



Pentecostal

ISSUE 309
SPRING 2025

TRUTH

New Frontiers:

*Embracing Hope and Growth
Through God's Unfailing Love*

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THE MESSAGE OF CALVARY

DOUBLE IN A DECADE SPRING INTO ACTION

WELCOME SCOTLAND & IRELAND

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This Edition Detail

Pentecostal Truth Spring 2025 Edition, Volume 309. PT is published quarterly by United Pentecostal Church of Great Britain & Ireland, a non-profit organisation

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Editorial

New Frontier's,

Embracing Hope & Growth, Through God's Unfailing Love ~ Rev. C. Nicol



Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of "Pentecostal Truth".

Spring is in the air and there is a fresh sense of hope and motivation, as we leave dark winter months behind. That thought inspired the theme for this magazine- "New Frontiers, Embracing Hope & Growth, Through God's Unfailing Love."

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons, and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen. This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise." (Isaiah 43:19-21).

We have all faced challenges in life, where we felt that we were stuck in an arid desert or very dark place, seemingly, with no means of escape. Many are still going through trials, health issues, bereavement, and other difficulties, which often cause us to lose hope and feel we are stumbling. God's promise, above, is for all of us. He is doing- and will continue to do- "a new thing," transforming lives, giving new hope and inspiration, leading to new shoots of growth. Out of the mouths of several witnesses, I hear the words, "breakthrough is coming" and "greater things are yet to come." We can tangibly feel moves of God's Spirit across our churches. There is great anticipation of revival and great hope, across 2025.

My prayer is that the Lord Jesus will continue to move upon us, at an individual,

local, district and national level, as He builds and multiplies His church. Remember, if you are feeling down right now, "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." God Bless.

In this issue, you can find the following:

1.Catch up with our Northern, Central and London & South District Conferences, recently held in Elgin, Rugby, and London, respectively. Through words and pictures, experience the blessings, which were poured out.

2.Multiplication is happening, as we move towards "Doubling In A Decade." Say goodbye to the Northern District and hello, to the new districts Of Ireland and Scotland.

3.Be encouraged by a new revival-oriented initiative, birthed by the 2024-2025 Northern District Ladies Leader, Sis. Carol Chrysanthous.

4.Millennium Bible College saw its annual Graduation ceremony and we had a reporter there. See inside for further details, pictures, and a poem, from one of our graduating students.

5.This month's Spotlight is on a familiar face, who has served and blessed us over many years. Our National Missions Director, Rev Dr Mark Gadd, reflects on his life, as well as how the Lord has used and uses the missions Department to establish new frontiers, spreading the gospel, giving hope to so many.

6.As always, we have sought contributions from our very own General Superintendent, Bishop Francis. See inside, for his inspiration to us.

7.We are looking to begin a new "Voice Of The Body" feature, highlighting great testimonies, and giving God glory. We start with an impacting story, thanks to Rev A. Banton.

8.Are you wondering what is upcoming, in UPC GB&I, over coming months? See our Promotions section, for all relevant material, enabling you to be fully a part of things.

That's it, for this edition. Be blessed as you read and feel encouraged to submit pieces for future issues. If you wish to do that, or provide any feedback at all on the magazine, kindly reach out to the Editor, at the following email address: **cnicol@upcgbi.org**

Please get all proposed articles, testimonies, and associated pictures to the Editor in suitable time, to be considered for forthcoming issues. We now have a mechanism in place, where you can directly upload articles and pictures, for the consideration of the Editorial Team. Contact the Editor in advance and he will send you an appropriate link.

God Bless all of you in the mighty Name of Jesus Christ. Until next time!

Rev. Charlie Nicol

Editor – Pentecostal Truth

"Double in a Decade" Spring Into Action

By Bishop Leroy N. Francis

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

— Isaiah 43:19

Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus! Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of Pentecostal Truth, the official publication of the United Pentecostal Church of Great Britain and Ireland (UPC GB&I). As we step into a new season, both naturally and spiritually, we are reminded that God is indeed doing a new thing among us—it is springing forth, and we are called to rise and respond with bold, Spirit-led action!

"Double in a Decade"

The Vision:

In 2020, we cast a bold, God-breathed vision to **Double in a Decade**—from 2020 to 2030. Though the unforeseen storm of the COVID-19 pandemic caused a necessary pause, it did not derail the purpose of God. By His grace, we are back on course, and the momentum is building!

To date, we thank the Lord for:

- **106 licensed ministers**, with more than 30 Christian Worker's License holders faithfully serving the Body.
- **Over 90 churches and preaching points**, a testament to God's restoring power as we reclaim the territory lost during the pandemic.

Yes, the vision is alive and well. It is not just reviving—it is thriving!

Historic Growth and New Districts

We celebrate the fulfillment of a key component of the vision launched in 2020 by our Northern District Superintendent, Rev. Jonathan Strickland. That vision has now blossomed into the official formation of:

- **The District of Ireland**
- **The District of Scotland**



Both districts now have their own leadership boards, positioning us for deeper impact and wider reach. You can find a detailed report on this historic advancement in this issue of *Pentecostal Truth*. To God be the glory!

More Than Numbers — A Movement of Multiplication

Doubling in a Decade is not merely about numerical growth. It's about **"Kingdom expansion"** through intentional, Spirit-led leadership and discipleship. The General Board is working to foster a national culture of revival, but the **"engine room of growth"** remains the local church.

Local churches are the heartbeat of our movement. Where pastors, leaders, and saints unite in vision and purpose, God multiplies the work.

Every church is encouraged to fully activate the **Big Four Ministries**:

- **Men's Ministry**
- **Ladies' Ministry**
- **Youth Ministry**
- **Children's Ministry**

When these departments are strong and active, churches become multigenerational lighthouses of faith—meeting the needs of every age and stage of life.

By intentionally cultivating generational ministry, we are not only growing in number but in **spiritual maturity**. Our preaching, teaching, and ministry activities serve as a compass—constantly pointing true north—leading us ever upward and forward in Christ.

As Isaiah proclaimed, **"Now it shall spring forth!"**—let this not be just a scripture we quote, but a vision we live. Let us spring into action, led by the Holy Spirit and fueled by divine purpose.

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

— John 4:14

Generational Growth, Spiritual Maturity

There are wells of anointing, gifting, calling, vision, and untapped potential springing up within the people of God across our national and local churches. Now is the time to dig deep, draw near, and pour out.

Let the power of the Holy Ghost stir a fresh wave of revival. Let dreams be reborn, ministries reignited, and churches revitalised. The future is not just approaching — it's breaking forth. Where there is casting down all around us, we shall be lifting up as declared in Job

"Your decisions will be carried out, and light will shine on your ways. When men are brought low and you say, 'Lift them up!' then He will save the lowly. He will deliver even one who is not innocent, rescuing him through the cleanness of your hands."

-Job 22:28-30

This spring, let the vision live again.
Let it rise.
Let it spring forth.

Together, we move forward—doubling not just in numbers, but in power, purpose, and Kingdom influence.

In His service,

Bishop Leroy N. Francis

General Superintendent.
United Pentecostal Church of Great Britain and Ireland

United Pentecostal Church
- Great Britain & Ireland

Report On Central District Conference

By Rev P. Grzeszczyk



This year's Central District AGM was held at New Life Fellowship in Bilston, where district ministers were graciously hosted in NLF Bilston's newly completed upper room. The meeting opened with prayer and proceeded swiftly, as reports had been distributed in advance. With a brief recess for lunch, the entire meeting was completed in under four hours. Throughout the day, a sense of togetherness and fellowship was evident.

Elections:

Superintendent- Rev. Y. Frater

Missions- Rev. A. Mitchell

Secretary (1 year)- Rev. M. Hemus

Appointments by ratifications:

Youth- Rev. J. Groves

Men's- Rev. J. D'Oyley

MBC Dean- Rev. C. Hibbert

Our 2025 District Conference held in Rugby was a tremendous success with a deep work of the Spirit throughout all services and excellent session teachings, based on the theme: "Save Thyself and Them that Hear Thee."

Our Children enjoyed their Sunday School Session led by Sis Irene Tibenda and our Youth enjoyed serving throughout the conference in Music, Media, and Tech. It was beautiful to see the next generation of worshippers praying in the altar and we rejoice in two young people receiving the infilling of the Holy Ghost.



Millennium Bible College held their Graduation Ceremony during the Conference—we honour Sis Carmen Hibbert and her team for their excellent work training labourers for the harvest, and we were incredibly blessed by the Central District Worship Team leading us into the presence of God during the event.

The Ministry of our District Ministers, District Superintendent Rev Yvonne Frater, and Guest Minister Rev Charles Robinette (UPCI Global Missions) was outstanding and timely for our District, as God gave us a baptism of boldness to reach our communities for Him.

We note the excellent work of our Presbyterian Rev Keith Gentry in organising the conference, and our outgoing and incoming District Secretary-Treasurer, as well as our District Superintendent and the Rugby church for their wonderful hospitality.

It is wonderful to see the great unity of the Central District and we look forward in faith to what God will do in 2025 through our great labourers and assemblies.



United Pentecostal Church - Great Britain & Ireland London & South District Conference

Rev A. Banton [L&S District Superintendent].

The London and South District Conference took place on Friday 31st January and Saturday 1st February 2025. The Conference was held at the Life Tabernacle Croydon Church.

The theme for the conference was "Mighty in the Word." Rev Betty Badenhorst brought a powerful word to start the conference on Friday Evening followed by Rev Banton who delivered the Superintendents message.

Saturday seminars were presented by Rev Patterson, Rev W Ellis, and Rev B Ellis, three anointed men who are spiritual grandfather, father, and son. Our Saturday night keynote speaker was Rev Aubrey Longmore from the central District who brought the word of instruction on being "Mighty in the Word."

Attendance-wise, Friday evening saw about two hundred people in the house and around fifty people joining online. Saturday seminars had around one hundred people present and a record online attendance of nearly 100 devices. The Saturday evening service had a maximum of 275 in-person, again, with a record of around seventy online participants.

The Saturday evening service also saw the introduction of the newly elected District Board the results of which can be seen in the accompanying table.

All seminars and services are available on YouTube and Facebook on the UPCGBI website.



Testimony

Rev A. Banton

A young woman who had been having issues with anxiety came out of her house and heard the altar call song, "There is power, in the name of Jesus." She was impacted by the line, "Break every chain."

She ran to get her mum to accompany her to the service and arrived, as the service was closing. But the impact of the words was such that she presented herself for prayer. Following the prayer she exchanged details. One of our female Reverends is now supporting her and she began attending our Sunday morning services. All glory goes to God!

United Pentecostal Church - Great Britain & Ireland

Northern District Conference AGM

- Rev C. Nicol

The Northern District Conference Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday, 1st March 2025, in Elgin, Scotland. Ten ministers from Scotland and North England, along with a further eight from Ireland, attended the AGM in-person or online and we had four representatives from the General Board- Bishop L.N. Francis, Rev E. Austin, Rev S. Ramruttun and Rev M. Gadd- overseeing proceedings.

This was an incredibly special gathering, as the Northern District, as previously known, will dissolve, at the end of March 2025. As part of Bishop Francis' vision, to expand and "Double In A Decade," the following changes had previously been agreed, by the General Board and affected districts:

- Ireland is to form its own district.
- Sunderland Church will leave the legacy Northern District and will join Central District for the near future.
- Remaining churches, in Scotland, will form the new Scotland District.

Apart from sharing reports, from each of the Northern District departments, the central aim, of this meeting, was to elect new District Boards, for both the new Ireland and Scotland Districts. All office bearers, from the outgoing Northern District, were up for election or appointment, but only Board members were being voted upon at this stage- District Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, Missions Director, and Presbyter.

Other offices, covering Men, Ladies, Sunday School, and Youth, are to be appointed, once each of the District Boards get up-and-running. Some of the elections were for 1 year and others, for 2-year terms.



This was deliberate, ensuring that only half of the office bearers are being elected/appointed on a given year.

Outcomes, of elections, were as follows:-

Scotland District

District Superintendent, serving a 2-year term

- Rev R. Kelley.

Secretary-Treasurer, serving a 1-year term

- Rev A. Chrysanthous.

Missions Director, serving a 2-year term

- Rev J. Beek.

Presbyter, serving a 1-year term

- Rev D. Fyfe.

Ireland District

District Superintendent, serving a 2-year term

- Rev J. Strickland.

Secretary-Treasurer, serving a 1-year term

- Rev M. Frederick.

Missions Director, serving a 2-year term

- Rev B. Sanni.

Presbyter

- This office was not filled and will be voted upon later.



United Pentecostal Church

Northern District Conference

- 27th February 2025 – 1st March 2025

- Rev C. Nicol

The Northern District Conference of the United Pentecostal Church took place in Elgin, Scotland, from February 27th to March 1st, 2025. This was the final conference before the Northern District splits into two separate districts: the District of Ireland and the District of Scotland. The event saw a great attendance, including many Irish brethren and four General Board members. Calvary Church was packed out. Guest speakers from Louisiana, Rev J. Melancon and his wife, Sis Kisha, along with Rev S. Holloway and his wife, Sis Mandy, brought significant blessings to the conference, through God's power.

On Thursday, the conference theme, "Multiply," was introduced by Bishop Francis, quoting Acts 16:5 and 1 John 4:4. Rev Josh Melancon went on to preach from Luke 9:48 about the need to "Take Hold". His topic, "Mark Of the Least" encouraged us to get beyond our hurts and wounds, letting Jesus heal us and raise us up, according to His call on our lives. To get to that point, we need to be "perfectly broken" for Him.

On Friday morning, Rev Austin's devotion was based on Joshua 1:1-8, relating to "God's Strategy For Multiplication". Bishop Francis then emphasized developing a "Culture of growth & Diversity," quoting Acts 16:5. Next, Rev Josh Melancon led sessions on "The Seven Primal Questions," and Sis Mandy Holloway followed up, ministering on "Community Groups And Their Impact".

Friday evening's sermon by Rev Josh Melancon, titled "Carriers Of The Promise," referenced Genesis 3:13 and Luke 1:30-33. God put a promise within Mary and, today, He does not fail to come through on His promises that He places within us.



We are all carriers of God's promises, and they will all be manifest, at the right time. We need to protect these promises and, when unctioned by the Lord, labour- "Pray Until Something Happens"- to bring them forth.

Saturday included a Ladies event ministered by Sis Kisha Melancon, focusing on being "Positioned With God For Growth" and a very impactful Youth event ran concurrently, with Sis Mandy Holloway. The final service saw Bishop Francis announcing the new District Boards, following the Annual General Meeting that morning (please see separate article, detailing election results). Next, there was a very emotional time, as Rev Jonathan Strickland honoured the outgoing Northern District Board and Team. Rev Josh Melancon then preached about breaking strongholds through the Spirit of God, using Exodus 3. He encouraged that those, who "Turn To The Fire" and tend to it will commune with God and will receive His commission, leading to great growth and multiplication. No devil in hell can stop us! Jesus is a God, over every limitation!

The conference concluded with Rev Fyfe expressing gratitude for the power of the Lord experienced through worship and preaching. We all look forward to what the Lord Jesus will do, as we trust Him and take steps to expand.



Millennial Bible College Graduation 2025

Celebrating Another Generation of Spirit-Anointed Leaders

- Rev C. Hibbert

On 22 February 2025, Millennial Bible College celebrated the graduation of its latest class of students who are now poised to become the next generation of leaders in their church communities and beyond. This momentous occasion will not only mark the culmination of three years of hard work and dedication but also the beginning of new journeys and opportunities.

The Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony at Millennial Bible College is a much-anticipated event, bringing together students, the faculty, families, friends, and the Central District Community to honour the achievements of the graduating class. The event featured inspirational speeches, the conferral of certificates and diplomas, and a celebration of the students' accomplishments.

Speakers

Each year, a speaker is invited to deliver the Charge to students. In 2025, the college had the honour of welcoming Rev Mark Gadd, the first Dean of MBC and, Rev Sourieh Ramruttun his successor and the current dean's predecessor and Rev Harvey Groves, a former teacher. Several graduating students also spoke.

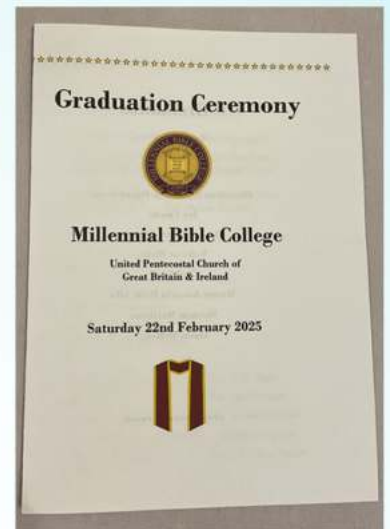
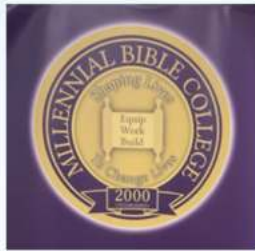
All speakers shared insights and encouragement, inspiring graduates to make a positive impact in the world.

Award Presentations

During the ceremony, as well as all students receiving their Certificate in Christian Theology and Leadership, several students were recognized for their ongoing contribution to ministry in the form of their Diploma.

Each year the College presents gifts to students comprising of Books that would continue to build and strengthen them.

This year all students received, THE POWER OF VISION & DREAMS by our very own Assistant General Superintendent Bishop Emile Austin; GOOD CHOICES by Rev Keith Gentry our Central District Presbyter and THE DOs AND DON'Ts OF ALTAR MINISTRY by Dr Una Davis from the Bethel United Apostolic Church who delivers this course to our Year 2 students.



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The Journey Ahead

As graduates leave Millennial Bible College, they carry with them the values and knowledge gained during their studies. They are prepared to become Spirit-anointed leaders with vision to change lives and disciple nations. The college's commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment ensures that students are well-equipped to face future challenges.

Conclusion

The Millennial Bible College Graduation 2025 represents a significant milestone in the lives of its graduates. As they step into the future, they are encouraged to lead with integrity, compassion, and a commitment to making a difference in the world. With the support of their education, community, and faith, they are well-prepared to embark on their next chapter.



A Poetic Vote of Thanks to Our MBC Teachers

To our teachers wise, steadfast, and true, We gather today to say thank you! For every lesson, prayer, and word, Through you, God's wisdom we have heard.

Year One – The Foundation Laid

Rev. Molefe, with depth untold, Guided us through the stories of old. Through history's scrolls and dispensations, You built the firmest of foundations!

Dr. Crouch, with doctrine so sound, In truth and faith, we are now crowned. With every page and every line, You taught us of the Lord Divine.

Sis Sandra, bold and bright, Led us through Acts—oh, what a sight! The church's birth, the Spirit's flame, Because of you, we know the name!

Rev. Hemus, with wisdom keen, Unveiled religions we had not seen. Comparing, questioning, deep and wide, You led us with the Spirit as guide.

Sis Carmen Hibberts, full of grace, Showed Christ's life in every place. From manger low to Calvary's tree, Your lessons made it real to me!

Rev. Tibenda, your voice so strong, Called out the gifts to which we belong. You taught us purpose, gifts, and call, To rise in service, great and small!

Year Two – The Deeper We Go

Dr. Crouch again—our faithful guide, Through Pauline Epistles, far and wide. With Paul's great letters, truth you bore, We'll cherish them forevermore.

Rev. Molefe returned once more, Historical Books we did explore! Battles, kings, and victories bright, You made them come to life with might!

Rev. Gentry, with power untold, Taught New Birth—so fresh, so bold. With Spirit and water, we now know, New life in Christ begins to grow!

Rev. Julian, a prophet's friend, Taught of the Majors, start to end. Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah too, Through your teaching, their voices grew.

Rev. Foster-Norman and **Sis Hibbert**, so wise, Teacher training opened our eyes! With ministry skills and Word divine, You shaped these hearts, these minds of mine.

Year Three – Wisdom and Might

Rev. Hemmings, with passion bright, Brought Church History into sight. Through centuries past, we've seen the way, How truth still shines in us today!

Rev. Miller, with a missionary heart, Showed us Revival—how fires start! With passion, zeal, and prayers so strong, We'll spread the Word our whole lives long!

Rev. Gentry, one more time, With Oneness of God, so pure, so prime. Through Scripture's depths, we took our stand, One God, one Lord, one mighty hand!

Rev. Pete, wise and bold, Taught Leadership, ethics untold. To lead with love, to stand upright, You showed us how to shine our light!

Again, **Rev. Julian**, standing tall, Through Minor Prophets, he taught us all. From Amos to Zephaniah's call, You made us love them, one and all!

Lastly, Rev. Pete took the stage, With General Epistles, truth on every page. James, Peter, John—we now can see, Their words still shape eternity!

But before we close, one name stands tall, A leader, a mentor, who's given her all. **Sis. Carmen Hibberts**, our highly esteemed Dean, With grace and strength, so wise and keen. Your love for the Word, your passion, your light, Have shaped our steps and kept us right. With patience and wisdom, you guide our way, A blessing you are to MBC every day!

To Sis Val and the Administrative team, You are not forgotten your hard work is seen. Thank you for your services so keen. A Final Thank You, From Us to You all! Oh, teachers of MBC, so true, We honour and give thanks to you! For patience, wisdom, time, and care, For every lesson, every prayer. May God bless you in all you do, As you teach, inspire, and guide us through! For now, we go, but this we vow— We stand in faith because of you now! THANK YOU!

Marsha Graham
22/02/2025

2025 District AGM - District Officials, Elections & Appointments To Date

Positions	London & South / Term	Central / Term	Scotland / Term	Ireland / Term
District Superintendent	Rev. Anthony Banton (2yrs)	Rev. Yvonne Frater (2yrs)	Rev. Robert Kelley (2yrs)	Rev. Jonathan Strickland (2yrs)
Secretary/ Treasurer	Rev. David Gordon (1yr)	Rev. Matthew Hemus (1yr)	Rev. Alex Chrysanthous (1yr)	Rev. MacDonald Frederick (1yr)
1st Presbyter	Rev. Jemerson Trinidad (2yrs)		Rev. Derek Fyfe (1yr)	Rev. Terry MacDonald (1yr)
2nd Presbyter	Rev. Marcia Foster Norman		n/a	n/a
Missions Director	tbc	Rev. Allison Mitchell (2yrs)	Rev. John Beek (2yrs)	Rev. Banji Sanni (2yrs)
Sunday School Director	Sis. Selina Grant (2yrs)	Sis. Irene Tibenda		tbc
Men's Director	Rev. Timothy Bent	Rev. Julian D'Oyley		Bro. A. Lopez (2yrs)
Ladies Director	Sis. Sadie Burnett			Sis. Mary Sanni (2yrs)
Youth Director	Sis. Sama Cruzada (2yrs)	Rev. J. Groves		Rev. Samuel Sanni (1yr)
Bible School Dean	Rev. Sonia Philip	Rev. Carmen Hibbert		n/a
Prayer Coordinator	Rev. Lavern Greenaway	Rev. Carmen Hibbert		Bro. Kevin Monero (2yrs)
Music Director	n/a			Rev. David Espino (2yrs)
Asst. Secretary/Treas	Rev. M. Frederick (1yr)	n/a	n/a	n/a



Northern District Officials



Scotland District Newly Elected Board



Scotland District Ministers



The General Board at Northern District AGM



The Kelleys with the Outgoing Northern District



Assisted Suicide

The Christian Institute Report

Scots legal experts: 'McArthur Bill faces long and contentious road ahead'

M Wrauch

Liam McArthur MSP should expect a lengthy legal battle over his assisted suicide proposals, academics have warned.

In an opinion piece for Scottish Legal News, constitutional law specialist Dr Michael Foran and medical law experts Dr Mary Neale and Dr Murray Earle said the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill presents a "considerable potential for conflict".

Last week, thousands of Christians across the UK united in prayer against attempts to introduce assisted suicide in Great Britain, spearheaded by McArthur in Scotland and Kim Leadbeater MP in England and Wales.

'Hugely controversial'

The academics argued that "particular provisions" of the Bill – to authorise the use of lethal drugs and to determine whether to allow medics to conscientiously object to assisted suicide – exceed the powers of Holyrood to legislate.

In fact, as the "primary purpose" of McArthur's plan relates "to the reserved matter of regulating the health professions", they reasoned that the entirety of the Bill falls outside Holyrood's powers.

Consequently, they predicted it faces "a long and contentious road ahead", not only because of the "hugely controversial issue of assisted dying itself", but also due to the "divisive constitutional questions of devolved versus reserved powers".

McArthur admitted: "I have always been clear that in order for the new law I'm proposing to work in the way I envisage,

both UK and Scottish governments would need to agree on the transfer of certain powers."

'Flawed'

In October, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care Neil Gray informed Holyrood's Health Committee that McArthur's Bill is currently "outside the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament".

Gray noted that a Section 30 order, which could be used to amend Holyrood's authority, takes up to 18 months to obtain and requires the joint approval of the UK Government, Westminster, and Holyrood.

But at the time, Dr Gordon Macdonald, Chief Executive of the UK's leading anti-assisted suicide group Care Not Killing, said that a Section 30 order had only ever been granted for "the independence referendum and to take such action on such a matter would open up a can of worms for Westminster".

He argued that the proposals "pulled the wool over people's eyes to try and secure support", and the "SNP Government has made its views most clear that the Bill is potentially fatally flawed and not fit for purpose".

UPDATE on Legalising Assisted Suicide

Laws to legalise assisted suicide were defeated in Scotland and Westminster during 2015 but fresh attempts to remove end-of-life protections from the vulnerable reoccur regularly.

In November 2024, MPs voted in support of the principle of Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill intends to allow those in England and Wales deemed to be terminally ill and with less than six months to live to receive help to kill themselves. MPs have now voted by 330 to 275 in favour of legalisation.

The backbench MP's Private Member's Bill was examined at Committee Stage, but few amendments to strengthen safeguards were accepted, while other safeguards were stripped away.

Read about some of the key moments from the Committee Stage scrutiny. It is set to be debated and voted on for the final time by MPs at Third Reading at the end of April.

Watch highlights of the Second Reading debate as numerous MPs spoke out against the Bill in the House of Commons.

Currently in Scotland, MSPs are considering Liam McArthur's assisted suicide Bill. The proposal has sparked fierce opposition from politicians, medical experts, commentators and religious groups.

In October 2021, Dr Joel Zivot, Associate Professor of Anaesthesiology and Surgery at the Emory School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia spoke to the Institute debunking the claim that assisted suicide is a peaceful death. His evidence is based on his own review of autopsy reports from executions in the United States.

Politicians in Jersey have voted to advance plans to legalise assisted suicide on the island.

2015

In May, 2015 MSPs voted comprehensively against the Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill by 82 votes to 36. The Bill sought to allow people as young as 16 to get help to kill themselves.

Those voting against the Bill included First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, the Deputy Leader of Scottish Labour Kezia Dugdale and Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson.

Then in September 2015 at Westminster, MPs voted 330 to 118 against Rob Marris' Private Members' Bill.

The result came following pressure from disabled rights groups, the medical profession, a number of charities and religious leaders.

Serious concerns had been raised that legalising assisted suicide would pressurise the sick, elderly and vulnerable into ending their lives for fear of being a burden. Many pointed to the incremental extension of the practice in Europe, and the absence of genuine safeguards.

The Christian Institute exists for "the furtherance and promotion of the Christian religion in the United Kingdom and elsewhere" and "the advancement of education". We are a nondenominational Christian charity with more than 60,000 supporters throughout the UK, including more than 5,000 churches. We are committed to upholding the truths of the Bible which we believe is inerrant and the supreme authority for all of life. We are committed to upholding the sanctity of life from conception.



Biblical Reflections on Change and Growth:

An Easter Perspective

Introduction: Spring is a season of renewal and growth, a time when nature awakens and blossoms. Similarly, our spiritual lives are meant to experience growth and transformation. As we navigate changes in our lives, we can find comfort and guidance in God's unfailing love. This devotional piece explores scripture passages that highlight themes of change, growth, and God's steadfast love, with a special focus on the significance of Easter.

Embracing Change: Change is an inevitable part of life, but it can often be daunting. The Bible offers reassurance that God is with us through every transition.

Isaiah 43:19: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

oThis verse reminds us that God is always at work, creating new paths and opportunities even in the most challenging circumstances.

Ecclesiastes 3:1: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

oThis passage emphasizes that change is a natural part of God's plan, and every season has its purpose.

Easter: A Time of Rebirth: Easter is the ultimate celebration of rebirth and renewal. It commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, symbolizing victory over sin and death, and the promise of new life for all believers.

Romans 6:4: "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

oThis verse highlights the transformative power of Christ's resurrection, inviting us to embrace new life in Him.

1 Peter 1:3: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

oEaster brings the promise of a living hope and new birth through Jesus' resurrection.

Dying to Self for God's Best: To experience true growth and transformation, we must be willing to die to our old selves and embrace the new life God offers.

Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

oThis verse calls us to surrender our lives to Christ, allowing His life to be lived through us.

John 12:24: "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

oJesus teaches that true fruitfulness comes from dying to self, leading to greater growth and impact.

The Importance of Water Baptism:

Water baptism symbolises our identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It is an outward expression of an inward transformation.

Acts 2:38: "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

oBaptism is a step of obedience and a public declaration of our faith, signifying the washing away of our old life and the beginning of a new life in Christ.

Romans 6:3-4: "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

This passage reinforces the essence of baptism in uniting us with Christ in His death and resurrection, enabling us to walk in the newness of life.

The Infilling of the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit empowers us to live a life that is pleasing to God, filled with joy and purpose.

Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

oThe Holy Spirit equips us with the power to be effective witnesses for Christ, spreading His love and message.

Ephesians 5:18: "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Being filled with the Holy Spirit leads to a life of joy, self-control, and spiritual vitality.

The Holy Spirit as Comforter: The Holy Spirit also serves as our Comforter, providing solace and strength in times of need.

John 14:26: "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

• The Holy Spirit comforts us by reminding us of Jesus' teachings and guiding us in truth.

Romans 8:26: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

• The Holy Spirit intercedes for us, providing comfort and support when we are weak and unsure.

Evidence of the Holy Spirit: The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is evidenced by speaking in new tongues and being empowered with boldness to do God's work.

Acts 2:4: "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

oSpeaking in tongues is a sign of the Holy Spirit's infilling, demonstrating His power and presence in a believer.

Acts 4:31: "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

• The Holy Spirit empowers us with boldness to proclaim God's word and carry out His work.

Compelled by God's Love: The love of God dwelling in us compels us to serve Him and love others, bringing about change in their lives.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15: "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."

• Christ's love motivates us to live selflessly, serving God and others.

1 John 4:19: "We love because he first loved us."

• Our ability to love others stems from experiencing God's love for us.

Galatians 5:13: "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

oTrue freedom in Christ leads us to serve others in love, reflecting God's love in our actions.

Growth through God's Love: Growth is a sign of life and vitality. In our spiritual journey, growth often comes through experiencing God's love and grace.

Ephesians 4:15: "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."

- This verse encourages us to grow in maturity and unity, reflecting Christ's love in our lives.

2 Peter 3:18: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

- Spiritual growth involves deepening our understanding of God's grace and knowledge.

- God's Unfailing Love: Amidst change and growth, God's love remains constant. His love is the foundation that supports and nurtures us through every season.

Lamentations 3:22-23: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

This passage reassures us of God's unwavering love and faithfulness, renewing us each day.

Romans 8:38-39: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Nothing can separate us from God's love, which is a powerful source of hope and strength.

Conclusion

As we embrace new frontiers in our lives, let us hold onto the truth that God's love is unchanging. Through every change and season of growth, His love guides and sustains us. Reflecting on these scriptures can help us navigate life's transitions with faith and confidence, knowing that we are deeply loved by our Creator.

This Easter, let us remember the power of Christ's resurrection and the new life it brings. This powerful event inspires us to die to self and live fully for God's glory and the good of our communities.

Embrace the significance of water baptism and the infilling of the Holy Spirit, as they empower us into sonship and to serve God with joy and acceptability. Additionally, let us find comfort in the Holy Spirit, who lifts us up and supports us in times of need. We must recognise the evidence of His presence through the unspeakable joy and the speaking in tongues utterances with boldness in doing God's work.

Easter is also a time for non-believers to truly reflect on why Jesus came, why he choose to lay down his life through the cross and what he came to give to us through his death and resurrection, how we can come to him and how we can benefit from his death and resurrection

Finally, let the love of God dwelling in us believers compel us to serve Him, pray for and love others. By doing so, we can bring about positive change in their lives and our communities, reflecting the transformative power of God's unfailing love.

A CoPilot AI Generated Article on the Biblical Reflection of Change and Growth through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection



Govt refuses to give green light to smacking ban

Parenting law - <https://www.christian.org.uk/campaign/parenting-law/>

The Government has rejected the latest call to criminalise parents in England if they smack their children.

In the House of Commons' Report Stage of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, Jess Asato MP proposed to amend the Bill to "abolish the common law defense of reasonable punishment". But, like her previous attempt to ban smacking, the amendment was not put to a vote.

In response, Education Minister Stephen Morgan emphasised that the Government currently has "no plans" to remove the legal defense of reasonable chastisement. Instead,

he said it will review the impact of Scotland and Wales' bans "before taking such a significant legislative step".

'Injustice'

Speaking on TalkTV, Be Reasonable spokesman Simon Calvert warned that changing the law would only divert police and social workers' resources away from protecting abused children. He emphasised that "the reality of what this would mean is I fear less help for children that need it".

"Creating an injustice — prosecuting a mum for doing something completely harmless — does nothing whatsoever to help children in families where there is real abuse going on."

Public opposition

Last year, a large survey revealed that the majority of British adults do not think parents should be criminalised for smacking their children.

In a poll of almost 4,000 adults in Great Britain conducted by YouGov, 60 per cent said parents 'probably should not' or 'definitely should not' be criminalised if they choose to smack their children. Only 30 per cent said they should, while the remainder responded 'don't know'.

The areas where support for a smacking ban was highest were in Wales (41 per cent in favour) and Scotland (38 per cent in favour). However, while those countries implemented bans in 2022 and 2020 respectively, over half of the adults surveyed in each nation remained opposed to criminalising parents.





CONVERSION THERAPY LAW

THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE

The Christian Institute and its Let Us Pray campaign has been defending the ordinary work of churches since the Government announced it was considering a new law on so called conversion therapy.

'Conversion therapy' is a wide umbrella term chosen by LGBT campaigners. It covers abusive practices by quack medical practitioners and charlatan preachers which are largely illegal already. But campaigners want to go much further and criminalise repentance as well as preaching, prayer, pastoral care and even parenting that fails to endorse liberal theology.

Coercive and abusive behaviour should be caught by existing law. But it is wrong for biblically faithful preaching, prayer, pastoral care and parenting to be in the sights of lawmakers.

Legal challenges

The Christian Institute has instructed solicitors in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland to prepare the ground for a potential judicial review of any new laws on 'conversion therapy' that restrict religious freedom. This is based on legal advice received from one of the UK's leading human rights KCs warning that an indiscriminate ban could criminalise the ordinary work of churches.

This would put the UK in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights and open the Government to legal challenge in the courts. The Institute has won both its previous judicial reviews against UK governments. The first, in 2007, resulted in a partial strike down of the Northern Ireland Sexual Orientation Regulations. The second, in 2016, resulted in the repeal of the Scottish Government's unlawful 'Named Person' scheme.

Read Jason Coppel KC's April 2021 legal opinion <https://www.christian.org.uk/human-rights-implications-of-proposals-to-ban-conversion-therapy/>
Read a highlighted version of his December 2023 opinion on Baroness Burt's Private Members' Bill. - <https://www.christian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Burt-CT-Bill-Coppel-Legal-Opinion.pdf>

Read the key extracts - <https://www.christian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Summary-Extracts-Coppel-Legal-Opinion.pdf>

Scottish Govt on new collision course with courts Aidan O'Neill KC has also provided two legal opinions for the Institute.

In the first in December 2022 he warned that the Scottish Government's extreme 'conversion therapy' proposals are "beyond the powers of the Scottish Parliament to legislate". He explained that the "fundamentally illiberal" proposals also breach Holyrood's competence as set out in the Scotland Act of 1998 as they contain measures which change UK equality and discrimination law which is not devolved to Holyrood.

Read a highlighted version of the full 2022 opinion - <http://the.ci/ctopinion>

Read a summary and extracts - <http://the.ci/ctsummary>

In his subsequent opinion from February 2024 he branded proposals set out in an 86-page consultation document as "jellyfish legislation... impossible to grasp... [with] a sting in the tail".

Read a highlighted version of the 2024 opinion - <https://www.christian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Aidan-O-Neill-KC-Conversion-practices-opinion-February-2024-highlights.pdf>

Isle of Man

In March 2024, the Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Act 2021 on the Isle of Man came into force, introducing the first conversion therapy law in the British Isles. It makes it illegal "for any person to practise, or to offer to practise conversion therapy".

The law defines 'conversion therapy' as "any form of therapy which demonstrates an assumption that any sexual orientation or gender identity is inherently preferable to any other" and that attempts to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Offenders could face up to two years in prison or a fine of up to £10,000.

Jesus Christ the Lord; the creator of the universe, becoming a human, taking our sins upon Himself and being crucified on a Roman cross to pay the penalty for our sins; rising again three days later with a promise of a brand new life for every single person who believes on Him.

It is clear from the teaching of the types and shadows in the Old Testament, the cross is the central teaching of the scriptures. In fact, it has been the centre of God's plan from all eternity as the scriptures tell us that; "Christ was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Rev.13:8

PAUL'S VIEW OF THE CROSS

What was Paul's view of the cross? How important did he view it? Gal.6:14, gives us an idea.

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the."



THE MESSAGE OF CALVARY

Article by Rev. Emile Austin



This is the season when we normally take a fresh look at the cross, that is the death, the burial, the resurrection and the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, this should never be a seasonal thing that we explore the wonders of the cross as it is without doubt, the single most important even that has ever taken place in human history.

Jesus Christ the Lord; the creator of the universe, becoming a human, taking our sins upon Himself and being crucified on a Roman cross to pay the penalty for our sins; rising again three days later with a promise of a brand new life for every single person who believes on Him.

It is clear from the teaching of the types and shadows in the Old Testament, the cross is the central teaching of the scriptures.

Paul did not see the cross as a place of gloom but as a place in which to glory.

JESUS OWN VIEW OF THE CROSS

Speaking about His own death, in Jn.12:27, the Lord's own words here tells us clearly how He looked at the cross while He was on earth.

- Now My soul is troubled, He said, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? No, IT IS FOR THIS PURPOSE THAT I CAME TO THIS HOUR.Jesus here declares that it was for this purpose, that is of giving His life on the cross that He came to this hour. How amazing.

- Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin, You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come in the volume of the book it is written of Me to do Your will, O God.'

THE CROSS, THE GREATEST DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S LOVE

So the question is, what do we think about when we think of the cross? The cross speaks of death. It always speaks of death. Not only death, but the most gruesome death imaginable. It is without doubt one of the cruellest and humiliating forms of punishment that the human mind has ever conceived of for his fellow man. Yet, when we think of Christ's crucifixion, this is not the predominant message that God sends to us from the cross No, it is the message of love.

- Listen what Jn.15:13 says; "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lays down his life for His friends.

- Then in ch.3:16; "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

- And even more amazing, Christ did not die for us when we were His friends, no, Rom.5:8 tells us; But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies....

- 1Cor.15:3, the Bible tells us; "Christ died for OUR SINS, according to the scripture." Then in 1Pet.2:24; "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."

So, far from demonstrating the cruelty and ugliness and the very worse that there is of human nature, God took THE MOST GRUESOME ACT that we could ever do and uses it to demonstrate His love to us first of all...THE GREATEST LOVE of all.

So from the cross, God Himself as it were, screams out from heaven, this is how much I love you; this is how much I care for you, this is how much I want you to understand how much I want you to be with Me.

And so the cross, its beams, one reaching up to heaven as though trying to bridge the gap between man and God; the other, reaching across as though trying to bridge the gap between man and man, also reaches out to us through time to try and bridge the gap by offering to us the love of God, displayed to us by His death on that cruel cross.

THIS WAS A PREDETERMINATE LOVE
This love was a predetermined love. It was a love that decided that, He was going to love us, no matter what we did. It manifested itself in the wonderful world He created for us, BEFORE WE WERE CREATED.

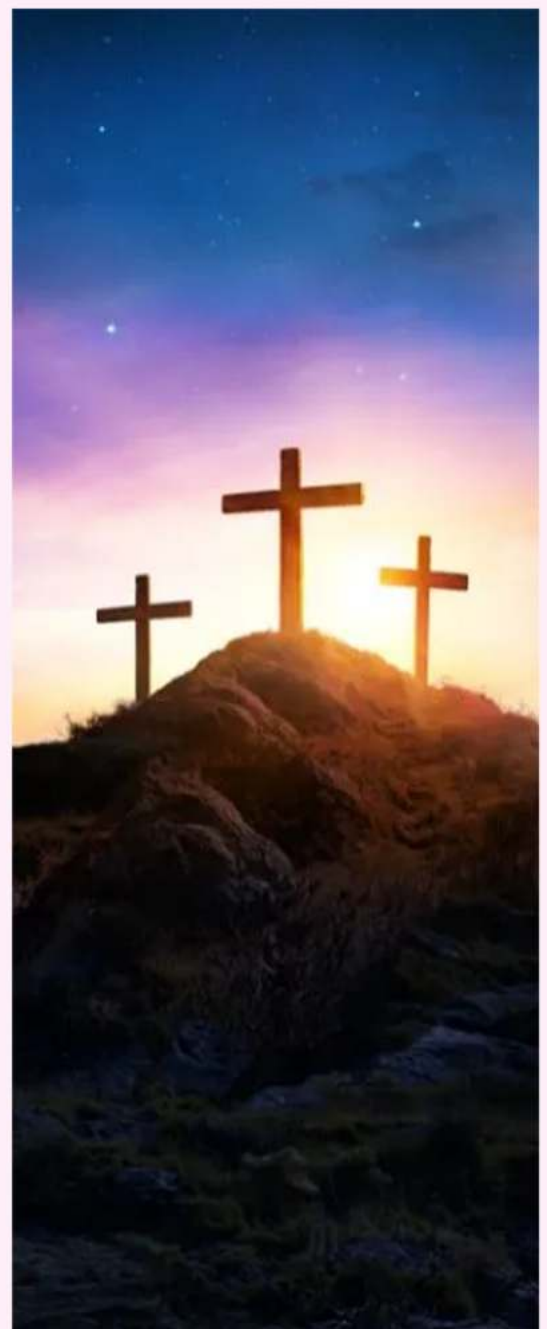
He did not wait to see how we acted towards Him to see if we deserved the kind of world He gave us. No, even though in His foreknowledge, He knew we were going to mess it up, He still created it for us anyway. It was a predetermined love.

It was also manifested in the provision He prepared for our failure. Though the punishment to Adam and Eve was separation and death, yet, He made a provision to redeem and restore them. He killed an animal and clothed them and forgave them and made it possible for them to continue to have a relationship with Him, because of that animal. He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Not only that, but in Mt.25:34, Jesus said this;

- Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

And of course, it was a redemptive, self-sacrificing love. It was a love that could not be happy to just let us go. I am lost for words by that inspirational line of that song. He did not want heaven without us, and so He brought heaven down. How mind blowing. We were His heaven. We were His streets of gold and walls of Jasper. And so, to satisfy His own longing and love of us, we have been legally and lawfully bought back from the kingdom of Satan, from the world, from sin and its curses; from death and even hell; all by His sacrifice on the cross. Listen to these astounding verses.





The nation of Scotland today consisting of almost six million inhabitants, has a rich history, down through the ages. Many battles have been fought; to try and preserve the country's identity and many have witnessed persecution and have suffered, at the hands of those more powerful. Industry has risen in our towns and cities only to decline later, leaving whole areas in depression. Rural areas thrived and then the Highland Clearances took place, making survival in the north exceedingly difficult. Yet, just like David and Goliath, there have been some remarkable victories too, against all odds.

Spiritually, our land has seen faith arise, especially after the Reformation, where John Knox proclaimed, "Give me Scotland, ere I die."



John Knox - died 1572 founder of the church of Scotland

The Cambuslang Revival took place, near Glasgow and, more recently, the Hebridean Revival was sparked in the 1940s, through devotion of two elderly ladies to prayer, seeking God's deliverance for their community.

The challenge with native Scottish people is that they can be stoic and skeptical- even stubborn at times- in nature.

If they get into a right place with God, they become solid servants, but it can be challenging to get them there, in the first place. Thankfully, the United Pentecostal Church made inroads into Scotland, establishing initial churches in Falkirk, then in Elgin and later, in Glasgow (the latter, under the leadership of Rev and Sis Kelley).

Harvest Bible College- both Part-Time and Full-Time- was birthed around the turn of the millennium and both programs have seen a substantial number of national and international students graduating, going on to make a significant impact for the Lord in ministry worldwide. We thank God for all our students and teachers!

Following the mission, to Double In A Decade," Scotland has just become a UPC GB&I district, as has Ireland. Out of four main churches- Elgin, Glasgow, Falkirk, and Edinburgh- we are in the process of expanding, into the towns of Hamilton and Dunfermline. New Life Church Glasgow also has a vibrant Spanish language setup available, actively ministering to the local Hispanic community. The work in

Falkirk is again reaching into the city of Stirling, at the very heart of the country and is believing for impressive results. There have been outreach endeavours, into Perth and Inverness and we believe these will again bear much fruit in future. Additionally, we are targeting the cities of Aberdeen and Dundee, on the east coast



As the song goes, "Step by step, we're moving forward. Little by little, we're gaining ground. Every prayer's a powerful weapon. Strongholds come, tumbling down and down and down" Scotland is not a nation that quits. We have dedicated ministers in place- and are raising up more. Through much prayer, power and anointing of the Lord, we fully believe that we can take this land for Jesus! We have a heart-felt desire to see people, of every demographic, background and language lifting holy hands, worshipping our Lord "in Spirit and in truth," serving fervently in His kingdom. May it be done unto us, according to His will, in the Mighty Name of Jesus!.

My Missionary Journey

By Rev M. Gadd
[National Missions Director]

I was saved in 1977 in a small home missions work; so right from the start of my life as a Christian, I participated in missions work. When I started at university in Birmingham, my nearest church was Bilston, where I travelled three times a week. At the end of my first year, I participated in the first outreach meetings to the new 'Missions field' of Birmingham.

Having been involved at the very start of TBL, I became the pastor after a couple of years. Being a new work, it was imperative that we "reached out" rather than "died out" and our first fruitful field was Sunday School work in Highgate. While the Sunday school was flourishing, the church was steadily growing - mainly through home Bible studies, house meetings and prayer meetings. During these formative years as a young pastor, I became District Youth Leader. Conducting open-air work with enthusiastic youths, such as Garfield Ogle, Peter Grzeszczyk and Johnson Phillip was a way of life!

Beth and I were married in 1982 and have always been involved in ministry, as a couple. We both trained as teachers and so, working with children and youth was the natural place to begin. A young man called Leroy Francis used to work with me on retreats in Wales, with lads from my school. We thank God that we saw many filled with the Holy Spirit.

About a year after being appointed as District Presbyterian, I was elected as the first Central District Superintendent. During my time in that role, we saw the beginning of new works in Nottingham (Bro and Sis Ogle), Leeds (Bro and Sis Miller), Manchester (Bro and Sis Groves), Cardiff (Bro and Sis Roberts) and Peterborough (Bro and Sis Amaoade).

Millennial Bible College was started in 2000, and I had the privilege of being the first Dean. The aim was to train men and women for the missions field - indeed, TWO of the monthly MBC sessions each year, were held in the church hosting the District Missions Rally, so that the students could have experience working in the open air outreach!

It has been my privilege to serve as Missions director for the UPC GB&I. I thank God we have been able to support and encourage new works in Swansea, Northwood, Chatham, Aveley, Galway, Sheffield, Portsmouth, Llandudno, York and Saltash. Supporting with finance, manpower and materials has been our goal and it has been great to see AIM UKI, started by Bro DJ Ogle, grow and flourish. I have personally been involved in Llandudno and Saltash and, since stepping down as pastor of TBL, I have been involved with supporting a new house group and in conducting several new home Bible studies.



Some people think I have "retired" - but the great commission is something that I trust will motivate me until "the roll is called up yonder"!



IRELAND (NORTH & SOUTH) HISTORY AND HERITAGE



Ireland, encompassing both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, boasts a rich tapestry of history, culture, and socio-economic development. This overview delves into the historical evolution of its cities, counties, and towns, emphasizing religious demographics, economic opportunities, industries, and socio-economic dynamics. Additionally, it examines the emergence and growth of new religious movements, particularly Pentecostalism and the Oneness church movement, in the new millennium.

Ireland's Division and Counties

Ireland is divided into the Republic of Ireland (26 counties) and Northern Ireland (6 counties: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Derry/Londonderry, and Tyrone). The division stems from Britain's partition of Ireland in 1920 to prevent civil war.



Historical Evolution and Socio-Economic Landscape

Ireland, encompassing both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, has a rich history shaped by Celtic settlements, Viking invasions, Norman conquests, and English colonisation. These influences have left an indelible mark on its cities, economy, and culture.

Ireland Division - Facing civil war in Ireland, Britain partitioned the island in 1920, with separate parliaments in the predominantly Protestant northeast and predominantly Catholic south and northwest. However, the republicans opposed the formula, and in 1922 the Irish Free State was formed.

Major Cities and Their Economic Roles

Dublin: The capital of the Republic of Ireland evolved from a Viking settlement into a hub for technology and finance, attracting multinational corporations and fostering a diverse workforce.

Belfast: The capital of Northern Ireland, historically known for shipbuilding (including the RMS Titanic), has diversified into aerospace, education, healthcare, and tourism.

Cork: Known as the "Rebel City," Cork has a strong maritime history and a thriving economy based on pharmaceuticals, technology, and food production.

Galway: Famous for its arts scene and historical significance, Galway thrives on tourism, education, and high-tech industries, with companies like Boston Scientific and Medtronic present.

Limerick: The third-largest urban area in the Republic, Limerick has a diverse economy, with strong representation in commerce, manufacturing, and education.

Waterford: Ireland's oldest city, Waterford has embraced its Viking heritage, boosting tourism through cultural attractions like the "Viking Triangle."

Donegal: Known for its rugged natural beauty and Gaelic culture, Donegal has a limited industrial presence, preserving its traditional music and heritage.

Religious Demographics

Religion has significantly shaped Ireland's societal fabric, historically divided between Catholicism and Protestantism.

Republic of Ireland: Predominantly Catholic, though increasing numbers identify as non-religious or adhere to other faiths.

Northern Ireland: The 2021 census recorded 42.3% Roman Catholic, 37.3% Protestant or other Christian denominations, 1.3% other religions, and 17.4% with no religious affiliation.

Demographics and Economy

Ethnicity

- The Republic of Ireland remains predominantly White Irish (85%), with growing Polish, Romanian, Indian, Chinese, Nigerian, and Brazilian communities. As of 2022, the Republic of Ireland's population was approximately 3.89 million White Irish, with an additional 502,000 individuals of other white backgrounds. The Asian or Asian Irish community numbered over 94,430.

Northern Ireland is 98% White but has seen an increase in Eastern European, South Asian, and African populations, particularly in Belfast and Derry.

Socio-Economic Trends

Employment & Foreign-Born Residents

- Foreign-born residents are well-educated and have high employment rates but often earn lower incomes and face higher poverty rates.
- Housing costs are a challenge, with about one-third of migrants spending over 30% of their income on housing, compared to 9% of Irish-born residents.

Youth Employment & Gender Pay Gap

- Many 25-year-olds still live with family due to financial constraints.
- Degree holders earn approximately €128 more weekly than non-degree holders.
- A gender pay gap persists, with men earning higher median weekly incomes than women.

Economic Growth & Immigration

- Ireland's economic boom has increased demand for labor, with non-Irish nationals comprising over 20% of the workforce, particularly in IT, healthcare, agriculture, and hospitality.

Key Industries

1. Republic of Ireland:

Technology & IT – Dublin hosts global giants like Google, Facebook, and Apple.

Pharmaceuticals & Biotech – Cork and Limerick house companies like Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson.

Finance – Dublin's financial sector grew post-Brexit.

Agriculture & Food Processing – Key industries in counties like Tipperary and Kilkenny.

2. Northern Ireland:

Aerospace & Engineering – Belfast-based Spirit AeroSystems leads in aviation manufacturing.

Financial Services & Cybersecurity – Growing fintech sector in Belfast.

Tourism – Historical significance attracts visitors to cities like Belfast and Derry.

Public Sector – Major employment in government and NHS roles.

Pentecostalism and the United Pentecostal Church (UPC) in Ireland

Growth of Pentecostalism

Pentecostalism has expanded in Ireland, driven by increased immigration and a shift away from traditional religious affiliations. The Redeemed Christian Church of God, originating from Nigeria, has over 100 congregations in the Republic as of 2017.

****United Pentecostal Church History in Ireland****

The United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI) has established a presence in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. While comprehensive historical details are limited, the UPCI has been active in these regions, contributing to the broader Pentecostal movement within the country.

Republic of Ireland

1. Pentecostals of Dublin

Location: Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 XC9W

Service Times: Midweek Bible Study at 19:00; Sunday Worship at 11:00

Contact: Reverend Nathanael Davis

Email: pentecostalsofdublin@gmail.com

Social Media: Facebook Group |

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123456789>) |

[Instagram](<https://www.instagram.com/pentecostalsofdublin>)

2. New Life UPC Dundalk

Location: Dundalk Lawn Tennis & Badminton Club, Rampart Lane, Marshes Lower, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Service Times: Midweek (Online/Zoom) Service at 19:00; Sunday Worship at 11:00

Contact: Reverend Banji Sanni

Email: newlifeupcdundalk@gmail.com

Social Media: [Facebook Group]

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/987654321>)

Northern Ireland

1. Pentecostals of Ireland (Gilford)

Location: 10 Scarva Road, Gilford, Craigavon, County Armagh, BT63 6BG

Service Times: Thursday Bible Study at 11:00; Sunday Worship at 19:00

Contact: Reverend Terry McFarland

Phone: 07401 695798

Email: tmcfarland@iag.emai

Social Media: [Facebook Group]

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1122334455>)

In addition to these UPC congregations, the broader Pentecostal movement in Ireland includes various churches across the country. As of December 1, 2024, there were 41 Pentecostal churches in Ireland, with the majority located in Leinster (26), followed by Munster (7), and Connacht (4). Most of these are single-owner operations, while a few are part of larger organisations.

Please note that the number of UPC-affiliated congregations may be limited compared to the overall count of Pentecostal churches in the region. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, it is advisable to contact the UPCGB&I directly or visit their official website <https://www.upcgbi.org>



WAR, WAR, WAR!

Women After Revival

Sis Carol Chrysanthous
(Northern District Ladies Leader).



Women after Revival, Women after Revival." The words, would, at times, be like an extra beat on my heart, as they pulsed through me.

My husband, Rev Alexander Chrysanthous and I were, at the time, reaching into Stirling, Scotland, with the Apostolic message and seeing limited results. This area, famous for historical battles, now felt like a spiritual battle ground, tough, but we knew conquerable, where the will and spirit of the Lord was concerned.

Going into Stirling would not be easy. Historically, the motto of the city was.... Whoever held Stirling, would have the keys, to the kingdom of Scotland. Alexander and I were indeed positioned well, for WAR.

With these words continuously echoing, in my heart, I knew the Lord was reminding me, it was not by Might, nor by Power, but by His Spirit, that battles would be won. Everything, that was ever going to be accomplished and won, would be through the avenue of prayer and, of course, putting on the whole armour of God.

"Women After Revival" – Women, gathering themselves together, to pray for themselves, their churches, and communities.

I felt so strongly that the Lord desired women of faith, within our communities and nations, to join their hearts together, in prayer. I could see this in my mind's eye – halls, filled with women, praying for revival. I must admit, I felt intimidated by it and a little overwhelmed at that time.

I shared the vision with Alexander and my trusted friends, and they encouraged me to continue to pray, in that direction. Thinking it was for Stirling, I even made a poster, to advertise it, inviting women to pray. I never did send it out though and it seemed forgotten, for a while, in the sea of Kingdom business.

Throughout the years though, the echo of WAR, "Women After revival" would give a faint beat, within my chest. As time passed and those few individuals who knew, would ask, "What are you doing, regarding WAR?" My weary heart would continue to tell them "I am waiting on the Lords leading."

You see, years had passed and the young preacher's wife, was now a battle-worn, broken and scarred woman, whom it seemed, had stayed in wasteland for too long, trying to avoid any more battles. Way too much time had passed. Would God still require this of me? But, as the Lord started to speak once more, into these dry bones, healing oil and wine, were restoring me, "WAR, WAR, Women After Revival" beat within me.

I knew then that, once stronger, I would gladly, with my whole heart, lift this sword of the spirit and battle, along with like-minded women of God, fighting for myself, my church and community. That once weary soldier now found herself as Northern District Ladies Leader and, with the help of the Lord, gathered together a group of women, who believed enough, to follow.



There are no shortcuts to revival. No gimmick no personality no organisation can truly devise a plan for it Only through prayer and a cry, for ourselves and the lost, will be effective. "If my people, who are CALLED BY MY NAME, shall humble themselves and pray..." We have our marching orders for WAR!

It is my desire, God-willing, as we prepare for 2025. That we see an unprecedented shift in prayer, among both our women and men. We are the women, on the Watch Towers, of our towns and cities. As we go into the new year, we will have the "WAR" Facebook page up-and-running, inviting women, joining us on weekly prayer, to give testimonies and shared experiences. "WAR Ministries" will also launch "WAR Rooms" of teaching.

"God has an army, marching through the Land. Deliverance is their song, with healing in their hands." Victory will come, through the avenue of Prayer. Join us and let's conquer, in the Mighty Name of Jesus!

Bishop Leroy's 25th Year of Pastoring Commemorative Banquet & Book Launch



March 1, 2025

Life Tabernacle United Pentecostal Church
Presiding Bishop and Sister Francis
23 Battersea Park Road
London, England
SW11 4HY

Dear Presiding Bishop Leroy Francis & Life Tabernacle:

Congratulations to Life Tabernacle UPC on the 53rd anniversary of your church's founding. We also honor Bishop and Sister Francis on their 25th pastoral anniversary. These significant milestones are worthy of celebration, and the United Pentecostal Church International is rejoicing with you. Our international fellowship is stronger because of your contributions and commitment.

God has placed Life Tabernacle in one of the most significant and influential cities in the world, and you are a key witness to your city and nation. We appreciate the godly example that the saints of Life Tabernacle set for other congregations in the United Kingdom. Bishop Francis, the UPCI honors you for your godly leadership both to Life Tabernacle and to the United Pentecostal Church of Great Britain and Ireland. You have served with faithfulness and distinction, and only eternity will reveal the full impact of your ministry.

On a personal note, I am grateful for the opportunities to preach at Life Tabernacle and at the General Conference. It is always a blessing to have fellowship with you and your constituents. While we will not be present at your anniversary services, Sister Bernard and I are celebrating what God has done and will continue to do through you all. We believe the best is yet to come for the Francis family, Life Tabernacle, and the UPC of Great Britain and Ireland.

May God's grace and favor continue to be with you.

Sincerely in Christ,

David K. Bernard
David K. Bernard
UPCI General Superintendent



BEULAH APOSTOLIC CHURCH

The Administration Office
Life Tabernacle UPC
22 Battersea Park Road
LONDON
SW11 4HY

31st December 2024

Dear Bishop Francis,

Life Tabernacle UPC's 53rd Anniversary & Bishop Leroy Francis 25 years as Pastor

On behalf of the Governing Board, the Senior Leadership, Officers and members of the Beulah Apostolic Churches-UK, my wife Sister Veronice and I take great pleasure in sending our sincere congratulations to Life Tabernacle on your remarkable achievement of reaching your 53rd anniversary.

In addition, we are greatly honoured and delighted to be invited to join with you and Lady Olive Francis in the celebration of your 25th Pastoral Anniversary.

For almost 50 years since we met in our youth, we have remained close friends, and although we have served in different fields of ministry, there has always been a mutual bond of brotherly love and respect between us. So having reached the remarkable milestone of 25 years of pastoring, we congratulate you and give thanks for your unswerving service. You are widely admired, highly respected and greatly loved by all the UPCI family, as well as by your fellow leaders of the various churches and organisations with whom you share fellowship, both within the UK and internationally.

You have been an outstanding example of faithfulness in your work and your labour of love for the body of Christ, and this has set you apart as one of God's most accomplished servants, with a proven record of leadership both as Pastor and Bishop.

We pray that your dedication to Christ and his Church that has led you to this moment will continue, and we pledge our prayers and continued support to you and to Lady Francis.

Yours in the service of Christ Jesus,
Keith Linton - Presiding Bishop - Beulah Apostolic Church - UK.

HQ 120 Church Road, London, NW10 5BN Bishop Emeritus: Bishop Lenford Gregory Presiding Bishop: Keith Linton
General Secretary: Sister Carol Robinson Email: info@beulahapostolicchurch.org.uk Website:
www.beulahapostolicchurch.org.uk Registered Charity Number: 277644

To: Bishop Leroy Francis and LadyOlive Francis

Congratulations on 25 years of pastoral service at Life Tabernacle, Battersea. We are honored to celebrate this momentous occasion with you. I recall hearing about your installation upon the passing of your Bishop, Reverend James Dallas. It was a few years following that occasion that we became friends after meeting at the UPCI General Conference. The journey of getting to know you and relating to you as a friend, a fellow Pastor, and a Christian have enriched our lives. Over the years, we've seen you navigate life's ups and downs, but you always stood strong as a team, keeping a glowing smile on your faces. This is an inspiration and example to those you lead. You are role models to your fellow pastors and the young men and young ladies that desire to do ministry for the Lord.

One characteristic that we most admire about you is your determination for excellence in the things of God. Your heart is for God's kingdom, and for His people to have the best and be their best.

As I recall your desire and pursuit in the acquisition of the Croydon facility, you exhibited such perseverance as you pushed through all obstacles that were presented to you. You are not someone that is easily shaken, because your steadfastness empowers you to endure the challenges that come with service. This quality is such a great example to those that admire you and those whom you lead.

As we join in celebrating this 25th Pastoral anniversary with you, we want to express our gratitude for the years of friendship and for the opportunity to be a part of this momentous occasion. Thank you for being Christlike and being a sounding board that always utilizes Godly wisdom. Also, on behalf of the New Life Tabernacle Church in Brooklyn, New York we extend congratulations to you both for the many occasions that you have ministered words of encouragement into the lives of the saints of this assembly. May God continue to strengthen you for the new adventures in your walk and service to Him. Congratulations!!!

*Micheal and Vivienne
Mitchell*

Tribute to Bishop Leroy Francis. From Joan Dallas

Tribute to Bishop Leroy Francis

It is my privilege to pay tribute to Bishop Francis. I have known and loved him for 46 years.

Leroy, it seems like yesterday we were celebrating James 25th year of Ministry. I feel your celebration should be for more than 25 years, you have been so faithful and instrumental in the formation and expansion of the Church through every phase of your life. You were not only a Son to my husband, you were his right hand man. You have been a Faithful Servant to the Lord, a man of Honor. You are also a true visionary, a strong and tenacious warrior. I am so grateful that you have Pastored and Loved the people through all the ups and downs of life over the past 25 years. You have stayed true to the Vision the Lord gave you. I know because of your faithfulness all the Dreams and Visions we had have been nurtured and brought to fruition. You have lead the Church from Strength to Strength!

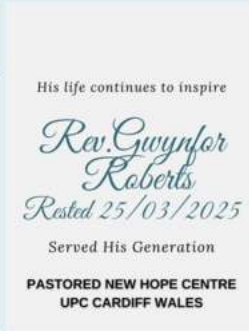
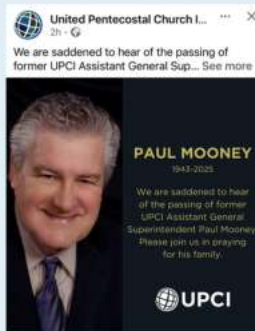
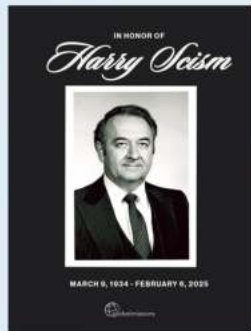
Thank You for being You!

Love Always

Joan Dallas



In Remembrance



Promotions

APOSTOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE 2025
MEN OF HONOUR:
Unshakeable Faith, Unbreakable Brothers
 Ecclesiastes 10:9,10 - "Two are better than one... If either of them falls, one can help the other up."

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- EME Men's Director
- Bishop Emile Austin
- Rev. Fred Mateo
- Other leaders

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- Opening Night Trivia
- Reaching Men Talks
- Honour & Men
- Interactive Discussions on Relationships

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Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38

UPC Ladies
 Sort Code: 60-08-49
 Account Number: 66203349

<https://www.upcgbi.org.uk>

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Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4

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Eastern Europe 25 July	

LIBERTY
GBIYC25
24-26 APRIL 2025

Rev. Aaron Bounds
Rev. Alexandre Dupont
Rev. Anthony Banton

24TH THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE | DOORS OPEN 6PM
25TH FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE | DOORS OPEN 6PM
26TH SATURDAY ALL DAY | DOORS OPEN 11:00AM

REGISTER: WWW.UPCGBIYOUTH.ORG

Photo Gallery



Photo Gallery



Register & Be Blessed

National Youth Congress - April 24 - 26

HBC Short Courses - May 15 - 17

General Conference 2025 - August 5 - 8



LIBEATH
GBIYC25
24-26 APRIL 2025

Main Speaker
Rev. Aaron Bounds

Session Speaker
Rev. Alexandre Dupont

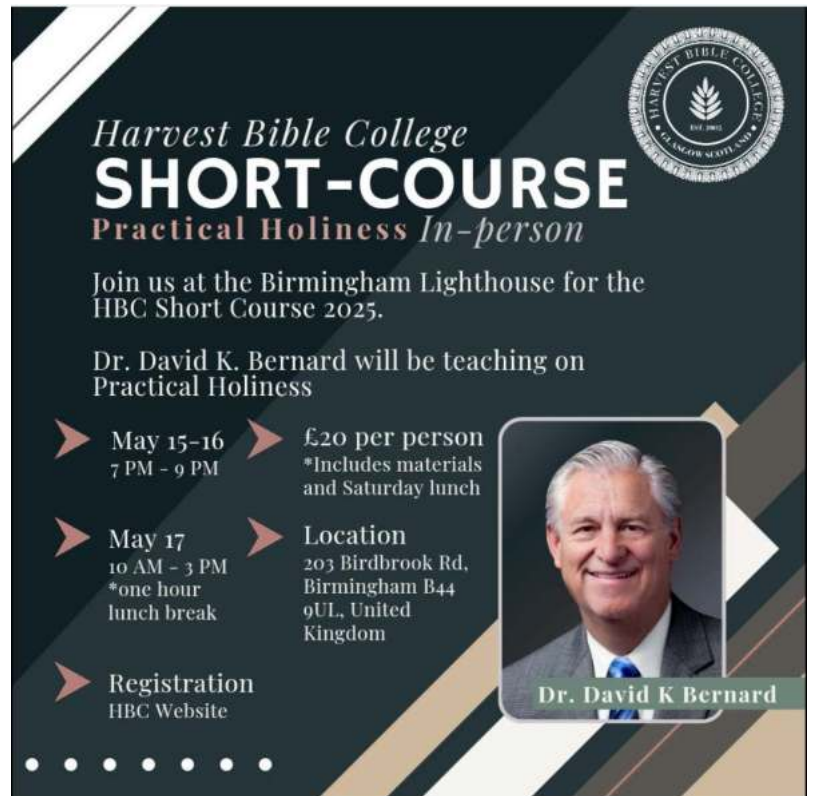
Session Speaker
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24TH THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE | DOORS OPEN 6PM
25TH FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE | DOORS OPEN 6PM
26TH SATURDAY ALL DAY | DOORS OPEN 9:30AM

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