

THISTLE EPISTLE

A update on the Galloways' work for the Lord based in East Kilbride, Scotland

November 2018



Winter is nearer

Since our return from the USA in mid-October, life has continued to be hectic! Between teaching two sessions for the British Bible School, and a gospel meeting and singing day in East Kilbride we haven't had much time to catch our breath!

In this report, we will detail what we were involved in during September of this year and also include an update from our USA trip at the beginning of October.

Family Day in Great Barr

The second weekend in September is the annual weekend for a day of fellowship and study at the Great Barr congregation near Birmingham, England. For the study this year Patrick Boyns and I were asked to speak on Galatians 6:2-5 under the topic of "Bear One Another's Burdens."

I was given the specific title of "And So Fulfil the Law of Christ." Patrick's lesson centred on our "Personal Responsibility." These two lessons occupied the morning. Following lunch together the congregation had organised a quiz which was followed by reports from congregations on what they were doing.

The day was well attended with between forty and fifty present from congregation throughout England. It was good catching up with many we don't see very often as well as getting to know some we had never met. It had been a number of years since we had the privilege of visiting with the Christians in Great Barr and we look forward to our next visit.





BBS Family Retreat in Norfolk

The third weekend in September saw Arlene and I travelling back into England for a family retreat organised by the British Bible School. With the success we have had the past few years of our retreat in January in the Lake District (it is filled to capacity every year) we thought it would be good to try a second one in a different area of the country.

We decided to have the retreat at Letton Hall in Norfolk. This is a former 'great house' which is now used as a Christian Retreat Centre. Although we could hold over 70, in the end there were only 35 who attended. This made for an excellent group to get to know.

Our theme was "Getting to Know Jesus." After settling in on Friday evening, we spent Saturday morning studying together aspects of our theme. I had the first lesson and centred on how we get to know Jesus by comparing it to how we get to know any person. Patrick Boyns had the second lesson which continued the theme. Saturday afternoon was time to spend time together or to explore the area. We ended Saturday with a Barbecue and just enjoying time together.

Sunday we enjoyed worship together. Mark Hill brought thoughts around the Lord's Table and Trevor Williams brought the final lesson of the weekend. After enjoying lunch together we all left and made our way back to where we were from.

Although our numbers were not as large as we would have liked, those who were there very much enjoyed the weekend. Most of indicated they want this to continue and plan to come back next year – we are hoping that they will influence more to join us.

I remained in England for another day and attended the British Bible School governors' meeting which was held in Northampton. It was a very encouraging meeting as further plans for the school were presented.

BBS Study Weekend at East Kilbride

The fourth weekend in September was the first of two study weekends in East Kilbride. This year we studied the BBS module on "Hebrews." The teachers were Patrick Boyns, Jack Paton, and myself. Our goal was to cover Hebrews 1-5 as well as to present a good introduction to this book.



We began on Saturday morning with two introductory lessons – my assignment was the authorship and date of Hebrews with Jack concentrating on the style of writing and themes. Patrick then taught on the first four verses before our lunch break.

Following lunch I taught the rest of chapter 1 and chapter 2 of Hebrews with Patrick teaching chapter 3 and Jack teaching the first part of chapter 4.

For our Bible class session on Sunday Patrick finished off chapter 4 and I presented the first part of chapter 5 as our lesson following Sunday worship.

In addition to the three teachers, there were nine who attended the study on Saturday, all being from East Kilbride. It was wonderful to begin a study of this vital New Testament book.

USA visit 3rd-18th October



Our visit to the United States at the beginning of October was brief and a bit of a whirlwind, but we were able to accomplish what we needed to do. We visited three supporters (two we had not been able to see the previous visit) and made contact with two potential supporting congregations. We are pleased that one of these has already agreed to help us financially in our work.

We were also able to spend time with most of my family. My dad is not doing well – he is now in the last stages of Parkinson's Disease and we have

been told not to expect him to make it to the end of the year. Keep him in your prayers.

Our next scheduled visit to spend time with most of our supporters will be in 2020.

Teaching during September and October

4th September – “God always punishes the wicked” (2 Peter 2:1-10; Jude 3-7) – at Livingston

9th September – “What is Our Mission” – at East Kilbride

11th September – “False teachers will be destroyed in their destruction” (2 Peter 2:10-22; Jude 8-13) – at Livingston

15th September – “Getting to Know Jesus” – at BBS Letton Hall Family Retreat, Norfolk

18th September – “Keep yourself in the love of God” (Jude 14-25) – at Livingston

23rd September – “Jesus our great high priest” (Hebrews 5:1-11) – at East Kilbride

25th September – “The day of the Lord” (2 Peter 3:1-7) – at Livingston

30th September – “Anywhere with Jesus” – at East Kilbride

2nd October – “Be Prepared” (2 Peter 3:8-18) – at Livingston

7th October – “East Kilbride Update 2012-2018” & “Anywhere with Jesus” – at Boone, North Carolina

14th October – “East Kilbride Update 2012-2018” – at Walnut Grove, Benton, Kentucky

14th October – “East Kilbride Update 2012-2018” – at Harpeth Hills, Nashville, Tennessee

We continued studying “The Letters of Peter” in our Wednesday evening classes, which I teach. We covered 2 Peter 2:11-22 and Jude 8-25. On Sunday mornings Bob Blackshaw completed teaching 1 Timothy and I am now also teaching the class on Sunday morning.

Attendance Averages

		Sunday	Wednesday
September	2	20	5
	9	17	12
	16	19	no class
	23	24	6
	30	16	no class
October	7	?	no class
	14	?	no class
	21	18	5
	28	16	4
Year averages		17	7

Other Information

Photos

p.1 – top: trees at Bassenfell Manor, Lake Districk, England (November 2018); bottom: Jon speaking at Great Barr, Birmingham (September 2018).

p.2 – top: Jon speaking at Letton Hall, Norfolk (September 2018); bottom: Jon teaching for BBS at East Kilbride (September 2018).

p.3 – David, Christina and Piper eating with us in Memphis (October 2018).

Sponsoring congregation in USA: Cherokee church of Christ, c/o Dewey Woolbright (elder), 2112 North Roan Street, Suit 705, Johnson City, Tennessee 37601

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	September	October
Cherokee, Johnson City, TN	<i>received in July</i>	\$600 (3 months)
Camden Avenue, Parkersburg, WV	\$250	\$250
Boone, NC	\$150	\$150
Old Jefferson, Smyrna, TN	\$200	\$200
South Green St, Glasgow, KY	<i>received in January</i>	
Rome, Proctorville, OH	\$100	\$100
Tuscum Boulevard, Greeneville, TN	\$230	\$230
Shady Acres, Sikeston, MO	\$300	\$300
Shady Valley, TN	\$100	\$100
Willow Avenue, Cookeville, TN	\$600	\$600
East Kilbride, Scotland (£300/month)	\$390.60	£390.60
Mr & Mrs Joe Galloway	\$200	\$200
Mrs Barbara Harris	\$100	\$100
Mr & Mrs Jim Galloway	\$100	\$100
Mr & Mrs Pat Rine (in memory of Gene West & Parker French)		\$50
Total Received	\$2720.60	\$3370.60
Support for month	\$3220.60	\$3270.60
Shortfall	(\$991.37)	(\$941.37)
Exchange Rate	£1.00 = \$1.3020	