

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

July/August 2014

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To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

As the world around us – and much of modern day Christianity – tells us, we can please ourselves and please God at one and the same time. But is that true? What is God's purpose for us?

Martin Luther King Jnr. – in his most famous speech as the leader of the American Civil Rights Movement – proclaimed *'I have a dream'*. Well, as servants of God we too can have a dream – that we no longer go to Church to be entertained and get our ears tickled, but we go to meet with the living God and understand the purpose He has for our lives. Modern Christianity all too often encourages Christians to live a life of compromise – but we cannot live for the fulfilment of our own desires and ambitions and, at the same time, follow in the footsteps of Christ. The Lord Himself says - *"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."* (Luke 9 v 23). Christ's call to His bride is to be exclusively committed to Him and to seek to please and obey Him.

Since the last Newsletter, the Prime Minister, David Cameron, has written to me to clarify his position – and to outline the facts as he sees it – about marriage and the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act, 2013. I quote – *"Marriage is a hugely important institution in this country. The principles of long-term commitment and responsibility which underpin it bind society together and make it stronger. The Government believes that we should not prevent people getting married unless there are very good reasons – and loving someone of the same sex is not one of them. The opening up of marriage to all couples strengthens the vital institution of marriage and ensures that it remains an essential building block of society."* Just as this statement speaks for itself and shows very clearly the depravity of the modern day Conservative Party, let me also quote from a letter received from Miss Anne McIntosh – a long-standing Conservative Member of Parliament for Thirsk, Malton and Filey – who says – *"My understanding of marriage is very clear; it is the union of a man and a woman, for their comfort, safety and sustenance and for the upbringing of children.....Marriage is special and should be respected and celebrated as such."* (N.B. Miss McIntosh has been de-selected by her Conservative Constituency Party and is now having to fight the 2015 General Election as an Independent)!

In recent days, we have also witnessed the appointment of a new President of the European Commission – a man by the name of Jean-Claude Juncker. Let me introduce him to you. (Quotes from Soeren Kern, www.gatestoneinstitute.org – 8 July 2014)

- *"When it becomes serious, you have to lie."* - Jean-Claude Juncker.
- *"We decide on something, leave it lying around, and wait and see what happens. If no-one kicks up a fuss, because most people don't understand what has been decided, we continue step by step until there is no turning back."* - Jean-Claude Juncker.
- *"Of course there will be transfers of sovereignty. But would I be intelligent to bring attention to that?"* - Jean-Claude Juncker.
- *"I am for secret, dark debates."* - Jean-Claude Juncker.

Further comment is hardly necessary!

The Crossroads of Life by CW Committee Member Michael Hobbis outlines the wrong path of 'New Evangelicalism' and exhorts us to look well to our direction of travel and this is neatly summed up by J.C. Philpot – the **Importance of Sound Doctrine** - which, although spoken many years ago, is still relevant today.

The mystery of the providence of God is brought to our attention under the title **Jesus Veiling His Dealings** and we are exhorted to have a listening ear so that we hear ever so clearly the voice of the Lord speaking to us.

We live in dark days when our Prime Minister and many in authority do not recognise the urgent need for prayer, but **the Importance and Power of Prayer** emphasises how times have changed as, in 1944, the British Prime Minister, King George VI and the American President called their people to prayer and how wonderfully those prayers were answered. Oh, that our present leaders would learn from – and follow – the examples of their predecessors.

We have included 4 News Items – all of which give cause for concern.

1. The planned extension of assisted dying. (N.B. Thou shalt not kill – Exodus 20 v 13).
2. The Vatican and homosexuality, birth control and pre-marital sex. Quote: “*we will not close our eyes to anything.*”
3. Egyptian Christian girls kidnapped, raped and forced into Islam.
4. Church of England Synod approves women Bishops.

However, we are thankful that the Lord is still on the throne and He is working His purposes out. The Report on the **Christian Watch School in Nigeria** gives cause for much rejoicing as young lives are introduced to the Word of God and the Christian Association of Nigeria hosts nationwide prayer sessions for peace.

We close the Newsletter with a message on the **Charity** of the Bible by J.C. Ryle (the first Protestant Bishop of Liverpool). He details the negative side of the question before emphasising how the charity of the Bible will show itself in a believer's doings.

Last month, we mentioned the 10 Commandments Project in schools. May I take this opportunity to thank all of you who have already so generously forwarded such kind letters and gifts. Substantial funds will be needed – but an encouraging start has been made and we thank you most sincerely.

May the Lord bless you as you labour for Him, knowing that – in the words of the Gadsby hymn – ‘through floods and flame He leads me safely on.’ What a Saviour!

Yours in His precious Name,

Ian R. Henderson

Ian R. Henderson,
Vice-Chairman

Management Committee

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

THE CROSSROADS OF LIFE

By: **Michael Hobbis**
(CW Committee Member)

“Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, we will not hearken.” Jeremiah 6:16-17.

Jeremiah the prophet, by the Holy Ghost, exhorted the professing people of God in his day, who hoped to arrive in Heaven at the end of their earthly lives, to consider the way in which they were travelling. “Stand ye in the ways, and see”; look to the signpost at the crossroads. Find out if you really are in the good way to Heaven, lest you be found at the end in Hell!

When we travel on a journey, we consider it sensible to look for signposts or ask directions. The allegory here shows that our spiritual journey is much the same as an earthly physical one; except that a mistake here is eternally fatal - unless repentance is sought.

Happily, all the directions we need are to be found in the pages of the Bible, the Book of God, which will never lead us astray as we ask the Great Interpreter of it, the Holy Spirit of truth, to lead and guide us.

The wrong path of “New Evangelicalism”

However, it must be said here that today many in the Christian church who would be regarded as Christian Evangelicals are travelling in false paths; who the God of the Bible calls in Jer. 18:15 those who “stumble in their ways from the ancient paths.....in a way not cast up.” Roads are built that men may travel safely, but, as with “Pilgrim” in John Bunyan’s “Pilgrim’s Progress,” many have wandered into “By-path meadow;” ways that God says are ways not cast up (not constructed by God). N.B. The people have been deceived by those who say “Peace, peace; when there is no peace” Jer. 6:14. This is the novel way of New Evangelicalism.

Q. What then is this dangerous new way and how does it contrast with the old way recommended by God?

A. It has - as Paul writes to Timothy in 2 Tim. 3:5-7 - a form of godliness but denies the power of it. “Ever learning” i.e. reading the Bible, but “never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

This New Evangelicalism may also be identified by a lack of what the Bible calls “The fear of God” and a true repentance, which is shown by a “broken and a contrite heart” for sin. See Psalm 51:17.

This false way, which looks very much like the right way, is that of the Pharisees of our Lord’s day; for the New Evangelicals speak much of spreading the Gospel and freely speaking of Jesus dying for our sins, even supporting missions and proselytising; but as He spoke of those religious leaders then: so it is with these now. “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me” Matt. 15:8.

The New Evangelical seeks to live as the world lives and does not lead a separated life as a “Stranger and Pilgrim;” therefore these would “Christianise” worldliness, by putting the name Christian in front of everything that their heart lusts after, viz. Christian rock music; Christian motor rallying; Christian fashions; Christian comedians and much more.

But as the Apostle John wrote to the Church:

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him...And the world passeth away and the lust thereof:”

Also Paul “And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away” 1 Cor. 7:31.

Perhaps, more seriously, this false route being taken would associate - and even fellowship with - the Ecumenical Movement with its links to Roman Catholicism and even the Greek Orthodox Church and that apostate body, the World Council of Churches. This wicked Movement embraces those who deny the substitutionary work of Christ and speak blasphemously of Christ's precious blood.

The New Evangelicalism is FLIPPANT; FOOLISH; FEARLESS AND FALSE. It demands novel Hymns; novel Bibles; and novel methods of worship such as Messy Church; and like the world of excessive consumerism, it is always promoting that which is New.

To return to Jeremiah, who under the inspiration of God called the professing Church back to the old paths, telling them that if they did return they would find rest to their souls, we read in Proverbs 3:17 that this good way is a “way of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.”

Sadly, those people would not listen and take heed of the warning from God; and out of love to their sin they said “We will not walk therein” and “We will not hearken”.

Perhaps you, if you are a New Evangelical, find all this faintly amusing or even foolishness, believing that your way is best. But do take to heart that awesome Scripture which the Holy Ghost repeats twice: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25.

Look well to your direction of travel.

The Importance of Sound Doctrine

By: J. C. Philpot

How necessary, then, it is for Churches and Ministers to hold the truth with a firm, unyielding hand and to give no place to error, no, not for an hour! Remember this, Churches and Ministers, Deacons and Members and all ye that fear God in the assemblies of the saints, that there can be no *little* errors; we mean as regards the vital, fundamental doctrines of our most Holy faith. There may be differences of opinion on minor points, as on Church Government, the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament, the restoration of the Jews, the nature of the Millennium, the interpretation of particular passages of Scripture; but on such fundamental points as the Blessed Trinity, the Person of Christ, the personality and work of the Holy Ghost, no deviation can be allowed from the straight and narrow line of Divine truth. Error on any one of these vital points is from Satan; and he never introduces little errors; all, all are full of deadly poison. There was no great quantity of arsenic in the Bradford lozenges*, not much strychnine in Palmer's doses*, but death and destruction were in both; or where not death, disease and suffering for life. Error in itself is deadly.

* Murder cases that were in the news at the time he wrote

**(From: 'Sin and Salvation' – Selections from J. C. Philpot
Edited by B. A. Ramsbottom)**

Jesus Veiling His Dealings

From: *The Sower* (1882-83)

Throw back a glance upon the past and see how little you have ever understood of all the way God has led you. What a mystery – perhaps now better explained – has enveloped His whole proceedings!

When Joseph, for example, was torn from the homestead of his father, sold, and borne a slave into Egypt, not a syllable of that eventful page of his history could be spelt; and yet God's way with this His servant was perfect. Could Joseph have seen - at the moment that he descended into the pit where he was cast by his envious brethren - all the future of his history as vividly and as palpably as he beheld it in after years? While there would have been the conviction that all was well, we doubt not that faith would have lost much of its vigour and God much of His glory. And so with good old Jacob. The famine, the parting with Benjamin, the menacing conduct of Pharaoh's Prime Minister, wrung the mournful expression from his lips, "All these things are against me." All was veiled in deep and mournful mystery. Thus was it with Job, to whom God spake from the whirlwind that swept every vestige of affluence and domestic comfort from his dwelling. And thus, too, with Naomi, when she exclaimed, "Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty."

How easy were it to multiply cases of veiled and yet all-wise dispensations! And is this the way of the Lord with you? Are you bewildered at the mazes through which you are threading your steps? No mystery has lighted upon your path but what is common to the one family of God. "This honour have all His saints." The Shepherd is leading you, as all the flock are led, with a skilful hand and a right way. It is yours to stand if He bids you, or to follow if He leads. "He giveth no account of any of His matters," assuming that His children have such confidence in His wisdom, and love, and uprightness as, in all the wonder-working of His dealings with them, to "Be still, and know that He is God." That it is the glory of God to conceal should, in our view, be sufficient to justify all His painful and humiliating procedure with us. It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, as it will be for His endless glory, by and by, fully to reveal it all.

But there is one thing, Christian sufferer, which He cannot conceal. He cannot conceal the *love* that forms the spring and foundation of all His conduct with His saints. Do what He will, conceal as He may; be His chariot the thick clouds and His way in the deep sea; still His love betrays itself, disguised though it may be in dark and impenetrable providences. There are undertones, gentle and tender, in the roughest accents of our Joseph's voice; and he who has an ear ever hearkening to the Lord and delicately attuned to the gentlest whisper, shall often exclaim, "Speak Lord, how and when, and where thou mayest. It is the voice of my Beloved!"

The Importance and Power of Prayer

The Word of God gives us many examples of the power of prayer and the willingness and ability of our God to answer our requests.

Many of the Psalms of David emphasise his personal trust in an Almighty God to whom he prayed for mercy and generally committed every aspect of his life. He also proved that if he neglected prayer and followed the dictates of his own nature and the temptations of his evil heart, the consequences were disastrous. The many records and examples given in the Bible of the Lord answering the prayers of His people should encourage us to take every circumstance in our lives to the Lord in prayer.

The following article details the President of America's national prayer at the time of his country's involvement with the British to defeat the German army on the day of their invasion of France. In like manner, the British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, and King George VI, both exhorted the people to pray to God that the invasion might prove successful. We know how wonderfully the prayers were answered by Almighty God.

May our present rulers learn from - and follow the example of - their predecessors.

**Franklin Roosevelt's Message and Prayer, broadcast over the wireless
to the American people, on the morning of D-Day, 6 June, 1944**

Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far. And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join with me in prayer.

"Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavour, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion and our civilisation and to set free a suffering humanity. Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard - for the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest - until victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violence of war - for these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise and tolerance and goodwill restored among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home. Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy Kingdom.

And for us at home - fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters and brothers of brave men overseas, whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them - help us, Almighty God, to re-dedicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day - and again when each day is spent - let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too - strength in our daily tasks, to re-double the contributions we make in the physical and the material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail; to bear sorrows that may come and to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee; faith in our sons; faith in each other; faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment - let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country and, with our sister nations, into a world unity that will spell a sure peace - a peace invulnerable to the scheming's of

unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.” Amen.

NEWS ITEMS

1. Swiss Group to allow assisted dying for elderly who are not terminally ill – Maddy French, The Guardian, 26 May, 2014

Exit, a Swiss organisation that helps people take their own lives, has voted to extend its services to elderly people who are not terminally ill.

Exit added “suicide due to old age” to their statutes at an Annual General Meeting held at the end of May, allowing people suffering from psychological or physical problems associated with old age the choice to end their lives.

Assisted dying is legal in Switzerland and technically even a healthy young person could use such services. However, organisations involved in this work set their own internal requirements, which differ from group to group.

The move has been criticised by the Swiss Medical Association amid fears it will encourage suicide among the elderly. “We do not support the change of statutes by Exit. It gives us cause for concern because it cannot be ruled out that elderly, healthy people could come under pressure of taking their own lives,” said the Association’s President, Dr. Jurg Schlup.

But Exit said that most people who choose this option were already members of the organisation and had been looking into assisted dying for years.

“Our members told us to get active on this subject. It was ripe for a decision,” Exit’s Vice-President, Bernard Sutter, said.

“Assisted suicide is a lengthy process. Doctors must take tests and talk to patients for hours asking them to justify their motivations. Old patients feel they do not have the energy for all of this and it is also not so dignified.”

The organisation confirmed that elderly people seeking their services would still have to go through comprehensive checks – but that medical tests would be less stringent than those required for younger people.

Despite some backlash, Sutter said the medical profession was becoming more understanding.

“Prescriptions for the [life-ending] medicine come most often from the family doctors,” he said. “That shows that the medical profession is more understanding now of what it means to go on like this.”

The news follows a legal battle between Swiss prosecutors and a doctor who provided deadly medicine to a patient without examining him first. The doctor was acquitted by an Appeal Court in April for giving drugs to an 89-year old patient with a serious bowel illness who wanted to end his life but refused to be examined.

“It has to be OK for elderly people like him not to be put through the same tests again,” said Sutter. “This is what we mean – he shouldn’t have had to go through it all again.”

2. Vatican Begins Discussion on Homosexuality, Birth Control and Pre-marital Sex - Rob Kerby ChristianHeadlines.com Contributor, 29 June, 2014

Unjust discrimination against homosexuals must be avoided and children brought up in same-sex unions must be treated like anybody else, advises a new document from the Vatican. However, the Church still does not sanction same-gender marriages or adoption by same-sex couples.

The document, *Instrumentum Laboris*, is a working paper kicking off what will be two years of debate by Roman Catholic Bishops around the world, responding to Pope Francis' October, 2013 call for an examination of "matters of family and the Christian faith," writes Stoyan Zaimov for the Christian Post.

The document concedes that many Catholics worldwide reject its teachings on sex and contraception as intrusive and irrelevant. However, "core Church doctrine on the nature of marriage, sexuality, abortion and divorce isn't expected to change as a result of the debate," reports Nicole Winfield for the Associated Press. "But Pope Francis is well aware that the Church has lost much of its relevance and credibility in today's secular world and he is seeking to re-direct his Ministers to offer families, and even gays in civil unions, a 'new language' that is welcoming and responds to their needs."

The release of the working document marks a sharp change from past practice. The Vatican had sent out a 39-point questionnaire seeking input from ordinary Catholics around the world about their understanding of, and adherence to, the Church's teaching on sexuality, homosexuality, contraception, marriage and divorce.

"Thousands of ordinary Catholics, clergy and academics responded, providing the Vatican with an unprecedented compilation of grass-root data to guide the discussion. Usually, such working papers are compiled by Bishops alone," notes Winfield. "The responses, which were summarised in the working document, were brutally honest."

"A vast majority" of responses stressed that "the moral evaluation of the different methods of birth control is commonly perceived today as an intrusion in the intimate life of the couple and an encroachment on the autonomy of conscience," the document said. "Many responses recommend that for many Catholics the concept of 'responsible parenthood' encompasses the shared responsibility in conscience to choose the most appropriate method of birth control."

"Confronted with such a reality," noted Winfield, "Vatican officials were asked at a press conference if the Church might actually change its position to align itself with the practice of most of its faithful rather than hold on to teachings that so many Catholics reject."

"We will not close our eyes to anything," responded Monsignor Bruno Forte. "These problems will be considered."

3. 550 Egyptian Christian Girls Kidnapped and Forced into Islam since 2011 - Carrie Dedrick, Editor, ChristianHeadlines.com 17 June, 2014

A new report from the Association of Victims of Abduction and Forced Disappearance (AVAFD) states that more than 550 Egyptian Christian women and girls have been kidnapped since 2011. The kidnapped women are then forced to adopt Islam and marry their captors.

The AVAFD reported that the women's ages ranged from 14 – 40. Many of the women are raped; many are not even sought after by the police. Authorities instead claim the women left their families by choice.

Police did not get involved with 14 year old Nadia Makram's case, though her family told police the name of her captor.

AVAFD founder, Ebram Louis, said that kidnappings had increased in Egypt since Hosni Mubarak fell from power. “Before the revolution, five or six girls would disappear each month. Now the average is 15.”

4. Church of England General Synod approves Women Bishops Bill – Church of England Press Office, 14 July, 2014

The General Synod of the Church of England has today (14 July) given its final approval for women to become Bishops in the Church of England.

The vote in the General Synod on the measure was carried by the required two-thirds majority in the three constituent parts of the Synod: the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity.

The voting results were as follows:

House of Bishops:	Yes - 37	No - 2	Abstentions - 1
House of Clergy:	Yes - 162	No - 25	Abstentions - 4
House of Laity:	Yes - 152	No - 45	Abstentions - 5

This means the first woman Bishop could potentially be appointed by the end of the year.

Today’s vote comes 18 months after the proposal was last voted upon in November, 2012 when the proposal failed to achieve the required two thirds majority in the House of Laity.

Abbreviated

Spurgeon on Antichrist

“It is the bounden duty of every Christian to pray against Antichrist and - as to what Antichrist is - no sane man ought to raise a question. If it be not the popery in the Church of Rome, there is nothing in the world that can be called by that name. If there were to be issued a hue and cry for Antichrist, we should certainly take up this Church on suspicion and it would certainly not be let loose again, for it so exactly answers the description.”

“Popery is contrary to Christ’s Gospel and is the Antichrist - and we ought to pray against it. It should be the daily prayer of every believer that Antichrist might be hurled like a millstone into the flood, because it wounds Christ, because it robs Christ of His glory, because it puts sacramental efficacy in the place of His atonement and lifts a piece of bread into the place of the Saviour and a few drops of water into the place of the Holy Ghost and puts a mere fallible man like ourselves up as the vicar of Christ on earth. If we pray against it, because it is against Him, we shall love the persons though we hate their errors; we shall love their souls though we loathe and detest their dogmas and so the breath of our prayers will be sweetened, because we turn our faces towards Christ when we pray.”

WHY DID CHRIST DIE?

By: William Gadsby (1773 – 1844)

According to some people, Christ died to give all 'a chance' of being saved! I do not know that I hate anything more in my soul than to hear that. It makes Jesus Christ so little – that He should do so much, and after all, only to get us 'a chance' of being saved.

Why, if a man is set up in business, you see how often it happens that he fails in it; and if man cannot manage the paltry things of time and sense without being insolvent, what will he do with eternal realities? And if you come a little closer, when God "made man upright" and he had no sinful nature, what did he do with his innocence? He lost it all! And yet poor presumptuous man has the vanity to think you and I could manage 'the chance' of being saved.

What an insult it is to the Lord Jesus Christ to fix the eternal honour of God upon chance, and that chance to be managed by a poor sinful creature who is tumbling into half a dozen holes every hour of his life! NO, NO. Thanks be to God for immortal realities and certainties.

WHAT IS SAID CONCERNING WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE?

He has "put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself;" He has "finished transgression and made an end of sin;" He has "redeemed us from all iniquity;" He has "redeemed us from the curse of the law," from destruction and from the power of the devil; He has "obtained eternal redemption for us;" He has "redeemed us to God." To the honour of the Eternal Trinity it is said, not that the redeemed shall have a chance, but that the redeemed shall "come to Zion with songs, and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

The Lord Jesus Christ has done this "great" work; and He has gone to Heaven shouting "Victory," for "God is gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet." He rose from the grave as a demonstrative proof that sin was destroyed, law satisfied, God honoured, His people eternally and everlastingly saved. And the immortal honours of God unite in their salvation; therefore, He ever lives at the right hand of the Father to make intercession.

Immortal honours rest on Jesus' head;
My God, my Portion, and my Living Bread,
In Him I live, upon Him cast my care;
He saves from death, destruction, and despair.

He is my Refuge in each deep distress;
The Lord my strength and glorious righteousness;
Through floods and flames He leads me safely on,
And daily makes His sovereign goodness known.

My every need He richly will supply;
Nor will His mercy ever let me die;
In Him there dwells a treasure all divine,
And matchless grace has made that treasure mine.

O that my soul could love and praise Him more,
His beauties trace, His majesty adore;
Live near His heart, upon His bosom lean;
Obey His voice, and all His will esteem.

W. Gadsby

CHRISTIAN WATCH SCHOOL IN NIGERIA REPORT

We are thankful to our Lord God for His many mercies and His help in enabling us to achieve a successful first half of the year.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, there was a delay in sending this report, for which we apologise. Thank you so much for your last mailing; we received it with great joy and gratitude to God.

DETAIL OF REPORT

We are now on the third term of the 2013/2014 session and the school resumed on 9th May, 2014. The classes started effectively with a good number of pupils and, on the first day, the Headmaster addressed both pupils and teachers. He asked the teachers to write lesson notes and he encouraged the pupils to be very serious in their studies. They were told that they should be in school before 7:30 a.m. and classes would start by 8 a.m. Finally, the Headmaster prayed for all in attendance and then dismissed them to their various classes.

PARTICIPATING IN CHILDRENS' DAY

The 27th May is set aside nationally every year as Childrens' Day. The main purpose of this annual event is to bring children of various schools together with their teachers, some family members, plus some Local Government Officials, to celebrate. On that day there was a march past and cultural dances of the various schools were performed. Afterwards, the Bishop of New Creation Ministries, Bishop Enomfon Akpan preached. He encouraged the children to be alert and also that they should be security conscious. He said he believed the world is getting towards the end of time and he prayed for the safety and unconditional release of the Chibouk schoolgirls, abducted by Boko Haram. He said that bombing, killing and kidnapping of innocent citizens by Boko Haram insurgents must not be seen as a religious issue, but as a grave and evil act of inhumanity. The Chairman of the Council then made a speech in which he said that the Nigerian National Constitution recognises the rights of citizens to have a religion of their choice. He also asked the children of the various schools to pray for the kidnapped Chibouk schoolgirls. Master Mfonobong Peter Udo represented the Christian Watch School.



Children from the CW School marching at the Childrens' Day celebrations

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (CAN)

The Christian Association of Nigeria host nationwide prayer for peace in the country, because of the severe unrest in Nigeria. The CAN President, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, said this would be held at the National Christian Centre, Abuja and prayer was held for 3 hours (9 a.m.-12 noon) on 21st May. Prayer sessions will also be held at Churches across the country. He urged all the various branches of CAN to take it very seriously and to mobilise Christians from different Churches for prayer.

The Association expressed confidence that prayer would help the nation in overcoming the current situation, particular the reign of terrorism in some parts of the country. He also urged all Christians to participate in the forthcoming prayer programme to contribute to the fight against insurgency in the country. Pastor Nse, Eseme and Pastor Monday represented Christian Watch, Nigeria.

CW NIGERIA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

CW Nigeria hosted a fasting and prayer meeting on 4th June to pray for Mr. Friday Udobia who was in hospital [*Mr. Udobia is one of the leaders of CW Nigeria and the school*]. It was conducted by Eseme A.A and after prayer and Bible reading, Mr. Friday Isaiah Udobia and his family were committed into the hands of God.

On the 5th June the Committee visited his son, Ise Friday Udobia, at the Medical Health Centre at Uyo and he then took the Committee to the hospital to see his father. Eseme and Pastor Nse met the Doctor who said that Mr Udobia was suffering from chronic disease which is hypertensive heart failure and that his blood pressure was 150 mmhg. He said that the sickness is very serious, but he hoped he would recover. We, the members of the CW Committee, prayed for him and said that he should be strong in the Lord.

We are, however, facing difficulty in the running of the school because of a lack of school material and also funds.

On behalf of the teachers, we thank God and the Committee of CW Nigeria and UK who have made it possible to run the school so effectively. We ask God to give us each more grace and enable us to work hard for the further development of the school. We say, God bless you and attach a photograph of the children.

We wish you the Lord's blessing.

Eseme A.A. for CW Nigeria

NOTE: If any Member would like to donate to the School this can be done via our website www.christianwatch.org.uk where there is a section in 'DONATE' specifically for the School. Alternatively, cheques can be sent to our Christian Watch office:

Christian Watch Resources, P O Box 2113, Nuneaton, CV11 6ZY

The mercies of God work compassion to others. A Christian is a temporal saviour. He feeds the hungry, clothes the naked and visits the widow and orphan in their distress. "A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth." (Ps. 112:5) By grace charity drops from him freely, as myrrh

CHARITY

By: J. C. Ryle

The charity of the Bible does not consist in never disapproving anybody's conduct. Here is another very common delusion! Thousands pride themselves on never condemning others, or calling them wrong, whatever they may do. They convert the precept of our Lord, "Judge not," into an excuse for having no unfavourable opinion at all of anybody. They pervert His prohibition of rash and censorious judgments into a prohibition of all judgments whatsoever. Your neighbour may be a drunkard, a liar, a Sabbath-breaker, a passionate man. Never mind! "It is not charity," they tell you, "to pronounce him wrong." You are to believe he has a good heart at bottom! This idea of charity is, unhappily, a very common one. It is full of mischief. To throw a veil over sin and to refuse to call things by their right names – to talk of "hearts" being good when lives are flatly wrong – to shut our eyes against wickedness and say smooth things of immorality – this is not Scriptural charity.

The charity of the Bible does not consist in never disapproving anybody's religious opinions. Here is another most serious and growing delusion. There are many who pride themselves on never pronouncing others mistaken, whatever views they may hold. Your neighbour, forsooth, may be an Arian, or a Socinian, a Roman Catholic, or a Mormon, a Deist or Skeptic, a mere Formalist or a thorough Antinomian, but the "charity" of many says that you have no right to think him wrong! If he is sincere, it is "uncharitable" to think unfavourably of his spiritual condition! From such charity may I ever be delivered!

At this rate the Apostles were wrong in going out to preach to the Gentiles! At this rate there is no use in missions! At this rate we had better close our Bibles and shut up our Churches! Everybody is right and nobody is wrong! Everybody is going to Heaven and nobody is going to Hell! Such charity is a monstrous caricature. To say that all are equally right in their opinions, though their opinions flatly contradict one another – to say that all are equally in the way to Heaven, though their doctrinal sentiments are as opposite as black and white – this is not Scriptural charity.

Charity like this pours contempt on the Bible and talks as if God had not given us a written test of truth. Charity like this confuses all our notions of Heaven and would fill it with a discordant, inharmonious rabble. True charity does not think everybody right in doctrine. True charity cries, "Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not" (2 John 10).

I leave the negative side of the question here. I have dwelt upon it at some length because of the days in which we live and the strange notions which abound. Let me now turn to the positive side. Having shown what charity is not - let me now show what it is.

Charity is that "love" which St. Paul places first among those fruits which the Spirit causes to be brought forth in the heart of a believer. "The fruit of the Spirit is love" (Galatians 5:22). Love to God, such as Adam had before the fall, is its first feature. He that has charity desires to love God with heart and soul and mind and strength. Love to man is its second feature. He that has charity desires to love his neighbour as himself. This is indeed that view in which the word "charity" in Scripture is more especially regarded. When I speak of a believer having "love" in his heart, I mean that he has love to both God and man. When I speak of a believer having "charity," I mean more particularly that he has love to man.

The charity of the Bible will show itself in a believer's doings. It will make him ready to do kind acts to everyone with his reach – both to their bodies and souls. It will not let him be content with soft words and kind wishes. It will make him diligent in doing all that lies in his power to lessen the sorrow and increase the happiness of others. Like his Master, he will care more for ministering than for being ministered to and will look for nothing in return. Like his Master's

great Apostle, he will very willingly “spend and be spent” for others, even though they repay him with hatred and not with love. True charity does not want wages. Its work is its reward.

DOES OUR ‘LIGHT’ SHINE?

By: David Crowter
(Chairman, Christian Watch)

We read in chapter 1 of John’s Gospel that John the Baptist came to be a witness - to bear witness of Christ - that all men through Him might believe (v 7). Do we endeavour to witness for Christ?

If the Lord has favoured us by giving us the ‘New Birth’ by the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts; out of love to Him we will desire to tell others of what He has done for us. In addition, however, we have a solemn responsibility to warn others who appear ignorant of their lost condition and to inform them of the only way of escape - by faith in the salvation procured by the Lord Jesus Christ in His suffering and death on the cross.

It is also important that our daily conduct conveys to others that we follow our Lord’s exhortation to keep His commandments. Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” These were given for the guidance and benefit of mankind. Does our conduct at home, at work, in the Church, in every place or in whatever we are doing, always convey that we have been with Jesus and have learned of Him?

In addition to personal witness, there is also public witness. Such witnesses, whether they are held in a meeting room or out in the street, provide an opportunity for the Word of God to be preached or an informative address to be given. In addition, it presents an opportunity to hand out spiritual literature and also to enter into conversation with others who wish to question or inquire about any aspect of our public witnessing.

How we need the Lord to grant us grace to do His will and to give us the love and zeal for the souls of others. May our ‘light’ shine in this dark, evil world to His honour and glory.

OPEN-AIR STREET WITNESSING

Christian Watch are organising the following events, God willing

Saturday, 9th August @ 12 noon - Worthing Town Centre
Montagu Street,
Worthing.

Saturday, 16th August @ 11am - Portsmouth Town Centre
Commercial Road,
Portsmouth.

If you live in either of these areas or nearby, please do come along
and support us!

For more information please contact: steve@christianwatch.org.uk

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

CHRISTIAN WATCH

Head Office

P O Box 2113, Nuneaton, CV11 6ZY

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Email: jean@christianwatch.org.uk (New)

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