

# Clifton News

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**Grace Lucy Woutersz (1969-2010)**

*(Pictured here at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem 2007)*

*“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.” (1 Corinthians 15:20)*

We report with sadness the home call of our sister Grace Woutersz who died on the 2nd of December aged 41. Grace was brought up in a Christian home and came to know the Lord as her Saviour in 1984, at the age of 15. She was baptised and received into fellowship at the Gospel Hall, Longley Road, Tooting where she was for many years.

She completed her BA in English and French at Roehampton College and as part of her studies she spent a very happy year in Toulouse France. She was looked after by Antoinette and Claude

Benquet of whom she affectionately spoke of as being her French parents. Her first employment was at the Trinitarian Bible Society after which she moved to Leeds University to study for a Masters in English. There she was in fellowship with the believers at Harehills Gospel Hall.

She returned back to Croydon where she worked for British Telecom and then at the local studies department of Croydon library. During this time she was in fellowship with us at Clifton Hall.

After her employment here, she was able to finance her studies for a PhD in Medieval History at York University where sometimes she would lecture undergraduates; which work she thoroughly enjoyed. While at York she was in fellowship with the assembly at St. Andrew's Evangelical Church. The believers there showed her much love and care during her illness.

Just over a year ago, the Lord brought a young man, Andrew, into her life who brought her much joy and comfort. She was brave throughout her illness and had a peace which can only come from knowing the Lord Jesus in a personal way. She visited Israel in 2007 and is pictured next to the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, a reminder of the wonderful hope we have because He lives. Prayer valued for the family and friends in their loss, especially for her father Newton that the Lord will comfort and sustain him.

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During the past quarter the assembly grew in numbers for which we thank God. We received into fellowship Alastair Rodger, Norman and Mary Gibbons. We welcome them in the name of the Lord Jesus.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR  
READERS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

# Meetings

## The Week at Clifton

Lord's Day	
Breaking of Bread	11 a.m.
Sunday School	3 p.m.
Gospel Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	
Bible Reading (First Tuesday of the month only)	8 p.m.
Wednesday Seekers Club (Term time only for under 11s)	6 p.m.
Thursday Prayer and Ministry	7:45 p.m.
Friday C3 Club (Term time only for 11+)	7:30 p.m.

## Sunday Evening Gospel Meeting

### January

2	Richard Catchpole (Family Service)
9	Glyn Davies
16	Phil Briercliff
23	Alastair Rodger
30	Norman Gibbons

### February

6	Ferranti Wong (Family Service)
13	Alastair Rodger
20	Richard Catchpole
27	Mark Beardall

## March

- 6 Roy Dawson (Family Service)
- 13 Norman Gibbons
- 20 Mark Beardall
- 27 Nitish Patel

## Tuesday Bible Reading

*Studying the book of Proverbs*

- 4 January Proverbs 17
- 1 February Proverbs 18
- 1 March Proverbs 18

## Thursday Prayer & Ministry

### January

- 6 Archie Carew
- 13 Archie Carew
- 20 Glyn Davies
- 27 Glyn Davies

### February

- 3 Nitish Patel
- 10 Nitish Patel
- 17 Richard Catchpole
- 24 Norman Gibbons

### March

- 3 Colin Roberts
- 10 Colin Roberts
- 17 Martin Hayward
- 24 Martin Hayward
- 31 Colin Roberts

# Questions

*Answered by Richard Catchpole*

*Is Paul one of the twelve 'apostles of the Lamb' mentioned in Revelation 21.14.*

The Greek word apostolis (apo = from; stello = to send) refers to a person sent forth with a commission to act in the interests and with the authority of the one sending him and is a term Paul uses of himself some 15 times.

In addressing the question it is important to observe that the New Testament speaks of three kinds of apostles namely (1) Apostles of the Lamb, Revelation 21.14; (2) Apostles of Christ 1 Thessalonians 2.6 and (3) Apostles of the churches 2 Corinthians 8.23.

1) Apostles of the Lamb – The phrase appears only in the book of Revelation where in describing the 'holy Jerusalem' John says 'And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb'. That there are twelve would suggest an obvious link with the apostles who accompanied the Lord in the years of His public ministry, see Luke 6.13; 9.1 and 22.14. Equally there is an obvious link to Matthew 19.28 where in answer to Peter's question 'Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?' the Lord replied 'Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel', the answer having in view the position of the twelve in the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. Despite the suicide of Judas, Acts 1.16-19, there is a subsequent reference to the 'twelve' in Acts 6.1 and in Acts 2.14 we read of Peter 'standing up with the eleven'. Since Paul's conversion is not recorded until Acts 9 it is obvious he was not one of the twelve and the place vacated by Judas was given to Matthias Acts 1.26 'he was numbered with the eleven'. Although some

have questioned if the eleven were right in the appointment of Matthias we should observe there was Scriptural authority for their action Ps.69.25 quoted by Peter in Acts 1.20. In fulfilling the prophecy Peter said the man appointed would be one 'which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection' Acts 1.21-22. The qualification limited the choice to men who had accompanied the Lord during the years of His public ministry, something Paul had not done. Thus Matthias was the replacement for Judas not Paul. It might just be mentioned that while the twelve belonged to the Church, in their ministry they formed a link to God's dispensational dealings with Israel so in Acts 8.1 they remained at Jerusalem at a time of persecution.

2) Apostles of Christ – The phrase come twice in the New Testament in 1 Thessalonians 2.6 in reference to his initial ministry Paul says 'Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ', thus including himself amongst that number. The second reference is in 2 Corinthians 11.13 where speaking of false apostles Paul describes them as 'deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ'. In Acts 14.4 and 14 the word 'apostles' is used in reference to Barnabas as well as of Paul. These are men chosen and appointed by the risen Christ, numbered amongst the 'apostles' specifically mentioned in Eph.4.11 men given as gifts to the Church. W.E. Vine comments 'Paul, though he had seen the Lord Jesus 1 Corinthians 9.1; 15.8 had not companied with the twelve all the time of the Lords earthly ministry and hence was not eligible for a place among them, according to Peter's description of the necessary qualifications Acts 1.22. Paul was commissioned directly by the ascended Lord to carry the gospel to the Gentiles Acts 26.17.

3) Apostles of the churches – In 2 Corinthians 8.23 Paul says 'Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers (Gk. apostolis) of the churches, and the glory of Christ. These were men

appointed by the churches to perform a ministry on their behalf, such as the unnamed brother of 2 Corinthians 8.19 of whom Paul says ‘who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace’; a man such as Epaphroditus whom Paul describes in Philippians 2.25 as ‘your messenger (Gk. apostolis).’

In conclusion we should add there are no men with apostolic authority today, Peter anticipating in 2 Peter 2.1 the passing of the apostolic era, and with it also the absence of authority for any church or group of churches to send forth men as apostles to function on their behalf.

## *Bible Teaching*

### *Psalm 45 - A Song of the Beloved (Part 2)*

*by Charles Wigg (Tasmania)*

#### *Thy throne O God*

As we turn again to Psalm 45, in verse six we find a profound statement that emphasizes the Deity of Christ, His divine greatness. Satan has challenged this and those misled by him, for centuries. However God has taken care to preserve and to guard this truth in both Old Testament and New. Not only is He God, but also into His hands has been placed the eternal sceptre. He sits on the eternal throne of God. He reigns in perfect righteousness. He is incorruptible; His sceptre is an upright sceptre. He has not; He will not deviate from what is upright and just.

The gods of men are not like this. If you read the holy books of the Hindus, you will read many stories of the intrigue, the deviation, the injustice, the moral uncleanness of those who are called gods.

I recall meeting a former Hindu in Bangalore, India. He told me that he had read the stories of the Hindu gods, and he came to the conclusion that those gods could never save him, and to use his own words he said,



“they were worse than me. How could they save me?” However when he heard about a God of righteousness, a God who hated and must judge sin, then he knew that He must be the true God.

The personal greatness of the Lord Jesus is beyond our comprehension. He said of Himself, "No one knows the Son, but the Father", (Mat. 11:27). In His person He is inscrutable, and dwells in unapproachable light. In spite of the full and wonderful revelation of Himself in manhood, yet there ever remains that which could not ever be revealed, seen or known. (1Tim.6:16) To Him be honour and eternal might!

*Thou lovest righteousness:*

In this verse we are shown some of the moral glories of Christ. He did what was right, not out of any sense of obligation, or duty, but because He loved it. He hated wickedness. How different to many today, who try to clothe their vile and sinful practices with a garb of respectability. So that homosexuals are no longer considered to be Sodomites, but “Gays”. Immoral illicit sexual behavior is regarded as normal, and prostitution, and gambling has now become an “industry”.

His divine character, shone out in His sinless manhood, and has brought a suitable reward. He is anointed with the “oil of gladness”, above His fellows, (companions). The Hebrew word used here (chaber), is really companions, associates.. The word “fellows”, in the English language suggests an equal. But we could never be equal with the Lord Jesus. Though through wondrous grace we are made His companions, (Heb. 3:14), AV Partakers, yet He must ever be supreme He is anointed with the oil of gladness above His companions. This refers to His present position, so that whereas when here He was in a sense alone, yet now in the Glory, He has companions, the fruit of the travail of His soul. We, who are called to be His companions, love to give to Him the honour and glory that belongs rightly to Him. We are gladly in accord with what the father has done, in highly exalting Him, and crowning Him with glory and honour.

He displayed His moral worth as man, amongst men, in a scene that was full of evil and wickedness. He receives this honour and glory now

as man, and receives it from the hands of God, His heavenly Father. Soon all His companions, His redeemed ones, His saints will surround Him. What joy will then be His! This was the joy that lay before Him, for which He endured the cross, and despised the shame. Heb. 12;2.

*All thy garments:*

Garments are that in which a person is seen, and in this verse represent the perfect, fragrant personal character of Christ. J.N.Darby reads, “myrrh, aloes, cassia, are all thy garments, as though His garments are interwoven fragrance.

*Myrrh:*

This is the fragrant gum of a tree, and is produced by injuring the bark. It speaks in the scripture of suffering love. This shone out in the perfect life of Christ from birth to death. It was displayed in the way that He entered into the sorrows of others. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

*Aloes:*

There are two kinds of this fragrance, one is the gum of the leaves of a tree, and is very bitter, (bitter aloes), the other is the inner bark of a tree. Aloes thus suggest the fragrance that the suffering of Christ produced. It brought out all that was in Him, all of which was absolutely fragrant and perfect.

*Cassia:*

Like aloes, was the crushed inner bark of a tree, very similar to cinnamon. This has both fragrance & taste. Thus the scripture says, “O taste and see that the Lord is good”, Psalm 34;8.

All these fragrances were manifested in the perfect life of Christ, both for the pleasure and glory of God, and also to thrill the hearts of the lovers of Christ.

*Ivory palaces:*

With ivory there is the suggestion of perfect purity, (because of its pure white colour), and the inference of extreme suffering. Ivory cannot be

obtained without the death of the elephant. The dwelling place of the saints of God, is a place of perfect holiness, secured through the suffering and death of our blessed Savior. From within the palace comes the sweet music of praise. The symphony of adoration, as the believers are led and filled by the Holy Spirit of God. Eph. 5;18-20.

*Kings daughters:*

The psalmist now displays the character of those who are attracted to the King. Every child of God, is a person of royal birth. Rev. 1;5-6, and 5;10. All by virtue of their birth and character set forth the glory of the Beloved. The King of Kings

How marvelous is the grace of God that has secured all this, and exalted His holy Son forever!

to be continued....

## Good News

### More beyond!

In Valladolid, Spain, where Christopher Columbus died in 1506, stands a monument commemorating the great discoverer of the Americas.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the memorial is a statue of a lion destroying one of the Latin words that had been part of Spain's motto for centuries. Before Columbus



made his voyages, the Spaniards thought they had reached the outer limits of earth. Thus their motto was "Non Plus Ultra," which means "No More Beyond." The word being torn away by the lion is "Non" or "no," making it read "Plus Ultra." Columbus had proven that there was indeed "more beyond."

Many today believe that once a person is dead, that is the end. There is no more beyond. However, the Bible, God's Word, reveals that there is MORE BEYOND! The Bible speaks of an eternity to which we are all heading. God created us in His image and likeness to exist as long as He will exist - which is for ever. We have an undying soul. How solemn this is when we realise that we shall spend eternity either in heaven or hell.

Where you will spend eternity is not down to chance, being sincere, doing your best or living a good life. Our eternal destiny is determined by what we do with the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of the world. God has done all the work to save us through the death of Christ on the cross and we can be sure of heaven. The Bible declares this wondrous message of good news - "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." (1 John 4:9)

As sinners, we stand guilty before a holy God and hell deserving but what a blessed hope Jesus has given to those who trust in Him as Lord and Saviour. Christ's resurrection has given this hope because He conquered death and the grave. He gives eternal life to all who believe in Him. so after death it is absent from the body and present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). There is more beyond!

Reader, as you enter another year and closer to eternity, trust the Saviour now before it is too late

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# Church History

*Mel Trotter*

*by Mark Beardall*

Mel Trotter is well known in the United States of America for being the first superintendent of the Grand Rapids Rescue Mission, which still exists today under the name of Mel Trotter Ministries.

Melvin Ernest Trotter was born on 16th May 1870 in Orangeville, Illinois. His father William Trotter, (the father of seven children) was a bartender who had a reputation for heavy drinking. His mother Emily was a pious woman who spent much time in prayer. Mel had no interest in studies, much to his parent's displeasure. He was much more interested in gambling and wasting time in his father's saloon. In 1887 the Trotter moved to Freeport, Illinois. Mel who was seventeen started to work in a local barber shop and left home as soon as he could earn a decent wage. He spent his spare time gambling and heavy drinking heavily. Mel lost his job two years later because his drinking was affecting his work.



Trotter moved to Pearl City, Iowa in search of work and a new start. He found work and a wife. Mel Trotter married Lottie Fisher on 23rd April 1891. Lottie soon discovered to her horror, that Melvin was a drunkard. Lottie and her friends tried to help him, but he just could not stop drinking. He later said, "I would have given my life to have stayed sober. I loathed the life I was living but it just wasn't in me." Mel lost his job in Pearl City due to his drink problem, so he and Lottie moved to a country area hoping that a change of environment away from the saloons and gambling dens would help him. Mel couldn't stay sober, no matter how much he tried or his wife pleaded with him. He started drinking again and

lost his job. The Trotters then moved to Davenport, Iowa, where Mel became an insurance salesman. Mel stayed sober for eleven weeks after arriving in Davenport. But the desire for alcohol was too strong. Mel sold his horse and went to the saloon. Mel lost his job the day after his first child was born. He tried again and again to give up drinking but it was to no avail.

Two years later when the Trotters were living in a rat infested cellar apartment in downtown Chicago their child was ill. The doctor knew Mel could not afford the prescription so he handed Mel some money and sent him to the chemists. "Mel, run don't walk, here's the prescription. Come right back. It might even now be too late so hurry!" Mel ran down the road, but he saw the chemists on his left and the saloon on his right. He had such a strong craving for drink that he forgot about his dying child and spent the doctor's money on drink. Mel spent the whole day drinking. When he eventually returned, (after ten days according to some accounts) he found the child dead in its mother's arms. Mel was devastated. He blamed himself for the death of his child. He said, "I'm a murderer." He wanted to kill himself but he feared the judgement of God. He vowed to stop drinking but on the day of the funeral he took the shoes from his little child's body and sold them to buy alcohol. He came home drunk.

Mel increased his drinking in an effort to relieve his guilt over his child's death. He hopped on a freight train to Chicago on 19th January 1897 in the cold of winter. He even sold his shoes to buy a drink. He drank until his money ran out and was thrown out of a saloon on Clark Street. He walked along the snowy streets shoeless and penniless and nobody cared. He was so miserable that he headed for Lake Michigan in order to drown himself. On his way to the lake had to pass the Pacific Garden mission. A man nudged him and said, "Why don't you go in there Bud? It's nice and warm." Before he knew where he was, he was on seat listening to the gospel. The superintendent of the Mission, Harry Monroe was preaching that night. He saw Mel come into the building and he stopped preaching and asked his hearers to bow in prayer. "Oh, God save that poor, poor boy," he cried. Monroe gave his testimony of how he came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and also preached the way of salvation. Mel responded to the invitation and trusted the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord

completely delivered him from his drunkenness. He never touched a drop of alcohol again and didn't want to.

Mel found a job as a barber and soon had enough to send for Lottie. His wife said, "It is so much better to live in one room with Mel sober than live in a palace with a drunkard." His mother thanked the Lord when she heard the news of Mel's conversion. She had always prayed for him. Mel went to the Mission every night and became very busy in the work of the Lord. On 21st December 1899, a group of businessmen decided to start a rescue mission in one of the poorer parts of Grand Rapids, Michigan. They already supported a mission in Ellsworth Avenue and had seen some blessing. They now desired to open a rescue mission in Canal Street (now called lower Monroe Street). Canal Street was home to the Old Opera House, which had a very bad reputation, and home to many saloons. Harry Monroe was asked to find some men from the Pacific Garden Mission to run the new mission. Monroe brought four believers who had been delivered from alcohol and gambling, including Mel Trotter. Trotter was asked to become superintendent of the new mission despite his lack of experience. They started the new mission in an empty shop on Canal Street. The first meeting was packed and there were three conversions on the first night. Three women responded to the invitation. One became a missionary, one married a preacher and one was involved with the mission for many years. Mel was not known for eloquence or flowery language. He preached in the plain language of the street and people could understand him. Sometimes Mel had to show what he called "muscular Christianity." When groups of boys would come to disturb the meeting he would get the congregation to sing, "More about Jesus" and then he would throw out the troublemakers!

Mel kept asking ministers to perform marriages and baptisms and other things that he was not licensed to do as a layman. A minister suggested that he should be ordained. At his interview for ordination he was asked, "Are you saved?" Trotter replied, "You bet!" They asked him, "How do you know?" "I was there when it happened, in the Pacific Garden Mission, January 19, 1897, ten minutes past nine, Central Time, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A." They also asked him, "Are you Calvinistic or Arminian?" He said, "My father was Irish." He didn't know much about

Church History or Systematic Theology but he knew the Lord Jesus Christ and had won many souls for the Lord. The ministers decided that they could not refuse a man whom God has ordained.

A few months after the Mission was opened revival began. Every night there were between two and twenty-five professions of salvation. There were fifteen hundred professions in the first year of the mission. The original building was not big enough so they bought a new building on Market Street, which could hold 750 people. It was difficult to get into the building as the Mission was always packed. After two years they added two extra storeys to the building so that it could seat 1000 people. The Sunday school had about two hundred children when the extension was built. The Mission also held classes for new converts and personal evangelists.

More and more people were converted but the building could not contain them. Hundreds were turned away every Sunday. One Sunday afternoon at the noon prayer meeting the men claimed the Smith Opera House for God. A theatrical company called Empire also wanted the building but the Lord supplied



the needs of the Mission and the Opera House was opened as a mission on 20th September 1907. This building could seat 1100 people. The Sunday school attendance increased to about 500 children with 35 teachers. The teachers taught the children the way of salvation and many teachers could say that all their pupils were saved. In 1913 the Mission held 23 meetings per week, including many open-air meetings. The "Gospel Truck" would go out every night with men preaching the gospel to many people who had never heard it before. Some people followed the truck to the Mission and got saved. There was such a powerful work of God in Grand Rapids that a local businessman, Mr Stanton could say, "A vast improvement has taken place in the district where the Mission operates. Many saloons and houses of ill-fame have been closed: the value of



property has increased enormously.” The Police Court judges saw much value in the work, in fact they often sent people who were on probation to the Mission. Many were saved and never re-offended. Workers from the Grand Rapids Mission were involved in many different ministries including prison visitation, providing clothing for the poor, helping young women who were in trouble, providing food for the poor and most importantly winning souls for Christ.

During the First World War, Mel Trotter worked as an evangelist in the U.S Army camps on behalf of the YMCA. Evangelists from the YMCA were allowed to preach in Army camps if they also provided entertainment for the troops. Homer Hammontree , a well known gospel singer in America and a group of gospel singers called the American Four sang before and after the preaching. Trotter said, “I was in fifty-four different camps in ten months.” His biographer Leona Hertel says, “For twenty months those six men carried the good news of salvation to about a half million soldiers.” Homer Hammontree said, “We kept no records, but at the close of the war it was estimated that something like sixteen thousand soldiers had come out for the Lord.” Mel returned home from the war only to discover that his wife had left him. This was a time of deep spiritual conflict for him. Satan tempted him with suicidal thoughts but he found comfort and hope in the scriptures.

During the 1920's Trotter was well in demand as a conference speaker. He often spoke at the famous Northfield Conference and the Winona Lake Conference among others. He was good friend of Billy Sunday and he often stood in for Sunday if he was not well. In 1924 Mel had to stand in for Billy Sunday in Memphis Tennessee. There were about one thousand professions of faith in the space of one week. Trotter also started to travel on his own to hold mass crusades. Like Sunday he had wooden tabernacles built to house the meetings as tents were not suitable in cold weather.

Trotter died of a heart attack on 11th September 1940. Harry Ironside preached the funeral sermon and Homer Hammontree led the service. The headline of the Grand Rapids Herald said, “MEL TROTTER, SOLDIER OF GOD AND MISSION FOUNDER, DIES.”

# *Visit to India - November 2010*

*Nitish Patel*

This visit in November was the postponed one from April which was cancelled due to the volcanic ash from Iceland. However, we can clearly see the Lord's overruling we during this visit we were able to a new place where the Lord is blessing His work in Gujarat.

We flew to the city of Rajkot to meet listeners of our gospel radio program. A believer named Joseph contacted the radio station and spoke of many listening in his area. He was a Moslem who was saved over 50 years ago and has spent much of his life preaching the gospel where he lives. He has been encouraging many to listen to the program. With the help of the Lord's Work Trust in Scotland, some 20,000 gospel booklets have been printed in India which have details of the program on the back. We started distribution of these and value prayer for blessing and more listeners.

We met a young lady named Siddhi who was saved from Jainism through the witness of a believer in Bombay whom she met while studying for the catering business. Through her witness, her mother too has come to the Lord. She desired to be baptised soon and will be the first Gujarati convert added to the local assembly in Rajkot which is mainly composed of South Indians, The Evangelist there, David Isaac, told us that they have not seen any Gujarati Hindus saved in the 22 years he has laboured there. We pray that this is the beginning of further blessing.

A visit was made to the Maharashtra leadership conference where many elders and full time workers were gathered for Bible teaching given by George Dawson and John Kurien.

I was much encouraged by the enthusiasm of the believers at a conference in Kalwa, Bombay. The believers sat for seven hours a day to listen to five sessions of ministry for three days in a row. They really love God's Word.

Yet further news was received of another assembly planted by brother Shaji Samuel in Khopoli near Bombay. The Word of God continues to multiply bringing glory to the Lord.



Joseph Christian



Small assembly in Rajkot



Maharashtra Workers Conference (Khandala)



Maharajah's Palace in Morbi Gujarat



Borivili Slum Gospel Meeting



Past days at  
Clifton Hall

Open air meeting  
in Zion Road  
(1950s)



Open air  
meeting in  
Pollards Hill  
(1950s)