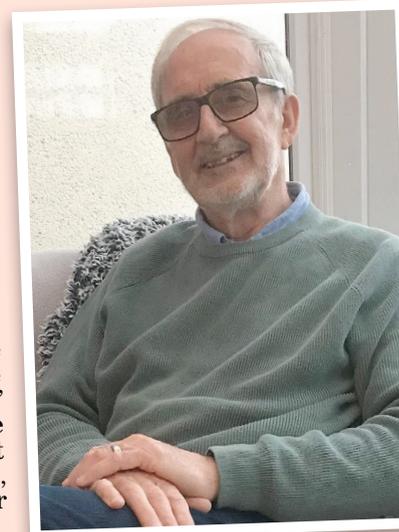
we have a false priesthood, worshipping at false altars.

Yet the Father's house was meant to be filled with the breath of life. The early disciples weren't confined to a template, but turned the world upside down as the Spirit empowered them. Their foundation was a living relationship with Jesus, not an institution.

I believe that when Rome made Christianity the state religion, a 'Roman template' was enacted in the invisible world. Do we need to repent of this religious 'template', which is now ingrained in our spiritual DNA?

This is the hour of change. We must seek first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). We must live IN Jesus rather than just FOR him (John 14:10), doing the Father's works from a place of freedom and rest. It's his Church, not ours!

When our heavenly Bride-



Pat Regan, author of 'Be a Voice, not an Echo'

groom returns, may we be ready and full of the breath of life.

Pat Regan
Chelmsford, Essex



End-time events

We need to know which trumpet is sounding

The Book of Revelation gives the order of end-time events.

Revelation 2 and 3 describe the state of the churches before the Day of Jesus Christ when he comes to collect his Bride (Philippians 1:6, Colossians 1:13-14, 3:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Acts 1:11). By now most of the Church will have accepted the world's false creeds (1 Kings 22:21, Revelation 1:4, 20).

But Jesus promises to save and glorify the ones who still cling to his Word.

There are many uncertain 'trumpets' concerning the end of the times of the Gentiles and the rapture of the Bride of Christ (1 Corinthians 14:8). This is partly due to not seeing that the seven seals, trumpets and bowls that are

heralded on earth by Moses and Elijah refer to the order of the same seven judgements.

The seventh trumpet is not the calling together of the saints. It initiates the final judgement. Christ then returns to earth with the great army of saints whom he has saved from his wrath (Revelation 7 and 19). They rule with him for a millennium as priests and kings and the regathered sons of Israel administer his kingdom from Jerusalem.

If you want to be part of the Bride, please read my very detailed study posted at www.answerstoeverything.com, where I explain that the sounding of the last post is the recall at the end of a battle.

Jesus promises to save and glorify the ones who still cling to his Word

The recall of the completed body of the saints in 1 Corinthians 15 is to join their Lord before he pours out his wrath on the earth as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18, 5:8-10 and Revelation 5. The sealed 144,000 replace the Church of Jesus Christ on earth. The hit and miss approach of the 'wise or foolish virgins' of Matthew 25 is not recommended.

Peter Franklin
Barnham, West Sussex

CREATION CORNER



by Geoff Chapman

Insects may sometimes annoy us, yet we couldn't exist without them, since they perform the vital function of pollination.

Insects make up about 85 per cent of all known species. There are believed to be around 200 million for every person on earth! Did they evolve? The evidence says "No!"



The oldest confirmed insect fossil is a wingless, silverfish-like creature

Explosion of insects

The oldest confirmed insect fossil is a wingless, silverfish-like creature, claimed to be "385 million years old". Then, according to the evolutionists' dating system, there is a gap of "60 million years" before the fossils of other insects appear.

Sandra Schachat of Stanford Earth told Science Daily: "There's been quite a bit of mystery around how insects first arose, because for many millions of years you had nothing, and then just all of a sudden an explosion of insects."

The non-evolution of insects

Insects' complex wings and social structures couldn't have developed by chance

Modern-type insects lived alongside the dinosaurs

Entomologist (insect expert) Professor Karl Kjer wrote: "If you had a time machine and you went back to the Jurassic, we entomologists would recognise all of the insects and we could classify them into their proper order. Many of them would look very similar to what we see today."

Modern-type insects such as grasshoppers, crickets, butter-

flies and dragonflies lived alongside the dinosaurs. The only change is that modern insects are much smaller.

Insect flight

The origin of insect flight is another problem for evolution. The Wikipedia entry on the Origin of Insects states, "The first insects were landbound, but about 400 million years ago in the Devonian period one lineage of insects evolved flight, the first animals to do so."



The first flying insects to appear in the fossil record had fully-fledged wings, including giant dragonflies with wingspans of up to 75cm

Although it is claimed that insects "evolved flight", the first flying insects to appear in the fossil record had fully-fledged wings, including giant dragonflies with wingspans of up to 75cm (30 in).

Flying insects appear suddenly in the rock record, with no ancestors

Flying insects appear suddenly in the rock record, with no ancestors. The wings of insects are very delicate and often beautiful. It seems impossible to believe they evolved by chance and there's no evidence that they did. Creation makes more sense of the evidence, and it seems that the 19th century hymn writer was right after all: "God made their glowing colours, And made their tiny wings."

Social insects

The origin of social insects is another problem for Darwin's theory. There are a number that live in societies. How this communal living originated has been a puzzle for evolutionists ever since Darwin's

time. These insects are totally dependent on one another and can only function as a unit.

Ants which are forced to live alone soon die

The fossil record suggests that ants have always lived in communities. Ants which are removed from the colony and forced to live alone soon die. So, they are clearly designed to live as part of a community, and can't function alone. Bees, wasps, ants and termites work together to construct complex nests, and appear to be pre-programmed to do this. This ability must be coded in their DNA, and could not have arisen by chance.



Insect wings are very delicate and often beautiful

Human engineers have designed robotic insects. Although inferior to real insects, they involved much intelligent thought and planning. The whole natural world, including insects, shows similar evidence of design by an all-wise Creator.

More information from Creation Resources Trust: www.crt.org.uk

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Melanie Symonds

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A CHILD IN LOCKDOWN

How one reader's daughter felt about the last two years

By Isabel Madden, aged 12

The Covid-19 lockdown was announced on my tenth birthday, 23 March 2020.

The public began clapping for the NHS every Thursday at eight o' clock, sometimes banging pots or pans.

At first, people believed what the media was telling them, but others started to question the narrative ... and for the next two years – life was never the same.

As a child, when school closed, I was ecstatic. Only a booklet of work was handed to us by the school. But time passed, and with nothing to do but stay inside all day, we began to lose the sense of what it felt like to be normal.

In September 2021, the children at my school were going to be jabbed, so I left. My parents arranged home education for me.

I remember the news being on every day. They would tell us that the death rate had increased, or that more people had got sick. As gyms were closed, we would do home workouts and use our devices a lot more. Although there were many other important things going on at the time, they wouldn't talk about it, only Covid. People were told to "Stay at home" or "Wear a mask to protect your grandma".

Later on, vaccines were rolled out to the "vulnerable". Most took it without

question and seemed okay with it. Soon, they wanted the five to eleven year-olds to have it. Happily some parents chose to keep their children from having it.

My grandma had run out of food as people were bulk buying. So we'd drive down and deliver food for her. Once our family members found out, my aunt had an argument with my mum and told us that only one of us should have gone. But grandma was just happy that we came.

In 2020, Joe Biden became president of the United States, and Trump was removed from office.

To make things worse, the war between Russia and Ukraine began in February 2022. Vladimir Putin supposedly claimed that he was "Simply taking it back" though we were never given any real information about it.

I felt like a part of me went missing over these years, like I grew up a bit too fast. I stopped caring about things that mattered. Social media definitely influenced me more than it should have. It never really occurred to me that I'd changed so much.

The globalists have tried to divide us as human beings with many things. Race, gender, and wars...

As I sit here and write this, most restrictions have been lifted. Life feels pretty normal. But it's not over yet, and I don't think it's going to be over for a long time.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS CONTINUED

Continued from page 9

FOOTBALL COACH WINS HUGE PRAYER CASE

In a big boost for religious freedom, the US Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in favour of a Washington State high school football coach who was fired after praying with his players on the field after games.

The school district said coach Joe Kennedy's prayers violated the First Amendment, which led to a long legal battle that began in 2015. However, in June the Supreme Court

ruled the Bremerton School District violated Kennedy's First Amendment rights.

The majority opinion stated that teachers and students alike still maintain their freedom of speech, even if they are working at a state-funded school. The court reprimanded the local government for trying to punish Kennedy for his religious expression.

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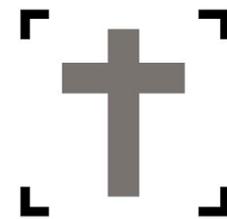
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