

THE STAGNER FAMILY

CHURCH PLANTING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

October 2025



Acts 23:25 "And he wrote a letter after this manner:"

Dear Friends and Fellow Labourers,
Acts 23:25 introduces the Roman commander Claudius Lysias' letter concerning Paul—a document born from crisis and political tension. In it, God's providence moves through a pagan official to preserve His servant. The verse marks a turning point where divine purpose intersects human bureaucracy; even a Roman pen becomes an instrument of heaven's design. The written word here functions not merely as correspondence but as confirmation that God governs the smallest details of His servant's defence. Throughout Scripture, letters often move history forward—this one ensured Paul's mission continued under imperial protection rather than ended in mob violence.

Over the past thirty years, I have read thousands of missionary, church planter, and evangelist letters—at times more than a hundred each month. In my first pastorate, our church supported over one hundred and twenty missionaries, jail preachers, church planters, and national pastors. From those years I drew upon the writing styles of men from across the world, and three of them especially shaped the tone and structure of how I compose these monthly letters. Yet one question has always lingered for those active in ministry correspondence: how far do you pull back the curtain?

Every letter cannot be filled with sunshine and roses, nor should it drip with doom and gloom. There must be balance—transparency without discouragement, honesty without despair. The struggles of ministry are no secret; from the days of Paul to our own, storms are part of the course. To assume otherwise is simple naivety. Yet the glory of the call—to preach the Gospel, to plant and pastor churches, to weep with the broken and rejoice with the redeemed—remains our steadfast joy. Still, the question persists: how much do we reveal of the harsh realities of the mission field?

If we were to take Paul's epistles as a pattern, the collective tone averages about seventy percent pain to thirty percent praise. Yet one stands apart—the epistle to the Philippians—void of rebuke and filled with joy. So, while Paul's letters reveal no definitive formula, another letter does: one not written by an apostle, but by a commander—Claudius Lysias. His letter was not penned from comfort but from burden. He did not sugarcoat the truth but faithfully reported events surrounding a servant of God who willingly stood before the governor. It was a letter written for a cause—unwittingly, the cause of

Christ—and recorded his findings with precision and purpose.

So it is written, "And he wrote a letter after this manner" (Acts 23:25). My prayer and desire are the same: to write letters that inform with clarity, express unfeigned gratitude to each of you, and gather prayers from across the globe—that we might, like Paul, finish our course with joy.

Ministry Update

This past month has again reminded us that the ministry is both a battle and a race—often fought on several fronts at once. The pressures surrounding biblical Christianity continue to intensify, both from within and without, yet God's work presses on steadily. Across the churches in the Cynon Valley and Cardiff, we are witnessing consistent, healthy growth. Some of this is visible—returning visitors, new families, and expanding outreach—but much of it is internal: believers becoming grounded, faith maturing, and resilience strengthening through daily obedience.

Our outreach ministries remain a vital part of that growth. From the youth clubs to the schools, gym, and government sectors, the Word of God continues to go forth unhindered. Each setting presents its own set of battles—spiritual, cultural, and personal—but the Lord continues to grant open doors. Young people are hearing truth through The Point clubs and assemblies; men and women are being reached through local outreach and the ministry at the gym; and the continued invitations into schools and civic settings remind us that God's Word still finds its way into the public square.

Denise continues faithfully in the ladies' ministry, both within our churches and in the wider community—discipling, counselling, and encouraging women to walk in truth and grace. Her steadfast work, often unseen, has become a stabilising influence among the families we serve.

We are thankful for every victory, mindful of every battle, and confident that the Lord who called us will continue to sustain us. Thank you for standing with us in prayer and partnership as we labour to finish our course with joy.

With gratitude and resolve,
BJ, Denise, Bailey & Hannah

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Dear Friends,

We are profoundly grateful for your steadfast prayers and support as we turn our focus from purchasing to reducing the debt on our new church building.

The Lord has allowed me to publish two books, the first: *Renewed – 66 Day Challenge to Total Transformation* (Romans 12:1–2). The second book, *Be Where Your Feet Are*. Both can be purchased at www.bjstagner.com/books.

All proceeds from the book sales are being directed toward paying off the **church building debt**. We thank you for your sacrificial support and prayers in this matter. If the Lord lays it upon your heart to give toward the reduction of this debt, we would be deeply appreciative.

Current financial picture

Total funds received (including loan): \$193,389.37

Loan balance: **\$89,500**

Contribution from our local congregation: £7,195 (≈ \$9,500)

Every gift — large or small — brings us closer to retiring this debt quickly. Donations may be sent through our sending church; please note “UK Church Building” in the memo line.

Thank you for standing with us in both prayer and giving. Your kindness and partnership mean more than words can say, and together we are advancing the gospel here in South Wales.

Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

For the Lord to move mightily in the school, youth, gym and government ministries;

For the debt on the church building to be paid off swiftly;

A 10% growth at both church campuses this year. (The Lord is answering this prayer);

Continued provision and strength for our family in ministry;

More labourers to come alongside us in the work;

Marriages to be spared from the enemy;

Several unspoken requests for salvation;

New visitors to continue to return and come to the churches.