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JOINTS & BANDS

(COLOSSIANS 2:19)



March 2014

Philippines' Conference 2013

During our holiday in the Philippines, we were privileged – and any visitor would, like myself, use that word advisedly; privileged to be present at TWO year-end conferences with the Acts 28 believers.

December the 21st, at Max' Restaurant on the outskirts of Manila, was a most enjoyable and edifying day for those of like precious faith from around the city, plus a few from Cebu, Saipan and California, Pastor Chua and Bro. Art Lorenzo providing ministry.

On the 29th in Bacolod, Negros Occidental, we were again privileged to be present at the Grace Berean Church and with Pastor Val Ronquillo the resident minister. Thanks to a generous gift from the U.K. a group of miners from Sipalay were also enabled to attend this '23rd Foundation Day', following the theme of 2 Tim. 4:5 '... make full proof of thy ministry ...' or 'fullest service rendered to the Lord'.

Numbers of more than 70 persons were present at each of these conferences; a moving experience personally, what a testimony collectively.

M. Garstang

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE

The 'Birmingham Conference' will be on Saturday 12th April, 2014. The venue will again be Carr's Lane Church Centre (Post code B4 7SX) in the Lounge Room. Meetings will be at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m., with tea/coffee provided between these meetings. We see these meetings as an opportunity not only for ministry but also fellowship with any from around the 'Midlands' area of the U.K.

'PERTH' CONFERENCE

The Scottish Conference will this year be held on 10th May in the city of Perth at the Church of the Nazarene, York Place. Meeting times will be 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. The speakers will be Alan Schofield and M. Garstang.

...CHAPEL LIFE...

For quite some time, 3 years in fact, every third Sunday of the month witnessed a New Testament Greek class ably conducted at the Chapel by brother Graham Thomason. However, as the Scripture has it, 'yet there is room' (Luke 14:22) – for more students, since no 'entry requirements' are needed. The class runs from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. (with a tea break). Graham also offers Hebrew lessons from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. His website is www.faraboveall.com.

Wednesday evenings, as well as the lunch-time service have seen a small number gather to listen to the tapes of Mr. Welch. As with the N. T. Greek class all are welcome to attend at approximately 7:00 p.m. However, it could be best for any wishing to 'listen with us' to verify 'where and when' as the winter meeting is sometimes held at Orchard Avenue.

FOUNDATION DAY

The Foundation Day Meeting will be on Saturday 31st May 2014, with meetings at 2:00 and 4:45 p.m. A 'tea' is provided between these services, a 'welcome' – that goes without saying!

HOPING...

Many years ago, one or two of Mr. Welch's pamphlets were translated into the Spanish language. Does anyone still hold a copy of *La Correcta Division* or similar? If so, please contact the Distribution Secretary here at the Chapel.

Faith

The following two items from previous *Berean Expositors* bring together two aspects of stewardship; generally, that of all members of the Body of Christ in seeking to 'build up the Body', and specifically of those who hold office and seek to preserve the ministry that we all hold dear.

Faith in the truth of the Mystery is the mortar which holds the believers therein together.

'With Sword and Trowel'

'In an earlier article we considered the foundation upon which faith rests. We may, however, consider faith as a foundation upon which one may build. When 'faith' is used in this sense it means the whole of the doctrine embraced by the believer and called 'The Faith'.

'But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith' (Jude 20).

Unless otherwise stated, Bible passages are from the King James Version (KJV). But, for unknown historic reasons, this item has no 'use of italics, to indicate English words added by the KJV translators, to try to clarify the meaning of the Greek or Hebrew', (as is normal in KJV Bibles, and is © in the UK).

That 'the faith' here is looked upon as a 'foundation', the usage elsewhere testifies. The verb 'to build upon' occurs in 1 Corinthians 3:10,12,14; and in Ephesians 2:20 where there can be no doubt as to the meaning of the apostle.

Someone has said that the believer must act like the Jews did in the days of Nehemiah, who worked at the building of the wall:

'With one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. For the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me' (Neh. 4:17,18).

Jude does not only say 'build', but says:

'Ye should earnestly contend for the faith' (Jude 3).

The activities of faith are carried on in the presence of adversaries; when the adversary ceases to trouble, faith will be exchanged for perfect knowledge.

Charles H. Welch

Trusteeship

While it is necessary, when property and finance are involved, that legally appointed Trustees should be responsible for the management and for the faithful fulfilment of spiritual as well as general obligations, no work can hope to thrive or to remain steadfast unless a sense of Trusteeship is living and active among all who form a part of any society, even though, as in the case of *The Berean Forward Movement*, no 'membership' is desired or allowed.

Every reader of the *Berean Expositor*, every member of the Church which is the Body of Christ, is addressed as being 'faithful' (Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:2), and faithfulness is the outstanding quality in a steward (1 Cor. 4:1,2). This stewardship will not allow us to say to our Lord's creditors 'Write down fifty' (Luke 16:6), or as Paul puts it in 2 Corinthians 2:17

'We are not as many that 'water down' the word of truth'. [Author; plus part-KJV.]

We have been entrusted with a wondrous message which clings closely to the 'sound words' received from Paul and passed on down the age 'To faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also' (2 Tim. 1:12-14; 2:2). On the other hand, while we must be 'steadfast' and 'unmovable', that does not mean obduracy. Only the steadfast can at the same time successfully 'abound in the work of the Lord' (1 Cor. 15:58).

Charles H. Welch

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Throughout March, April and May 2014, the Ministry at the Chapel of the Opened Book (Wilson Street, London. EC2A 2ER) on Sundays at 11.00 a.m., will be, D.V., as follows:

March	April	May
2 nd M.Garstang	6 th M.Garstang	4 th M.Garstang
9 th M.Garstang	13 th M.Garstang	11 th Tape Ministry
16 th M.Garstang	20th No Meeting	18 th M.Garstang
23 rd M.Garstang	27 th M.Garstang	25 th M.Garstang
30 th M Garstang		

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS AT THE CHAPEL ARE:

Wednesdays at 1:05 to 1:35 p.m. Bible studies for anyone in the City at these times, for business or pleasure.

Chapel Telephone No. Monday to Friday 02072471467

Saturdays at 3:00 pm, on the first Saturday in each month, Meeting for discussion, **Nov – Mar at 2:00pm**. Please contact Michael Garstang on the phone to confirm that the meeting will be held. 02084468902.

OTHER BIBLE STUDIES

Preston (3 Library Street) Second and Fourth Sunday at 3:15 and 5:15 p.m. (*Phone 01772 702236*).

PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS, NOTES, INFORMATION AND ITEMS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER TO:

Mr. Barry Marple, Orchard Close, 52A St. Mary's Lane, LOUTH, Lincolnshire LN11 0DT as soon as possible **and not later than 6th April 2014**.