

# CMA - UK CHAINLINK



SPRING 2018

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# Welcome to Chainlink

## Spring 2018

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHRISTIAN MOTORCYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION (CMA) UK

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A big 'Thank you' to all who have given the time and effort to contribute to this issue of *Chainlink*.

As you read through each article, our hope is that you will be encouraged and challenged in your walk with Jesus.

For your convenience, we have made use of QR codes in certain articles. There are many free apps available for smart phones that will enable you to scan the code and link directly to websites and e-mail addresses.

This issue will shortly be available as a PDF publication to members on our website.

Online video clips, website references and e-mail addresses will be live hyperlinks. If you have an Internet connection on your viewing device, clicking on a link will take you directly to the relevant site.

The views expressed in *Chainlink* cannot be taken as official CMA policy on any subject. The magazine is published up to four times a year, to provide information for CMA members and to encourage them in their personal walk with God. We pray that this magazine will also stimulate non-Christian readers into thinking more about Jesus, and also seeking Him for themselves.

The Bible says: "Seek and you will find" · St Matthew Chapter 7, verse 7



# National Chairman, CMA UK

Mike Fitton

My role as CMA UK National Chairman includes many privileges, too many to mention, but one that stands out is when I am invited to share a few words of encouragement at the funeral of someone involved in CMA.

In December and January we celebrated the lives of:

**Avril Oder** (wife of Werner), **Dan Pordage** (husband of Katy) both of Hampshire and Dorset Branch, and **Helen Evans** (wife of Brian), Staffordshire and Shropshire Branch).

I couldn't make it to Avril's funeral but I was honoured to be able to represent CMA at Dan's and at Helen's.

What stood out more than anything at each service was the number of people that came to remember these treasured friends and the significant impact they had made on all those they met; an impact that brought Glory to Jesus Christ and Him alone.

I was able to share that CMA members all over the world were praying that God would bring Peace and Hope into a day of loss and sadness.

We saw God's faithfulness shine through as expressed in Romans Ch8 v38. It states that 'Nothing can ever separate us from God's love.' Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.'

I reminded everyone that as

Christians we do not stand alone in difficult times; we are part of the family of God and in CMA we are bonded together in our mission to 'Go into all the world and make disciples'. We should care for one another because Jesus cares for us.

John Ch13 v35 (NLT) says 'Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples.'

There is something significantly different about a Christian funeral, 1 Peter Ch1 states 'we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.'

This is the reason God has called us to share the Gospel, we cannot keep this message to ourselves –

Acts Ch4 v12 "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

The best way we can remember all those who have gone to Glory is to keep their legacy alive by 'Reaching The World One Heart

*The Hope of Eternal Life*  
All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by His power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

*1 Peter Ch1:v3-5 New Living Translation*

At A Time'

'It's news I'm most proud to proclaim (not ashamed), this extraordinary Message of God's

powerful plan to rescue everyone who trusts him.' (Romans 1:16-17 The Message)

Please continue to pray for Werner, Katy and Brian and their families as they face the days ahead.

Matthew Ch5 'Blessed are those who mourn.' Only Jesus could bring blessing to a place of pain and His faithfulness is new every morning.

God Bless you,

Mike and Sandy FITTON

‘we have a priceless inheritance’

1 Peter 1:4



## Official stuff...

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CMA UK is part of the  
CMA Worldwide International  
Outreach Ministry

Registered UK Charity  
1080911

Acknowledgements:  
Front & back cover artwork

**Gordon McLeod**  
**GLO Media**  
gordon@gamcleod.co.uk

Printed by:

**Printfine Ltd**  
**Liverpool**

printfine.co.uk  
0151 242 0011

## From the Editor's Garage

Well, here we are at the beginning of a New Year again. Although this is the Spring issue, I'm writing this from a very cold Texas in January. The locals are rather bemused because it's not been as cold as this for many years. Snow is virtually unknown here.

Chris and I visited Freedom Road Biker Church in Killeen last night – there was not one bike in sight. They don't 'do' winter like we do back home. The fellowship was good, we were made very welcome, and immediately felt 'at home'. Last week we went to the Killeen CMA Chapter meeting – it was great to meet the guys there and have the opportunity to share a bit of our story.

By the way, I said in the last issue that there might be a reward for whoever spots any mistakes. Well, a big 'Thank you' to Di Raven (SaS Branch) who noticed the missing S + apostrophe after 'MOTORCYCLIST' on the front cover. Your reward, Di, is to be acknowledged publicly through this medium – well done!

Do you know that it is so important to acknowledge good works done? We can be so quick to criticise when someone does something wrong, does a bad job or gives a poor service. It is right that we should encourage one another in all the various ways we serve our Father – check out Isaiah 41:6, 7. I'm sure you know that we cannot do anything to earn our salvation – it's free – but the apostle James has a lot to say about faith and works – have a look again at James 2:14-26. "I will show you my faith by my works."

In Acts 9 Dorcas was recognised for the 'good works' that she did. Check out too, Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus, and Peter's first letter – they all instruct us to 'maintain good works'. And in so doing we follow the example that Jesus gave to His followers.

Be a blessing and be blessed!

John

### UPDATE:

It was a little warmer in February in Las Vegas, as the photo shows!



'Warriors of the Way'  
CMA USA, Killeen, Texas



'Las Vegas Lights'  
CMA USA, Las Vegas, Nevada

**The deadline  
for submission  
of items for the  
Summer edition is  
31<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

Articles for Chainlink are most welcome, and should preferably be submitted by e-mail to [chainlink@bike.org.uk](mailto:chainlink@bike.org.uk)

All images should be 300dpi or higher in bitmap format and NOT embedded in a text document. Vector graphics are also welcome. Text documents should be unformatted rich text format (RTF) files. MS Word documents are acceptable, PDFs are not.

The sender must obtain permission for the inclusion of ALL names, addresses and pictures, especially of children, prior to submission and provide accreditation for all material that is not original. The sender takes all responsibility for all content and rights relating to all items that are submitted. If in doubt, please obtain verification from the National Chairman or the Executive committee. The editor retains the right to correct spelling and grammar as appropriate.



# Beauty and the Beast

A Tribute to Helen Evans

by Di Raven, Staffordshire & Shropshire

**This is no fairy tale. And, as so often happens in real life, I'm afraid there will be no happy ending.**

The beast in this scenario is an illness called Motor Neurone Disease (MND). It affects those nerves (motor neurones) in the brain and spinal cord which tell the muscles what to do. With MND, messages from these nerves gradually stop reaching the muscles, leading them to weaken, stiffen and waste. Bulbar Onset MND mainly affects the muscles of the face, throat and tongue. Life expectancy is between six months and three years from onset of symptoms.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 1959, a beautiful baby girl was born to Christian parents in Barnstaple, Devon. She was given the name Helen, which means 'shining light'. At the age of six, Helen, along with her (older) brother, Peter, her parents and grandmother, moved to Shrewsbury in Shropshire. Unlike her very bright brother, Helen struggled a bit academically and thus, ironically, 'Shining Light' tended to live very much in her brother's shadow. However, when Peter was 16, he went off to Merchant Navy College and the eclipse on Helen disappeared.

Helen regularly attended Harlescott Grange Church with her parents and joined the Brownies, moving on to becoming a Girl Guide. From about the age of 14, Helen helped her Mum run the Brownies, which she continued to do for many years. Her 16<sup>th</sup> year was very important: not only did Helen gain her full motorbike licence (she used to ride a 50cc Suzuki) but she also gave her life to Jesus, and so became beautiful inside and out!

In 1979, Helen and her parents changed churches and started going to Greenfield Methodist Church. The first day, they were greeted at the door by a biker, in his mid-twenties, who was immediately attracted by Helen's 'shining light'. Even though this miscreant had already been engaged

twice, he made a play for Helen, but was rebuffed with the words, "I couldn't possibly go out with you. You smoke, you drink and you are not a Christian!" The poor, deflated chap's name was Brian Evans. Not long after this, Brian's life crashed completely, but he had the good sense to turn to Jesus for help and, in late 1979, Brian handed his life over to Him.

Come Spring 1980, Brian again tried asking Helen to go out with him. This time, she agreed and, within three months, they were engaged (30<sup>th</sup> August 1980), with the wedding happening on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1981.

Helen's heart was always for other people, especially those with learning or physical disabilities. Before meeting Brian, she had gone to college to learn physiotherapy, and worked as a voluntary physio in a school for a year before securing a permanent post. Come 1984, Helen's job changed to full-time Mum with the arrival of their first son, Peter, and it was in this year that they moved to the family home in Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, and Brian said, "Goodbye" to biking for the next 20 years. A second son, Philip, arrived in 1986, with Joanne making her appearance in 1989.

Helen continued to live her life helping others, throwing herself wholeheartedly into working at Christ Church, which was just round the corner from where they lived. Sunday School, Mums & Toddlers Group and opening their home for a Bible study group became Helen's focus, and she eventually became Chairman of Christ Church Pre-school Nursery, being actively involved in running it, too. Brian's job as a car salesman took over his life and he was hardly ever at home. Consequently, Brian and Helen drifted apart, particularly spiritually, with Helen's faith getting ever stronger (she was baptised by total immersion in



November 1995) and Brian's faith disappearing over the horizon.

Fast-forward to 2004 and Helen spotted a Royal Enfield GT Continental for sale in a Classic Bike Magazine, which she pointed out to Brian and he 'dutifully' purchased it. However, the GT wasn't fast enough for him, so he soon added a Kawasaki W650. In 2007, Brian swapped the Kwak for a Triumph Thruxton, which he persuaded Helen to ride pillion, but she didn't like it. Equally, she didn't like the biking culture which Brian had got back into (having formed the Rea Valley Motorcycle Club with some friends, in 2004).

In 2008, Brian took early retirement, on medical grounds. He was close to breakdown, but Helen's love, understanding and gentleness nursed him back to health. Although this period of time had strengthened their relationship, they were leading quite different lives, with Helen very active at Church and Brian always out and about on his bikes and with his biking mates. Brian knew that he needed to do something about this, and, in October 2011, he came to the CMA stand at the Classic Bike Show, which is held every year at the Staffs County Showground. Here, he met Colin



Pownall and Di Raven, and they ended up praying with Brian. Brian had a vision for taking CMA into Shropshire, so he started coming to Staffs Branch meetings. Not long after this, Brian managed to persuade Helen to go to Bikers Church with him – and she was totally blown away by the experience! Helen's previous condemnation of biking culture turned to an embracing of it and she wanted to work alongside Brian in CMA. They both joined as Supporters in March 2012. Helen was now even willing to ride pillion on the Triumph America which Brian had added to his collection two years previously. From then on, their lives totally changed as they were now working together and united in a common goal – taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ out to bikers.

Helen was a natural at sharing her faith, and whether at bike shows or at the Raven Café (a biker haunt near Whitchurch), she could always be found talking to and helping bikers. Helen and Brian worked tirelessly for Jesus through CMA.

Sadly, Helen's mother became ill, so Helen started to care for her. This put a lot of stress on Helen, and by the time her mother passed away, in August 2015, Helen was exhausted. It was noticed that Helen's speech was a little slurred, but it was put down to fatigue and expected that she would soon get over it now that her life was returning to normal. Little did anyone know of the beast which was lurking in the shadows. 'Normal' never returned.

Slowly, relentlessly, this beast took hold of Helen in its jaws. It now had a name, too – Motor Neurone Disease (diagnosed in November 2015). Swallowing became difficult, then breathing, but Helen continued to work for her beloved Jesus and beloved bikers. Chronic fatigue and muscle weakness started to creep in, but Helen's faith remained strong and she praised Jesus at every opportunity. Eventually, Helen lost the ability to speak, so she would communicate by writing on a small white-board and then, when she could no longer grip a pen, technology came to her rescue: Helen was able to type what she wanted to say into an iPad and it would speak for her – in a dreadful

American voice, but at least she could still be 'heard'! On 5th March 2017, Helen gave testimony at Bikers Church using her iPad!



Still the beast crawled on. Not long after 'speaking' at Bikers Church, Helen was no longer able to swallow anything, so, from then on, she received all her food, liquids and medication via a tube directly into her stomach. Brian now became Helen's full-time carer, learning how to use the nebuliser and the suction device for getting rid of the saliva Helen couldn't swallow, and how to tube-feed her. By mid 2017, funds were in place to enable Brian and Helen's daughter, Joanne, to be employed to care for her, thus giving Brian some much-needed rest periods. Still the beast tightened its grip.

As Christians, we believe that the Bible indicates that God can heal folk by miraculous means, even in today's scientific world. Many CMA-ers, particularly from North Cheshire Branch, made the journey to Shrewsbury to pray with, and for, Helen, asking our loving Heavenly Father to release this wonderful, amazing, precious child of His from the jaws of this beast called MND. CMA FastTrack prayer warriors were called on to get involved, and many other Christians, from Christ Church in Bayston Hill and elsewhere, also pleaded with God to heal Helen. When I get to heaven, I'm going to ask God why His answer was, "No. I'm taking my beautiful daughter home to be with Me," and thus causing much pain and grief for those left behind.

In November 2017, Helen was admitted to the Severn Hospice in Shrewsbury. The main reason for this was that Joanne, Helen's daughter-nurse, experienced a problem in her, by now, well-advanced pregnancy, and was admitted to hospital. It was Helen's decision to go into the Hospice and, when the manager came and spoke to Helen, asking if she was aware of the probable outcome of her stay, Helen typed into her iPad, "I'm a Christian: I know where I am going!"

Grandson Harlen was born on Brian's birthday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017, and Helen was able to hold and cuddle him the next day. Four weeks later, on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the beast took it's final, triumphant bite and Helen passed away. The beast celebrated, believing that it had won.

Helen's funeral took place at Emstrey Crem on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January, followed by a celebration of her life, held at Christ Church. It is testament to her beauty that it was standing-room only at both places. Indeed, the Church had never been so full, with over 430 folk there to honour Helen. Mike Fitton, Colin Pownall, Helen's children and two friends all gave tributes about Helen, and the roof was raised with praise and worship. Forty folk from CMA were there, and we gave away 18 Biker Bibles – Helen was still working for Jesus. **AND** the beast hasn't won. Helen is now in Heaven with her beloved Saviour, Jesus, and is living happily ever after! ✝





## Steph's Testimony

Stephanie Thomas, Hampshire & Dorset

**Hi! My name is Stephanie and I have been a biker in the CMA for the last two and a half years.**

Going to a CMA film night one night about two and a half years ago in a little church in Tuckton, they were showing a film called, 'Are you a fan or follower of Christ'. This was the start of my amazing journey to find my destiny (although I didn't know it then) but God was about to do a good work in me.

It would be a long, painful and hard walk with God, facing my past, all my sins, what I had become, all my brokenness and shame. But Jesus can help and mend anyone, no matter who you are, what you have done or who you have become. His word is truth and His way gave me a life worth living and a hope and future I never thought possible. Jesus changed my life. He cornered me that night and the rest is history as they say—from a life and a past of true hell to the beautiful arms of Jesus.

My life will never be the same again. God turned a broken, damaged and hateful woman into a whole new and caring child of God. God came into my life with a bang and gave me back all that I had lost or had been taken from me long ago. He said I was worth so much to



*God turned a  
broken,  
damaged and  
hateful  
woman into a  
whole new  
and caring  
child of God*

Him. He said He would be my king, my saviour, a father to me and a friend. How badly I needed what God could give me – a life with hope and a purpose. I began to seek Him deeply and He filled me with poems, writings and prophecies, beautiful words from my Father.

God told me to share what He gave me. I found it hard to do at first but He gave me His strength and so much courage and now I do share with anyone who will listen. I pray God will bless you as you read this poem, as He blesses me every time I share the many wonderful words that my God almighty gives to me. †



*Spirit come with breath of fire  
Jesus you are pure and holy  
You are my Lord and mighty King  
Holy Spirit alive and moving  
On bended knee my heart I bring  
Jesus is my wonderful Counsellor  
He guides me on His narrow way  
Fill my mouth with joy and gladness  
Holy Ghost come inside today  
Angels from the heaven ascending  
Proclaiming of my sovereign king  
Tongues and revelations bringing  
Heavenly voices with praises sing  
I cry out to you my God of power  
I revere your holy name on high  
In the river of your mercy flowing  
My selfishness has come to die  
Baptised in your waters freely  
Made whole by your infinite grace  
Spirit come with breath of fire  
Shine upon thy Servants face  
King of kings my lord forever  
I approach your throne in awe  
With boldness I will seek you Jesus  
For you my saviour I adore  
I yearn for your anointing power  
I let go of all that keeps me bound  
Please hear my cry dear Lord Jesus  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
My Comforter and great redeemer  
Come Holy Spirit for all to see  
I rest beneath your wings of refuge  
Come lord Jesus abide in me  
Amen*



# EMC Rallies

Penny Lowery, East Midlands

I'd love to tell you about EMC 2017, but 'what happens in Latvia stays in Latvia' ☺  
My first EMC was 2004 at Hollybush, Northallerton/Thirsk which was also our National Rally. On the Sunday I packed everything inside the tent away, but the tent was still standing – I ended up unpacking it all at about midnight. I was invited to the after-party and got talking to a Norwegian, German and the Dutch... and I was hooked.

Rode to Latvia with guys I hardly knew  
Look at us together, what a motley crew  
Tall, short, slow and fast  
Who knew how long it would last?

We met in Hannover in Germany  
Kobus, Fittons, Phillip, Jason, Mark & Mercy  
Two stops in Poland and then on to the EMC  
Where I broke down, 6 miles from the rally.

Bike was fixed, 2 ride outs we had  
Mike & Mercy well again, we were all glad  
Services every morning and night  
The only hitch, you have to listen to Mike.  
*(only joking!)*

Before we realise the weekend is done  
Went way too fast, so must have been fun  
One last photo before we go  
The folks back home, we have something to show.

Back to Hannover where it all started  
Was the last night before we parted  
Said our final fond farewells  
"Until next year, hope all goes well".

Come to EMC, you'll have a blast  
And you'll make friendships that will last  
Come to one, or maybe two  
But be careful, they'll get a hold of you.

**2005 was Netherlands.** I talked my brother into a two-week holiday around the Rhine area, Germany, and the rally at the end, as neither of us had ridden abroad before.

**2006 Finland.** 4 weeks travelling alone, the only things booked were my ferries and the EMC accommodation. Ferry, Newcastle to Norway, ride across Sweden, ferry to Finland. Then to get back, ride down the length of Sweden and across Denmark to get the ferry home. It seemed like a great idea until 2 weeks before leaving when my body told my guts what I was about to do! God was great. The Norwegian guy I met in 2004 met me on the dock, showed me around, put me up for the night and rearranged my Norway leg of the trip (which was sooo much better than I had planned).

**2007 Sweden.** Everything seemed to go wrong. I lost my passport, turned the house upside down two or three times (eventually found it in the loft with the car documents, which I bought that year). And loading the bike in the rain was the final straw – flew to Jersey for a week instead. Regretted it, as apparently it was a dry and great rally. I got told off by a Dutchman I met in Finland as I told him to bring his family to Sweden, and he did – only to find I wasn't there.

**2008 Netherlands again.** They are so generous and fun (slightly mad) — and very tall.

**2009 Czech Republic.** Mike had an accident on the way so couldn't go. I stayed in a Monastery a mile up the road (it had been converted into an hotel, but a girl in a monastery – it had to be done). I was going to travel to Prague alone after the rally, but there was a story that someone had a gun pointed at them (only a toy one, and the Police warned the gunman that 500 bikers now knew where they lived!), so I met up with Jason and Jogi for the 'bendy way round trip'. Went to the Bone Church in Czech Republic, then down through Austria and back up through the bottom of





Germany. They forced me to do the Grossglockner, Stelvio Pass and another mountain range. I've never been so scared of bends/hairpins... especially when the cloud came in and you couldn't see 2 ft in front of you.

**2010 Huddersfield, UK.** Arrived late Wednesday night. Met and hugged as many people as I possibly could on the Thursday, and then left Friday after breakfast for chemotherapy round 2 (for breast cancer) Friday afternoon. I forgot that my immune system was supposed to be low and avoid people! (my chemo nurse was a biker/pillion too).

**2011 Norway.** Two weeks before being there we were all at the National Rally, Huddersfield, when we heard the news that there had been a bomb and shooting. When I arrived in Oslo it was moving, there were still flowers everywhere. The actual rally was near Lillhammer in the centre of Norway. I can still remember the mountains around us, the other side of the road was an ice blue river and we were singing 'How Great is our God'. I'd just finished radiotherapy in March and given the all clear and here I was, 1) alive and, 2) stood in the middle of Norway! – with my bike! (When I asked the Doctor if I was safe to ride to Norway, they said "yes, but why would you want to?"). After the rally I decided to go as far north as I could – I got to Alesund and Trondheim before having to head back. My fork seal went, so I got stuck in the top of Denmark for a couple of days while the local garage repaired it. Again came back via Germany and Holland.

**2012 Germany** – hot. My Kit Kat chunky kept melting during the day and freezing again during the night, by the time I got home there was biscuit at one end and chocolate at the other. Met up with the Southern Irish chaps. I had to go pillion on the ride out as Rob Urand and Brian Carbernaro had decided to put their chains around my wheels when they went out for the day!

**2013 Denmark.** This is where I first met Finnish George. Another Finnish man I know couldn't make it and sent George to send his apologies. There is always

a point on the trip where I go 'wow' – this was it, a Finnish man bought Danish M&M's for an English girl!

**2014 Portugal** – to my shame I chickened out, as I was worried it would be too hot. ☹

**2015 Finland.** Met Scottish George on the Harwich/Hook of Holland ferry. If I remember rightly there was a yellow weather warning for rain – and I travelled to Harwich through it. I was slightly ahead of it in Holland and Germany, until I went around Osnabruck trying to find an hotel I'd used before (the chap who owned it had 18? bikes). When I found it, it had closed down and now there was horizontal rain. I met Mike in Malmo, Sweden and rode up to Stockholm with him, where we were on different ferries. Did the usual trip back home, Helsinki to Stockholm ferry, then down through Sweden, across the bridge and across/down through Denmark, Germany and Holland.

**2016 Spain.** Went to Bilbao, came back through Santander. Saw the 'Human Towers' competition/festival in Valls. Then we had a lazy morning by the pool, rode the couple of miles to the rally for lunch/afternoon meetings (or found a bit of shade and didn't move) and more food and evening service before heading back to the hotel.

**2017 Latvia.** The first time I've travelled in a group and the first time we'd ridden together – don't think we did too bad – even though the Polish car drivers tried to kill us. As I only have a small tank, we had to have 'Penny stops' every 70 miles-ish. Which were invaluable. We needed the water and ice cream (it was 30+ degrees in Poland) and coffee—and we met loads of people. We gained two Dutchmen who rode up to the rally with us. My bike broke down 6 miles from the rally. Mike phoned Zigmars, (Latvian President); a trailer arrived and as soon as we arrived at the rally, my bike was being stripped down. Between a Latvian, two Englishmen, Google, two Finnishmen, and a



Dutchman gave a final tweak, my bike was fixed (still spluttered a bit on the Sunday, but both she and I enjoyed the Lithuanian back roads). We also met Scottish George, who I met on the ferry in 2015.

As I said I can't tell you much ☺ but it seemed like everything was going wrong—until you took one step back, where you could see that everything was working out for the good of God/His Glory.

I would encourage you to come to the Netherlands EMC Rally next year, or at least the UK EMC in 2019. Come and meet some amazing people who will become lifelong friends. And after all, we are all part of the same family.

Penny †



Latvia EMC



## This is a short explanation of what happens with the 'Biker Bibles' so that people are clear with the process.

The National Executive decides each year how many will be ordered and once they are sure we have the money to pay for them then they are ordered from the Bible Society. Typically they will arrive for storage sometime in November after being printed and packaged.

They used to be stored in Scunthorpe but now that the company that stores them for us has moved base they will be stored in Grimsby which is 30 miles farther up the road. In some ways this will actually work in our favour in that access should be easier as the location is open 9-5 six days a week. One of the downsides is that the storage is on an upper floor so the bibles will have to have the pallets split to get them up and down in the lift. It will also mean a round trip of 60 miles for me to go and sort the bibles. It is for this reason I need plenty of notice – not 2 hours like one branch that will remain nameless! Most branches have a good idea of the events coming up on their calendar so really there is no excuse for leaving it until the week before an event before realising you need bibles!

Branches, if they are doing as requested, should actually order from Rob Urand who will then notify me and I will make arrangements with the branch concerned to either arrange for them to collect or for me to dispatch to them. In many cases it is as cheap to dispatch as it is for the branch to collect once fuel costs both ways are taken into account. It does of course work out cheaper if a branch can collect on behalf of others but they still need to make sure that Rob and I are both in the picture and they have his approval.

Once I am aware that the request has been approved I will check whether the bibles are being collected or dispatched. If the bibles are for collection then I will go to the warehouse and label up the boxes for each branch concerned. If the collection is outside of normal hours I will then bring them home and store until they are collected.

If I know when the branches are coming to collect then I will arrange to be at the warehouse to make sure things go smoothly. If the bibles are for dispatch I will need an address where the bibles can be signed for. I will also need to have an email address, a phone number/mobile number if possible. These are all requirements of the couriers we use.

Once I have the details needed I check with all the couriers concerned and find the cheapest I can

which will usually be on a 3 day service. This means they should arrive inside 3 days. When booking I will arrange for *Goods In Transit* cover in case any bibles get lost or damaged. We sometimes can have quite a value travelling once the cost of each of the bibles is taken into account. If sending by courier following a

couple of incidents at the warehouse caused by the couriers then I will collect the boxes of bibles and bring them home for the courier to collect from me. This makes sure there are no foul-ups at the warehouse. We once had the same courier turn up 3 times at the warehouse without a clue what he was collecting! Another time we had one take a full pallet when he was supposed to take 10 boxes. You can see why I arrange for them to go from our house now!

When I book the courier I pay from my own funds for the delivery. It is for this reason that I need prompt payment back as otherwise when several branches order I can be seriously out of pocket.

If all goes well then I get an email saying that the bibles have arrived. I will then tell the branch the cost and wait for money to come back so that I don't get too seriously depleted. **It doesn't help if branches wait till the end of the month before I get paid!**

I hope this clarifies the ordering and delivery process for the bibles. ☮

Russell

### What happens to the Bibles?

Russell Boyce,  
East Yorkshire



# **Bikers Church 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Diane Raven, SaS Branch & BC Treasurer

## **What's so special about No. '7'?**

Why is it a 7-year itch? Why 7 dwarves? Why 7 days in a week? Why 7 deadly sins? Why do so many folk choose 7 as their, supposedly, 'lucky number'? Why, in the Bible, does the number 7, and its related terms like *sevenfold* or *seventy*, appear more than seven hundred times!

Most times, a 7 is just a 7, and we must be cautious about attaching hidden messages, meanings, or codes in numbers in the Bible, or anywhere else. But this particular number does have a habit of popping up very frequently!

The first use of the number 7 in the Bible relates to the creation week in *Genesis 1*. God spends 6 days creating the heavens and the earth, and then rests on the seventh day. This is our template for the 7-day week, observed around the world to this day. The seventh day was to be 'set apart' for Israel; the Sabbath was a holy day of rest (*Deuteronomy 5:12*).

So, right at the start of the Bible, the number 7 is identified with something being 'finished' or 'complete', and, from then on, that association continues.

There is the command for animals to be at least 7 days old before being used for sacrifice (*Exodus 22:30*); the command for leprous Naaman to bathe in the Jordan river 7 times to effect complete cleansing (*2 Kings 5:10*); the command for Joshua to march around Jericho for 7 days (and on the seventh day to make 7 circuits) and for 7 priests to blow 7 trumpets outside the city walls (*Joshua 6:3-4*). In these



instances, 7 seems to signify a completion of some kind: a divine mandate is fulfilled.

Series of 7 things often crop up in the Bible. For example, there were 7 pairs of each clean animal on the ark (*Genesis 7:2*); 7 stems on the tabernacle's lamp-stand (*Exodus 25:37*); 7 things the Lord hates listed in *Proverbs 6:16*; 7 qualities of the Messiah given in *Isaiah 11:2*; 7 signs in John's Gospel; 7 parables in *Matthew 13*; and 7 woes in *Matthew 23*.

In the book of *Revelation*, the number 7 is used more than fifty times in a variety of contexts: there are 7 letters to 7 churches in Asia; 7 spirits before God's throne (*Revelation 1:4*); 7 golden lampstands (*1:12*); 7 stars in Christ's right hand (*1:16*); 7 seals of God's judgment (*5:1*); 7 angels with 7 trumpets (*8:2*); and so on. It is probable, here, too, that the number 7 represents completeness or totality: viz. the 7 churches represent the completeness of the body of Christ, the 7 seals on the scroll represent the fullness of God's punishment of a sinful earth...

Thus, there are times when it *seems* that God is communicating the idea of divine completeness, perfection, and wholeness by means of the number 7.

In September 2017, Bikers Church celebrated its 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary. No, we are neither 'perfect' nor 'complete', but our guest speaker, biking Vicar John Hudghton, gave a challenge to the Bikers Church Leadership: "Now you have completed your first 7 years, what are you going to do with the next 7?"

Do we have a plan? Do we have any goals? Are we meeting the needs of the people who attend? As we are near capacity, space-wise, do we have anywhere else lined up to go to? Questions whose answers the Leadership Team will be pondering very seriously in the months to come.

The worship time was amazing and, during the celebration, fellow leather-clad Vicar, Carl Edwards, (who, along with John, refers to himself as one of the 'Revving Revs'!) sang a Don Francisco song for us. Paul Hodge also sang for us.

Rev John gave a brilliant talk, so Spirit-filled that five folk accepted Jesus as their Saviour there and then! These wonderful folk are now whole in God's sight and their lives will be perfect and complete when they get to heaven. Number 7 was good for them! †



*John and Carl*



*Carl (the one playing the guitar!)*





October 2017 was the weekend of the Ladies' Conference, held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Derbyshire. Seventy-five ladies met with expectations of meeting up with old friends, making new ones, great fellowship and plenty of food. No one was disappointed!





# Ladies' Conference 2017

Chris Hodge, North Cheshire

Friday evening began with a meal and a welcome from Sandy and her team. We were treated to an 'Evening with Fraser', our very own, very talented, Fraser McDougall from the Scottish Highlands. Fraser recited poems he has written from his life experiences, some very moving, some entertaining. Even Andy Hogan tried to listen in! The evening ended with tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cake!

Saturday morning began a whole two days of food, cake, more food, more cake and to finish off the day – cake! We had a choice of morning seminars, either a craft session with Rhonda, or Jackie Russell speaking on 'The Whosoever's'. The ladies doing craft produced some lovely items to take home with them while others were challenged to think about how we 'Christians' are viewed by the unsaved.

Sandy took one of the afternoon sessions looking at 'Women of the Bible' and Liz Robertson another on 'Worship through Art'. Sandy encouraged us to look at certain women in the Bible and discuss them in our groups, looking into the background and lives of women and the role they played in scripture. Many of us were reminded of just how much women meant to the Lord and how differently he used each of them.

Free time gave opportunity for some to sit by the lake and read, others to take a walk, (being careful to avoid fields of cows) and others to relax, take a nap or even a bath! For many this was some 'me' time not often afforded to working wives or busy mums.

This year's Conference was a bit different in that Sandy had invited people from within CMA to share their talents and minister to us. Abby from Bristol branch did just that. Abby is a singer and dancer and the Lord told her she would be an 'anomaly', performing in the secular world songs she has written from her experiences in life. Her stage name is 'Anna O'Mally'. Abby has an amazing voice and we were encouraged by the words of the songs she has written. She then led us in a time of worship to end the evening. Time for a last cup of tea, coffee

or hot chocolate and, of course, cake before retiring to bed. We did have the luxury that night of an extra hour's sleep! (clocks went back an hour.)

Mike arrived Saturday morning after travelling from America, just in time for lunch, typical man! He had celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in the air but unbeknown to him we ladies had a surprise in store!

Liz Robertson took the first session on Sunday morning and we were able to make a decorated cross to take home. A short break for more cake and coffee and into the main morning session when Mike gave a word entitled 'If only you knew', after which we shared in breaking of bread.

As a surprise for Mike, Sandy had asked for as many men from CMA to travel down and celebrate Mike's special birthday at the end of the conference. The men were met in the foyer and smuggled into the adjoining room at the back of our meeting room. Sandy wrapped up the conference and as we were singing our final song with all eyes closed, about thirty men quietly joined us in the room. Even though suddenly the volume of singing increased and deep voices joined the sopranos Mike was oblivious! It was only when he said "Now open your eyes and look at the person next to you" that he noticed Gary. As we all clapped he realised how many men had entered the room. Andy brought in a birthday cake and we all sang 'Happy Birthday'! I have never seen Mike speechless so this was a first! It was just as well so many came as we needed all the help we could get to eat even more CAKE!!

It had been a weekend of ministry, prayer and teaching and we thank Sandy, Pauline and all the team for planning and organising the conference. We all look forward to what 2019 will bring. If you haven't been before please consider coming to the next one, you won't be disappointed as those who came for the first time this year will tell you. The dates for the next conference are November 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019.

Blessings to you all. ✚

# A Night on the Town

Testimony of Richard Lowe, Carlisle

Ding! Ding!  
"Hello mate! Good news about the race!  
"Fancy a pint to celebrate?"  
I thought for a while  
And agreed with a smile,  
And ordered the taxi that took us two  
mile.

Into the pub with its noise and light  
"I'll get the round in, is that alright?"  
Thoughts were clear, I sank the first of  
the night,

Looking round it felt so good,  
To be finished work and in the pub  
The jukebox was playing my favourite  
tune  
Staring at the video it was over so soon.

Now my glass was clear so I ordered  
another beer.

Two men at the bar, with big muscles  
and might,  
Were boasting about how they won their  
last fight.  
They had jumped on his head from an  
incredible height  
It seems like their victim had gone out  
like a light  
It was clear from their crack they weren't  
very bright  
How could they live life with such lack of  
sight?

Then one looked me in the eye and gave  
me such a fright  
A hasty retreat, via my feet,  
Away from the heat, found my seat,  
Oh how the beer tasted a treat.

Now my glass was clear so I said "Who's  
getting the beer?"

By the frown on his face it became  
perfectly clear  
"Must be your round I'll have a beer"  
Fumbling in his pocket he said "That's  
queer"  
My eyebrows lifted and I uttered a sneer  
"I know it's my lash but the bandit's  
scrant me cash"  
"I've got me cash card I'll have to dash"  
He soon returned with a reinforced stash.

"Last orders lads" the barman cried,

"May as well get two" my mate sighed  
At closing time we left the pub  
Decidedly peckish I bought some grub,  
It was surely time to hit the club.

Arriving at the club we all said "Phew"  
There weren't many people waiting in the  
queue  
In through the door and paid the toll,  
Straight to the bar with a nonchalant  
stroll.

Struggling to stand on my own two feet,  
I looked around and found a seat  
My mate's eyes were staring  
I asked him at what he was glaring  
"That lass over there sittin' next to the  
heater

I've got this urge to go and meet her"

I looked and laughed, "It's the make-up  
and the light  
"When you wake up in the morning you'll  
get a nasty fright  
"Feeling rough and hung over you'll  
wanna forget last night,"  
"Bet you a tenner I'll get her in bed!"  
Said, "She's not so small I hope she's  
been fed"

"Put your money on a horse It'll be more  
productive" I said.  
Wished him good luck then got up with a  
bit of a stagger, hedi-ho-o,  
Off to the Gents to relieve my bladder,  
Opened the door, and thought, 'You must  
be joking'

As the sign on the wall announced 'No  
Smoking',  
My lungs collapsed, and I felt myself  
choking  
All the boys they were a 'toking'.

Up popped dealer Jim,  
A gaggle of men surrounded him,  
He looked unhealthy and decidedly thin,  
"Do you want some 'fast'?  
It don't half last"  
But Bob butted in, "Don't listen to him,  
"Have a 'tab' you'll soon feel fab  
"Three day trip, step on the launch pad,  
"Highest quality fresh from the lab"  
Five paces to the left I walked like a crab.

I was introduced to Fred, who was clearly  
off his head,

He wore a silly grin and his eyes were  
puffy and red  
"Try this instead and don't be misled"  
"Sorry I haven't got any cash"  
"It's alright mate I've got a big stash  
"Just this time we'll say it's my lash,  
"Go on try it its only hash"  
"Sorry mate I really must dash"  
"Don't be silly it'll do you no harm,  
"For a start you'd be a lot more calm"

"Have a chat with Jack,  
"He's hiding in the back,  
"He's the man to see if you are wanting  
smack or crack"  
"Come near me with that and I'll lay him  
on his back"

Up popped Hugh, who told them all to  
shoo,  
"My advice to you is to stuff a bag of  
glue"  
Said "Sorry pal I've got better things to  
do  
"Besides only came in here to use the  
loo"  
The man next to me his legs had gone to  
elastic,  
He was practising the art of reverse  
peristalsis,  
This was too much, so I headed back to  
the bar,  
It was a bit of a journey, it seemed so far.

Again my glass was clear so I had  
another beer.

Closing in on the midnight hour,  
Satan laughing at full power  
The bass could be felt on the bottom of  
my feet,  
And I was sweating because of the heat,  
Thoughts became lewd,  
Conversation was crude,  
My sight was blurred,  
My speech was slurred,  
The perfect state to get squared with a  
bird.

After a solitary dance, at the clock I did  
glance  
It was perfectly clear I didn't stand a  
chance  
The last thing I remember was floating  
toward the door,



A guy was shouting "What's the score?"  
His mate was yelling "He called my bird a  
whore"

Hit him then what are you waiting for?  
A frenzied pagger ensued and the gandgie  
hit the floor,  
"What do you say now mate, come on do  
you want some more?"

The bouncer ran quickly from the door  
"Any more from you and I'll call the law"  
His girl was screaming, the tears were  
streaming,

There were so may people the room was  
heaving

I was certainly glad that I was leaving  
I was feeling shattered, another bloke  
was getting battered,

The taxi man was fuming, he was  
beginning to swear,  
He'd been waiting for fifteen minutes and  
hadn't found his fare,

I looked on top of his head and couldn't  
see any hair  
Said "Under pressure mate?" He returned  
an evil stare.

I should have saved some cash I thought,  
It would have saved me this enormous  
walk,

So I set off up the road, you wouldn't  
have thought it was late,  
Hundreds of people crowded Botchergate,  
The inane slaver, 'Look at me, I'm great',  
Heated words that generated hate.

Dominant presence of police carried a lot  
of weight,

They really do try as hard as they might,  
But always, inevitably, there is a massive  
fight,

Violence reigned never far from my sight,  
Speeding cars with their flashing blue  
light

Adds a bit of colour in the dark of the  
night.

Carlos Fandango had got such a fright,  
Can't have noticed the red traffic light  
Skidded and fought with all his might  
Front end written off – what a horrible  
sight

With a gleam in his eye the officer said  
with delight

"Blow into this bag, Sir, with all your  
might"

Surely promotion was the goal in his  
sight.

Whilst I was walking on my way  
Evil thoughts said this could pay  
Loads of money coming my way  
Line my pockets for a rainy day  
I'll sell some hash, what d'ya say?

But I was caught – the weakest link  
For my punishment I was put in the clink  
Which gave me the opportunity to sit and  
think

Really bad food and stewed tea to drink  
The bucket in the corner – phew what a  
stink

Two hundred yards to the nearest sink  
Some men couldn't handle it they were on  
the brink

They had made an application to see the  
prison shrink

But I held together and always felt much  
better

My family kept me informed by sending  
me a letter

Looking round the exercise yard faces are  
fraught

Expounding meticulous details of how  
they got caught.

Nearly all say that they were grassed  
'I'll break his legs when me time in here  
is passed'

Released for a time on a thousand pound  
bail,

I was waiting to be sentenced and be put  
back in jail

Following those wasteful days that I had  
spent,

I was asked to go to church so off I went  
I felt really weird but I liked the event.  
Ashamed of those nights in Satan's city  
of sin,

The flashing lights and the terrible din,  
The Lord said to me 'Its time to pack it  
in'

Now, at last, I was shown the light,  
But Satan doesn't give up without a fight.

The gospel was clear, the Holy Spirit was  
right,

There was a struggle for a time, my soul  
was in plight,

But grace was drawing me from darkness  
into light

The truth was dawning, becoming so  
bright,  
I had to come down on the side of right  
After the life I'd spent, I had to repent,  
This conviction of sin was heaven sent.

While reading a book called Basic  
Christianity,  
I prayed a prayer which made Jesus a  
reality,  
I had opened my heart and asked him in,  
His Spirit entered, I was forgiven my sin,  
With Jesus in control, my new life could  
begin,

Now, after hearing my story it could be,  
You may not think that you are as bad as  
me,

"An upright citizen" you say, "That's me!  
"I've got a clean record, who can accuse  
me?"

"I can stand proud in this society"  
But have you read Paul's words in  
Romans three?

If your memory's rusty try verse twenty-  
three,

'All have sinned,' everyone, you see,  
What's the difference, the amount or  
degree?

Everyone falls short of God's glory,

You are a slave of Satan, unless Jesus  
sets you free,

He died for you and He died for me,  
God's only Son nailed to a tree,  
His death was our atonement on that  
cross at Calvary.

Please save yourself from judgement,  
Don't ignore what God has done,

Your sins can all be covered,  
Through the blood shed by his Son,  
But you must repent, turn your back on  
sin,

Open your heart and let him in,  
Receive his robe of righteousness,

And you can walk free,  
It is your responsibility,  
God's given you the key,  
You have to decide, so what's it going to  
be?

I've made my decision, what will yours  
be?  
You see in front of you a 'born again me.'



# Who is Jesus Christ?

Stewart Menelaws, ex-biker  
now director of Global Vision TV

GV247.TV  
The Global Vision Channel

Were you aware that many Christian believers are unable to explain who Jesus Christ actually is other than to reply 'the Son of God' – which of course is clearly stated in the New Testament. Yet, it is our experience that this important subject is not clearly understood. We live in a world where there are many opinions responsible for leading both unbeliever and believer into error and that is why it is important to understand, 'Who is Jesus Christ?'

Stewart and Deborah  
Menelaws are  
directors of Studio  
Scotland Ltd and  
Global Vision TV –  
[gv247.tv](http://gv247.tv)

There is a statement that goes something like this.

'Jesus was either a good man, a con man, a lunatic or He is who He claims to be; God – come to earth to save us from our sins'.

That's probably a reasonable statement that demands a rational answer. In Matthew 16:13-15, Jesus Himself asks the same question of His disciples. "Who do you say I am?"

## Who do you say I Am? (Matthew 16:13-15)

There are various groups and organisations that hold to a wide range of viewpoints and will for example tell you that Jesus of Nazareth is:

- The Archangel Michael
- The brother of Lucifer
- An ascended master
- A failed leader who needed to be replaced by . . . .  
*place the name of a cult leader here*
- He was / is a prophet
- He was a revolutionary, historical figure but not divine
- And some persist in flogging a very dead horse by saying He never existed at all

The list goes on, but all are making the same statement that He is not God. The Bible texts are clear about the 'required attributes' of The Saviour of Mankind, but before we can look at this, we need to understand more about God Almighty the Creator Himself.

## First - The dimensional or triune nature of God:

1. Gen 1:1 It begins with 'In the beginning God' (Heb: 'Elohim' is plural i.e., 'Gods')  
*Elohim* is used 680 times in The Bible
2. Gen 1:2 The Spirit of God hovered over the waters (in Luke 1:35 the Spirit came upon Mary)

3. Gen 1:26 We see that God is speaking in the plural: 'Let us make mankind in our image'
4. Gen 11:7 At the tower of Babel we read: 'Let us go down'
5. Gen 18:1-5 The 3 Visitors to Abram illustrates something deeper: 'They answered in unison'
6. Deut 6:4 Reads 'The LORD your God is One'
7. Isaiah 9:6 We see the triune nature of God, beginning with The Son, Counsellor (Holy Spirit) and Mighty God (Father). These aspects are brought out further throughout the Gospel of John
8. Isaiah 43:11 & 44:8 God is One. There is no other God
9. Matt 28:19 – Disciples are to baptise in the Name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit

The scriptures clearly indicate that there is a multi-dimensional aspect to the 'One' we human beings call 'God Almighty'. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, He is present everywhere and He is timeless. For finite beings such as ourselves to try to comprehend the infinite is quite simply – not possible.

To say that we can fully understand 'The Creator' is to bring Him down to our human level. The Old Testament texts make it clear that there is only one God and only one Saviour (Isaiah 43:11) There are no others. Yet, in the New Testament we see that Jesus Christ is the Saviour – the *only* Saviour (Acts 4:12). So what does this mean?

## Second – The need to simply trust God:

In Genesis 32:29-30 Jacob son of Isaac wrestles with a Being that he believes to be God, and in this struggle Jacob asks His name to the response, 'Why do you ask My Name?'



In the book of Exodus 3:13-15 we read the account of Moses and the burning bush. He also asks for a name and the reply was 'I Am who I Am'. When this passage is understood from a Hebraic perspective the reply is most solemn and implies—that is all you need to know.

We continue to read in the book of Judges where Samson's father Manoah is speaking with The Angel of The Lord (Judges 13:17-18) and he too asks for a name. The reply again is, "*Why do you ask My Name? It is beyond understanding*". Another word would be 'wonderful' which implies something extraordinary or simply beyond comprehension.

In Isaiah 9:6-7 we read that the Saviour who will be born will be called 'Wonderful Counsellor' and Jesus spoke of The Holy Spirit as Counsellor in John 16:7. 'Mighty God, Everlasting Father'. Jesus said there is only one Father in Matthew 23:9. And 'Prince of Peace'. All these titles are presented as one.

### **Third – Jesus is God The Son:**

Who is Jesus in the New Testament? There are hundreds of passages that we can look at. Here is a small selection.

#### **Gospel of Matthew:**

1. He is the Messiah / Christ (Anointed One) (Matt 1:1)
2. He will save His people from their sins (Matt 1:21)
3. He is the Son of God (Matt 8:29)
4. The Son of Man will be raised on the third day (Matt 17:23)
5. The Son of Man will appear in the sky (Matt 24:30)
6. His Blood was poured out for many for forgiveness of sins (Matt 26:28)
7. All authority has been given to Him in Heaven and on Earth (Matt 28:18)

#### **Gospel of John (one of the three who was closest to Jesus Christ):**

1. He is God (John 1:1)
2. He was in the beginning with God (John 1:2)
3. All things came into being through Him (John 1:3)
4. He became flesh, and dwelt among us (John 1:14)
5. He is the Saviour of the world (John 4:42)
6. He and the Father are One (John 10:30)
7. He is the resurrection and the life – bringing eternal life (John 11:25)
8. He is the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Him (John 14:6)

According to the scriptures, the coming Messiah would need to fulfil certain criteria before being given the title 'Messiah or Christ our Saviour'. Here is just a small portion of Old Testament prophecy that Jesus would need to meet if He was the promised Saviour. These prophecies go back from 450 – 1400 years before Christ and see their fulfilment in the New Testament Gospel accounts.

- Messiah would need to be born of a Virgin (Isaiah 7:14 – Matt 1:20-23)
- Messiah would need to be born in Bethlehem of Judea (Micah 5:2 – Matt 2:1-6)
- Messiah would need to be "God with Us" (Isaiah 9:6 – Colossians 1:15)
- Messiah would need to enter Jerusalem on a Colt (Zech 9:9 – Matt 21:1-11)
- Messiah would need to be sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech 11:12 – Matt 26:14-16)
- Messiah would need to be silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7 – Mark 14:60-61)
- Messiah would need to be struck and spat upon (Isaiah 50:6 – Matt 26:67)
- Messiah's hands and feet would need to be pierced (Psalm 22:16 – John 19:16-18)
- Messiah would need to be condemned alongside criminals (Isaiah 53:12 – Matt 27:37-38)
- Messiah's garments would need to be divided and lots cast (Psalm 22:18 – John 19:23-24)
- Messiah could not have any bones broken (Exodus 12:46 – John 19:31-33)
- Messiah's side would need to be pierced (Zech 12:10 – John 19:34)
- Messiah would need to rise from the grave and from death (Psalm 16:10 – Luke 24:1-8)

### **To Conclude:**

In the letter to the Hebrews chapter 1, we find a number of important statements from the Old Testament stating that Jesus Christ is definitely NOT an angel. For God said of The Son...

*'Your throne O God will last forever and ever and Righteousness will be the Sceptre of your Kingdom'* (Psalm 45:6-7 – Hebrews 1:8).

In the same letter we read of many statements confirming the divine nature of Christ Jesus who is 'The New Covenant' which God has purposed to make with man, as spoken by the prophet Jeremiah in chapter 31:31-34 (Hebrews 8:10).

There are many scriptures throughout the New Testament that speak of Jesus' divinity and triune connection with The Father, for He is the image of the

invisible God, for by Him all things were Created (Col 1:15-16). He is the only name by which you can be saved (Acts 4:12), He is God and Saviour (Titus 2:13), He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End (Rev 1:8). And He is coming back (Rev 22:12).

As mentioned previously, the infinite Triune nature of God is hard for the finite human mind to grasp (*3 in 1 and 1 in 3 and often referred to as 'The Godhead' as a way of understanding*) but we are not asked to grasp that which is out-with our understanding. We are simply told to trust God and the rescue that He has provided (John 3:16).

It is important to point out that we are not praying to all three but to The Father, as Jesus instructed His

disciples in Matthew chapter 6:9; and our prayers are spoken in the name of Jesus Christ (John 16:23). †

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This teaching article is a reprint of the 'Discipleship Check List' no.6,\* part of Episode 39 of Global Vision TV's 'The Weekend Show', which may be found at: [www.gv247.tv](http://www.gv247.tv) or scan the QR code



\*This series is for any Christian believer who is either at the very beginning of their journey with Jesus Christ or who has been a believer for some years but lacks a sound understanding of the Christian faith. It should also prove to be a helpful aid which interlinks with all our resources for Shepherds, overseers and believers reaching out to others.



The Daniel Project



Stewart and Deborah also produce 'The Daniel Project', focusing on end-time prophecy; 'The Daniel Connection', a full-length movie that considers what may happen in the near future; and 'The Lamplight Project', a teaching and discipling resource. All three DVDs are useful for outreach and teaching.

Having worked with many ministries in various capacities over the years, Stewart and Deborah have gone on to produce many film projects that mainly focus on biblical apologetics, eschatology and the need for believers to become disciples of Jesus Christ. As professional media producers they have worked in many countries, meeting many academics and scholars along the way. They began GV247.TV – The Global Vision Channel – in 2005 and at the beginning of 2017 have been more involved in broadening the channel as a free viewing resource with hundreds of studio interviews from excellent speakers on a wide range of biblical subjects.



# Testimony of Stewart Menelaws

Studio Scotland Ltd and Global Vision TV



**When it comes to the world of sex, drugs, rock-n-roll and violence, there is nothing new or worthy to speak of, yet for one young man in his twenties this particular night was a dark night of the soul. A crossroads in life's journey.**

It's Friday night and across from the old brewery stood a row of tenement buildings. The only visible light in the room came from a small television. At the other end of the room sat the young man with his metal toe-capped boots resting on a small table. He was wearing a helmet, the German swastikas on the side stood out – a fork stanchion lay on his lap – he was waiting for the flat door to be kicked in.

Knocking back another can of cider he waited for the late night Friday movie to come on. Despite his young years he had lived a colourful yet illness-stricken life, one that would earn him the name 'Death'. Formerly a rock guitarist, whose bed was a coffin and drug of choice was LSD, he had an engineering background and his love of building custom motorcycles would see him leave the world of music and enter a dark world of violence.

Before the film was about to begin, the prelude was a 5-minute religious slot entitled 'Late Call'. There sat a middle-aged man in a grey suit with a white dog collar. He was seated by a table dressed with flowers and a wooden cross, all set

against a blue studio background. The young man leaned forward and waited intently to hear what the man of God would say. Perhaps he had answers to this meaningless broken world? The programme ended, and with it any meaningful answers. The man in the grey suit, with the blue background, the wooden cross and plastic flowers neatly arranged on the table – had nothing of any value to say.

Profanity filled the small room and a cider can bounced off the TV screen.

**from a helmet with  
German swastikas on  
the side and a fork  
stanchion as a  
weapon:  
to the helmet of  
salvation, his weapon  
now the Word of God**

Sometime later, the young man lay in a pool of blood. He was at the crossroad in life, one that would change him forever. It was a matter of choosing life or death – and he had to choose carefully. With a soul filled with darkness and rage, he called out on God, knowing that life could never be here by chance and that if there *was* some great and almighty intelligence out there, he needed to understand what it all meant. For if God *was* real and would accept his cry from the heart – then he would forsake all and

follow him.

Thirty years later, only yards away from the row of tenements and industrial waste ground where the young man cried out on God, a new development has been constructed. On it is now a large cinema complex and that night, the feature movie was a film entitled '*The Daniel Connection*' – a full length feature film based on an international TV documentary called '*The Daniel Project*' which is a documentary that challenges people to think about the existence of God and the astonishing prophecies throughout the Bible.

As it was a movie premiere, the director stood along with his producer wife and introduced the film to a full house. Thirty years older, now wearing the helmet of salvation, his weapon – The Word of God – and his feet shod with the Gospel of Peace – stood that young man.

Stewart has never forgotten that night. Desperately seeking answers to a broken life in a broken world. Individuals who represent Christ and fail to deliver the Good News is something he will never forget. For, as he will tell you confidently, "There *is* a God. Our lives *do* have meaning. There *are* answers to life's deepest questions" as he and his wife Deborah are committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ being preached with clarity and conviction. †

# Tips for Riding Abroad

Penny Lowrey, East Midlands

I asked friends from across the UK and Netherlands for some tips for riding abroad and here's what we've come up with – hopefully they're helpful 😊 Thanks everyone for your contributions. As in everything – please check, weigh & test them for yourselves.



North Sea

## Before you leave:

- Tesco vouchers can be used against some ferry fares.
- Check online/AA/RAC/Halfords what you need to take (stickers on helmet & headlights; breathalyser; yellow jacket; triangle; bulbs; GB sticker, etc.) – each country has its own requirements.
- Emergency service numbers for each country. Contact details for the EMC (or travel with Mike Fitton/someone who knows everyone 😊).
- Try learning 'hello/goodbye/please/thank you' – it makes people smile if they think you're trying (even if they're laughing at your pronunciation). In Poland we all shouted "Dzien dobry" (hello) and the waiter thought we were Polish! Slow down & try to think of another way of saying what you're saying – If all else fails use 'sign language' – everyone knows crossed legs means you need the loo.
- Tell your bank/credit card/insurance/mobile phone company that you're going abroad.
- Consider a Camping Card International/Camping Carnet if you're camping a lot – it's £5.50 per year (Camping & Caravanning Club); or *each* camp site will charge you extra for one/hang onto your passport until you leave.
- Also think about an International Driving Licence, £5 from the Post Office.
- Make sure you have suitable/full travel insurance and breakdown cover.
- Take original documents for you and the bike; and a copy too (possibly Utag/electronic copy), and leave a copy at home/cloud storage, just in case both get lost.
- If you wear glasses for riding – you need a spare pair.
- Make sure your bike is legal and able to complete the whole journey (no comments please! 😊).
- Medication – see if you need a doctors letter/copy prescription to cover carrying it.
- Money – If a long trip I usually take some for each country (enough to buy petrol/food/accommodation for at least one night, minimum) and then use the ATM as I go (but the banks do charge).
- Look at bank accounts/credit cards/preloaded cards that don't charge a transaction fee.







## Packing:

- Two pairs of gloves – just in case one gets wet.
- Map(s), even if taking Sat Nav.
- Walking type clothing which packs small & washes/dries quickly. Small multi-purpose liquid soap. All-in-one shampoo/body wash.
- Check the weather for temperatures/take layers. Wash whilst you're away (take a washing line). Take something decent/presentable/posh-ish – you never know where you will be invited to.
- Puncture repair kit; basic toolkit; oil; chainlube; spare key, bulbs, fuses, spark plugs; duct tape; cable ties; chain/lock; first aid kit including Deet, after bite cream, pain killers, diarrhoea & rehydration tablets. Spare parts – maybe not a fuel pump like me, but maybe brake levers, etc. (especially if they're not likely to be at the local scrap yard).
- Adapters
- Maybe a travel kettle (generally hotels don't have them in the rooms); Tea bags; coffee is usually percolated not instant.
- I've tried to ignore the comments of getting a bigger tank, but I guess depending where you're going, carrying spare petrol is an idea (check local restrictions).

## While you're there:

- On the ferry, put the ratchet of the strap on the side of the side stand, so you pull towards the stand, not away from it. Put an old cloth/bike gloves on your seat to provide extra padding, as they get strapped down well.
- Ride on the correct side of the road (or down the line until you see something coming the other way ☺) – seriously, learn the rules of the road for each country (get gloves with R & L on). Go right around roundabouts. Headlights on.
- Pedestrians and pedal cycles have the right of way. Even on green lights when you are turning right – they will cross in front of you & have the right of way.
- If you are travelling to the Hook of Holland, just off the ferry are speed humps – they are pedestrian crossings, so they have the right of way.
- Kilometers per hour not Miles per hour
- If travelling alone – keep in contact – let people at EMC know that you will be coming. Contact other members that are going/call home.
- Petrol comes in (sometimes 92); 95 (unleaded) or 98 (super-unleaded); and diesel.
- If you feel tired – STOP (if you're in a group, someone else is probably nodding off too).
- Be aware of your surroundings – don't do anything you wouldn't do at home.
- Always carry a bottle of water and maybe some nibbles.
- Remember where you've camped – the first year I went away with my brother we pitched, went for a ride on the bikes, but couldn't remember where we'd camped! Eventually found it and took a photo of every campsite name after that.

## Enjoy the journey – it's not all about the destination.

Useful links: <https://www.holidaysafe.co.uk> <https://www.call-assist.co.uk> ↑

## EMC Latvia 2017

Brian Jenner, Gloucester

I went to the E.M.C. with my wife Sue last year and as she does not do bikes we went by car, plane, train, bus, foot then a few hundred yards in a Merc. I was not going to say no.

We camped on site. Many after riding for days headed to well earned luxury near by.

Some highlights were sharing food in a couple of marquees with friends from all around, watching a display of acrobatics on a motorcycle best described as over scaffolding erected by the big top and hitching a lift in a 1962 Russian copy of a German sidecar, see photo.

Perhaps more importantly was the teaching and worship. The worship was refreshing after my C. of E. background and the messages were very challenging. A couple of Latvian ministers, Rene from South Africa and of course our very own Mike brought a challenge or two. Here is my version of part of one of them. As bikers we value freedom – it is a

word we often hear. What is real freedom though? Jesus came to give us freedom. Was he free on the cross? It did not look it but Jesus was free to go against his own human desires to live and so brought forgiveness and true freedom to all of us. The snag is, do we take full advantage? Or do we hang on to little bits. Some converted in latter life take ages to give up bit by bit their past. Some are divinely aided to give up drugs, swearing and the like at once. Some like me were sat in the chair thinking well, I was converted years ago when still youngish I never had any big problems.

I had a picture of the thread-like chain of gold my daughter asked me to mend and a huge ship's chain. With God though a chain is a chain they all stop this true freedom. What are we prepared to do to become free?

If you want to know more about E.M.C. get to Holland next year.

Brian †





# ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS



**EMC 2018**  
**THE NETHERLANDS**  
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## Jasmin in the Philippines

Nick Wright, Towcester

**Jasmin is an ordinary woman in the Philippines with an extraordinary heart for Jesus and for the poor. This is a story of how Jasmin won our hearts in the CMA Towcester branch and of some of the miracles we've witnessed and had the privilege of supporting through her.**

It's hard to capture these things with words on paper. There's something about the living, breathing spirit of a person on fire for Jesus that can only truly be touched, felt and experienced through personal encounter. Nevertheless, we hope that what we share here will inspire you as we share the gospel in the UK.

Jasmin herself grew up in desperate poverty on a mountainside in the jungles of Samar. She now lives in what we might call a 'slum' in Cebu on the

West side of central Philippines. The local people who live there prefer to call it their 'barangay', that is, their community. Jasmin lives with her 3 teenage children. Her mission: self-sacrificially to share the love and hope of Jesus with the poorest and most vulnerable people. She is determined that, as far as possible, other people should not have to live through the hardships and heartaches that she herself has had to endure. She lives to *love*.



Last Christmas, Jasmin had a vision to provide nutritious food and Christmas gifts for around 170 children in Cebu and Samar as a practical expression of the love of Jesus at Christmas. We dipped into our pockets, sent her some money and, as a result, many of the poorest children there had their *first ever* gift and healthy, tasty food. You can imagine the excited looks on their faces! This year, we supported

Jasmin again as she ran a *first-ever* Christmas party for poor families and children who live under cardboard boxes, wood and tarpaulins at the roadside in Cebu. They could hardly believe it!

The glimpses we have seen of Jasmin's life move, challenge and inspire us. By our standards, she lives in dire poverty yet gives away





everything she has, trusting God with her life. This Christmas, Jasmin bought every person in the roadside community a black t-shirt with a white cross on the back as a symbol of connection with us here on the opposite side of the world. The cross represents, powerfully, Jesus living and walking among the poor. One woman commented afterwards: 'I don't know much about what Jesus did in the Bible – but I will never forget what Jesus did here today.'

If you'd like to hear more about Jasmin or to join us at Towcester CMA in supporting her in the Philippines, get in touch with Nick Wright

([nick.wright@abthorpe.net](mailto:nick.wright@abthorpe.net)).

have a glance at an extraordinary challenge page from one of our group who did an extreme sponsored ride last year

([www.facebook.com/Challenge4Jasmin/](https://www.facebook.com/Challenge4Jasmin/)) or have

a glance at these blogs inspired by her: Love

([www.nick-wright.com/blog/love](http://www.nick-wright.com/blog/love));

I am Them ([www.nick-wright.com/blog/i-am-them](http://www.nick-wright.com/blog/i-am-them)); Seen & unseen

([www.nick-wright.com/blog/seen-and-unseen](http://www.nick-wright.com/blog/seen-and-unseen)).

Above all, please pray!



*Little bit of background to the article:*

*In 2016 Nick was contacted by a lady called Jasmine from the Philippines with regard to some online coaching. Nick was impressed with her aptitude and decided to self fund a trip to meet her and see the work she was involved in. When he arrived he realised that she was from a very poor family and had very little herself and yet she was convinced that Jesus had called her to share the Good News with any of the street people she met.*

*Nick returned after his trip and gave our branch a short presentation at our monthly Sunday church meeting, on where he had been and the work that Jasmine was doing. We were impressed and had a collection for Nick to send to Jasmine to help in her work.*

*Since then Nick has made a couple more visits and kept us updated on Jasmine's work. This Christmas we were able to send a larger collection to help Jasmine and she spent all the money on a special Christmas party for the street people.*

*I hope you will consider publishing this article and pictures to encourage other CMA branches to support overseas workers who are sharing the love of Jesus in some very dark places. †*









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