

# Clifton News

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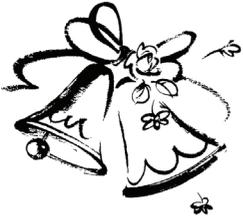
Clifton Hall Friday Club & Sunday school



# News

## WEDDINGS

There will be two weddings taking place at Clifton Hall. Do pray for the Lord's blessing on the happy occasions.



*Chris Clowes and  
Naomi Catchpole  
Saturday 27th April*

*Newton Woutersz and  
Paulette Watson  
Friday 24th May*



## Easter Holiday Club

While this magazine is going to print, we have been busy with the Easter Holiday Club. We praise God that numbers have exceeded previous years. A report will be in the next issue.

Both the weekly clubs continue to encourage us. There are increasing numbers of young children on Wednesdays and the young people on Fridays are beginning to ask more serious questions and paying good attention to the answers from the Word of God. Pray for these young lives.

We bid a sad farewell to Mark and Ann Marie who will be moving to Lewisham and will be in fellowship with the believers there. We would like to thank Mark especially for all the help he has been to the assembly during the past ten years he has been with us. We pray for the Lord's blessing on them both.

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# Meetings

## THE WEEK AT CLIFTON

### **Lord's Day**

Breaking of Bread 11.00 am

Sunday School (Term time only for ages 5+)

Gospel Meeting 6:30 pm

### **Tuesday**

First Tuesday of month - Bible Reading 8.00 pm

### **Wednesday**

Seekers Club 6:30 pm (Term time only for under 10s)

### **Thursday**

Prayer & Ministry 7:45 pm

### **Friday**

Friday Club (Term time only for 10+) 7:30 pm

Please note that from July onwards there will be major changes to the meetings at Clifton Hall. The gospel meeting will be combined with the Sunday school as a Family Service at 4 pm. Then from October onwards the Prayer and Ministry meeting will be on Mondays at 7:45 pm.

## SUNDAY EVENING GOSPEL MEETING

### **April**

7 Richard Catchpole (Family Service)

14 Norman Gibbons

21 Nitish Patel

28 Kevin Oh

### **May**

5 Nitish Patel (Family Service)

12 Norman Gibbons

19 Alastair Rodger

26 Mark Beardall

## **June**

- 2 John Aston (Family Service)
- 9 Alastair Rodger
- 16 Kevin Oh
- 23 Norman Gibbons
- 30 Nitish Patel

## **TUESDAY BIBLE READING**

- May 7 Romans 5
- June 6 Romans 5 (Note this is on Thursday)

## **THURSDAY PRAYER & MINISTRY**

### **April**

- 4 No meeting (Easter Holiday Club)
- 11 Colin Roberts
- 18 Colin Roberts
- 25 Colin Roberts

### **May**

- 2 Nitish Patel
- 9 Nitish Patel
- 16 Mike Surrey
- 23 Mike Surry
- 30 John Aston

### **June**

- Tuesday 4 T. Ledger
- 13 Alastair Rodger
- 20 Alastair Rodger
- 27 Craig Spence

# Question Box

At the Friday Club, we have a question box into which the young people put a number of questions they want answered from the Bible. Here are some of the questions they have been asking and our answers to them ...

Q3 - Does the Devil know what is planned for your life and how it's going to end?

No, only God knows the future.

Isaiah 46:9-10

For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'

Q4 - Why does the Devil so badly want to take over?

He only has a short time before he will be defeated and so is doing all he can to oppose God and us.

Revelation 12:12

Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

Q5 - Why does the Devil want our soul?

The Bible doesn't speak of the Devil wanting our souls or we being able to sell our souls to the Devil. But he is the enemy of God and by extension, the enemy of all humans as we are all created in the image of God.

He is the enemy of Christians:

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Revelation 2:10 (Written to the church at Smyrna)

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about

to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

He is the enemy of people who aren't Christians (unbelievers):  
2 Corinthians 4:4

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Luke 8:12 (From the parable of the sower)

The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

Q6 - Did God know the Devil was going to be big headed?

Yes, God knows all things; see the verse from Isaiah in the answer to question 3. But why did God create the Devil if He knew that the Devil would freely choose to disobey Him?

We can suggest a couple of reasons for this:

The Devil falling and tempting Adam and Eve to sin, allowed God to show His great love by the Lord Jesus dying on the cross to save us from our sins. John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

The Devil being thrown out of heaven when he rebelled (Isaiah 14:12) and being thrown into the lake of fire in the future (Revelation 20:10) allows God to show us how He is holy and righteous and as a result of this must judge sin.

... To be continued

# *Bible Teaching*

## *Thoughts and suggestions about worship*

*By the late Charles Wigg (Tasmania)*

### THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

What we have discussed in the previous chapter will help us to understand the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:14 & 15, show that the characteristic of the sons of God is that they are led by the Spirit of God. He gives liberty and utterance, producing a sense of relationship, enabling us to cry "Abba Father"!

However it must be pointed out that this leading and communion does not only happen when we are assembled to remember the Lord and to worship Him. If the Holy Spirit is grieved within me by my allowance of sin, or by carelessness in my daily life during the other days of the week, then I cannot expect to experience His leading when we gather.

Because of this, the liberty, (or the lack of it), and the quality of the worship, when we gather, is often a reliable indication of the spiritual state of the saints individually, and also of the state of the assembly.

But let us suppose that we are in a healthy spiritual state and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Then in my personal Bible readings and devotions, and in our family Bible reading, prayers, and meditation, God's Spirit will reveal to us the glory of Christ and of the Father, John 16:14 & 15. Then when we gather, our "golden bowls" will be full of incense, and our harps (hearts), will be in tune, Rev. 5:8.

But though our hearts are full, we will not be clashing with each other, or all be worshipping, singing, shouting, at the one time. The leadership of the Holy Spirit brings in the beauty of order, not confusion and chaos. You will find that the hymns and praises will compliment each other, and a beautiful theme will run right through the meeting.

Our sisters too will have their part in worship, but not audibly,

for a woman is not suffered to speak in the assembly, 1 Cor. 14:34. Sometimes our sisters feel frustrated because of this, especially when the brothers, (who have the privilege of speaking, praying and worshipping audibly), are silent and have nothing to offer to the Lord. But as incense is sweet, permeating all, yet is silent, so the fragrance of the adoration that is in the hearts of the sisters, should be expressed by the brothers. This will be so, if we are led by the Holy Spirit.

For example: a sister who enters into the spirit of the meeting, may have a hymn occupying her mind. She may even think to herself, or silently say to the Lord, "If I was a brother I would announce that hymn". Imagine her joy when a brother announces the very hymn that is in her mind. This is how the Holy Spirit leads. It is her hymn, it is being sung, yet she has not spoken or breached the Lord's commandment.

This applies to worship as well. The very thoughts that are in a sister's heart will be expressed by a brother, almost as if he knows what is there in her mind and heart. All this makes worship, when led by the Holy Spirit, a rich and thrilling experience. Yet we have not come to seek thrills, but to remember and to worship the Lord.

In July 1992, I was in the Montazh assembly in Heliopolis, Egypt. The language spoken was Arabic and I knew only a few words of that language. But after the meeting a sister came to me and said, "We were in heaven this morning".

Sometimes I have had sisters come to me and thank me for announcing their hymn, or for offering their sacrifice of praise. This is so thrilling to the sisters, and encouraging to the brothers, but more importantly, glorifying to God.

## THE LORD'S SUPPER, AND WORSHIP

Over the centuries, the Lord's supper has been shrouded in mystery and superstition, until in some churches it is no longer the Lord's supper, but the practice of a sad form of idolatry. Even in our assemblies, sometimes through ignorance it is regarded as a means of grace. Many would not miss the Lord's supper, lest they miss a supernatural blessing. This is just another form of superstition.

Some mistakenly think that when they take part in the Lord's supper, that in eating the bread and drinking of the cup, they are performing an act of worship. Nowhere in the Bible does it teach this. The purpose of the Lord's supper is double. Firstly it is to cause us to remember the Lord Jesus himself, "This do in remembrance of ME". Secondly it is to enable us to show forth His death, until He comes. The first is inward, the second is outward, but neither remembrance, or showing forth His death is worship in itself.

However the remembrance of the Lord, the calling of Him to our minds, will surely move our hearts to worship. In most of the assemblies the Lord's supper is celebrated at the end of the time of worship. In this case it becomes the climax to which the worship and praises of the saints lead up to. In other assemblies it is celebrated at the beginning of the meeting, in that case it sets the tone of the meeting, and the calling to mind of the Lord Jesus, (if we are right with God, and in the Spirit), will surely move our hearts to worship and adoration.

Both could be correct, there is no explicit command given in the Word, as to where in the meeting it should be celebrated, at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end.

In Acts 20:7, we are told that it was on the first day of the week that they assembled to break bread. However the Lord's supper was not partaken of until after mid-night. It was preceded by ministry, and followed by fellowship, discussion. However we should not take this example as a pattern to be rigidly followed, because the circumstances were special. It was Paul's last visit to Troas, he was about to depart on the morrow and perhaps would never see them again. It was his last opportunity to speak with them and this would explain why he spoke for a long time, until mid-night.

It is not my intention to expound on the Lord's supper in this paper, but just to show that to partake of that supper is not an act of worship, but of remembrance.

One other thing should be said. The worship offered publicly while we are gathered, should be offered in such a way as to be heard by all of those assembled. If it is not heard by all the saints, then it is not understood. If it is not understood, then how can the saints say

“Amen”, see 1 Cor.14:15 & 16. This means that those who do take audible part, should do so in a clear voice that is loud enough for all to hear. Often the saints are frustrated and disappointed when they can’t hear what the participating brother is saying.

Sometimes it would help if the table was placed in the centre of the gathering, instead of being placed at the front, as if it is some kind of altar. It also means that large gatherings (for worship) are a mistake, for these help to create such problems.

Large gatherings tend to produce a more formal atmosphere and to discourage the more timid of the brothers from taking part audibly.

## THE USE OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP

There is nothing in scripture, (to my knowledge), to tell us that it is right or wrong to use musical instruments in the time of worship. This has become a contentious issue in these days.

Some want to bring in all kinds of instruments, and to change the time of worship into a time of entertainment, to change it into a kind of sacred concert, (or in some cases, a not so sacred concert). Others are greatly offended by the very thought of introducing an organ.

I am sure of this, that if the Holy Spirit is free, if He is not grieved and is given His proper place, then music is not necessary.

I am also quite sure, that if the Holy Spirit is grieved, and the hearts of the saints are not right with God, then no amount of music can ever make up for this. Some will argue that musical instruments were used in the worship of God in the Old Testament, and that they are mentioned in the book of Revelation.

My answer to this is that in the Old Testament musical instruments are typical, and that in the book of Revelation, they are symbolical. I am sure that if what the scripture teaches us, (as we have sought to bring out in these suggestions), is followed, then musical instruments will neither be needed, nor will they be desired.

## IN CONCLUSION

As we conclude, let me state that this small paper is not meant to be a “Handbook of worship Practice”. It should never be regarded as

such. These are suggestions only, but suggestions that in practice have been blessed of God over generations of Assembly experience.

Let us, like the Bereans, demonstrate spiritual nobility by accepting the word with readiness of mind, but then let us search the scriptures to see if these things are so. Acts 17:11. My only desire is that God may be glorified and the saints may be enriched.

May there be a revival of true spiritual worship, (John 4:23,) that the offering of the saints, (Judah and Jerusalem), may be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in the former years, (Mal. 3:3 & 4.)

... Concluded

## *My Testimony*

Mark Wenble, Goldstone Gospel Hall, Hove

I was born in London to Jewish semi-orthodox parents. My mother used to pray every Friday evening, waving her hands over the Sabbath candles. My father served the Passover Supper and said prayers about the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt two evenings every year. My two brothers and my two sisters grew impatient for the prayers lasted about 20 minutes and we were anxious to eat the supper and drink the wine.

I was circumcised the 8th day, Bar-mitzvahed at 13 years still living in London the latter part of the Second World War. We actually had a couple of German fire bombs dropped on our house. My father and brother put out one with a Sterling pump and the other fell in a linen basket and the flames were doused. We were still in London when the Doodlebugs were being sent over. One exploded about quarter of a mile down the road. We moved to Hove, Sussex, just before the end of the war when the Doodlebugs were still flying in.

I lived in America for two years and was also in the English Royal Air Force for two years. A few years later I mixed in Jewish social circles and was also a member of a lot of Jewish social groups in Hove and London. I would stay overnight occasionally with my cousin.

Then I met a young Jewish young lady who I had known before. We became good friends but she lied to me, so I had to break up with her which sent me into a very deep depression. I started studying Philosophy, Psychology, and Zen Buddhism. I also remember seeing a film called "The Razor's Edge". I remember it was about a man searching for God. I got it out of the library and read it; but although it was a very good story, it didn't lead me to the truth.

Desperately I went to the cousin I used to socialize with. I had heard that he had married a Gentile girl but that's about all I knew. He showed me a Hebrew English New Testament, and I said to him, "where shall I start reading it from?" And he answered "the beginning." I took that New Testament to bed with me that night and started reading it before I fell asleep. The next day I said to my cousin, "What would you say if I said, I would like to become a Christian", he said "wonderful".

Reading that genealogy in Matthew chapter one, I saw the names Abraham, Isaac and Jacob which names I was familiar with. And then I saw the name Jesus in the same family tree and I knew He was Jewish so it started the interest in my heart and mind. Then I returned home to Hove knowing full well, that my parents would be upset with me, thinking I would completely discard the Jewish religion, which I hadn't done. Because I am still a Jew by race, not by practise. I now believe in the Old Testament and the New Testament. I do now believe both Testaments are the inspired Word of God. I like to witness that fact to people I talk to.

My parents did not reject me, in fact, I grew closer to them, and I heard my father say I changed to be a better person. My cousin before he was married led his brother to the Lord and it upset his parents so much that they told him to leave the house. Some kind Christian friends put him up. He remained faithful to the Lord, even to this day, as I do; and I like to witness to the Lord Jesus Christ as the opportunity comes. He has been so real to me even in the recent past and we have a great future to look forward to.

# *Church History*

## *The life of A. W. Pink*

### *By Mark Beardall*

A.W. PINK (Part One)

From the United Kingdom to the United States of America

Arthur Walkington Pink was born on 1st April 1886 in Nottingham. His Parents Thomas and Agnes Pink were Christians and they sought to bring up their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Family worship was held twice a day and a strict Sabbath was kept. On Sunday mornings Thomas Pink took his three children Arthur, Frank and Louise to church and in the afternoons he read the Scriptures to them as well as Christian books such as the Pilgrims Progress and Foxes Book of Martyrs.



Pink left school at sixteen years of age and not much is known about his schooling.

Despite his Christian upbringing, Pink embraced the teachings and practices of Theosophy. He could often be found in the London headquarters of the Theosophical Society where 'Lucifer' magazine was published. Pink began to address meetings all over the country. Madam Besant was impressed with what she had heard about him so she invited him to India to become one of the leaders of the cult. Pink did not immediately accept the offer but went to Paris with a friend to pursue a career as an opera singer. However, he came to the conclusion that he would become more prominent as a leader of the

Theosophists.

Pink's father was not impressed. One night when Arthur returned home from a Theosophy meeting, his father quoted the scripture, "There is a way which seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Pink went up to his bedroom to prepare for his next Theosophy meeting but he could not concentrate because he could not get the verse of scripture out of his mind. Every time he tried to prepare Proverbs 14:12 came to his mind. He was under so much conviction of sin that he started to cry unto God. Pink did not leave his room for three days. His parents realised what was happening and prayed for him. Pink repented and trusted the Lord in his own bedroom. He came downstairs a saved man. When his father saw him he said, "Praise God! My son has been delivered."

Pink did not cancel his meeting with the Theosophists but gave his testimony and preached the gospel to them. They thought that he was out of his mind.

As soon as Pink was saved he felt a call to preach. He wrote, "In 1908 he saved me in my bedroom. I knew right then he had also called me to be his servant." Pink began to feast upon the Scriptures sometimes spending up to ten hours of the day in Bible study.

In 1910 he left Nottingham to study at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He left after six weeks as he felt that he was wasting his time. He asked Dr Howard Pope to find him a pastorate straight away. Pink was sent to a mining camp at Silverton Colorado where he often debated with the local Catholic priest. He was amazed at the way the priest twisted scripture in order to defend his Romish dogmas.

Pink left Silverton for California where he preached in a number of places and kept close contact with the BIOLA Bible Institute. In 1915 he moved to Kentucky where he shared the pastorate of two churches, one in Burkesville and the other in Albany. On 16th November 1916 he married Vera Russell, his one and only love. She soon found out that he could not live on Southern food. She had to learn how to cook

English food. We wonder if Mr Pink would have approved of southern fried chicken.

In July 1917 Pink became the pastor of, Northside Baptist Church, in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Pink preached sermons to edify the saints and to reach unbelievers.



His book, "The Seven Sayings of the Saviour on the Cross" was based on gospel sermons that he had preached at Spartanburg. It was here that he wrote his book on the Second Coming called 'The Redeemers Return' and his most controversial work 'The Sovereignty of God.' Pink had often written for Our Hope magazine which was edited by A.C. Gaebelein. Gaebelein disagreed with the book and after some time parted company with Pink. This book was so controversial that even the Banner of Truth, in their edition removed certain chapters from the book of which they felt were influenced by Hyper-Calvinism. They believe that Pink did not hold to these views in his later life.

Pink left Spartanburg in February 1921 and travelled all over the United States in Bible conference ministry. He also gave more time to writing. The first issue of his monthly magazine Studies in the Scriptures was published in January 1922. This magazine became was one of his greatest works. Many of his books first appeared as article series in the magazine. Pink laboured so hard with his writing that he came close to having a nervous breakdown. In 1925 Pink started a Bible conference tour which included Hawaii and the Samoan Islands and finishing in Australia where he spent a number of years.

(To be continued in the next edition of Clifton News. (A. W. Pink Part Two. From Australia to the Hebrides).

# Good News

In the news recently there was the sad story of a 38 year old mother in Union, New Jersey who had died leaving her four year old boy trapped in the house. He could not open the fridge which was well stocked and ended up eating a bag of sugar to stay alive. He was extremely malnourished and dehydrated weighing only 28 pounds when the police found him after neighbours notices a foul odour coming from the house and mail piled up.

Officer Joseph Sauer said the boy was naked but coherent and not crying when Sauer kicked in the door.

"The only way to describe the little boy was it was like a scene from World War II, from a concentration camp, he was that skinny. I mean, you could see all his bones," Sauer told The Associated Press.

A touching part of the story was the boy's care for his mother's corpse. For four to six days he had been rubbing lotion on it to make her better. He was alert and talkative when found and was expected to make a full recovery the doctors have said. The boy's first request after being examined, police in New Jersey said, was a juice and a grilled cheese sandwich.

This boy's desire to make his mother better with some lotion is a picture of so many well meaning folk who hope that a bit of external religion copiously applied can make them fit for heaven. Such a cure is of no use for the Bible says we are ... "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1).

As sinners who are spiritually dead and separated from God, we need forgiveness and life which only God can give. The Bible says this is salvation found alone in the Lord Jesus Christ who gave Himself a ransom for all on the cross and rose again the third day.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

## *Visit to Sri Lanka & India*

### *Nitish Patel*

This was my fourth visit to Sri Lanka and concluded with a brief stop over in India to collect Bibles, books and literature for use in Wembley.

This visit, we started at usual at Colombo where there are 3 assemblies, Tamil, Singhalese and English speaking. Around 25 meetings were arranged for the 10 day visit.

We traveled to the tea plantations to Hatton to Kudagama Gospel Hall where there is an assembly numbering 16 in fellowship but some 30 more are coming but not yet in fellowship. Shivkumar is the evangelist labouring there with a brother named Shivbalan. A new children's school has been started for the Tamils who work on the tea plantations. Many Hindu parents were present to hear the gospel. Though many are illiterate, it was encouraging to see those who could read and write sitting down and making notes. There is a great hunger for the Word of God.

We drove the long journey to the East Coast where there are 6 assemblies, most of which were planted in the past decade during the civil war and post the Tsunami of 2004. Numbers of souls being saved has declined a bit with conditions of peace returning but the assemblies continue to grow spiritually.

The young people's work in Colombo continues to be blessed of God with an average of 4 baptisms taking place every year. It was a joy to see a Buddhist girl who was saved and baptised last year sitting down remembering the Lord at the Breaking of Bread.

Do pray for the work in Sri Lanka and India. Next year there will be elections in India and the Hindu militant party the BJP is seeking power again. Banning conversions to Christianity is one of their policies. Do pray for the preservation of the liberty the believers have.

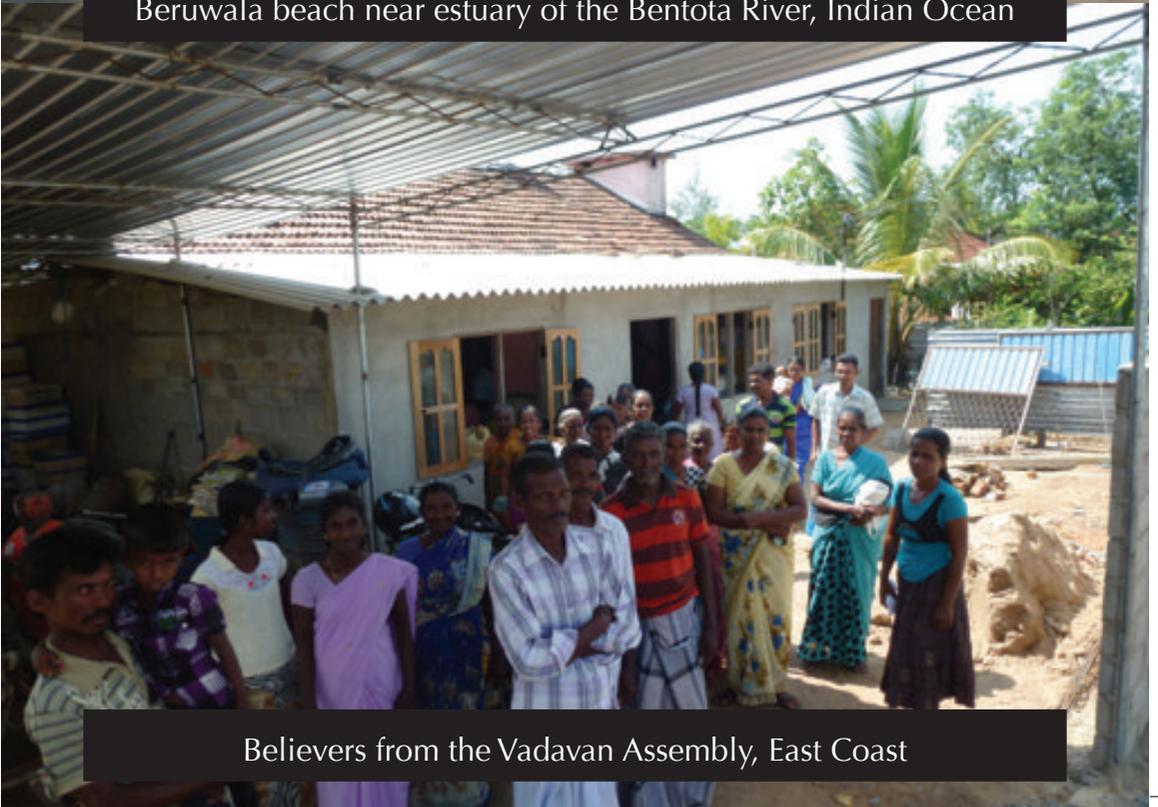


Bible study at a believer's home in Hatton, Sri Lanka.





Beruwala beach near estuary of the Bentota River, Indian Ocean



Believers from the Vadavan Assembly, East Coast