

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

“And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch”

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

May 2012

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CHRISTIAN WATCH

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Saviour's blessed and holy Name.

As we constantly witness the solemn decline from virtually all Scriptural standards by those in authority over us, including honesty, integrity and morality, we also observe a lack of wisdom and sound judgment by our leaders in many of the comments and decisions they make. They fail to recognise or accept that there is a God in Heaven who has all things in His control and who has left on record in His Holy Word sufficient information to guide and direct us, however great our responsibilities. When we find ourselves at our wits end, there is no better place for us to take our concerns to than to the Lord in prayer. He has promised to do for us that which we ask in His Name, with faith to believe and to prayerfully wait upon Him to answer us, in His time. (*John 14:13-14*).

The wonders of redeeming grace that our Lord is able to perform has not diminished by the passage of time and He continues to give to those who He has chosen, a gracious willingness to forsake all for Him. We have been privileged to witness a manifestation of this in a young woman who was brought up in a practising Roman Catholic family and she continued in that faith for some years, including marrying a man of the same faith. However, by the wonderful mercy of the Lord she was brought to see the errors of the Catholic religion and eventually was constrained by the Lord to separate from it. The consequences of her decision are that her husband and parents have forsaken her and she now rents a house where she lives with two of her sons. We include a copy of a letter she has sent to her mother under the title **Breaking Off Catholic Ties**. This was in response to a letter from her mother requesting her to return to the Roman Catholic Church. This is a wonderful example of the grace the Lord bestows upon His elect and the promise He gives in Matthew 19:28 He will never fail to fulfil.

One of our Members from Hampshire has been particularly exercised to identify from Scripture the various texts which refer to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth. This we include under the title **The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ**. How important it is that we search the Scriptures as we are exhorted to do in John 5:39, to make our calling and election sure. Before studying this item, we believe you will find it helpful, and we trust, spiritually profitable to read chapters 4 and 5 in the first epistle to the Thessalonians. How careful and prayerful we should be that, if our lives are preserved until the day of the Lord's return, we are ready and prepared for it. However, if the time of our death precedes this, we equally need to be prepared.

The solemnity of many events and developments at the present time surely identify and confirm that we have entered the period of time the Bible says will occur prior to Christ's return. Our National Church, whose Articles of Faith are firmly based upon the Word of God, no longer maintain the scriptural standards of those who were in authority in previous generations, and who were highly revered for their spirituality of life. We include an article by the Press Association entitled **Clergy Group backs Gay Marriage** which clearly illustrates the previous point. When a group of senior bishops and clergymen in the Church of England say that the prospect of same-sex marriage is a cause for rejoicing, it demonstrates just how far from God's laws and commandments we have nationally departed.

We are supporting a very important campaign entitled '**Keep Marriage Special**' of which the Chairman is a Christian Watch Committee Member. This particular campaign contends for the married state from a Biblical position and emphasises the God given benefits to individuals, families and our nation that result by it being maintained. If we forsake the family pattern, as given by our God at the time of creation, it will be a further step down the road to national ruin. Copies of the 'Keep Marriage Special' petition can be obtained from the website or from

ourselves, details of which are given at the bottom of the article. Please obtain petition forms and endeavour to get as many signatures as possible. We have a responsibility, in line with our Christian profession, to do all we legitimately can to oppose evil and wickedness.

In an endeavour to promote the Word of God and to contend for paths of righteousness, we took a stand at the Christian Resources Exhibition, held at Sandown Park earlier in May. Whilst comparatively few of the large number of people attending spent time with us, we were pleased with the positive interest of many who did visit our stand. A number said how thankful they were to locate an organisation who contended for the Word of God. We were favoured to have a considerable number of new Members signing up with us, for which we are thankful. We include a report on the Exhibition and the meeting which followed by our National Co-ordinator, Michael Hobbis, under the title **REPORT ON CW STAND AT THE CRE EXHIBITION**.

We are increasingly concerned for our Members and other Christians in Nigeria and also for the dear orphaned children who attend the School established for them. There is increasing animosity against Christians resulting in many lives being lost. Thankfully, the area where the school is located has been preserved from violence at present and we pray this favour may continue by the merciful overruling power of Almighty God. We include a recent report on the situation by Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, International Director of Barnabas Fund, under the title **Hundreds slaughtered as anti-Christian violence in Nigeria rages on**.

The costs incurred in running the CW School for Orphaned Children in Nigeria continues to increase both with a growth in numbers and particularly the older ones needing equipment and reading material of a higher standard. Whilst we as Christian Watch provide all we can afford, there is an ongoing need for further funding. We therefore include a request for financial support from any of our Members who are able to contribute towards this good cause.

We include a review of a book written by one of our Members, Mr Robert Watson. The title is "**Man of Iron**" and it deals with that man of God, John Knox, who is known as the father of the Scottish Reformation and one who earnestly contended for the faith, with the ability the Lord had granted to him. The review is very detailed and ordering information is also provided.

Finally, we include an article by the late servant of the Lord, John Newton, entitled '**Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.**' *Proverbs 14:34*. We trust John Newton's comments on this text will encourage all who read it to plead with the Lord to have mercy on our nation and also the other countries where our Members reside. We are living in increasingly solemn times, but if we are numbered among the righteous it will be well for us whilst life remains, although we may be called upon to suffer for the Lord's sake, as in Nigeria and some other countries at the present time. May the Lord give us grace to endure all that He sees fit and allows to come upon us. He says "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness". *2 Corinthians 12:9*.

We wish you the Lord's blessing and His help and support in fulfilling the various duties and responsibilities He has placed upon you.

I remain, yours, in His service.



David Crowter

Management Committee

Mr D Boyd; Mr M Brockes (Hon Treasurer/Co Secretary); Mr D Crowter (Chairman); Mr P Baker;
Mr I Henderson; Mr M Hobbis; Mr D Lawson; Mr M de Semlyen; Mrs J Cummins (Secretary).

Breaking Off Catholic Ties

My Dear Mother,

I am no longer a Roman Catholic because I believe, by the Lord's mercy and goodness, I am a born again Christian, born of the Spirit. I cannot go back to praying to the saints and Mary. There is only one mediator between God and man/woman and that is Jesus Christ. I prayed similar words to that which follows below a long time ago and the Lord in mercy heard my prayer. I can never return to the Catholic faith. I can never go back, dear Mother, and will never again join with you at the Roman Catholic Church with the rest of my family.

I prayed:

"In the Name of Jesus Christ, Holy Father, I ask forgiveness and plead the blood of Jesus for kneeling to Rome. In the Name of Jesus I renounce Roman Catholicism in all of its forms (including every denomination that has bowed the knee to Rome). I declare that as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

In the Name of Jesus, I ask forgiveness and plead the blood of Jesus for the pardon of every sinful covenant I have ever made, and for any made on my behalf, to join me to the Roman Catholic Church. In the Name of Jesus, I renounce every thought, word and action of every such covenant and every Catholic ritual. I renounce my baptism into the Roman Catholic Church and renounce my allegiance to the Pope and every foreign god. I renounce all worship of the Queen of Heaven by any name and my participation with praying Novenas. I renounce every 'church membership' that is allied to Rome. I pledge my allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ who is now seated at the right hand of God. I renounce all prayers that I have prayed to the Queen of Heaven and the saints.

In the Name of Jesus, I ask forgiveness and plead His precious blood for every thought, word and act of every Catholic ritual I have ever performed. I renounce every Mass I have ever taken. I renounce making the sign of the cross and bowing the knee to Catholic priests. I renounce every prayer to any saint and all my confessions to a priest. There is only one mediator between God and man and that is Christ Jesus. I renounce praying the rosary, the stations of the cross, and calling any man Father. This name is reserved for our heavenly Father.

I repent of all of these things and I ask you, Father, to restore to me fully the spiritual roots of my faith. I declare that my main concern is to know that I am part of the Bride of Christ and knowing that my God is a jealous God, I want to love Him and His ways and I will have no other besides.

In the Name of Jesus, I pray for all my family, and what I have just prayed for myself, I also pray on their behalf. Forgive us, Father, for we were ignorant and blind about what we were doing. And, in the Name of Jesus, I ask you Father to wash my loved ones clean from their sin with the precious blood of Jesus Christ and have mercy on them. And, where members of my family continue in this idolatry, I cut every tie between us in spiritual matters.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I reject every Catholic satanic guardian demon that has been assigned to me and my family. I declare that all I need for time and eternity is found in my dear Lord Jesus, who is my Intercessor, my Provider, my Shield, my Fortress, my Healer, my Deliverer, my Advocate, my Mediator, my Comforter, my Baptiser in the Spirit, my Saviour and my Redeemer."

It has been very hard for me naturally to write this message to you, but the Lord has said, "Every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My Name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." (Matthew 19:29).

I will always remain your affectionate daughter but can no longer ever return to that which My Holy Father has delivered me from through His Son Jesus Christ.

The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

By **Mr. J. R. Brogan** (Christian Watch Member)

Our Authorised Version of the Bible in English was produced with the authority of King James I in 1604, the purpose being to replace the earlier Latin Versions of the Vulgate Bible, which were first printed about 1454. It was the only version available until 1611 when the translation in the English language was completed, printed and made available throughout Protestant Europe.

In both the Old and New Testaments, the Holy Scriptures have many references to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by prayerful study of these references, we can be aware of the significance of the current developments in the world.

OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCES

GENESIS CHAPTER 49

- v 10. The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.

ZECHARIAH CHAPTER 12

- v 10. And I will pour upon the House of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications; and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

ZECHARIAH CHAPTER 14

- v 2. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.
- v 3. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.
- v 4. And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES

MATTHEW CHAPTER 24

- v 13. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.
- v 15. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)
- v 21. For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
- v 22. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.
- v 29. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.

- v 30. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in Heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory.
- v 31. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of Heaven to the other.

MARK CHAPTER 13

- v 19. For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.
- v 20. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom He hath chosen, (see Ephesians Chapter 1 v 2-4) He hath shortened the days.
- v 24. But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light.
- v 26. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.
- v 27. And then shall He send His angels, and shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of Heaven.

LUKE CHAPTER 21

- v 24 and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.
- v 25. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring.
- v 26. Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of Heaven shall be shaken.
- v 27. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
- v 28. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

JOHN CHAPTER 1

- v 1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- v 2. The same was in the beginning with God.
- v 3. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

JOHN CHAPTER 5

- v 39. Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

JOHN CHAPTER 6

- v 65. And He said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto Me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

JOHN CHAPTER 14

- v 2. In My Fathers's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go

to prepare a place for you.

- v 3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 1

- v 9. And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
- v 10. And while they looked steadfastly toward Heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;
- v 11. Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven.
- v 12. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the Mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 2

- v 20. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come;

EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS CHAPTER 16

- v 25. Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,
- v 26. But now is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 15

- v 23. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming.
- v 24. Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.
- v 25. For He must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet.
- v 26. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS CHAPTER 1

- v 3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places in Christ:
- v 4. According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.
- v 5. Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- v 9. Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself:

- v 10. That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in Him:
- v 11. In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will:

FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 4

- v 16. For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
- v 17. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
- v 18. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3

- v 1. This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO TITUS CHAPTER 2

- v 13. Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearance of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
- v 14. Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.
- v 15. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PETER CHAPTER 3

- v 10. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the Heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
- v 12. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the Heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
- v 13. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new Heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

THE REVELATION OF SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE CHAPTER 1

- v 1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John:
- v 3. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.
- v 5. And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful Witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood.
- v 7. Behold He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.

THE REVELATION OF SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE CHAPTER 7

- V 9. After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before

the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

v 13. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

V 14. And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

CONCLUSIONS

Holy Scripture (both Old and New Testaments) confirm that there is to be a Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will be seen worldwide in the air, surrounded by his elect people, who are seen as a cloud.

This final scenario will take place after the great tribulation described in Matthew ch. 24.

Clergy Group backs Gay Marriage

The Church of England has "nothing to fear" from the introduction of gay marriage, according to a group of senior bishops and clergymen.

The influential Anglicans said the prospect of same-sex marriage should be a "cause for rejoicing" and argued the perception that the majority of the Christian Church opposed legalising it was wrong.

In a letter to the Times, the signatories said: "Recent statements by church leaders past and present may have given the impression that the Church is universally opposed to the extension of civil marriage to same-sex couples. We believe that does not adequately reflect the range of opinion which exists within the Church of England."

The signatories - including members of the General Synod, the governing body, and high-ranking clergy - describe marriage as a "robust institution which has adapted much over the centuries" and say it has "moved beyond the polygamy of the Old Testament and pre-occupation with social status and property in pre-Enlightened times".

Arguing that "God's grace" is at work in same-sex partnerships, the letter adds: "The Church calls marriage holy or sacramental because the covenant relationship of committed, faithful love between the couple reflects the covenanted love and commitment between God and His church.

Growing in this kind of love means we are growing in the image of God. That there are same-sex couples who want to embrace marriage should be a cause for rejoicing in the Christian Church."

The joint statement is said to have been organised by Dr. Jeffrey John, the openly gay Dean of St Albans. "We believe that the Church of England has nothing to fear from the introduction of civil marriage for same-sex couples," the letter adds. "It will be for the churches to then decide how they respond pastorally to such a change in the law."

Plans to legalise gay civil marriage by 2015 have been put out for consultation by the Government. Under the proposals same-sex couples will be entitled to get married in a register office or other civil ceremonies, or convert existing civil partnerships. Existing marriages in which one partner changed their sex would also no longer have to be ended.

The blueprint, however, maintains a legal ban on same-sex religious services despite some churches expressing an interest in conducting them.

Leaders of the Roman Catholic Church have remained resolutely opposed to gay marriage and blessing civil partnerships but the issue has split the Anglican Communion.

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‘Keep Marriage Special’ Campaign

by Duncan Boyd

(Chairman of KMS & CW Committee Member)

‘Keep Marriage Special’ represents a broad alliance of Christians who do not believe that the Government should legislate for same-sex ‘marriage’. We believe that the institution of marriage needs to be strengthened, and that the teaching of Scripture is its best foundation. We include members both of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, as well as Bishops, clergy and members of the Church of England and the Free churches. We are united by the conviction that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We believe that the best basis for human laws is God’s law because the God who made us knows what is best for us. Marriage was created by God when He made the first man and woman. It is not within the power of Governments to change it. Marriage has proved its worth throughout human history. It is the best environment for bringing up children. Healthy marriages are necessary for a healthy society, and it would be foolish and irresponsible for any Government to tamper with such a vital institution. Marriage needs to be strengthened, not undermined, if we are not to see even more lawlessness and violence in our already broken society. Children need both a mother and a father. Our society desperately needs well-adjusted and hardworking individuals and happy marriages are the place where such people grow up. Same-sex ‘marriage’ is not popular. It would be foolish and dangerous to change a well-tried institution that has played and continues to play such a vital role in our country’s history and traditions.

Although we have sought to answer the questions posed by the Government’s consultation we consider it to be flawed and undemocratic (as well as badly written and tendentious). It is fundamentally flawed because it is premised on a false distinction between ‘civil’ and ‘religious’ marriage. Marriage is a civil institution binding one man and one woman which is open to those of all faiths and none. The consultation is undemocratic because it pre-empts the question whether there should be same-sex ‘marriage’. Neither of the present governing parties’ manifestos contained a commitment to same-sex marriage. It is therefore wrong in principle to consult on ‘how to implement’ same-sex marriage before asking voters whether they want it. All the indications are that this is a deeply unpopular policy unwanted by the majority of people in our society.

The Bible says ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish’¹. Britain’s greatest need is to re-discover the Christian vision revealed in Scripture. If we do, much that is wrong with our broken society will be mended. The present Government should apply its mind to the many vital economic and foreign policy issues facing this country. It should strengthen those institutions on which a healthy economy and society are founded. Broken Britain needs marriage more than ever. We change it at our peril.

Please visit the **‘Keep Marriage Special’** website www.keepmarriagespecial.org.uk. Please note that if internet access is not available, petition forms can be supplied. Please send a stamped address envelope to Christian Watch, PO Box 2113, Nuneaton, CV11 6ZY.

¹ Proverbs 29:18

REPORT ON CW STAND AT THE CRE EXHIBITION

On the 11th of May our witness on stand S92 at the Sandown Christian Resources Exhibition was brought to a close. It began on the 8th of May and the campaign '**Who is on the Lord's side?**' had plenty of exposure, along with our support for the '**Keep Marriage Special**' campaign (KMS). The Keep Marriage Special Campaign provides a petition with Scripture and the fear of God as its solid foundation and may be signed by all who love the Lord and His Word, and wish to say so to Her Majesty's Government.

Some remarked on how much improved the Sandown display was to the recent stand at Exeter, and photographs of the stand may be seen soon on the new Christian Watch website, which is now very close to going live.

We were very pleased to welcome Christian Watch Members to the stand and enjoyed our conversations with them.

As to other contacts made, it was thrilling to meet with those who were overjoyed to see our call to the 'Old Paths' theme in the display. One man, among many, said that his depression at the New Evangelicalism, seen everywhere at the exhibition, had been lifted when he found one of our invitation cards on another stand, and came straight to us and later attended our meeting at Ewell.

For my own part, two ex-Gurkhas, who were both shining in their love and joy in Christ their Saviour, refreshed my soul with their simple love and faithfulness. They were rejoicing in their new birth into the Kingdom of Christ and promptly became members of Christian Watch. Altogether we signed up 56 new members during the exhibition. Praise the Lord for such tokens of encouragement in these days of apathy and decline of true religion.

Moreover, visitors were not only restricted to the local area around the exhibition but one enthusiastic lady was French and many came from the North, the Midlands, and the South West.

On Friday evening, we held a public meeting at Bourne Hall, Ewell, where Peter Ratcliff, Editor of the English Churchman, spoke to us on Jeremiah 6:16; bringing out that even in our suffering we are to glorify God in our walk in the old paths. He also referred to the New Evangelicalism which was gaining so much ground among the churches. Some who attended expressed a concern to begin a Contact Group in the Kingston/Ewell area. This concern will be met, God willing, very soon. It seems that once men and women really do see the importance of standing out for their Redeemer in these troubled times, then they become stirred in their spirit.

All in all, those members who manned the stand on various days, and even those who attended, were much encouraged and felt it thoroughly worthwhile. It is, however, expensive to mount such a witness and it would greatly help if those who are blessed with this world's goods might be willing to contribute to the overall expenses of the exhibition and also the ongoing campaign 'Who is on the Lord's side?'. Those who are not able to help financially we trust will prayerfully support our work. Now that the exhibition is over, old and new Members need contacting to co-ordinate them together to form new Contact groups nationwide. To this end, God willing, I will be finalising the work in Devon and Cornwall very soon and moving northwards.

May I appeal to all, who are willing and able to assist in this work for Jesus Christ our Lord, to contact me. For we know not our time and how long may be left to us at such a time as this. My own constant prayer is: Lord, spare me, that I may recover strength; before I go hence and am no more. But all work such as this needs many helpers.

Michael Hobbis

National Co-ordinator Mob: 07702 431584

Hundreds slaughtered as anti-Christian violence in Nigeria rages on

**From Dr Partick Sookhdeo, International Director, Barnabas Fund
Around 300 Christians killed in one diocese;
27 dead in church attacks**

Around 300 Christians have been killed in one diocese alone, and 27 people died in attacks on three church services, as anti-Christian violence in Nigeria continues unabated.

The Rt. Rev. Timothy Yahaya, Bishop of Jalingo, Taraba State, in Nigeria's Middle Belt, told Barnabas Fund that 300 Christians have been killed in his diocese in a series of incidents over the last three weeks. Then on Sunday (29 April), three church services in Northern Nigeria were targeted in attacks that left 27 people dead.

The first happened when people had gathered for worship in two lecture theatres at Bayero University in Kano. So far 22 people are confirmed to have died, while 23 were injured, after bombs were thrown into the building at around 8.30 a.m. and gunmen fired on worshippers. Witnesses said that the offenders first threw in explosives and fired shots, and as Christians fled, the gunmen chased them, firing indiscriminately. Later on Sunday, gunmen opened fire on another church in the north-eastern city of Maiduguri. Five people, including a pastor, were killed in the attack at the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) building.

War on Christians

Nobody has yet claimed responsibility for Sunday's church attacks, but most people suspect militant Islamist group Boko Haram, which in March declared "war" on Christians.

This statement followed a three-day deadline, issued by the group on New Year's Day, for Christians to leave the North. Unrelenting attacks have ensued, including the bombing of a number of churches as well as attacks on individual Christians.

Around 40 people were killed in a suicide bombing outside two churches during Easter services in Kaduna. And two churches in the central Nigerian city of Jos were targeted in the space of two weeks; a pregnant woman and an 18-month-old child were among those killed.

Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, International Director of Barnabas Fund, said:

The simple act of going to church on a Sunday has become a perilous one for Christians in many parts of Nigeria. They very much need our prayers as they courageously continue to gather for worship despite the unrelenting violence.

Please Pray:

- For all those who have lost loved ones or been injured in the anti-Christian violence in Nigeria this year; pray that the Lord, who "healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3), will comfort them.
- That the authorities will be able to restrain Boko Haram and others in Nigeria who have evil and destructive intent and bring the perpetrators of violence to justice.
- That the Lord will grant wisdom to Nigerian Christians as they consider how to respond to the violence and practise their faith in such a hostile environment. Pray that they will be protected from further harm.

**FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED
FOR CW NIGERIA - SCHOOL FOR ORPHANS**

The difficulties increase in maintaining the running of this School, particularly with the problems encountered, as in the previous article. We have supplied quantities of Bibles for the children and have provided funds as available, however, if any of our Members feel able and willing to assist with the costs of maintaining the School, it would be much appreciated. Please send donations to CW (Resources), PO Box 3268, Leamington Spa, CV32 6YF (marked 'School, Nigeria).

'Man of Iron' by Robert Watson

Reviewed by David Relf (Christian Watch Member)

This is an unusual book of 247 pages which has been carefully researched by the author, a retired schoolmaster, who has written an exciting story based on fact 'about the world famous father of the Scottish Protestant Reformation, John Knox, the redoubtable figure'. The 'Thundering Scot' to some, a 'Watchman for Scotland' to others, he towered over others in freeing the Scottish church from the trammels of Rome and a corrupted church. He brought an open Bible, with access to God for each man, and a future vision also for educational provision for all. Scotland owes John Knox of Haddington a great debt.

The book outlines his brave character, his little known harrowing time as a French galley slave, his years of exile in Geneva with John Calvin, in Lausanne and Frankfurt, and his return in 1559 to preach again in St. Andrews Parish Church in prophetic fulfilment, to lead the dynamic Scottish Reformation a year later. It also tells of his fiery interviews with Mary Queen of Scots – 'a sad, disturbed and turbulent figure' – who contrasts with Knox's rock-solid trust in God in the face of adversity.

The story brings to life the spiritual revolution which transformed the Christian Church in Scotland to return to her Biblical roots and justification by faith alone in Christ, and with the help of the Lord to spiritual independence from the tyranny of the Papacy. It was said that the faults of Knox were the faults of his age 'but the virtues [and the words cannot be bettered] were the virtues of all ages, an unflinching courage, an absolute disregard for self, a noble patriotism, a keen sagacity, a love of the Bible, and a deep, tender and reverent faith in things unseen and eternal; who neither feared or flattered any flesh. Scotland owes him a great debt for the Protestant Faith'.

This book, based on fact, is full of useful information and its lively pages will appeal to younger or older readers who have some slight knowledge of history and wish to know how the Gospel has been preserved for our benefit today and for the generation after, if the Lord tarries. Now that our liberties are being threatened again by Roman Catholics and others, it is important to understand a little of the great sacrifices made by our forebears to preserve our Protestant liberties of freedom of speech and the liberty of the subject and this book will help us. Whatever so-called ecumenists may say, we are persuaded Romanism is still alive and living up to its motto 'Semper Eadem' (always the same) including its persecuting power.

What is needed now is a return to Holy Scripture which is, sadly, partly being ignored today. These were well described in our Queen's Coronation service in 1953 (and in centuries before). Let us remind ourselves. The Queen's solemn oath was to maintain to the utmost of her power the laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel first; then the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law; followed by the solemn promise to maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England. After the signing of the oath the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland presented the Holy Bible to the Queen, the Archbishop of Canterbury saying 'Our gracious Queen: to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as a rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing which this world

affords'. The Moderator added 'Here is wisdom; this is the Royal Law. These are the lively oracles of God'. The Epistle, 1 Peter 2: 13-17 and the Gospel, Matthew 22: 15-22 were then read.

One of the reasons why England was united to Scotland in the early 1700s was to preserve our beneficent Protestant heritage which has been such a blessing to all in the freedom of religion and the liberty of the subject (whether realised or not). In this 450th year of the Scottish Reformation it is well to remember the life and labours of John Knox and his sufferings for the cause of Christ's Gospel. It was stated in the media before the last General Election in 2010 that 5 Scots Cardinals had promised the then P.M. Brown 50 extra Labour seats in Parliament if he would agree to abolish our Protestant constitution. It was not disclosed what his reply was but it may be significant that the present leader of the SNP, Alex Salmond, is said to be a Romanist and the first thing he did after the election was to ask our P.M. Cameron for the separation of our two countries. Vigilance in this matter is still necessary.

Although we have not read it all, as far as we can see the book is a faithful portrayal of the life of this remarkable man. The author is to be commended for his labours in researching this history, keeping to the main things and using his sanctified imagination with great care, emphasising some main events that have been used of the Lord to preserve our liberties. Let us remember that the Reformation delivered England from much evil and that it gave our beloved country much blessing.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nowhere was the Catholic Church of John Knox's day more corrupt and oppressive than in Scotland. The powerful Cardinal Beaton, Chancellor of Scotland, matched the scandal of his private life with a zeal with which he persecuted 'heretics', so it is recorded. His murder in May 1546 was attributed to revenge for the cruel burning by the Roman Catholic Church of the Godly martyr George Wishart. In 1547, St. Andrews Castle was surrendered to the French fleet and Knox and other captives were carried to France and cruelly condemned to be galley slaves.

The fear was that the Roman Catholic French Regent, Mary of Guise, was expecting large French forces to land in Scotland which would proceed eventually to England; thus spreading Popery over England as well as Europe; dominated by gross ignorance and priestcraft, with dire results for Christians who remembered the wicked persecution of Protestant Christians here. This could have smothered the rising of the Glorious Protestant Reformation with all the blessings it brought with it. Spiritual darkness would have covered the people but God... How true are the words of the Bible? – 'My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord' (Isaiah 55: 8). What reason we have to be thankful to the Lord!

Knox was released in 1549 and took refuge in England but with the accession of the cruel Roman Catholic Queen, Mary Tudor, in 1553 it ceased to be safe for Protestants. The next five years Knox spent in Geneva with the great French Reformer, John Calvin. When Knox arrived back in Edinburgh in 1559, he was first outlawed; but escaped to Dundee and Perth, where his sermons led to a stirring up of the people with his powerful oratory based on the Bible. The French Regent, Mary of Guise, relied on French support and to counteract this the Lords of the Congregation (as the Protestants were called) made an urgent and successful appeal to England through Cranmer and King Edward VI, who had made Knox one of his Royal Chaplains; but with the death of the King, fierce persecution began.

Thomas Carlyle has said of Knox "His works have not died... the letter of his work has died, as of all men, but the spirit of it – never!" It has also been said of Knox 'as the guide to the Nation's destinies at the most formative period of its history, his countrymen have long assigned him a pre-eminent place among the makers of modern Scotland'.

It will not escape notice that when the Pope came to Scotland in 2011, it was arranged that an

actor played the part of Knox, which was considered an impertinence by some, as was his commendation and praise of William Wilberforce, Florence Nightingale and David Livingstone. These were all Protestants and according to the Pope's laws 'heretics' (though they did much good), who could be killed as were so many others where Popery had the power; as were so many Huguenots, Waldenses and Albigenses. How much we all have to be thankful for the truths of the Holy Scriptures which are available to make wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3: 15) and in the words of the Coronation Service are 'the most valuable thing which this world affords'.

Available at £15.50 incl. p&p from Elpis Productions, Lenzie, Glasgow, Scotland, G66 5AW. Please make cheques payable to Mr Robert Watson.

**'Righteousness exalteth a nation:
but sin is a reproach to any people'** *Proverbs 14:34*
John Newton

I think it undeniable that if this righteousness were diffused among all ranks and orders of men, there would be reason to say, happy are the people that are in such a state. Discord, envy, hatred, prodigality, covetousness, sensuality and a long train of evils which fill the world with woe, would be banished from among them. Each one in his sphere would contribute to the good of the whole, and God thus served, and thus honoured, would be their bulwark and shield, a wall of fire round about them and a glory in the midst of them. But where sin, the neglect of God and of his laws, prevail – it is a present reproach – it will prove them a foolish and unwise, an ungrateful and base-spirited people. A want of public spirit in superiors, a readiness to sacrifice every valuable consideration to the selfish calls of ambition or interest - and, in the inferior [socially lower] classes, impatience of subordination, licentiousness under the pretence of liberty, the indulgence of hurtful passions – in general: dissensions, riots, weak counsels, rash enterprises, ruined fortunes and constitutions, distracted families, tyrannical masters, treacherous servants, bankruptcies, robberies, rapes and murders, crowded jails and places of worship almost empty, would mark the character of the nation and of the times. And these things would in their own nature, not only be a reproach, but tend to the ruin of the people.

For meditation: God has sometimes shown his displeasure against sin by public and severe judgements – thus he brought a flood upon the old world and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire. But if he only leaves a people to themselves, their ruin will be equally certain, and perhaps equally terrible. He inflicted no heavier punishment than this upon the Jews after they had filled up the measure of their iniquities by crucifying the Son of God. He did not visit them with earthquakes or hurricanes, but he gave them up to the way of their own hearts. Their ruin quickly followed; they brought it upon themselves, with such a complicated concurrence of calamities as were never suffered by any other people on earth.

**Responding to the Government consultation
on redefining marriage**

A response can be submitted by letter or email to arrive no later than 14th June 2012 to:

Equal Civil Marriage Consultation Responses
Government Equalities Office
3rd Floor Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Email:
equalcivilmarriage@geo.gsi.gov.uk

Additional copies of any article printed in this publication can be obtained in A4 format as cost from:

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