

the Christadelphian

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God"

Newsletter: November 2021

Dear reader,

REPRESENTATIVES from around the world have descended on the city of Glasgow to discuss climate change, or more precisely, how to contain global warming. Debates and discussions have covered many related subjects and have been accompanied by vocal cries from protestors outside who claim that not enough is being done by world leaders. Agreement is being reached on some aspects, but the event's effectiveness is justifiably questioned when some of the world's most seriously polluting nations are not properly represented, and vested interests are still fiercely protected. Everyone seems to agree that climate change is a problem – and are willing to let others make the necessary sacrifices to prevent it! This is a principle which applies at both a national and individual level. The Financial Times reported last year that the drop of carbon emissions as a result of the pandemic had a beneficial effect, and that if there were five more pandemics in the next decade that would limit global warming to two degrees, not the 1.5 leaders are striving for. This shows the scale of the problem.

And indeed it is a problem only the return of the Lord Jesus will solve. He was not a man of self-interest or self-preservation but was completely selfless, emptying himself so that he could be filled with the character of his Father. Christ's supreme example was to give himself to the uttermost – for the benefit of others. He could not have done more. This is the example we should be following.

When the Lord Jesus reigns, this earth once again will become a glorious place. So, whatever the world's leaders may decide, we lift our eyes and look ahead to the vision of the kingdom, which is as certain as day and night.

"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom ... abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing ... They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God ... For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water ... And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35, ESV)

As always, all our plans and endeavours are intended for the glory of Almighty God and are subject to His blessing.

Signs of the Times – Plans for more building on the West Bank

(With thanks to Brother Roger Long)

Last month the Israeli government announced that thousands of new homes would be constructed in Judaea and Samaria, despite strong objections from the Biden Administration.

The *Jewish News Syndicate* reported: “A Civil Administration committee approved the construction of 3,144 new housing units, and is expected to approve an additional 1,303 ... for Palestinians.” A US State Department spokesman described the announcement as “completely inconsistent with efforts to lower tensions” and described “plans for the retroactive legalisation of illegal outposts as unacceptable”. Israel’s defence minister has commented that US concerns were taken into account and that the number of new homes proposed had been reduced as a result. “He also noted the approval of 1,300 units for Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria, something he said had not been done in more than a decade” (October 28).

US statements on Israel’s settlement activity over the years have been somewhat inconsistent. In contrast to the reaction expressed above, the previous administration under President Trump was very sympathetic. However, whatever view is taken in Washington, it is clear that Israel intends to continue this policy – another fulfilment of Bible prophecy, for Ezekiel 38 indicates that Jews will be living in these areas when the invader comes against the land in the latter days.

Recyclable magazine wrapping

After a rather lengthy and fruitless search, the Office has finally found a supplier of fully recyclable packaging for magazine distribution. To date, either the price was prohibitive, or the minimum quantity to be ordered was too great, resulting in the continued use of plastic wrapping. The existing plastic wrappers are accepted for recycling by a number of UK councils, even though the plastic does not have the appearance of being recyclable.

The new wrappers will be introduced with the January 2022 issue onwards. *The Christadelphian* will be dispatched in a material made from sustainable sugar cane and is 100% recyclable, even though its appearance and feel is not dissimilar to plastic. Readers are encouraged to look out for the new packaging and recycle accordingly.



Book Sale and Open Day – December 4, 2021

A reminder that our Book Sale and Open Day takes place on Saturday December 4 from 9 am to 3 pm. This is the first time we have been able to hold an occasion like this for two years and a warm welcome awaits. Both showrooms will be open, with discounts of 15% on all items including hymn books and Bibles, except for books produced by other Christadelphian publishers where the discount will be 10%. Second-hand books will be reduced by 25% when five or more are purchased, and by 50% on purchases of ten or more. Some refreshments will be available upstairs in the Old Library, but there will be no archive display on this occasion. For those who cannot attend in person the discounts will be available online for the weekend.

Given that there are still some COVID related concerns the library will be limited to no more than ten people at a time, and mask wearing is encouraged throughout the building. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to seeing you on the day.

New Book

Looking unto Jesus (by Brother Jonathan Cope)

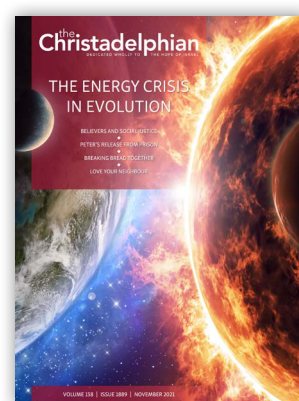
The launch of our final new book for 2021 is on December 4, to coincide with the Book Sale and Open Day. This collection of thirty exhortations, centred on the Lord Jesus, makes uplifting and encouraging reading and may also prove to be useful for ecclesias needing exhortation material for breaking of bread services. Pre-orders will be opening shortly and all the information will be on the website when available.



November's issue of *The Christadelphian*

The November issue is now available. It contains the second of two articles by Brother Stephen Hughes on the implausibility of evolution, this month examining the amount of energy required to create life in the abundance it exists on earth. Sister Grace Horwood considers what “Love thy neighbour” meant to Jewish readers of the Old Testament, and another extract from *Hard Questions? Real Answers!* asks whether it is right for believers to take a stand on social issues of the day.

The December issue will be larger than usual as it will contain an up-to-date price list and an index for all articles printed in 2021. There will also be some information regarding safeguarding, which ecclesias are encouraged to consider.



December and year-end arrangements

The January 2022 issue of *The Christadelphian* is due for publication and dispatch on Wednesday December 22. To ensure all news items are included the standard monthly deadline of December 10 will be strictly applied and perhaps Recording Brothers and those with news items will take note.

Royal Mail has not yet announced details of its last days for posting to ensure delivery in time for Christmas. However, can we ask all those placing orders in the UK to do so by Wednesday December 15. Given the vagaries of international postal services those placing orders from overseas are asked to do so as soon as possible, and ideally by the end of November.

For the year-end holidays, the Office will close at noon on December 24 and will reopen again on Tuesday January 4, 2022. Staff will be in attendance for stock taking during that period but will not be taking calls or answering queries.

CALS Bible Message Calendar 2022

The Christadelphian Office is the distributor for the CALS' ever-popular Bible Message Calendar. The 2022 version is based on proverbs, with uplifting quotes for each month accompanied by attractive images. It is ideal for both personal use and as a gift for preaching. Each calendar is priced at £2.50 plus postage, or £2.00 each plus postage for orders of ten or more. Orders may be placed online at any time but orders for calendars required for Christmas gifts are best placed by the end of November.



Subscriptions for 2022

Subscription information for 2022 is now on the website and printed on the inside back cover of each issue of *The Christadelphian*. Please contact the Office if you have any questions. We are grateful to all our readers for their continued support and look forward to providing the magazine through 2022, should our Lord remain away.

Some subscribers may like to consider the Digital Library as an alternative to magazine subscriptions. For ongoing subscribers the most recent issue of *The Christadelphian* is immediately available to read online along with all back copies to 1864. The same applies to all books published by the CMPA. Whilst the library is in its development stage the subscription is only £50 per annum.

Hosea chapter 7

(An excerpt from *The Prophecy of Hosea* by Cyril Tennant, chapter 16)

God's method of teaching by gentle repetition is very evident in Hosea's message. The main features – of Israel's weaknesses, of God's approaches to save, of Israel's rebellion and of the repeated glimpses of the kingdom of God – are seen time and time again but always with the addition of something new. In this way the fundamental principles are made sure and our understanding of them is enlarged. In this chapter, the wickedness of Samaria is examined and four main aspects of it are set before us. Although they have specific reference to Israel, they are fundamental and as such are not without exhortational value to readers of all ages.

Firstly, the nation is seen to be like a baker's oven which has been built up, and although the fire is only smouldering, it will be stirred into a "flaming fire" when the dough is thoroughly leavened. It is a dreadful picture of the deceitful and wicked heart of man, of the leaven of wickedness and of how easily powers of destruction may be stirred up ...

Hosea points to a second weakness: "Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people" (verse 8). Since the time that God had called His people out of Egypt He had stressed the importance of separation. There was a calling to a new and exalted way of life which could only be appreciated by leaving behind that from which they had been called ... Separation from the world from which we have been called is crucial to salvation, because it marks where our true interests are.

Thirdly, Ephraim is seen as "a silly dove" (verse 11) – a bird without a homing instinct – going into Egypt and Assyria, but not returning to God. It is not without significance that the man Jonah, whose name means dove, failed to appreciate the principles of God's way of life and fled from his mission, to go instead into Tarshish. The lesson which Jonah was given was that there is forgiveness for all people if they will return to God.

Fourthly, we are brought again to the most amazing attitude which God displays in the face of all this rebellion: "When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them" (verse 12). As was seen in chapter 2, verse 7, this also is a remedial act. God will stop them in their tracks; He will catch them as in a net that He might bring them down to chastise them. In the face of destruction there is still hope if only they will heed God's hand and return to Him. This we shall never understand, but we shall always thank God that it is so – God is always ready to save those who seek Him.

Online and other events

Here are details of some events for the coming weeks along with diary dates for the Office. Full details will be in December's issue of *The Christadelphian* and on our 'What's on' page here.

- **November:** Final issue of *Faith Alive!* 2021.
- **November 13:** Cambridge Autumn Study Day; Cannock Fraternal Gathering; Dudley (Firs Street) Study Afternoon; Earlswood Fraternal Gathering; Shirley / Solihull joint Autumn Fraternal Gathering.



- **November 13-14:** North Battleford (SK, Canada) Study Day.
- **November 19-21:** Washington, DC (USA) Family Bible Study Weekend.
- **November 20:** Birmingham (Longbridge) Study Evening; Coventry (West) Fraternal Gathering; Dudley (Queens Cross) Autumn Study Evening; Harrogate Study Afternoon; King's Lynn One-Day Study; Ormskirk Autumn Fraternal Gathering.
- **November 26:** Publication of December's issue of *The Christadelphian*.
- **November 27:** Birmingham (West) Fraternal Gathering; Halifax (Balmoral Place) Bible Class Study Fraternal.
- **December 3-5:** Birmingham (Woodgate) Youth Weekend.
- **December 4:** Office Book Sale and Open Day (9 am to 3 pm). Christadelphian Care Homes Virtual Quarterly Update; Coventry (East) Winter Study; Coventry (West) Youth Day; Heywood Bible Class Gathering.
- **December 10:** Deadline for submission of news items for January 2022's issue.
- **December 22:** Publication of January 2022's issue of *The Christadelphian*.
- **December 24 (noon):** Office closes for year-end holidays, reopening on January 4, 2022.
- **December 24-28:** Northern Winter Study.
- **December 27-30:** Eastern Winter Study.

Please note, as usual, there will be no Newsletter circulation in December.

Thank you for your continued support. Suggestions or comments about any aspect of our work should be sent to editor@thechristadelphian.com.

We pray that all our plans are in accord with the will of our Heavenly Father. May our Heavenly Father's blessings be on us all.

Yours, in Jesus Christ,



Andrew Bramhill
Editor

The Newsletter is produced on the 10th of each month to complement the monthly publication of *The Christadelphian* magazine. It is circulated freely around the worldwide Christadelphian community. Further updates and information are provided on the Office's Facebook page and a full listing of events around the world is contained on the Office's website. Please bring this Newsletter to the attention of anyone you think may benefit from receiving it - subscribing is easy, free and can be done via our website.