

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

February 2013

February 2013

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

Because of the Lord's mercy we are spared and, once more, desire to greet you in the most blessed Name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. What a wonderful mercy it is that we have such a kind and gracious God to whom we can take all our cares and concerns and One who is able to do for us more than we can ever need. The Word of God says, "*Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you*" (1 Peter 5:7). We prove so often, because of our unbelief, that we do not have faith to heed the invitations that the merciful Lord has given in His Holy Word. He will never fail those who put their trust in Him for all they need for this present life and for the life hereafter.

How careful we should be **not** to follow people whose main priorities are the so-called pleasures of this life. So many - including some who profess to be Christians - follow the world with their pleasure seeking and idolisation of carnal attractions. We include an important article by Shaun Willcock entitled **SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD**. The authority for this article is the text "*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing*" (2 Corinthians 6:17). The Lord will never fail those people who endeavour to conduct all their affairs and endeavours in accordance with His revealed will.

The United Kingdom is one of many nations that are in rapid decline as a consequence of not obeying the Lord's commandments. We read in the Bible, particularly in the Books of the Old Testament Prophets - such as Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel - of the Lord's warnings and most solemn judgments being brought upon those nations and tribes who conducted their affairs contrary to His Word and Commandments. Examples of this are clearly identified in the article we include entitled **Rights and Righteousness** by our National Co-ordinator, Michael Hobbis. The warnings we are given in Scripture are very solemn and, if National Governments of any country continue in their determination to allow and countenance those evils which are so clearly condemned by the Lord in His Holy Word, solemn judgments must be expected.

We were pleased to see a letter recently published in a national newspaper, the Daily Mail, by a teenager named Tim Norman, who expressed his concern about our national departures from the Christian faith. We include his letter under the headline as published in the newspaper, **Will no one speak up for young Christians like me?** The fact that the letter was published is an example to us all of what can be achieved, with the Lord's help, in communicating our concerns in writing to both local and national news media. For this reason, we consider the formation and establishment of our Local Contact Groups to be very important.

It is particularly interesting to observe current events taking place in Israel, particularly in the light of Bible prophecies concerning the restoration of Israel in the latter times. We include information, published by the World Jewish Congress, under the title **JEWISH LEADERS HONOUR CHRISTIAN SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL**. We believe these developments are indicative that we are living in times prior to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A further sign that we are now living in the last days is the increase in the persecution of professing Christians around the world. We include an article by Edward Malnick of the Telegraph Media Group entitled **Christianity 'close to extinction' in Middle East**. This gives many examples of professing Christians - particularly where the Islamic religion is dominant - being persecuted and, in some instances, being put to death. We should not be forgetful of the events revealed in Matthew, chapter 24, where are given many signs and also what will be experienced in the period prior to Christ's return to earth. The most important point for each one of us is that we are prepared and ready for Christ's return, should it be whilst we remain as pilgrims on the earth.

We are thankful to the Lord that the adults and children at our school for orphaned children in Nigeria have so far been preserved from harm. You are probably aware that there has been a lot of strife and bloodshed in the north of their country. We include an article about the school entitled **REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE SCHOOL FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN RUN BY CHRISTIAN WATCH, NIGERIA**, which contains information concerning the lessons being taught to the dear children. In addition, we include a print of a photograph in which a few of the children can be seen dressed in their uniforms. We are sure our Members will agree that this is a very worthwhile project, which necessitates our prayerful support, and, in addition, as much financial support as we can afford. We wish to thank all Members who have kindly contributed towards the running costs of the school. Any further financial help would be much appreciated by us and those labouring hard at the school. Financial support for the school should be sent to Christian Watch (Resources), P.O. Box 3268, Leamington Spa, CV32 6YA and clearly marked 'For Nigeria'.

We include an updating report prepared by our National Co-ordinator, Michael Hobbis, upon his work to progress the '**Who is on the Lord's side?** Campaign. It will be observed that progress is being made in some locations, but results have been somewhat disappointing in others. We trust the Lord will motivate more of our Members with a desire to enthusiastically serve Him to promote His Word in their locality.

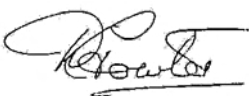
How often we question the reality of our religion, God only knows, and the devil uses every opportunity to sow the seeds of doubt in our minds. We were recently sent an article, which we include, entitled **OUR RELIGION – IS IT TRUE RELIGION?** by E.R. Gosling. The reading of it caused a lot of self-examination, resulting in many doubts and fears. It will be a wonderful mercy if we prove to be one of that number for whom the Lord Jesus Christ died; it will be well for us while life shall last and well when called to die.

The Lord has been very merciful, and indeed favourable, to the United Kingdom over many centuries, including delivering us from the authority of Rome, by bringing about the Protestant Reformation in the year 1517. This event was used by the Lord to spread His Word to many countries throughout the world. As the year 2017 will be the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are in the early stages of planning a commemoration of this historic event - which we trust will provide many opportunities to promote the Word of God. Initial details are given for your information and, we trust, your prayerful support, under the title, **500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation**. We hope to join with some other sympathetic organisations to maximise, with the Lord's help, on the opportunity this Anniversary provides.

Finally, we include an advert which gives details of the forthcoming Annual Public Meeting of the United Protestant Council, to be held, God willing, at St. John's Wood Road Baptist Church on Saturday, 2nd March. We hope that many of our Members will be able to attend.

On behalf of our Committee, I thank you for your continued support and wish you the Lord's blessing that maketh rich and addeth no sorrow.

I remain, yours in the Lord's service,



David Crowter

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

SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

By Shaun Willcock

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing” (2 Cor. 6:17).

Throughout the Scriptures, the people of God are commanded to live separate from the world and its ways. This doctrine – the doctrine of separation – is one of the most hated in all the Bible. Not only the openly unbelieving, but also the professing ‘believers’, loathe it. A professing ‘believer’ is one who claims to be a believer, but is a believer in his profession only: he is claiming to be something he is not. He calls himself a Christian, but is as much a part of the world, and a lover of it, as any avowed infidel. Christendom (I do not say ‘Christianity’) is full of such hypocrites: ‘They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate’ (Tit. 1:16).

They are people who draw nigh to the Lord with their mouths, and honour Him with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him (Matt. 15:7,8).

Such people often use the same language as the true citizens of Zion; they often pray in a Biblical manner, sing with great fervour, and zealously speak to men about the Saviour; they often diligently and faithfully attend the services of a local church, and are well-versed in many Scriptural truths; but they deny the Lord God by their works, unwilling, and indeed unable, to live lives that are separate from the world.

The true child of God is commanded to *come out* from among the things of the world, and to be separate. Why? It is because ‘the friendship of the world is enmity with God’; and ‘whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God’ (Jas. 4:4). The world is God’s enemy! ‘The whole world lieth in wickedness’ (1 Jn. 5:19). When God draws a sinner to salvation in Jesus Christ, that soul is no longer of the world. Jesus said, in prayer to His Father, that His disciples were ‘not of the world’ (Jn. 17:16); ‘and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world’ (v.14). Ah! Here we find why the doctrine of separation from the world is so despised by those who are only professing ‘believers’, not true ones. Those who are *truly* ‘not of the world’ are *hated* by the world! And no mere professor of religion can bear to be hated by the world – for he is a *part* of the world! As Jesus said, ‘If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you’ (Jn. 15:19). The true child of God has been chosen *OUT* of the world, and the Spirit of God teaches him to hate the things of the world; but as he hates the world, so the world hates him.

No wonder the vast numbers of professing ‘believers’ hate this doctrine of separation! Only he who is alive in Christ can love it, and seek to obey it.

In the Old Testament, the Lord said to His people, ‘And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine’ (Lev. 20:26); and, ‘I am the Lord your God, which have separated you from other people’ (v. 24). And in the New Testament, the same truth is taught: ‘Wherefore come

out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing' (2 Cor. 6:17); 'Come out of her, my people' (Rev. 18:4); etc. The popular teaching today is that Christians are just like everyone else: they are free to enjoy the same pleasures, dress in the same fashion, and do all the things that everyone else does. Preachers are at pains to assure their hearers that 'being a Christian does not mean that you have to give up your favourite pastimes'; that life does not change all that much. All that being a Christian means is that your sins are forgiven, you're not on your way to Hell, and you will be going to a church on Sundays and contributing some of your money to it.

And even the hour or two you spend in the service is 'fun' too: for the emphasis these days is all too often on entertainment in the services, with bands, dancing, and showbiz personalities, and emotional 'highs'.

What a perversion of the Word of God! BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord! Christians are called to a life of *holiness*. The Bible is clear: 'have *no fellowship* with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them' (Eph. 5:11). And verse 8 declares, 'For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: *walk* as children of light.' As 'God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all' (1 Jn. 1:5), so His children are to walk as children of light, glorifying Him. 'If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we *lie*' (1 Jn. 1:6). Reader, do you understand this? This verse condemns the professing 'believer' who says he is a child of God, but whose life is a life of darkness.

As 1 Pet. 2:9 says, 'But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you *out* of darkness into His marvellous light.' He who obeys not the command to be separate gives no evidence that he is a child of God.

But let us examine this doctrine more closely. Are Christians to go out of the world physically, moving to some deserted island, or establishing monastic communities? Is this what separation means?

Not at all. If to be separate from the world meant that Christians had to literally remove their bodily presence from the vicinity of unbelievers, they would have to leave this planet (1 Cor. 5:10)! It is not only impossible, it would be contrary to the will of God. For Christians are to 'be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, *in the midst* of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world' (Phil. 2:15). And the Lord Jesus specifically prayed to the Father: 'I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.' (Jn. 17:15). Christians are 'in the midst' of the world, not out of it. They are out of it spiritually, not physically. Christ prayed that the Father would keep the saints from the evil of the world, not remove them bodily from it. What glory would it be to God, if, at the moment of conversion, His saints were removed from the planet? But when, in the very midst of a crooked and perverse nation, the saints 'love not the world, neither the things that are in the world' (1 Jn. 2:15), *this* brings glory to God.

When surrounded on all sides by the ungodly, and by evil and temptation, the believer has no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reproveth them; this is one of the greatest testimonies to the work of the grace of God in the salvation of a sinner. The time is yet to come when, at the resurrection, the saints will 'meet the Lord in the air' (1 Thess. 4:17), and be with Him forever; but, until then, we are called to be in the world, and yet not of it.

Christians, on a daily basis, are surrounded by evil. As they go about the everyday affairs of life, they are, like just Lot, 'vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

for that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds' (2 Pet. 2:7,8). Though they are tempted - and tempted sorely at times - their desire is to please their Lord. Oh, how often they fail to live separate from the world! Too often, they fall. But they long to please the Lord, and it grieves them when they grieve Him. Those who profess to know the Lord, but who live in harmony with the world, do *not* know Him, regardless of their profession. They fill the places of worship of Protestantism, but their lives are a stench to the Lord.

Christians should have nothing more to do with the world than what is necessary for life. There can be no fellowship, communion, concord, part, or agreement with the world. This is the clear meaning of this portion of God's Word: 'Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty' (2 Cor. 6:14-18). Believers and unbelievers cannot be unequally yoked together. That is attempting to wed righteousness with unrighteousness, light with darkness, Christ with Belial. There is NO common ground between these opposites. Christ was 'holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners', and as He was, the believer is to be (Heb. 7:26). John Newton put it this way: 'though the providence of God hath given us callings and relations to fill up (in which we cannot be too exact), yet we are not of the world, but belong to another community, and act from other principles, by other rules, and to other ends, than the generality of those about us. I have observed that the world will often leave professors in quiet possession of their notions and sentiments, and place of worship, provided they will not be too stiff in the matter of conformity with their more general customs and amusements.' And further: 'In our way of little life in the country, serious people often complain of the snares they meet with from worldly people, and yet they must mix with them to get a livelihood. I advise them, if they can, to do their business with the world as they do it in the rain. If their business calls them abroad, they will not leave it undone for the fear of being a little wet; but then, when it is done, they presently seek shelter, and will not stand in the rain for pleasure; so providential and necessary calls of duty, that lead us into the world, will not hurt us, if we find the spirit of the world unpleasant, and are glad to retire from it, and keep out of it as much as our relative duties will permit' (*Letters of John Newton*, Letter 30. Banner of Truth Trust).

We have business to do in this world. We are in it, we have to live, we have to use certain things in the world. We have to eat and have clothing, and to have these things we have to work; and this means that we have to mingle with the people of the world. Furthermore, the Lord has said, 'Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven' (Matt. 5:14-16). We are to preach Christ to the lost, and we are to live Christ-like lives before them. We are to 'go out into the streets and lanes', and 'into the highways and hedges', bearing the glad tidings of salvation (Luke 14:21,23). But the proclamation of the Gospel to the lost does not necessitate *participation* with them in their sinful deeds! That verse in 1 Cor. 9 is much abused in our day: 'I am made all

things to all men, that I might by all means save some' (v. 22). From all sides we hear the cry: 'We have to be like them to win them.' Thus we find so-called 'Christian workers' dressing like the world, listening to the world's music, watching the world's movies. We find professing 'believers' drinking socially with their unconverted neighbours and business associates ('everything in moderation,' they say). And why? All because of that heresy that says, 'We have to be like them to win them.' That is not the meaning of 1 Cor. 9:22 at all, and anyone who 'rightly divides the Word' will know that. Paul meant not that he joined the people of the world in their sinful practices, but that he became like them in harmless matters, when he knew that to do so would advance the cause of the Gospel. This verse no more teaches that Christians have to participate in evil, worldly things in order to gain the lost, than any other verse does. The *real* witness is when one who has become a 'new creature' in Christ *forsakes* the world and the things of the world, separates himself from it, has no fellowship with it, and lives a holy life before the Lord and before men. As in everything, the Lord Jesus Christ is the believer's great example. How blameless was His life! How gracious His words! How innocent His conduct! He was in the world, but not of it. And that is how His disciples are to be.

Those who claim that Christians have to be like the world, in order to preach Christ to the world, do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God. For Scripture says, emphatically, 'And *be not conformed* to this world' (Rom. 12:2); and the power of God is that which saves not the will of man (Psa. 110:3). Despite the fact that the man who lives a separated holy life unto God is an oddity to the world, and despite the fact that those who conform to the world *appear* to have more success in 'witnessing' and 'evangelism', the standard is not to be lowered for the sake of 'reaching the lost'. Multitudes are 'won' to what is called 'Christianity' by those who join hands with the world in the name of 'evangelism', but such 'Christianity' is a farce, a mockery, and bears no resemblance to the Christianity of the Bible; and the 'converts' of such 'evangelism' are not Christians. It matters not that many, even most, will look upon one who seeks to live a life of separation from the world as a madman, a 'fanatic', an absurdity; it matters only that the Christian glorifies His Lord. Salvation is not in the power of man, and believers do not have to 'meet the world half-way' for their message to be acceptable to the lost. High as the standard is, great as the cost is, those whom the Lord has elected unto salvation will be saved in God's appointed time, for salvation is of the Lord, and not by the will of man.

The Christian is to please God, and not men. And if, in pleasing God, he offends man; if, in pleasing God, he is mocked and ridiculed by man; yet he will rejoice in that great day that, like Enoch, 'he had this testimony, that he *pleased God*' (Heb. 11:5).

'Wherefore COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord' (2 Cor. 6:17).

Bible Based Ministries

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How vain are all things here below;
How false, and yet how fair!
Each pleasure has its poison too,
and every sweet a snare.
(Isaac Watts)

Rights and Righteousness

In countries where 'gay marriage' has already been made legal e.g. Spain, there has been a great deal of confusion and even chaos in their legal system. Many old acts and statutes passed by their Parliament, and going back many centuries, stand as an obstacle to 'gay marriage'.

There are numerous stumbling blocks relating to marriage and rights of inheritance and referring to 'one woman and one man' - specified in these Spanish laws - which were passed at the time with no such impediment in mind. Now, however, these must be removed or amended, since they stand in contradiction to the new wickedness now agreed to by their Parliament. Each law altered is a sting to conscience.

One cannot but help recall the Scripture "Whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him" (Eccl. 10 v 8).

I believe, therefore, that we should be alarmed when we find a report tucked away in the pages of the Telegraph (9 January, page 2) to the effect that a Bill has been agreed on by English MPs proposing that Parliament 'tidy' up the statute book by removing many statutes and laws going back to 1322.

In all, some 800 are appointed to be removed. They are no longer necessary is the reason given. One wonders why since 1322 (just after the signing of Magna Carta) and, after almost 800 years, it is now considered important to repeal these Acts and Statutes? Do they really do any harm?

It is to be feared that to obviate the difficulties faced by the Spanish Parliament, the ground is being cleared here in the UK. Such legislation would avoid any delay, or obstruction, to the eventual passage of the current wicked proposal - backed personally by the Rt. Hon. David Cameron - to enshrine into English law the legalisation of sodomy and the re-definition of marriage by Parliament.

Our situation is even more fraught with difficulty than in Spain, since the reigning Monarch, our Queen, is the Head of the Church of England, which is established by Act of Parliament as the official Christian Church. The difficulty is that Her Majesty will be required to subscribe to this ungodly act by her signature; yet her Coronation Oath requires the Queen to uphold the Protestant faith and the Holy Scriptures as the "Lively Oracles of God". The removal of these seemingly innocuous Acts and Statutes may just be the beginning of the clearing out of those laws which have, under God, protected us from the attempts of unholy men to overturn all true religion.

As believers, we should always recall that while the Scripture tells us to obey those whom God has placed in secular authority over us, nevertheless we are further instructed to obey God rather than men. Wherever there is a conflict between the two, the Word of God must prevail, whatever wicked laws are enacted.

Soon (2015) we shall be celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta; that great document, which, with the Bill of Rights, has, under God, given the voice of authority to the people of this realm - with their Monarch as Head - and not to any prelate or Parliament. Yet already there have been attempts to dilute and emasculate this irrevocable and unrepealable document, in the minds of the people, by suggesting that because King John later requested the Pope to disannul it; it is no longer in force.

Today, Parliament, by claiming that it can do no wrong, has treasonably usurped the authority of the people given by virtue of Magna Carta and supplanted it with its own authority, even elevating themselves over the Monarch. Very recently, a sitting M.P. declared in an interview on 'Radio 4 Today' that the word of Parliament is infallible since it can do no wrong.

Many have forgotten that under this Charter the church is declared to be 'free', and even the reigning Monarch is subject to the constraints of this God-given document. How much more is the elected Parliament also subject to it! The effects and principles of Magna Carta have been felt all over the world, most especially in the USA, and we, as a people of this realm, should resist any attempt to undermine it.

Just as many are acclaiming the excellencies of Magna Carta; so in a similar patronising way did many celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible and its literary magnificence, while at the same time dismissing its relevance to their lives, and criticising its words in Romans, concerning sodomy, as outdated.

Be very aware that there are those who would bring upon this free and pleasant land - blessed by God - a form of beneficent totalitarianism. It is always the bent of Governments to abrogate more and more control and thus power to themselves. After all, it makes life so much easier for them. It was a wise man - Christopher Booker - who said: "Evil men do not get up in the morning and say I am going to do evil. They say, I am going to make the world a better place;" as, of course, did Hitler, Stalin and Pol Pot.

God has in times past, by His providential blessing, bequeathed to this nation good laws and Statutes based upon His Holy Law; that we might live peaceable and righteous lives and worship Him in the beauty of holiness. Sadly, this generation seems determined to rid itself of both laws human and divine, by calling evil good and good evil.

Michael Hobbis,
National Co-ordinator

Will no one speak up for young Christians like me?

Daily Mail, 8th February, 2013
Letter by **Tim Norman, Newcastle upon Tyne**

I'm perhaps one of the few young people who care about politics. If you were to listen to the conversations of people my age, the issue of whether or not tomatoes are fruit or vegetables is more discussed than the economy or the Government's social policy.

Yet there are still a few of us who watch PMQs every Wednesday, a few who believe in democracy and that it is relevant in the modern world. I'm also in the minority in that I am a Christian. I passionately believe in God, and He is of great importance to me. For me, my life and my faith are two inseparable things, and this is one of the reasons that I am interested in politics. Governments can help to change the world, leaders can inspire social movements and freedoms can be recognised, all in the world of politics.

In order to do my bit, and to be able to contribute to society, I saw for myself a role in the sort of dynamic and interesting jobs surrounding Government.

Yet, in its support of same-sex marriage, I feel that Parliament has turned its face away from religion. It has made a step towards secularisation and a step away from the Christian faith. It has gone down a route that I cannot, and will not, take, because I am inseparable from my faith. The three major Parties have rejected the principles of faith that I know are essential to the foundations of society. Therefore, I do not feel I can support them.

Young people and young Christians have been rejected as well. We have put up with this for too long and there needs to be change. Our faith in Parliament needs to be restored if we are ever going to consider voting, because right now no Party has earned my vote.

We have the choice between the divided house that is the Conservatives, the ignorance of Labour, or the Liberal Democrats, who can never have the trust of young people again. I thought after the vote on gay marriage I might at last be able to see the Party who I might be able to support, but I, and others like me, have been left disappointed again.

I now see a Parliament where the people who have the same beliefs as me, and follow the principles that I follow, are referred to as bigots and extremists. There is no place for me in politics any more. What can I do now?

PRAYER FOR REVIVING – Ps. 80

1. Great Shepherd of thine Israel,
Who didst between the cherubs dwell
led the tribes, thy chosen sheep,
Safe through the desert and the deep.

2. Thy Church is in the desert now;
Shine from on high, and guide us through;
Turn us to thee, thy love restore,
We shall be saved and sigh no more.

3. Hast thou not planted with thy hands
lovely vine in heathen lands?
Did not thy power defend it round,
And Heavenly dews enrich the ground?

4. But now her beauty is defaced;
Why hast thou laid her fences waste?
Strangers and foes against her join,
every beast devours the vine.

5. Lord, when this vine in Canaan grew,
Thou were its strength and glory too; And
Attacked in vain by all its foes,
Till the fair branch of promise rose.

6. Fair branch, ordained of old to shoot
From David's stock, from Jacob's root;
Himself a noble vine, and we
The lesser branches of the tree.

7. 'Tis thy own Son, and He shall stand, A
Girt with thy strength at thy right hand;
Thy first-born Son, adorned and blessed
With power and grace above the rest.

8. Oh! For His sake attend our cry,
Shine on thy churches lest they die;
Turn us to thee, thy love restore, And
We shall be saved and sigh no more.

(Isaac Watts)

JEWISH LEADERS HONOUR CHRISTIAN SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL

World Jewish Congress – 31 January, 2013

The Knesset Christian Allies Caucus (KCAC) and the World Jewish Congress-Israel (WJC-Israel) have held the seventh annual 'Night to Honour Our Christian Allies'. Knesset members from across the political spectrum and Government leaders joined both Jews and Christians at Jerusalem's King David Hotel for a reception in honour of Christians who have been steadfast in their commitment to Israel.

This year, organisers chose to award Petra Heidt, the Director of the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel, who recently established the Protestant Consultation on Israel and the Middle East.

The caucus, together with Israel's Ministry for Tourism, also honoured Apostolate Rene Terra Nova, leader of the International Restoration Ministries in Manaus, Brazil, for his contribution to Israeli tourism. Terra Nova has brought tens of thousands of Christians to Israel over the past decade.

For the first time, the Mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barkat, addressed the audience of Christian and Jewish leaders.

In addition, KCAC Director, Josh Reinstein, ICEJ Executive Director, Jurgen Buhler, and the Rev. Tom Hess, President and International Director of the All Nations Convocation Jerusalem, also addressed the gathering.

The WJC-Israel is the regional affiliate of the World Jewish Congress.

Christianity 'close to extinction' in Middle East

By Edward Malnick, Telegraph Media Group

Christianity faces being wiped out of the "Biblical heartlands" in the Middle East because of mounting persecution of worshippers, according to a new report.

The study warns that Christians suffer greater hostility across the world than any other religious group. And it claims politicians have been "blind" to the extent of violence faced by Christians in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The most common threat to Christians abroad is militant Islam, it says, claiming that oppression in Muslim countries is often ignored because of a fear that criticism will be seen as "racism". It warns that converts from Islam face being killed in Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Iran and risk severe legal penalties in other countries across the Middle East.

The report, by the think-tank Civitas, says: "It is generally accepted that many faith-based groups face discrimination or persecution to some degree. A far less widely grasped fact is that Christians are targeted more than any other body of believers."

It cites estimates that 200 million Christians, or 10 per cent of Christians worldwide, are "socially disadvantaged, harassed or actively oppressed for their beliefs."

"Exposing and combating the problem ought in my view to be political priorities across large areas of the world. That this is not the case tells us much about a questionable hierarchy of victimhood," says the author, Rupert Shortt, a journalist and visiting fellow of Blackfriars Hall, Oxford.

He adds: "The blind spot displayed by Governments and other influential players is causing them to squander a broader opportunity. Religious freedom is the canary in the mine for human rights generally."

The report, entitled 'Christianophobia', highlights a fear among oppressive regimes that Christianity is a "Western creed" which can be used to undermine them.

State hostility towards Christianity is particularly rife in China, where more Christians are imprisoned than in any other country in the world, according to the report. It quotes Ma Hucheng, an advisor to the Chinese Government, who claimed in an article last year that the US has backed the growth of the Protestant Church in China as a vehicle for political dissidence.

"Western powers, with America at their head, deliberately export Christianity to China and carry out all kinds of illegal evangelistic activities," he wrote in the *China Social Sciences Press*. "Their basic aim is to use Christianity to change the character of the regime...in China and overturn it," he added.

The "lion's share" of persecution faced by Christians arises in countries where Islam is the dominant faith, the report says, quoting estimates that between a half and two-thirds of Christians in the Middle East have left the region or been killed in the past century.

"There is now a serious risk that Christianity will disappear from its Biblical heartlands," it claims.

The report shows that "Muslim-majority" States make up 12 of the 20 countries judged to be "unfree" on the grounds of religious tolerance by Freedom House, the human rights think-tank. It catalogues hundreds of attacks on Christians by religious fanatics over recent years, focusing on seven countries: Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, Nigeria, India, Burma and China.

It claims George Bush's use of the word 'crusade' after the September 11 attacks on New York created the impression for Muslims in the Middle East of a "Christian assault on the Muslim world."

"But however the motivation for violence is measured, the early twenty-first century has seen a steady rise in the strife endured by Christians," the report says.

The 2003 invasion of Iraq left Iraqi Christians "more vulnerable than ever", highlighted by the 2006 beheading of a kidnapped Orthodox priest, Fr. Boulos Iskander, and the kidnapping of 17 further priests and two Bishops between 2006 and 2010.

“In most cases, those responsible declared that they wanted all Christians to be expelled from the country,” the report says.

In Pakistan, the murder last year of Shahbaz Bhatti, the country’s Catholic Minister for Minorities, “vividly reflected” religious intolerance in Pakistan. Shortly after his death it emerged that Mr. Bhatti had recorded a video in which he declared: “I am living for my community and for suffering people and I will die to defend their rights. I prefer to die for my principles and for the justice of my community rather than to compromise. I want to share that I believe in Jesus Christ, who has given His own life for us.”

The report also warns that Christians in India have faced years of violence from Hindu extremists. In 2010, scores of attacks on Christians and church property were carried out in Karnataka, a State in South West India.

And while many people are aware of the oppression faced in Burma by Aung San Suu Kyi and other pro-democracy activists, targeted abuse of Christians in the country has been given little exposure, the report says. In some areas of Burma, the Government has clamped down on Christian protesters by restricting the building of new churches.

“Openly professing Christians employed in Government service find it virtually impossible to get promotion,” it adds.

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE SCHOOL FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN RUN BY CHRISTIAN WATCH, NIGERIA

We rejoice to provide an update on the work and development of our School at Ikot Udoetor, Akwa Ibom State, which we formed and now manage, with the Lord’s help, for an increasing number of children. Firstly, we would acknowledge the Lord’s countless mercies and favours in preserving our staff and the dear children from harm. You are probably aware that there has been considerable strife, particularly in the north of Nigeria, causing many to lose their lives. The school is situated in the southern area, which has been preserved from the worst conflicts.

We desire to thank those members of Christian Watch who have willingly given money from their own resources to help us finance the running costs of this important project. We say ‘important’, particularly because of the two-fold benefit that, we trust, is realised by both the children and also the teaching staff. Most of the children, when they first come to us, do not have any knowledge of the Bible or its spiritual contents and, in addition, some of the teaching staff have only a limited knowledge. We are thankful for the support we receive from Christian Watch in the UK and would also acknowledge with gratitude the help provided by the Trinitarian Bible Society, who have provided us with Bibles for the children.

There are presently 101 children attending the school and they are divided into 4 classes by various age groups. 7 paid staff are employed to both manage and teach a variety of subjects. Instruction for the older children includes Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Elementary and Health Science, Physical

Education, Creative Arts and Crafts, Agricultural Science and Home Economics. The younger children in the nursery classes are taught: Bible Stories, Handwriting, Elementary Maths, Verbal fluency, Art, Music and Games.

We feel a God-given responsibility for all the children and our first concern is that they are taught about their sinful state by nature and the importance of asking the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to forgive their sins and to teach them that which is essential for their life after death. In addition, our concern and responsibility is to equip them with knowledge and practical instruction which will be of help to them in their later lives, when they are old enough to look for employment.

We emphasise our urgent need of funds to cover our overheads and pay the teachers' salary. The money that has been donated by Christian Watch in the UK and some of its members is much appreciated and without it we could not continue with this vital work in the Lord's service. We hope and pray the Lord will provide for the dear children by constraining those who love Him to prove the truth of His own words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (*Acts 20:35*) .

Esseme Asuquo
Christian Watch, Nigeria



Pupils at the School in Nigeria

‘Who is on the Lord’s side?’

Campaign report for February

Very often as I write these reports, I am reminded of just how appropriate the title of our Campaign is at such a time as this.

When Moses first asked this question, by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, he obviously implied: Who is going to renounce this evil and stand under the banner of the Lord in this time of apostasy? As it was then – so it is now – a time of heightened rebellion against God.

The difference between now, and that which Moses faced when he descended from the Mount, is that today man’s rebellion is in the face of the full knowledge of the Gospel and innumerable divine blessings poured out upon this nation; and indeed upon mankind generally. Scripture seems to show that God’s merciful temporal judgments are sent in incremental intensity (see Leviticus 26). This is already manifested among us in disease, crop failure, economic woes, storm, flood/drought, pestilence, social upheaval and spiritual blindness, together with a loss of blessing in the churches.

The Puritans were neither oblivious to God’s alarm calls, nor embarrassed to point out God’s manifest displeasure in His providential acts. We should be the same. Amos 3:6, “Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done *it*?”

Let the Word, which sifts the wheat from the chaff, go out continually: “Who is on the Lord’s side?” C.H. Spurgeon’s remark in his own day that: ‘the professing church is largely apostate’ is surely never more true than in the visible church today. Doubt has been cast on the Bible, man’s only true Authority, by supplementation and alteration. True believers must stand apart from the erroneous form of godliness in the New Evangelical Movement and from all that is unholy, ungodly and contrary to sound doctrine.

In this Christian Watch campaign, those that will – “come out from among them” - have an opportunity to stand with us in actively calling men back to the ‘Old Paths’, and standing under the banner of Truth.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance” (Psalm 33:12).

Recent developments

As advertised previously, the campaign was taken to Liverpool again by visiting four churches in three days. We had a very warm reception from Elim Pentecostal Church in Kensington; and Emmanuel Church in Birkenhead, where the Rev. G. Bratt is the Minister (incidentally this church used to be the building used by Emmanuel Bible College). We were also encouraged by the response of The Free Presbyterian Church, Salop Chapel, Spellow Lane; our final presentation was just a stone’s throw away, also in Spellow Lane, at the Evangelical Church there. When I explained to the dear folk at Elim that their form of worship was a little different from my own experience (I worship at Huntington’s old chapel - Jireh) the cry came from the congregation: “We will pray for you, brother!” Well I hope they do: I certainly need prayer.

We now have a godly man in Andy Jones in Liverpool who is to head up, with others, the Local Contact Group there. The first meeting is to be held at Birkenhead in mid- April (details to follow). Preliminary work on another Contact Group has begun at Kings Lynn – please contact me by phone or email if you are able to help.

The group in Worthing and Horsham, though small, is as earnest as ever and Steven Black, the group leader, is a faithful brother in the Lord. The next meeting arranged is, in the will of God, to be at Bognor Regis (London Road, in the town centre) on 16th March at 2.00pm.

The open-air meeting we held in Worthing town centre on February 16th was a little more lively this time, in terms of the opposition encountered. Many listened quietly for some time – but others, stirred up by Satan I suppose, showed much hatred and malice. Several stood face to face with me in a threatening pose as I preached – but no rocks or dead cats such as John Wesley had to endure.

That evening, at Heene Community Hall, the Rev. Patrick Baker, from Walthamstow Free Presbyterian Church, preached from Romans 13 on ‘What time is it?’ Teaching that knowing the times in which we live, and discerning these times rightly, is of the utmost importance, if we are to walk godly, safely and usefully. This word was well received by the Members present.

The next public meeting is to be at Deene Road, Horsham at 7.00pm on May 31st where, DV , Dr. John Baigent will be the preacher. Please also note for your diary, Christian Watch will have a stand (number 111) at the next CRE exhibition this year in the main Surrey Hall at Sandown Racecourse from May 14th – May 17th. Please do visit us as you pick your way safely through the New Evangelical stands and the clergy catwalk! This ‘Christian’ Exhibition owes more to ‘Vanity Fair’ than it does to the Truth of God; but it is an event where we can witness to many and stand up and be counted and, by the grace of our Saviour and Redeemer, call many back to the “Old Paths”.

Please pray for the whole Campaign and support this work financially as you are able. It may interest some new Members to Christian Watch to know where we have visited before. A list follows:-

East Dean, Midhurst, Chichester, Worthing and Horsham (all in Sussex), Salisbury, Tavistock, Plymouth, Barnstaple, Newquay, Penzance, Falmouth, Exeter, Holywell, Honiton, Glampton, Crediton and, of course, Liverpool and Birkenhead. In many of these areas it has been difficult to find those willing to organise Local Contact Groups. Please do get in touch if you have gifts enabling you to help, as many Members need encouragement in these places. Also any Members in areas not yet visited, who are able to offer a venue for a meeting, do contact me at the email or mobile given below.

“Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at Thy word I will let down the net” (Luke 5:5).

Michael Hobbis
National Co-ordinator

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OUR RELIGION – IS IT TRUE RELIGION?

By: E. R. Gosling

Who began our religion? Did we begin it ourselves or did God begin it? Did it begin with the solemn conviction of sin,

**And if my soul were sent to Hell, Thy
righteous Law approves it well!** (Watts)

Did it begin with a conviction that only mercy could reach such a depraved case? Have we felt the terrors of a broken Law? Was there a fleeing from the wrath to come? And is our peace (if we possess it) received through an application of the precious blood of Christ to the conscience? Do we possess a Holy Ghost religion? My reader, it is the writer's solemn conviction that if we are altogether strangers to such an experience, we are still among them that '*sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.*' At best we have but a name to live but are dead.

**True religion's more than notion;
Something must be known and felt.** (Hart)

Have we an experience of God's dealing with our souls? Can we say with the Psalmist, '*Come, ye that fear the LORD, and I will tell you what He hath done for my soul*'?

I see nothing in Holy Writ about offers of salvation to all and sundry and no appeals to men to let Christ into their hearts. No appeal was made to Saul of Tarsus, the Philippian jailor, the Ethiopian eunuch, and yet I have heard preachers say words to the effect that Christ is knocking at the doors of their hearers' hearts, willing to save them, but the latch is on the inside and He cannot enter unless they open the door. It is written in the Acts of the Apostles that the Lord opened Lydia's heart to attend to the Apostle's preaching (Acts 16:14); nor can we doubt that He also opened the hearts of the Gentiles who besought Paul to preach to them, and upon his compliance we read that '*as many as were ordained to eternal life believed*' (Acts 13:48), and this is in accord with the whole tenor of Scripture.

(This article appeared in a pamphlet published by the late Sidney Norton, 1968)

1. Jesus, engrave it on my heart,
That Thou the one thing needful art;
I could from all things parted be,
But never, never, Lord, from Thee.

2. Needful art Thou to make me live;
Needful art Thou all grace to give;
Needful to guide me, lest I stray;
Needful to help me every day.

3. Needful is Thy most precious blood;
Needful is Thy correction rod;
is Thy indulgent care;
Needful Thy all-prevailing prayer.

4. Needful Thy presence, dearest Lord,
True peace and comfort to afford;
Needful Thy promise to impart
Fresh life and vigour to my heart.

5. Needful art Thou, my soul can say,
Through all life's dark and thorny way;
In death Thou wilt most needful be,
When I yield up my soul to Thee.

6. Needful art Thou, to raise my dust
In shining glory with the just; Needful
Needful when I in Heaven appear,
To crown and to present me there.

(Samuel Medley)

500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

This event, scheduled to take place in 2017, provides a wonderful opportunity to promote the Word of God from both religious and historical aspects. It is the responsibility and privilege of those who profess to be true Protestant Christians - and who desire to honour and glorify the true God - to do all they can to maximise on the wonderful opportunity this occasion provides.

We, in Christian Watch, realise that to do this considerable manpower and financial resources will be needed. We are, therefore, proposing to form an independent Management Committee to deliberate on the way forward and initiate an action plan. The first priority is for us to be guided by the Lord in all the various decisions to be made and also to do all for the Lord's honour and glory.

This project will be required to be launched and to operate under a specific title, which will be one of the first decisions to be taken by the Committee. The initial meeting is to take place, God willing, in London during week commencing 8th April and we request our Members' prayerful support.

The Astonishing Resignation of the Roman Catholic Pope Benedict XVI

The Papal System Today An Analysis of the News

By Shaun Willcock

Shaun Willcock has produced an excellent document (12 Pages) on the resignation of the Pope and probable future developments. The article can be found on his website www.biblebasedministries.co.uk or a copy can be ordered from us – Price £2.00 (including postage)

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UNITED PROTESTANT COUNCIL

Chairman: Pastor David Carson (Chester)

Annual Public Meeting

will be held (D.V.) on

SATURDAY, 2nd MARCH 2013
at 2 p.m.

Subject:

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Speaker:

Dr. E. S. Williams

(former Director of Public Health for Croydon Health Authority)

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16th March, 2013 - Worthing and Horsham LCG, Open Air Witness in **Bognor Regis**, London Road, in the Town Centre, at 2 p.m.

14th – 17th May - Please visit the Christian Watch Stand (No 111), Surrey Hall, at the **Christian Resources Exhibition**, Sandown Racecourse.

31st May - Horsham Public Meeting to be held at Deene Road, Horsham. Speaker: Dr. John Baigent. Details to be advised.

4th October - Christian Watch Annual Public Meeting. Speaker: Mr Graham Chewter of the TBS. Venue: Slip End, Nr. Luton. Details to be advised.

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

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