

# The Corona Chronicle.

## Being Church in Partial lockdown.

Sunday July 18th

### West Worthing Evangelical Church.

It is twenty-seven years since we sold all our possessions, moved from Exmouth rectory and went with our two teenage daughters to Cyprus to work with Youth with a Mission in the city of Nicosia.

Alyson worked amongst the prostitutes and I along with preaching in the Anglican Cathedral started, with Dr Stephen Critchlow, an International fellowship that met in a hotel foyer. As a result of our

open air evangelism when we left the Island the Church was made up of men from the Middle East, Rumanian workers and maids from the Indian sub-continent in particular from Sri Lanka. (Ceylon). During our time back in England we have returned to Cyprus many times. Pastor George Hadjiyiannis, a Cypriot national, took over the work when Stephen left. George oversees a work that now has five Churches on the Island and two in Israel mostly made of Sri Lankan, Indian and Nepalese workers.

It has been very difficult for them during the pandemic as for much of the time the Churches have been closed. They have had a very successful online streaming service with the service being watched all over the world. It has been very difficult for many of the maids whose employers have been reluctant to let them out to go to Church even when the Churches were opened.

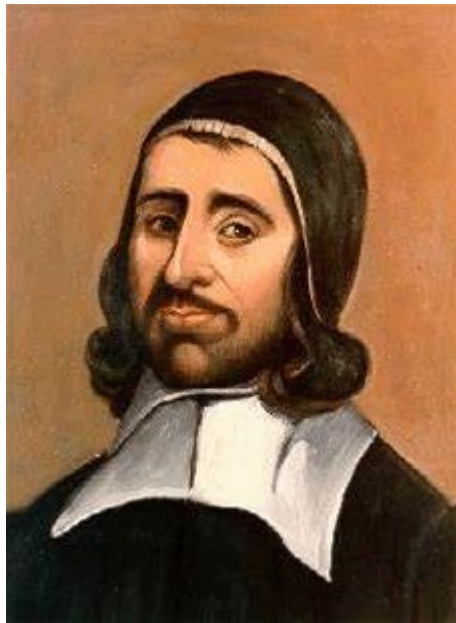
Also the worrying news that they receive from the sub-continent of the delta virus spreading rapidly. What makes things worse is that they are unable to return to their country to visit their families.

Please pray for the Church in Nicosia, Limassol, Paphos and Larnaca. Praise God that thankfully they have been able to keep the rented buildings during the lockdown as the congregation and others have supported financially throughout this time.



We hope to visit them as soon as things get back to 'normal' we have booked a flight for September 2022. But we might try and go also after Pascha (Orthodox Easter) God willing. We miss them very much.





## **RICHARD BAXTER REFLECTED YEARS LATER ON THE IMPACT THE GREAT PLAGUE HAD ON FAMILIES.**

His reflection carries both encouraging and discouraging observations.

Baxter wrote:

*"I have reason to hope that the Great Plague in London was a help to the conversion of many hundred souls; not only as it called men to review their lives, and think of their state; but as it made them far more impartial hearers of public preaching and private counsel. There was then in London no scorning at holy seriousness and diligence for salvation, in comparison of what it is now.*

*The houses that now roar out drunken songs and scorns at godliness, and revile, threaten and curse the religious sort, had other language then, when 'Lord have mercy on us' was written on the doors.*

*The sense of approaching death so awakened both preachers and hearers, that multitudes of young men and others were converted to true repentance."*

Baxter noticed that during the plague, families were hoping in the Lord. They were open to the Gospel; open to the Word of God. People were saved as they turned from their sins and gave their lives to Christ. They were writing, "Lord have mercy on us," on their doors. There was a revival.

This is what Baxter saw in 1665, and yet, Baxter also saw families who hardened their hearts once the plague ended.

Will this be us?

Will we hope in the Lord during the virus and then go

back to trusting in ourselves and selfishly living for ourselves once the virus is over?

I believe if Baxter could speak to the 2020 church, he would plead with us to spend the days of this pandemic with an openness to the Gospel, a renewed zeal for the things of God, a prayerful cry for mercy and grace, and a revived heart. And then I believe he would plead with us to not lose sight of this reformation once the pandemic has passed.

Jonathan Williams, Ph.D. (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary) is the founder of Gospel Family Ministries, the author of [Gospel Family: Cultivating Family Discipleship, Family Worship, and Family Missions](#), and the senior pastor of Wilcrest Baptist Church in Houston, TX. He lives in Houston with his wife and three children.

### QUOTES BY JOHN OWEN

*If we do not abide in prayer, we will abide in temptation. Let this be one aspect of our daily intercession: 'God, preserve my soul, and keep my heart and all its ways so that I will not be entangled.' When this is true in our lives, a passing temptation will not overcome us. We will remain free while others lie in bondage.*

*Without absolutes revealed from without by God Himself, we are left rudderless in a sea of conflicting ideas about manners, justice and right and wrong, issuing from a multitude of self-opinionated thinkers.*

*A minister may fill his pews, his communion roll, the mouths of the public, but what that minister is on his knees in secret before God Almighty, that he is and no more.*

*How can we possibly believe the promises concerning Heaven, immortality, and glory, when we do not believe the promises concerning our present life? And how can we be trusted when we say we believe these promises but make no effort to experience them ourselves? It is just here that men deceive themselves. It is not that they do not want the Gospel privileges of joy, peace and assurance, but they are not prepared to repent of their evil attitudes and careless life-styles. Some have even attempted to reconcile these things and ruined their souls. But without the diligent exercise of the grace of obedience, we shall never enjoy the graces of joy, peace and assurance.*

I will sing of my Redeemer  
 And His wondrous love to me;  
 On the cruel cross he suffered,  
 From the curse to set me free.

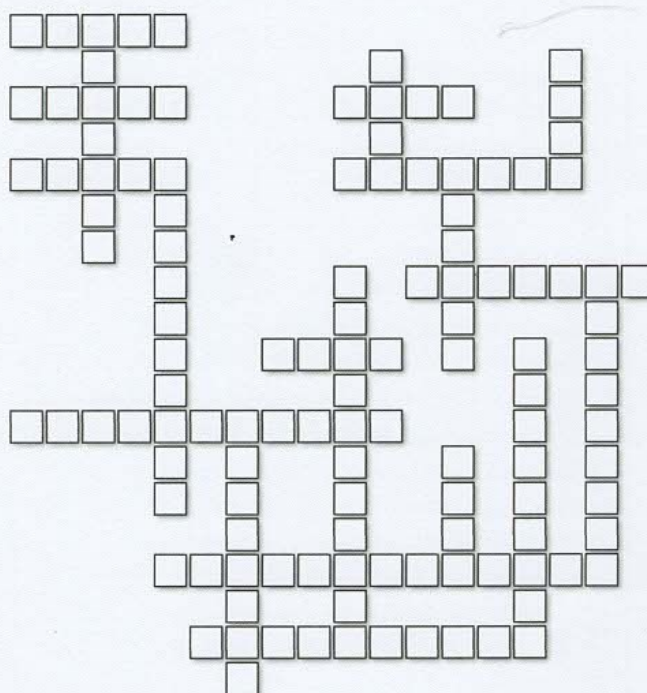
*Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,  
 With His blood He purchased me,  
 On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
 Paid the debt, and made me free.*

The composition was found in a piece of baggage rescued from a fiery train wreck on December 20th 1876. The poem's author, Philip P. Bliss, had been travelling with his wife to Chicago to fulfil an engagement at D.L. Moody's tabernacle. Near Ashtabula, Ohio a bridge collapsed and the train plunged into an icy river bed. It is said that Bliss survived the fall and climbed out through a coach window only to return, looking for his wife. Reunited, they died together in the flaming wreckage.

This song of Philip Bliss is a very simple expression of the truth of the gospel. The title itself might be considered the motto of his short and brilliant life: 'I will sing of my Redeemer.'

## New Testament Books

Fit the words into this Bible Fill In puzzle!



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### 4 LETTERS

ACTS  
 JOHN  
 JUDE  
 LUKE  
 MARK

### 5 LETTERS

JAMES  
 PETER  
 TITUS

### 6 LETTERS

ROMANS

### 7 LETTERS

HEBREWS  
 MATTHEW  
 TIMOTHY

### 8 LETTERS

PHILEMON

### 9 LETTERS

EPHESIANS  
 GALATIANS

### 10 LETTERS

COLOSSIANS  
 REVELATION

### 11 LETTERS

CORINTHIANS  
 PHILIPPIANS

### 13 LETTERS

THESSALONIANS

# Hymns ,Prayers and Bible Readings

Especially for those unable to get to Church

**1 As the deer longs for streams of water,  
So my soul seeks God the Lord to know;  
All day long, men ask in scorn to see You  
And my tears in deepest anguish flow.**

**2 O my soul, why are you discouraged?  
God in mercy hears your anxious prayer;  
Though His waves and breakers have engulfed me,  
I will dwell on God's protecting care!**

**3 O my God, safe and certain stronghold,  
Why do You seem often far away?  
Send Your truth and light, and as they guide me  
Hear my songs of worship night and day!**

**4 O my soul, why are you discouraged?  
Why should you, so nurtured by His love,  
Be dismayed and so downcast within me?  
I will praise my Saviour God above!**

(From Psalms 42, 43)

Words: © Paul Wigmore / Jubilate Hymns

Psalm 27

**One *thing* I have desired of the LORD,  
That will I seek:  
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
All the days of my life,  
To behold the beauty of the LORD,  
And to inquire in His temple.  
<sup>5</sup>For in the time of trouble  
He shall hide me in His pavilion;  
In the secret place of His tabernacle  
He shall hide me;  
He shall set me high upon a rock.**

We can interpret temple as the presence of God. Do we live in God's presence every day that should be our desire. When troubles come and we are in the presence of the Lord we are prepared to handle the test.

God is always with us but sometimes we don't experience His presence. How can we know His presence?

Two things might help

- Come clean with Him.
- Speak the scriptures out loud.

Let us pray:

Lord, we thank You today that You are all-powerful, all-knowing and always perfectly good. Thank You for Your daily mercies to us as we struggle through such challenging times. Father, we confess that we do not seek Your presence as we ought. We confess that we have settled for lesser things, when we know You desire us to have a personal, close relationship with You. Lord, revive our love for You. Draw close, let us know Your presence in our lives. And help us to in turn share Your love with our neighbour's. Lord, we put our hope in Your unfailing love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

O God our Father, we thank You that [today/tonight] You have called us to worship You and learn of You. You alone know our needs. Satisfy them with Your unchanging love. In Your presence may we find comfort in sorrow, guidance in perplexity, strength to meet temptation, grace to overcome the fascination of disobedience, and courage to face up to the hostility of this rebellious world. Above all, may we meet Jesus and go out from our worship indwelt by His spirit. This prayer we ask to Your glory and in His name. Amen.

Michael Seward