



Week commencing 8 October 2012

www.christianstogether.net

Greetings to you.

With soooooo much happening it is difficult to know how often to send you an 'update' e-mail. What is 'news' today can be overtaken by events in less than 24 hours. So it's not just a matter of what to send, but when – which moment in time - to send. In this context I have inserted a '[Breaking News](#)' thread. The link to the relevant page appears on the (rotating) '**Watch this Space**' on the homepage. Any new entry will - for a short time - appear also on the '**Recent Comment**' section on the right hand column on the homepage. Click on the image on the right and it should take you to the relevant page.



In fact clicking on most of the graphics in this newsletter should lead you to related information.

It is fascinating to see how the world reels from one crisis to another while Christians can ultimately rest secure in the knowledge that the omniscient God is working out His eternal purposes as year succeeds to year. However we need to keep our eyes open to what is happening around us and seek to interpret all these things through the prism of God's word.

On more prosaic matters, and as part of my thinking for re-configuring the CT website, I am hoping to simplify the menu system by reducing the 'headings'. As an element in this aim I am hoping to introduce geographical 'demarcation lines' viz. **Local** (Inverness and 30 miles around; **Regional** (Highlands and Islands); **National** (the UK) and finally, **International** news.

I will – based on where each person lives – allocate each site member to one of these zones. This will allow me to 'target' e-mail updates and (hopefully) send you, in a more selective fashion, those pieces of news which will be of more interest to you than other less relevant matters.

I will also be moving – in fact I already have – towards a **higher proportion of 'issues' and 'news'** (of broad interest). The 'events' and 'diary' sections will remain mainly confined to the North of Scotland area (to do otherwise would result in a very cluttered site, and create far too much work in hosting news of everything everywhere). And of course in the last few years social networking sites have become increasingly the means of communicating such news.

Stained Glass Radio

New 'radio interviews' section

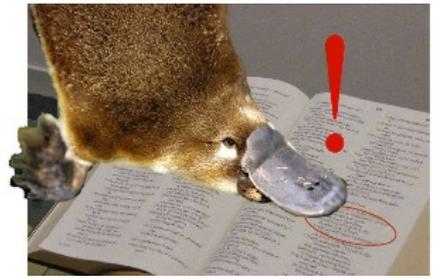


While I will still conduct interviews on specific topics I have now introduced a section to allow access to a weekly 'radio interview' slot. These interesting chats with interesting people are supplied by a Christian friend **Ken Hancock of 'Stained Glass Radio'**. SGR is part of the Aberdeen-based NorthSound2 regional radio station serving the neighbouring Grampian region and fed out also to the Western Isles (part of the Highlands and Islands area). You will see the NorthSound/SGR logo on the homepage. This will take you to [a \(growing\) list of interesting programmes](#) – each

with a synopsis and the ability to 'fast-forward' to the interview slot within each programme.

Forthcoming new features

Plans are in place for some other new features. These will include pastoral and teaching components and also the '[Platypus Challenge](#)' section to provide structured debate on doctrinal issues on which Christians conscientiously differ. **The first of these is in the process of being finalised**, but meanwhile please feel free to submit any subjects which you would like to have explored.



Moving on now into the new (geographical) 'partitions':

Local

This week there are two events which may be of interest.

OBSTACLES to



This coming weekend sees a '[taster evening for a subsequent 6-part teaching/discussion series](#)' on those hindrances and barriers to spiritual growth. The series itself covers the main problems emanating from the 'world, the flesh and the devil'. The taster event on Thursday is designed to give a flavour of the course and allow those who might be interested to know more about the content.

If you are interested in this 'taster' please make contact so that 'numbers' might be known.

Women's Conference

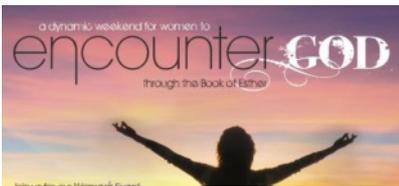
Next Monday and Tuesday (15/16 Oct) are the dates for an - '[Identity and Destiny conference for women](#)'. Following the conference on healing and destiny at which she spoke at last year, Sandra Sellmer Kersten is returning to speak at this 2-day event on finding one's true identity in Christ and embracing His Kingdom mandate. Registration is required and further details can be found on the article relating to the conference.

Sandra Sellmer-Kersten



Check also the '[Upcoming Events](#)' and the link to the '[Monthly Calendar](#)' on the homepage for other meetings coming up next week.

Regional



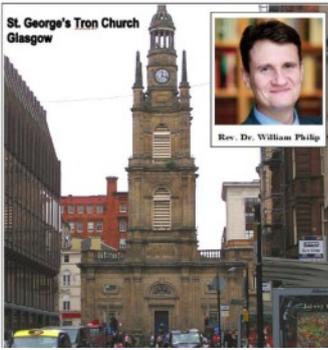
Still on the subject of women's conferences, now is the time to sign up for a weekend '[Encounter God event on 9 – 11 November](#)' in the Macdonald Resort Aviemore. Avanti Ministries is hosting aimed at encouraging women of all ages and drawing from the word of God in the book of Esther.

National (UK)

As you may know churches around the world are being exercised (maybe 'exercised' is the greater need) regarding sexuality.

In Scotland, the national church (the Church of Scotland) is in partial limbo awaiting a 'Special Commission' to report to the Church's annual General Assembly next May. Meanwhile there is continual turmoil in the ranks and I have written an '[update](#)' to the standing article '[Presbyterianism – Scottish style](#)'. This article covers the dynamic as it impinges on other Presbyterian denominations in Scotland. (See October 2102 update.)





Most recently (in the last 4 days) another minister has de-camped and a high-profile congregation in a prominent city-centre location in Glasgow (Scotland's largest city) is finding itself 'out in the cold' regarding its building following the congregation's decision that it can no longer remain in the denomination.



It is in the interest of the Church of Scotland to take a hard line with 'the Tron' as this would send a clear signal to any other local churches planning similar defections.

"But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops. Luke 12:2-3

Meanwhile in 21st-century Britain, the last few years has seen a growing list of organisations and individuals exposed and humiliated, along with reputations badly damaged or even, in some cases, ruined. (I plan to write more on this subject later.)

The most recent scandal is rocking the BBC with the disclosures relating to the former and now-deceased disk jockey Jimmy Savile and his sexual proclivities in relation to children. The recent disclosures have also shown up the BBC as an organisation in which predatory sexual behaviour was apparently allowed to persist unchecked.



Sir Jimmy Savile was accused of sexually abusing five teenage girls in an ITV documentary

Alex Salmond asked Donald Trump to endorse Lockerbie release

STV 8 October 2012 11:14 BST [Tweet](#) (12) [Like](#)



And on the news tonight **business tycoon Donald Trump** has revealed that Scottish First Minister **Alex Salmond** tried to enlist the support of the international businessman at the time when the Scottish government freed Lockerbie-bombing suspect Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi.

Salmond has hugely upset the American entrepreneur over the Scottish government's support for an off-shore windfarm in line of sight with Trump's new top-flight golf course located on the shore-line in Salmond's constituency.

This revelation, though not in itself a huge one, will nevertheless damage Salmond at local, national and international levels; and in several different respects amongst a variety of interest-groups.

With the self-harm he has inflicted over the same-sex marriage issue, 2012 is turning out to be an 'annus horribilis' for the nationalist leader and, by extension, detracting from his ultimate goal - that of obtaining a national vote for Scottish independence.

International

We have recently seen hair-trigger uprisings around the Muslim world over the film made which is perceived to be critical of Islam. I have accordingly placed two 'old' articles onto the homepage of the site with

information about the growth and impact of Islam. One of these gives [‘Facts about Islam’](#) and the other outlines [‘Ten things everyone needs to know about Islam.’](#)

“ Syria is slowly dying”

I am watching images of Aleppo (Syria) as I type. A news reporter this morning said that ‘Syria is slowly dying’. The report I am watching states that anti-government forces in Syria are being armed by Saudi Arabia. But we also know that Iran is supporting the Assad regime. So what we have here is a **proxy war between (Sunni) Saudi Arabia and (Shia) Iran**. It is a war which neither side is winning but one which neither side can afford to lose. It is creating a situation whereby no ordinary citizen can stay, but neither do the people have anywhere to go. The net result is civil war and the destruction of a country and its people.

Other issues



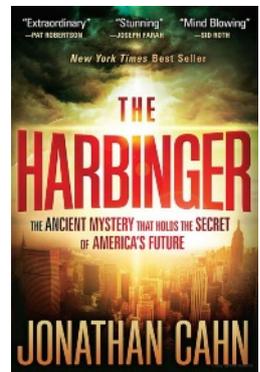
A couple of weeks back I placed an article onto the site entitled: [‘Garth Hewitt; the Flip Side of a ‘troubadour’](#). The article placed two YouTube clips in juxtaposition. One showed a gentle pro-peace songster the other an angry cleric who could – if his language and spirit is anything to go by – have been a raging Muslim Jihadist.

The reason I put the article there was an attempt to forewarn churches who may have been thinking about booking Hewitt for a concert, about the alter ego that is hidden behind the gentle songster persona. (I hasten to add that my motivation was and is partly to do with the fact that I was – a little while back – involved in a situation where a church had been caught out.) However I didn’t (and don’t unless I have to) want to put all this into the public domain. Watching the videos should be enough to give any discerning Christian a warning about the spirits that are at work in Hewitt’s life.

‘The Harbinger’

A book of this title is (seemingly) selling like hot cakes. This is not a recommendation for the book, but I would be interested to hear from anyone who has read it.

I don’t want to say any more than that; and you will find a wide range of views if the Google the title. (So I have not provided any links to other sources.)



Voting: the great church-splitter

I have also written an article on ‘Voting’ and outlined what I would see as the biblical alternative to this essentially-secular system of decision-making; one which continues to wreak havoc in local congregations and whole denominations across the globe.

Meanwhile I trust that you are finding blessing and encouragement in your own sphere of ministry. We are seeing much instability and even collapse around us, but in all that we witness, let us rejoice that God is working out His purposes.

When Scripture was written there were no word processors; no bold, underlining or italics to bring emphasis. Yet God’s method of reinforcing a point carries through to our day in the UK House of Commons. In earlier times when the government took an important matter to the



floor of the House of Commons for a vote to be taken there was a 'three-line' underscoring of the vital points. Even today the 'Chief Whip' issues a 'three-line whip' on the most important of issues.

In the 'threes' in the Bible, God uses a 'threefold emphasis' with respect to the things that of things divine. (There is a notable exception in the book of Jeremiah which God uses to make a very telling point, but I will leave that for another day.)

So in Handel's Messiah the assembly of saints, spontaneously and of its own volition, sings: "**Hallelujah; Hallelujah; Hallelujah**" in praise of God ([Rev 19:1-4](#)). Yet the occasion of this paean of praise to our God is one of chaos and calamity in the world. Chapter 28 of the Revelation details the fall and the total ruin of Babylon – the great whore; the great city; the figurative sum total of the whole world's godless systems.



Yet as her 'smoke rises up for ever and ever' the great company of God's saints are lifting their hearts and their voices in praise of the Almighty God.

And we read in the letter to the Hebrews...

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying,

" YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN."

And this expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. (Heb 12:26 – 27)

The late Derek Prince used to say that whenever we come across the word 'therefore' in the pages of God's word, we need to ask ourselves: "**What is it there for?**" And so we read on...

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe. (Heb 12:28)

And if you haven't yet clicked on the 'Hallelujah' graphic above, you might want to try it. Enjoy!

In His love and grace,

Colin

editor@christianstogether.net



PS Remember to visit [the homepage of the Christians Together website](#) for other articles and latest news.