

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

October 2012

October 2012

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

We greet you again in the Saviour's blessed Name, and may we each be true followers of Him in every aspect of our lives. We are told "that we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God" (*Acts 14:22*) and this is for a divine purpose - by the Lord - to teach lessons we should otherwise not learn. By nature we are content to live in a world full of sin and iniquity, but when the Lord has a purpose of grace toward us, through His electing love and mercy, He will bring us to a point in our lives when we can feelingly say with the hymn writer, Samuel Medley,

"I could from all things parted be,
But never, never, Lord from Thee."

However, if our religion is God-given Satan is certain to try to undermine it with various temptations which cause us to question the reality of our faith. We read in 1 Peter 1:7 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." May the Lord grant to us sufficient grace that we may endure and spiritually profit by the trials and afflictions He sees fit to bring upon us. This point is emphasised by an article which we include by the late A. W. Pink entitled **AFFLICTION AND GLORY**.

We are pleased to include a report prepared by our colleague, Ian Henderson, entitled **CHRISTIAN WATCH ANNUAL MEETING**, in which are detailed the events of the evening meeting at Holywell Evangelical Church. We are thankful for the assistance provided by Pastor John Thackway and members of his Church. Pastor Thackway kindly gave the main address under the title, "**The Tower of Babel – A Picture of Today**" and Michael Hobbis, our National Co-ordinator, gave an update on our Campaign "**Who is on the Lord's side?**" The addresses were recorded and are available on DVD, CD and cassette. Price and ordering details are given on Page 14 at the end of this Newsletter.

One of our Members, Dr. Ian Sadler, has recently visited Africa on behalf of the Free Grace Evangelistic Association and we include his very interesting report under the title **Sowing the Seed of God's Word in Malawi and Zambia**. Various events, as the report identifies, necessitated the intervention of our Almighty Lord God if the planned endeavours of Dr. Sadler were to succeed. Thankfully, the Lord did appear and prayer was answered. We trust the distribution of Bibles and other literature will be made a blessing to those who received them.

The sad decline in real religion appears to be worldwide. A survey in America was recently reported in the Daily Mail newspaper which revealed that adult Protestants in the USA have fallen below 50% of the population for the first time. We include a copy of this article under the heading **Protestants in US now below 50%**.

Our National Government continues in its endeavours to bring our nation to ruin by its determination to pass laws which are in total and complete opposition to that which the Lord has clearly identified in His Word for the benefit of mankind. A further example of this is our Government's plan to re-define marriage to allow homosexuals to be joined together under precisely the same terms as a man and woman. We must do all we can by prayer and communicating with those in authority to oppose this proposed Bill. We were very pleased and thankful to learn of the outcome when a similar bill was brought before the Australian Parliament in September. We include details as reported by BBC Asian News under the title **Gay marriage Bill is rejected by Australian Parliament**.

We include a solemn report from one of our Members in Nigeria, Mr Friday Udoubia. It is entitled, **INSECURITY: A THREAT TO OUR NATIONHOOD** and gives some background details on that which is currently taking place in Nigeria. Our Members are aware that we have a school for orphaned children there and we take this opportunity to thank all who have kindly made financial contributions to assist with the expenses incurred in operating this school. We are, however, concerned for all our Members in Nigeria and also for the dear children and those employed to teach them. The report by Mr. Udoubia details the loss of life that has occurred, but we are thankful to the Lord for His preserving mercies to our Members and the children. We ask you to please remember them in your prayers.

We bring your attention to a very serious matter which is rapidly developing in the United Kingdom concerning the increase in population. This is outlined in an article by Ashley Mote which we include under the heading **IMMIGRATION AND TRADE FIGURES UPDATE**. According to a recent edition of the Daily Telegraph, the population in the UK is presently increasing by more than one thousand every day. This is made up of many from Eastern European countries and also added to by the large number of children being born into Muslim families. If this situation is allowed to continue, the United Kingdom - as we have known it - will no longer exist. What we are witnessing is a direct result of our national departure from the laws and commandments of the God of Heaven.

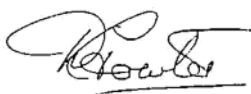
We are thankful that there are some people in our once highly blessed and favoured nation who actively oppose wickedness and contend for the Word of God. We include copies of two letters written by a Christian Watch Member, Rev. Peter Simpson of Penn Free Methodist Church, under the heading **LETTERS TO 'BUCKS FREE PRESS' CONCERNING SUNDAY TRADING**. They were both recently published in the local newspaper. The Lord promises to honour those who honour Him and we are sure the Lord will honour the Rev. Simpson for contending for the Lord's Day.

We include an update report by our National Co-ordinator, Michael Hobbis, on our campaign **Who is on the Lord's side?** Progress is being made in the establishment of Local Groups and where these have been formed and are operated by our Members, the important benefits of a local activity have soon become apparent. We urge all who have time available to assist in the development and implementation of this important project to contact Mr. Hobbis by phone or email to discuss. We must always remember that with the Lord's help nothing is impossible and it is a wonderful privilege to be involved in the Lord's work.

Finally, we bring to your notice the Autumn Conference of the United Protestant Council which is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 3rd November at St. John's Wood Baptist Church at which the Rev. Peter Simpson, to whom we have previously referred, will give the main address, GW.

We wish you the Lord's blessing and His help and support in the days before us.

I remain, yours, in the Lord's service.



David Crowter

Management Committee

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).

AFFLICTION AND GLORY

By A.W. Pink (1886 – 1952)

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” 2 Corinthians 4:17.

These words supply us with a reason why we should not faint under trials nor be overwhelmed by them. They teach us to look at the trials of time in the light of eternity. They affirm that the present buffetings of the Christian exercise a beneficent effect on the inner man. If these truths were firmly grasped by faith they would mitigate much of the bitterness of our sorrows. “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” This verse sets forth a striking and glorious antithesis, as it contrasts our future state with our present. Here there is “affliction,” there “glory.” Here there is a “light affliction,” there a “weight of glory.” In our affliction there is both levity and brevity; it is a light affliction, and it is but for a moment; in our future glory there is solidity and eternity! To discover the preciousness of this contrast let us consider, separately, each member, but in the reverse order of mention.

1. “A far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” It is a significant thing that the Hebrew word for “glory”, kabod, also means “weight.” When weight is added to the value of gold or precious stones this increases their worth. Heaven’s happiness cannot be told out in the words of earth; figurative expressions are best calculated to convey some imperfect views to us. Here in our text one term is piled up on top of another. That which awaits the believer is “glory,” and when we say that a thing is glorious we have reached the limits of human language to express that which is excellent and perfect. But the “glory” awaiting us is weighted, yea, it is “far more exceeding” weighty than anything terrestrial and temporal; its value defies computation; its transcendent excellency is beyond verbal description. Moreover, this wondrous glory awaiting us is not evanescent and temporal, but Divine and eternal; for “eternal” it could not be unless it were Divine. The great and blessed God is going to give us that which is worthy of Himself, yea, that which is like Himself, infinite and everlasting.

2. “Our light affliction, which is but for a moment.”

(a) “Affliction” is the common lot of human existence; “Man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward” (Job 5:7). This is part of the entail of sin. It is not meet that a fallen creature should be perfectly happy in his sins. Nor are the children of God exempted: “Through much tribulation we must enter into the Kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). By a hard and rugged road does God lead us to glory and immortality.

(b) Our affliction is “light.” Afflictions are not light in themselves for oft-times they are heavy and grievous; but they are light comparatively! They are light when compared with what we really deserve. They are light when compared with the sufferings of the Lord Jesus. But perhaps their real lightness is best seen by comparing them with the weight of glory which is awaiting us. As said the same apostle in another place, “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18).

(c) “Which is but for a moment.” Should our afflictions continue throughout a whole lifetime, and that life be equal in duration to Methuselah’s, yet is it momentary if compared with the eternity which is before us. At most, our affliction is but for this present life, which is as a vapour that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. O that God would enable us to examine our trials in their true perspective.

3. Note now the connection between the two. Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, “worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” The present is influencing the future. It is not for us to reason and philosophise about this, but to take God at His Word and believe it. Experience, feelings, observation of others, may seem to deny this fact. Oft-times afflictions appear only to sour us and make us more rebellious and discontented. But let it be remembered that afflictions are not sent by God for the purpose of purifying the flesh: they are designed for the benefit of the “new man.” Moreover, afflictions help to prepare us for the glory hereafter. Affliction draws away our heart from the love of the world; it makes us long more for the time when we shall be translated from this scene of sin and sorrow; it will enable us to appreciate (by way of contrast) the things which God has prepared for them that love Him.

Here then is what faith is invited to do: to place in one scale the present affliction; in the other, the eternal glory. Are they worthy to be compared? No, indeed. One second of glory will more than counterbalance a whole lifetime of suffering. What are years of toil, of sickness, of battling against poverty, of persecution, yea, of a martyr’s death, when weighed over against the pleasures at God’s right hand, which are for evermore! One breath of Paradise will extinguish all the adverse winds of earth. One day in the Father’s House will more than counterbalance the years we have spent in this dreary wilderness. May God grant unto us that faith which will enable us to anticipatively lay hold of the future and live in the present enjoyment of it.

CHRISTIAN WATCH ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

by Mr. Ian Henderson - Vice-Chairman

Holywell - on the North Wales coast - was the venue on Friday, 5th October, 2012 for the Christian Watch Annual Meeting.

In the presence of a well-attended gathering of God’s people, the Vice-Chairman of Christian Watch (in the absence of Mr. David Crowter, the National Chairman - due to illness) outlined the reason for the existence of Christian Watch. He pointed out that there was a desperate need in our day to acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, as the nation was in a most wicked state, with men ruling over us - from all political parties - who are godless and have no love for the Word of God. He said the Word of God stated in 1 Samuel 2 verse 30 - ‘for them that honour Me, I will honour’ and the Lord had greatly blessed Christian Watch since its formation in its endeavours to honour God in all its doings.

Mr. Michael Hobbis - National Co-ordinator - reported on the current Campaign entitled “**Who is on the Lord’s side?**” which is a ‘call to arms’ - a return to the old paths. He said that so many churches had drifted away from the truths of the Bible and Christian Watch was seeking to encourage individual Christians to take a stand in their own areas (see Nehemiah 2 verse 17) and to establish Local Contact Groups to be active in their own localities. As National Co-ordinator, he was available to help wherever necessary.

Rev. John Thackway (Minister of Holywell Evangelical Church and a Christian Watch member) preached the message, based on Genesis chapter 11 verses 1-9 and entitled “**The Tower of Babel - A Picture of Today**”. Rev. Thackway outlined how the Lord came down and dealt with the people in the Bible passage who had resolved to build a tower up to Heaven by confounding their language (Babel means confusion) and how the whole Bible scene was a picture of today - anti-God and anti-Biblical in our national life. He directed us to Psalm 2 verse 3 where there was no restraint and a desire to rid themselves of their heritage but verse 4 gave the victory - “the Lord shall have them in derision”.

Four main points were outlined:-

- Left to ourselves a nation (or a church) will only decline. Divine restraint is needed because of sin.
- What sin is - God says one thing, but man says the opposite. Man builds a tower to avoid doing the will of God. Sin is deceitful and unpleasant.
- Sinful man protects his position (Genesis chapter 11 verses 3-4). On three occasions it was 'let us' - 'let us' - 'let us'. Iniquity today is no longer the aberration of the individual but the deliberate lawlessness in society that has progressed.
- The Lord thoroughly frustrates (verse 5) - He confounded their plans and confused them. God resisteth the proud.

In conclusion, Rev. Thackway stated that God's people today must be zealous for Christian values; speaking the truth in love and speaking against those who are intent on destroying our heritage; and be faithful in fellowship. He compared verse 4 with John chapter 3 verse 30 and verse 5 with Isaiah chapter 66 verse 2, appealing to all present to obey the command in 1 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 10 and be like-minded in Christian conversation.

The meeting closed with a powerful rendition of Isaac Watts' great hymn:-

'O God, our Help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come'.

and a closing prayer by David Lawson, CW Committee Member.

(A recording of the Meeting is available – See Page 14 for details)

Sowing the Seed of God's Word in Malawi and Zambia **by Dr. I. A. Sadler**

(Chairman: Free Grace Evangelical Association (FGEA) & CW Member)

I am writing to give an account of my recent visit to Malawi and Eastern Zambia on behalf of the Free Grace Evangelistic Association. The schedule was a very challenging one, but the Lord watched over us throughout the programme and our travelling. Throughout, we proved the Lord's great faithfulness.

I left home with many Bibles and books in my luggage to add to the large stock waiting in Malawi and Zambia. I was burdened before God that I must have a Bible and a few books in my hand luggage, so this was arranged when packing. Nothing remarkable occurred during the journey until I was on the flight from Addis Ababa to Lilongwe, when I found myself seated next to an Asian man. I was reading my Bible, but I was aware that he was intently looking across to see what I was reading. He then spoke to me, and it became evident he was seeking Christ and had been going to a church, although he was in much need of sound teaching. On enquiring, he said he was from Myanmar (Burma) and was going to work in Malawi for a year. He was quite astonished when I told him I was a Minister and that one of my books ("Jesus, the Way") had been translated into Burmese. I asked him if he could read English; he said he could. However, when I enquired whether he had a Bible, he said he had not. Therefore, I gave him the Bible I had packed in my hand-luggage and a copy of "Love of God" in English, which he greatly appreciated. When the meal was brought to the passengers, he asked me if I would give thanks openly, and so I also prayed with him there in the aeroplane. When we arrived at Lilongwe, I declared what I was carrying in my luggage to a customs officer, who likewise was seeking and had just started going to a Bible class at her church, but again did not possess a Bible. I gladly gave her a KJV Bible and a book. We sow the seed of the Word and pray that the Lord would give an increase.

On arrival at Lilongwe airport in Malawi I was met by my host (Pastor Maliwa) and the FGEA Regional Director from Zambia (Pastor Musaka) and we travelled by car/minibus across the border to Zambia for a two-day conference in Chipata. The conference was attended by over 300 people, with about 45 churches represented and 59 pastors. The venue was absolutely packed for the whole of the two days, such that additional seating had to be obtained. The format of this conference was repeated in Malawi, and I spoke on the themes of Christ the Eternal Word, the authority of God, the necessity of a faithful Bible translation and the need for faithfulness, depending much on the Holy Spirit to give life and power to the word spoken. At the end, the Bibles and Christian literature in English, Chichewa and Tumbuka were handed out - many left the conference rejoicing to receive God's word and the other literature.

As I have witnessed many times before in Africa, there was astonishment amongst even senior pastors, when evidence was set forth that their Bible versions had been corrupted. By God's grace, FGEA teaches those vital things that most Bible colleges will not dare to mention. We seek for the purity of God's word, the public reading of God's word, and for faithfulness in our conduct and ministry. These are sadly wanting in many churches. African brethren spoke in detail from an African perspective about problems of the corruption of the Scriptures in the local languages (the main language in this part of Africa is Chichewa). Following the corruption of the Biblical text that originated with Westcott and Hort in the 19th century revision to the English version, serious problems have arisen in the Chichewa versions. For example, in Romans 8.1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." The equivalent in Chichewa of the underlined words is missing. In 1 Timothy 4 v 8, "bodily exercise" becomes "bodily habits". In Hosea 11.12 "but Judah yet ruleth with God, and is faithful with the saints" (KJV), becomes in the Chichewa version the contradiction "Judah fights against God, and is faithful with the saints!! The English NIV also turns the truth on its head in this and many other passages, by saying "Judah is unruly with God". It was pointed out - how can someone fight against or be unruly with God, and yet be faithful? Sadly many professed ministers in Africa secretly fight against God, whilst claiming to be faithful with the saints.

Recommendation was given on the best Chichewa version currently in print (even so, some verses are sadly still omitted). For those who could read English we advised that they should be comparing with the King James Version (KJV) to ensure that they are not missing any verses or reading incorrect teaching. We called upon those present to pray for God to raise up those who would faithfully translate the Bible into Chichewa and other African languages.

We then set off to travel from Chipata to Kande in Northern Malawi, via Lilongwe. The journey was about 500 km (350 miles) using cars, minibus's and a large bus. After various border delays, police road blocks and other hindrances, we realised in Lilongwe that we would not catch the necessary bus to Kande. The FGEA Co-ordinator in Lilongwe kindly offered to drive us part-way if we paid the fuel costs, so as to catch up with the bus. We agreed, but he had to drive us 200 km! Whilst travelling in his car, my host, Pastor Maliwa, said that nearby was a monument to where the first Chichewa Bible translation started. I asked about the dates of this work. We then realised that the work, which is evidently now long out of print, may provide a source of a more faithful translation of the Bible into Chichewa. It was only because of the delays and the change of travel arrangements that we passed this spot and had this conversation. We agreed that Pastor Maliwa would follow this up after the conferences, and seek to obtain further information about the original Chichewa version of the Scriptures.

After driving through the mountains to Salima and alongside Lake Malawi, we passed through largely Moslem areas. As we approached Nkhotakota, we were stopped at a police road block. We asked the police if they had seen the bus we needed, to which they replied that the bus had passed a few minutes before. As we came into Nkhotakota, our driver prayed aloud and asked in Jesus' name that the bus would be stopped. Within a minute we saw the bus stopped ahead of us. The driver parked in front of the bus (so it could not drive away), then we got out and climbed into the bus as darkness was drawing on. The bus was absolutely packed with about 90 people and entry was only obtained by climbing over piles of luggage and sacks of grain. Pastor Maliwa pleaded with the driver and conductor to let us on, as we were Ministers travelling to a conference; and we obtained favour and were admitted. We had to stand in very cramped conditions for over 3 hours. Nevertheless, we rejoiced that, in answer

to prayer, we had caught the bus we needed and we were on our way to speak the Word of Truth at Kande. By His over-ruling hand we reached Kande at about 8-30 pm, where we were taken to a small Bible college where the Principal is an FGEA representative. We were accommodated in a small cottage just on the beach overlooking Lake Malawi. Such a beautiful and relaxing location for the weekend was a great provision by the Lord's providence, in the midst of such a challenging schedule.

At Kande I spoke at a one-day FGEA conference. The Lord favoured us by His presence in the meeting. There were 68 attending, many were Ministers. However, we found one man there with a Jehovah's Witnesses "Bible" and personally spoke to him about this. Like many in Africa, he had been completely ignorant that this was a vile corruption of the truth. It was a joy to be able to give him an altogether different version of the Bible. During the conference we were brought a parcel of TBS literature on Bible versions, which had just arrived that day in the post after a long delay. This was another remarkable answer to prayer, as we knew the importance of distributing this material to the participants. There was joy as the Bibles were distributed.

On the Lord's Day I was asked to preach at a local Baptist Church in the village of Chifira, but as there were fuel shortages, we were told that it would involve a long walk along the beach. I did not feel able to do this in the African heat and baking sun, but then at the last moment some fuel became available so we could be driven there. During the service we noticed that the Sunday School teacher had a Chichewa Bible that began at Genesis 23 (the first 22 chapters having disintegrated). We asked her to come to the Bible College in the afternoon, where we would give her a new Bible. In the afternoon she was given a new Bible, but we saw that her fellow church member was using the remains of a Chichewa Bible that had lost its covers and began at Numbers 8 and ended at John 21. This was quite a pitiful and shocking sight. We likewise ensured that she left with a complete Bible. If anyone has a Bible in the rural areas, it is often in this type of condition.

The following day we left Kande to take a battered minibus through the mountains to the town of Msuzu, where we changed buses. However, this bus stood in Msuzu bus station for over 2 hours with its engine running in the burning sun. We asked why it was not leaving. The reply from the conductor was that it would leave when all the seats were filled, and finally we left the bus station on the 300 km journey to Lilongwe. As the sun was setting we were within an hour of Lilongwe, when the bus engine suddenly stopped and we glided to a silent halt, having run out of fuel in a remote location! Throughout the journey I had been praying for the Lord's help, knowing that great challenges lay ahead at Lilongwe. The Lord was gracious to answer prayer at this point, as a minibus pulled in beside the bus and offered to take passengers for a modest fare, and so we continued to Lilongwe bus station arriving after 14 hours travelling. Nevertheless, we were confronted there by a drunken man who accosted me in the dark and wanted to take our luggage! At last we were taken to the church compound that was to be our venue.

At the Lilongwe conference there were 108 attending in total, of which most were Ministers or Minister's wives. I felt a particular burden and cried for help from God to speak on the need for faithfulness, and that those present might know a blessing in their ministry and, where needed, they would be given a true spirit of repentance by God. My Zambian friend, Pastor Musaka, reported afterwards. "The audience was very attentive as Dr. Sadler taught on *The Need for a Faithful translation of the Bible*. One Pastor came to me at the first tea break saying, "We need the interpreter to be so clear so that we don't miss anything being taught, because today's teaching is very important and, besides, we have never come across these things. Now, we need to understand these matters as being taught." The teaching was so challenging to the brethren, and during lunch time, they started testifying that for all these years they had been in the ministry, no light ever dawned on these issues. But today a light shone in their lives. Such were testimonies from those who talked with me."

Although all present were from nominally Protestant churches or denominations, we found one Minister with a Roman Catholic Chichewa version that had all the books of the Apocrypha interspersed amongst the inspired books of the Bible. Again, this is not uncommon, but is done

through ignorance. We strove to ensure that those present were warned about such things, and to teach that “them that honour Me [i.e. God], I will honour.” (1 Samuel 2.30)

At the end, various FGEA members took back literature for distribution in Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and other parts of Malawi. We each reached our homes safely. “It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness” (Lamentations 3. 22-23).

Protestants in US now below 50%

For the first time in US history, the country does not have a Protestant majority – largely due to the growing number of non-religious Americans.

According to a study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, the percentage of Protestant adults in the US has dropped to 48 percent, the first time it has been below 50 percent.

In a stark illustration of the new status quo in a country once proud of its Protestant heritage, there are currently none on the US Supreme Court. And with Mitt Romney, a Mormon, and running mate Paul Ryan, a Roman Catholic, the Republicans have no Protestants on their Presidential ticket for the first time in the party’s history.

About 20 percent of Americans say they have no religious affiliation; up from 15 per cent five years ago.

Daily Mail 10 October 2012

Gay marriage bill is rejected by Australian Parliament

BBC News (Asia) 19 September 2012

Australian Members of Parliament have overwhelmingly rejected a Bill that would have legalised gay marriages after days of heated debate. The House of Representatives voted 98 to 42 against the Bill, with one MP resigning a key post after making controversial comments against it.

Australia does not permit gay marriage, though some States allow civil unions. Gay rights activists called the decision a “slap on the face,” ABC News reported.

The majority Labour MPs were allowed to vote on the Bill based on their beliefs rather than on party lines, while the Opposition voted against it. Both Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and Opposition Leader, Tony Abbot, voted against the Bill.

Labour MP, Anthony Albanese, who voted for the Bill, remained optimistic despite its defeat. “I think at some future time our Parliament will catch up with community opinion, just as it has on other issues,” he said. “When marriage equality occurs, people will wonder what the fuss was about.”

The debate on the Bill saw the resignation of Liberal MP, Cory Bernardi, from his Parliamentary Secretary post after linking gay marriage to bestiality. He had also questioned whether the passage of the Bill would lead to broader definitions of who could legally get married.

INSECURITY: A THREAT TO OUR NATIONHOOD

by MR. FRIDAY UDOUBIA

A Member of Christian Watch Local Contact Group, Nigeria

It was once rumoured that the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had predicted that Nigeria would break-up before 2012 - although this has been denied by the American Government and its agencies.

The much talked about break-up was contained in a paper entitled "Mapping Sub-Saharan African future" released in March, 2005 after a one-day conference convened by National Intelligence Council (NIC) two months earlier, where two top US experts on Sub-Saharan Africa discussed likely trends in the region over the next 15 years. The views of the two American experts were regarded as personal and the report itself, which was based on a lot of "ifs", was contrary to the popular opinion. Nigerians, however, have continued to live with the fear of a possible break-up of their country.

The fear was first heightened when the militants in the creek of the Niger Delta region took to arms over neglects the region had suffered at the hands of the Federal Government and the oil companies operating in the area. The agitation then was based on the fact that after many years of oil exploration, and exploitation, the people considered their economic and social lives had been negatively affected and they had nothing to show as a proof of it - it was not the hen that lays the golden egg.

When the agitation reached its climax, the country's oil production had dropped and the then President, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua, came up with the Amnesty Programme which was tailored to bring peace to the volatile region. Today, more than 2000 "repentant militants" who embraced the Federal Government Amnesty Programme have been trained both within and outside the country in various vocations relevant to the oil and gas industry.

Just when the country was about to heave a sigh of relief, a more dangerous group arose in the Northern part of the country, whose activities have so far claimed thousands of lives in their deadly operations. The activities of this Islamic sect, Boko Haram, have made nonsense of all the agitation made by former ethnic militias. All their noise, threats and agitations never brought Nigeria close to anything like break-up.

However, the constant bombings by Boko Haram is threatening the very fabric of Nigeria and is capable of achieving what the entire Southern militia groups never achieved in their campaign. This deadly group attacked the Police Headquarters in Abuja and then received international recognition when it bombed the United Nations Office in Nigeria.

Their campaign against harmless, innocent Nigerians started with the 2011 Christmas Day bombings at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Madalla which claimed over 84 victims. The group also went ahead and bombed Christ Apostolic Church in Adamawa State and killed twelve worshippers on 9th January, 2012, while the Kano attack a few weeks later is said to be the deadliest, as it left behind 185 victims at the end of the day.

The list is endless, including the killings in Jos, the Plateau State capital, which also claimed the life of a serving Senator of the Federal Republic, Gyang Dantong, and a member of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Mr. Gyang Fulani, who were both mourners at the mass burial of villagers killed by the sect some days before.

Boko Haram's demands, in the form of dictates, are not achievable and indicate an intention to confront the present Government of Nigeria and bring it down. One such demand is the complete Islamisation of Nigeria. This is impossible as the Southern States, which are predominantly Christian, are not ready to be converted to any other religion; let alone Islam. By their demands, it is clear that the killing and destruction of property will continue because

no Southern Christian will be willing or ready to give up his Christian faith to embrace Islam; not even for the sake of Nigeria.

Another demand is that President Goodluck Jonathan, who came to power on the popular mandate of all Nigerians irrespective of tribe, sex or religion, should resign. In a nutshell, they want a Northern president who is a Muslim. The question is: are they looking for a Muslim President that will carry out their demand to make Nigeria an Islamic state? Again, this will not work.

I believe the time has come for the leadership of this country to do something to end this senseless killing of defenceless Nigerians. The situation goes beyond mere condemnation of the violent acts in the pages of newspapers.

It has been discovered that Boko Haram, as it is today, has three arms. The pro-shara Boko Haram, which was an offshoot of the one founded by late Alhaji Yusuf; the Al-Qaeda sponsored Boko Haram which gives them sophisticated training and some level of funding; and the PDP branch of Boko Haram which consists of members of the ruling party from the core North who are not happy to have lost the Presidency. It is these PDP elements that President Goodluck has referred to as having infiltrated his Government.

The Government should be told to call these PDP elements to order. It is wrong for people to use violence to seek political power in a democratic society like Nigeria. Democracy guarantees periodic elections which bring to an end the tenure of office of any elected public office holder. Why kill and destroy property because you seek political office? It is clear from their actions that, rather than use such political power for the development of the people, it will be used for destroying them.

At this point in our nation's life it is needful to convene a Sovereign National Congress to decide the future of the country or the National Assembly that claims to be vested with such powers to do so on behalf of the people.

This rebellion is not only against President Jonathan's Presidency but against ordinary Nigerians whose lives are daily destroyed by the activities of these blood-thirsty terrorists.

Because of their activities, the Northern part of the country is considered unsafe for business, thereby scaring away possible investors. It is regrettable that at a point when Nigeria should be reaping the huge benefits of democracy, the country is still struggling to woo investors. By the activities of Boko Haram, investors will direct their investment to other peaceful countries; thereby increasing our woes as a people.

IMMIGRATION AND TRADE FIGURES UPDATE

By Ashley Mote

In the first week of September, 2012, the Daily Telegraph revealed that the UK's population was continuing to grow by more than 1000 people a day. Foreigners, particularly Islamists, were adding new-born children at more than four per woman, while the indigenous population was still rearing only 1.6 children per woman. Unsustainable if the UK is to remain recognisable. Europeans were continuing to pour into the UK; four million of them since the EU forced the UK to open its borders. They were free to enter at any time, while migrants from the Commonwealth and the third world had to argue their way in.

The next day, the same newspaper reported that 45,000 Poles had returned to the UK despite our failing economy and higher unemployment. Wages and job prospects in the UK were still better than in Poland.

The weekend after, the Spectator pointed out that many of the hundreds leaving the UK every day were high earners or potential high earners. We may be growing by a net 1000 a day, but that was not an accurate reflection of the damage being inflicted on the British economy.

We were powerless to stop an accelerating exchange of skills and experience for destitute migrants seeking a better life and the chance to send money back to whence they came. That was no recipe for economic growth.

Then, in October, we learned that – while we were importing vast numbers of poor Eastern Europeans – the EU as a whole was buying less and less of our goods. Exports to the EU fell by 18 per cent in the first six months of 2012, while our exports to the rest of the world rose by 28 percent.

So dramatic was this swing in trading patterns that, during May, the entire economic output of the eurozone (including Germany) was overtaken for the first time by the economic output of the British Commonwealth.

Now the Times tell us that Ed Miliband is complaining about the influx of cheap labour from Eastern Europe. What a revelation this is – he’s finally caught up more than ten years late! Trouble is - he appears not to have worked out that we can do nothing to stop it until we leave the EU. He knows, of course – just terrified of saying it. *(Slightly edited)*

**LETTERS TO ‘BUCKS FREE PRESS’
CONCERNING SUNDAY TRADING
BY REV. PETER SIMPSON, PENN FREE METHODIST CHURCH
(Published 21 September and 12 October)**

Dear Sir,

May I respond courteously to Elizabeth Ward re Sunday trading (BFP September 14).

She argued that for Britain to honour the Sabbath Day “takes us back to the Middle Ages”. This is a statement that God’s Commandments can be dispensed with, if they happen to be out of fashion. The Ten Commandments, however, will be in force as long as this world lasts and, in any case, fashion does not determine truth.

The reference in her letter to paramedics and doctors is inadmissible, because the Bible clearly distinguishes between emergencies/acts of mercy and unnecessary commercial activity.

Regarding the argument that Lord’s Day observance is not appropriate in a multi-cultural society, the first century Mediterranean world where the Apostle Paul ministered was one of the most multi-faith societies the world has ever known; yet in that environment Paul declared, “I determined not to know anything among you, you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Sabbath observance must be on Sundays, because this is the day of Christ’s resurrection and the day when Christ’s Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost. If, however, a secularist and consumer-driven society causes everyone to work on different days, it will become increasingly difficult for Christians to engage in corporate worship; one of the primary purposes of the Lord’s Day.

Honouring the Lord’s Day is all about honouring God. Ignoring it is all about trendy politically-correct Britain saying that it rejects Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath, He who has brought so much blessing to this nation in times past.

Yours in polite discussion, Rev. Peter Simpson

Dear Sir,

Re the letter from Colin Heaps entitled "Rev. Simpson's views on Sundays are outdated", I respond amicably as follows.

The issue is not my views, but what the Word of God states. How tragic is the argument that because we are now progressive, modern people, we no longer need God's Commandments. The Bible teaches that to reject one aspect of God's law is to reject it all (James 2:10), for it stands as a thoroughly integrated body of wisdom. So, must we now consider it outdated to refrain from adultery and stealing?

During the secularist French Revolution, the authorities tried to replace the 7-day week with a 10-day one. The scheme did not work and Napoleon abolished it in 1806, after only 12 years. Similarly, in 1929, the atheistic Soviet Union introduced a 5-day week, and then in 1931 a 6-day one. Neither arrangement worked and they returned to a 7-day week in 1940. This is hard evidence that when men try to subvert God's created order, they will never succeed.

Mr. Heaps asks what is the definition of unnecessary commercial activity. I would argue that the changes introduced by the 1994 Sunday Trading Act allowing the supermarkets and larger High Street stores to open for 6 hours was totally unnecessary, representing an undignified veneration of consumerism, along with an unwholesome secularist contempt for Britain's Christian heritage.

Is our economy thriving because the High Streets have been bustling on Sundays since 1994? Have 18 years of ignoring the 4th Commandment made us more prosperous? As we all know, the economy is in serious trouble and the national debt is currently increasing at around £2.3 billion each week.

It is the Trinitarian God who determines the well-being of nations, including their economies (Deuteronomy 28:2,11), and God will not again bless Britain until there is a general turning in repentance and faith to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours courteously, Rev. Peter Simpson

Activity report of the campaign 'Who is on the Lord's side?'

The work of the last few weeks has been concentrated around the Liverpool area and included the annual Christian Watch meeting at nearby Holywell. We return thanks to God for a very blessed and encouraging time. We were thankful for the Pastor, Rev. John Thackway, who opened up the Word of Truth for us from Genesis 11 and for the hospitality shown to us and the fellowship enjoyed with the congregation of Holywell Evangelical Church throughout the weekend.

A number of new Members subscribed to Christian Watch; and this is particularly welcome since the setting up of a Contact Group is now progressing well, by the will of God, for the Liverpool/Chester area.

While the thick darkness of prevailing sin grows even more dense and evangelicalism is generally in a state of drift and decline; there are those who, by the grace of God, stand out like diamonds against the blackness. We should all praise Him for leaving us a zealous and faithful remnant in this day, whose ardour has not been cooled by abounding iniquity. We are reminded of David and the band of 'worthies' who accomplished mighty things in the power of the Spirit of God; and likewise remember that Scripture shows that it is the Lord's way to use the **few** to carry out His purposes in each generation. Who knows, dear reader, whether thou art come to the Kingdom of Christ for such a time as this?

My wife supported me in Liverpool and we had good fellowship with Pastor David Carson and his faithful few at Zion Tabernacle, Chester on the Lord's Day evening. On Monday 8th, I met with the Minister of the Free Presbyterian Church in Liverpool and outlined CW plans for a Contact Group there - and he was very supportive. I am to return to his and other churches very soon. I appeal to anyone in this area who would like to play some part in the Local Contact Group to contact me via mobile or e-mail.

The website is still being developed and not only has a daily devotional, but also now has an audio/visual page under the resources tab where the recorded CD of the Holywell meeting is available for listening to. Soon a video of that meeting will be ready to play too. A postcode map, DV, will shortly be on the website covering each area in the UK, which will show where a Local Contact Group is either in active operation or in the process of being set up.

On Oct 15th, I spoke at the South West Minister's Fraternal at Honiton. In connection with the work of Christian Watch, the address concerned the apathy and indifference shown by many professing believers and how hard it was to overcome. The need to return to the 'Old Paths', even though they may be very 'busy' in their own methods of evangelism, was emphasised.

It was suggested that as the Churches had moved away from a total confidence and certainty of faith in the Scriptures, so many conversions now were found to be shallow; even nominal and intellectual; rather than a deep thorough work of the Holy Ghost.

Precepts of men - and persuasions of men - produce easy, five step, man-made conversions - and fill churches - but do not carry men to glory.

In connection with this, it was stated that the evil of multitudinous new translations is not so much what they add or subtract to the Holy Oracles of God, but the uncertainty that they generate in the hearts of men. We can hear that ever so subtle sinuous voice behind them saying: 'What confidence is this wherein thou trustest?' (Isaiah 36:4).

The authoritative voice of God has been put in doubt, and when many 'new evangelicals' today are exhorted to return to the old paths, they hardly know what is meant, because most have never received the Word of God in truth as the Thessalonians received it from the mouth of Paul the Apostle; not as the word of Paul alone, but from the mouth of God from His throne (1 Thess. 2:13).

At Christian Watch, we hold to the AV, not to be obscurantist, but because we love God's Word from His lips and believe it to be not only the best translation, but also that which was providentially provided in love, by Him, for our generation. If the foundations be destroyed...?

It is surely for us all - evangelists, Sunday school teachers, Pastors and preachers to declare an infallible, inerrant Word in the power of the Holy Ghost, with a corresponding holy walking with God our Saviour. It is always thus: '...he that hath my Word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord' (Jer. 23:28).

Will it result in conversions? It did not for Jeremiah in his generation! However, this is not our concern; our business is simply to be found faithful to Jesus and His Word in our generation.

Let us display the Lord's banner together by means of the Christian Watch Contact Groups; the Lord says that we may display it because of the truth (Psalm 60:4).

Each Local Contact Group gives us a platform from which to display it together - do support your local Group as you are physically able. If there is not one near you and if there is a local demand - however small - call me, and we, by the goodness of God and in the might of His grace, can form one.

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Website: www.christianwatch.org.uk

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