

Christian



A Lifeline of
hope in the
Middle East!



Literacy,
Leadership,
Learning and
Librarianship



Another CLIS Author!

Librarian

Issue no. 89 Winter 2023

Integrity and Truth: Standards in Public Life

Annual Conference 2024

13th April 2024

at

Christian Medical Fellowship

6, Marshalsea Road

London

SE1 1HL

Speakers:

Robert Dimmick TSSF

Dr Benjamin Chang



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CHRISTIAN LIBRARIAN: NEWSLETTER AND JOURNAL OF CHRISTIANS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

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Times change! *First Word* by Richard Waller President of CLIS



Well, we made it! In my previous *First Word* I asked for people to respond and make it possible to do a second issue in 2023 and here we are. Thank you to all contributors.

CLIS has been busy running the usual activities during the year and you will find some reports of what has been going on in these pages.

As another year comes towards its end one has to wonder whether the folk who are saying that the return of the Lord must be near have a point. The situation seems rather on the bleak side, disorder rises in our own land, the government seems to be unable to get a grip, and gospel freedom seems to be in danger with the demands for a conversion therapy ban being very strident.

Conversion therapy is of course a great evil if I have understood the matter rightly, it reminds me of the brainwashing prevalent in some rather unpleasant regimes of the time when I was young. All persons of goodwill, whether Christians or not, must stand against that sort of thing.

What is not so good is the word 'conversion' being included here. Since the day when Peter got up on the Day of Pentecost and urged the crowd to repent and be baptised the church has sought to convert people to Christianity. Repentance itself is another target term, of course. Any mention of sorrow for sin and of-

fences against God and others seems to be anathema to a certain type of mind. Since repentance actually means turning your back on “any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God”¹ it covers a lot more territory than is generally realised by the world at large who see it only in terms of a few hot issues.

As Christians we are called to be holy and to work with the indwelling Holy Spirit to become more and more like our Saviour. For me this is a work very much in progress and well short of its objective. Probably for you too! Our lives are to be lives of repentance and faith, knowing just how much we fall short of the standard that our Lord lays down.

We are also to urge “*all men everywhere to repent*”² and this is our duty as defined by God himself in the person of his Son. One can only hope and pray that we don't find ourselves in the position of Peter and John in Acts 4, who had to return a respectful but uncompromising refusal to take on board orders not to preach and teach the Gospel message any more.

To return to where I came in, is the return of the Lord nigh? It is tempting to think so, but we are warned not to speculate about this matter. The dreadful fighting in the Ukraine and Gaza and less well known conflicts in many parts of Africa and Asia making life frightful for so many people, the rise in the levels of persecution of Christians world-wide, and assorted natural disasters - no rain leading to wildfires or too much leading to flooding - etc., etc.: these are all things that make one wish for Christ to come again and bring in his kingdom of peace.

We cannot tell what God will choose to do and we cannot constrain him. But he does wish us to live in the light of Jesus' return. We need to be a holy people for a holy God. May the Lord help us to live like that.

¹*Westminster Shorter Catechism, answer to Question 14 'What is sin?'*, published 1647 and still used in the church circles I frequent

² Acts 17 verse 30. Paul's speech to the Athenian Areopagus Council

Richard is currently President of CLIS, and in the past has served as Secretary, Committee Chair and Library Assistance Co-ordinator, having been a member since 1974. When not doing CLIS things he is reading, running his garden railway, pursuing his interest in vexillology and then fills up any spare time with being Church Secretary at his local church and Secretary of the local Grace Baptist Churches fellowship in Lancashire.

Gloucester Annual Lecture

Richard Waller



“Theology for Everyone” was the title of the 2023 Annual Lecture which took place in Gloucester at St. Mary de Crypt Church where George Whitfield preached his first sermon. An interesting address from Dr. Daniel Button, Director of the Gateway Theology School, that will hopefully be in the next issue of the CL. Given his subject I was riveted by this quote from Erasmus that was on one of the advertising banners he bought with him to support his talk.

What is a pity is that our lectures are not better attended, they are usually good, why not come?

CLIS Conference Report

Karen Hans FCLIP

The CLIS Conference "The Word for the World" took place in April 2023 at Abbey Baptist Church in Reading and appeared to me to be a great success. I was not actually 'in the room where it happened', however, but joined in online due to the flare up of a health condition.



Abbey Baptist Church, Reading

As I had been commissioned to write the conference report for the newsletter I determined nonetheless to do so; I hope this will still give a good flavour of the conference for those who were neither in the room nor able to attend online!

The venue and all facilities were reportedly excellent and the two of us joining online (thanks to John Wickenden for setting up the link) were able to hear the speakers and see the screen when relevant. The day began with worship, which Richard Waller kindly led in my absence as I had chosen the hymns and readings some time beforehand when I expected to attend. He did this despite not knowing the first hymn himself: "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet" and I believe he enjoyed learning another worship song and of course the words were very fitting for the theme.

The time of worship, prayer and reflection was followed by the first speaker Matt Baalham, the Deputy Librarian at Tyndale House.



Tyndale House, Cambridge

The committee asked Tyndale House to tell CLIS members more about their work as CLIS recently gifted £10,000 to fund some of their online library services. The first thing Matt cleared up was that Tyndale House is not the same organisation that we may all be

aware of as the publisher of Christian books. This Tyndale House is an independent charity, although it has links with Cambridge University. It was established by the Intervarsity Fellowship (IVF) in 1944 and is an international centre for research on the text, history, languages and cultural context of the bible. They are named for William Tyndale who wanted the bible to be understood by all, the current vision being based on that "We want a world that takes the Bible seriously". Tyndale House largely do this by providing a relevant library and developing a community of scholars. They have a specific desire to encourage evangelical scholars to engage in the field of biblical studies, rather than to withdraw. Through this means they want to confirm the credibility of the bible via academic means and also bring that knowledge and confidence back to non-academic believers in local churches.

Matt spoke about some of the exciting current research projects that are being undertaken by Tyndale House scholars, for example using cutting edge technology to unlock ancient text. They regularly publish research journals and also a book called "Can we

trust the Gospels?" which is a non-academic work for dissemination and can be bought at www.linktr.ee/tyndalehouse (where you can also subscribe to Ink for "accessible Bible resources direct to your inbox"). The website <https://tyndalehouse.com/> has links to videos to engage Christians and non-Christians, on topics of interest such as "Isn't the Bible sexist?" and "The earliest evidence for the text of the New Testament". The library itself is a very useful reference collection, that scholars with access to



View of part of the Library at Tyndale House

Cambridge University library still prefer to use for Biblical Studies research. Tyndale House also provides users with access to a number of focused key e-resources e.g. e-journals, e-books, databases, available to them off-site and to past as well as present students. It is a great way of resourcing people who return to poorly resourced countries/institutions and this is where the donation from CLIS will be specifically used.

The next item on the conference agenda was the Annual General Meeting of CLIS and this was led by Richard Waller who gave an honourable mention to Paul Burbridge of the Riding Lights Theatre, extending our condolences to his family and friends and remembering a hilarious "Reference Librarian" skit which was part of Paul's excellent CLIS Annual Lecture. Robert Foster, presented the Annual Report. The previous minutes were accepted as correct, officers were confirmed in their positions and the accounts were presented by Diana Guthrie. There was an item of Any Other Business, with some discussion around the reasons for CLIS discontinuing the subscription to the Evangelical Alliance. Lunch came next and I expect was enjoyed by all, having seen the menu in advance! I'm sure there was also lots of conversation and catching up, then came the second of the presentations.



Paul Burbridge

Luke Lewis and Katharina Penner came to speak about The Langham Partnership, to which CLIS has recently given £5000. Luke is Director of Publishing for Langham Partnership and

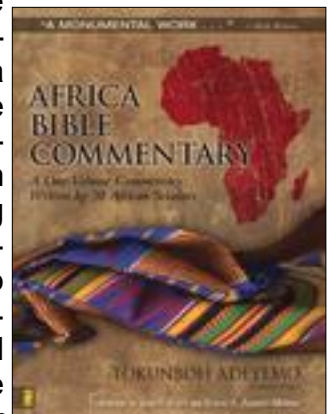


Katharina Penner was born in Soviet Kyrgyzstan and lives in Vienna. She holds two master's degrees and is working towards a PhD in theological education. She has worked as a faculty member and library director at theological schools in Russia, the Czech



Republic, and Austria, and recently published an edited volume in Langham's ICETE series Best Practice Guidelines for Theological Libraries Serving Doctoral Programs. They told us that Langham Partnership was established by John Stott and that the Langham Publishing House is now able to publish local academic books around the world as well as working with local publishers to make resources available. It is clear to them that the best way to meet needs is not to send lots of books indiscriminately, but to run specific courses and provide specific resources that local recipients have chosen.

They have recently been involved with the one-volume regional commentaries, for example the Africa Bible Commentary 2006 which has many contributors from across the continent and is available in seven languages. Currently work is being done on a Chinese Commentary. Katharina spoke about libraries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia since the collapse of communism there., mentioning that things are changing recently with the increased Russian aggression in the region. Many librarians there do not have prior training, thus collection management is a huge challenge as we can all well appreciate. Katharina discussed the different classification systems available (or not, as some have not been translated) and the problem that without librarianship education or experience the staff can make



wrong decisions early on about software etc., realise later, but be unable to change it. She also spoke about the issues with e-resources, including the problems of energy costs and electricity cuts - students often have to read from their mobile phones and this is not an easy way to study! Katharina also spoke about published case studies of positive cases of Librarians managing to meet the needs of their users despite the many challenges, often finding ingenious solutions. In Kazakhstan she had helped a library get the funding from the USA for books, but then it was difficult to source appropriate books and get them transported safely! The day ended with questions and appreciation, including a query about the openness and number of the churches in the areas where Katharina is involved. Richard concluded the day, stating what I'm sure many thought - how pleased CLIS was to be involved in supporting such work.

Our thanks to Karen Hans who joined us on Zoom and provided this memory of the day. Karen is Librarian of Forest Hill School, London

Tribute to the late Jean Woods **by Richard Waller**

Additional information supplied by Janice Paine

As President of Christians in Library and Information Services it is my honour to be able to pay this brief tribute to our late colleague and friend, Jean Woods. I do not go to every member's funeral, but Jean was different, so my wife and I went to her funeral in Leicester Forest East on 2nd March this year. It is a good many years since she was active as a Librarian, in fact one problem with being 91 and long retired is that you outlive many friends and colleagues who know what you achieved! I am glad to give this brief professional and personal tribute both at the funeral and here.

Jean was a longstanding member of Christians in Library and Information Services (formerly known as the Librarians' Christian Fellowship) having joined in 1977, only one year after the Fellowship was formally created. She was a very capable and talented librarian with an encyclopaedic knowledge of theological literature and missionary work from her years as Librarian of the Church

Missionary Society/Partnership House until she retired in 1992. She was an active and respected member of ABTAPL (the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries). After her retirement she placed her skills at the disposal of our CLIS Library Assistance Programme, of which I was then coordinator. In her I found a valuable and knowledgeable helper in the esoteric minority field of theology and mission librarianship and she helped out a number of Christian organisations that needed advice to run their libraries or some practical help to overcome shortages of resources. The organisations helped were pleased to discover that Jean was one of those offering to assist for she had wide recognition in the area of theological training, even among academic rather than library staff.

For a number of years she joined the week long working parties reorganising the then Northumbria Bible College Library in Berwick-upon-Tweed. These were highly intensive events, with 12 hour working days, but it was sometimes difficult to get her to stop for breaks and meals! At the last of them she did finally admit she needed a sleep after lunch as she couldn't do it any more! She made a lot of friends in CLIS and it was always a delight to meet up at meetings and conferences at which she was a regular attendee. She will be missed for her gentle good humour as well as her skills.

From the other tributes paid at her funeral it was clear that Jean was also very active in her local Anglican Church in London, serving as Church Warden for many years before moving to Leicester

to be near family. She was clearly much loved by her family.

My wife Norma and I were very happy to count Jean as one of our friends.



The final working party at the Northumbria Bible College, Berwick-upon-Tweed Jean is seated front centre



Thomas Traherne (c1634-1674)

Rachel E. Johnson

Who Was Thomas Traherne?

Thomas Traherne was born in the city of Hereford circa 1637, the exact date is unclear, as are many details of his life. He died in 1674. These years, you will have realised, coincided with the English Civil War, and he was about five years old when the War reached Hereford.

Aged about sixteen, (1653), he went up to Oxford to attend Brasenose College, a Puritan college, from where he graduated with a BA in 1656. Returning to Hereford, he was appointed Rector of St Mary's Church Credenhill, a village close to Hereford, but was not fully ordained until 1660, after King Charles II was restored to the throne.

Throughout his seventeen years as a parish priest, he wrote both poetry and prose, but his first publication did not appear until 1673. The following year, 1674 he left Credenhill to reside in Teddington, where he became domestic chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman (the former Lord Keeper of the Great Seal).

Continuing to write, he prepared his last work for publication – *Christian Ethicks: The Way to Blessedness*, but died in the Autumn 1674. He was buried in St Mary's Church, Teddington, where there is a commemorative window. Events at this church include lectures to commemorate Traherne's connection with the church. *Christian Ethicks* was published within months of his death, but neither of the two printed books attracted much attention at the time. Traherne was almost forgotten for over two hundred years.

¹ See [You searched for traherne - Teddington Parish](#) for more information.

So - What makes Traherne worth reading?

During his years in Oxford, Traherne began to reflect and write on the subject of God as the source of true happiness. He looked for someone who could teach him 'felicity'— happiness - which he wrote of as 'the mistress of all other sciences', but he found no-one. Nevertheless, he continued to reflect and write on this subject, leaving many hand-written but unsigned works behind him, works which, with the exception of the two mentioned above, were only discovered in the twentieth century. The stories of the serendipitous discoveries of Traherne's poetry and prose are of the stuff that librarians and scholars' dreams are made.²

His many works include theological controversy, physico-theology, (now more usually termed natural theology), an encyclopaedia of felicity, notebooks, biblical epic, lyric poetry, and devotional meditations. In one of his first works *Select Meditations*, he sought to 'teach Immortal Souls the way to Heaven'. Shards of his work can be found in anthologies of 'mystic' poets. Traherne wrote about childhood, his own perceptions of the world as a child, and the need to view the world with the sense of wonder seen in a child's eyes.

His first volume of poetry was found in manuscript form in the clearance box outside a second hand bookshop, 1896-7 and published in 1903. Following this publication were his prose works *Centuries of Meditation*, (1908), and *The Commentaries of Heaven, an encyclopaedia of happiness*, (rescued from a burning rubbish tip near Wigan in about 1967).

More recently (1997), five more works were found in Lambeth Palace Library, including Traherne's major work *The Kingdom of God*. These have all now been published.

Richard Birt noted that: 'On the flysheet of the book found in Lambeth Palace Library, someone had written:

'Why is this so long detained in a dark manuscript, that if printed would be a Light to the World, and a Universal Blessing?'³

² See below for some hints as to these stories. If your appetite is whetted, find more information here: <http://www.thomastraherneassociation.org>

³ <http://www.thomastraherneassociation.org> Richard Birt 2006 (amended 2015)



These words indicate how, in every age, Traherne's words speak into the turmoil of the world, reminding the reader that God's light infuses the world. Traherne's perception of the natural world in relation to himself, mankind, and God, is timeless. In the twenty first century, when the natural world is so threatened by the results of human activity, his work is freshly relevant.

Where do I start?

A major project to reprint the works of Thomas Traherne is underway and has currently reached Volume 7 (of 15). The Oxford Traherne is a collaborative project, and will be the first fully annotated critical edition of Traherne⁴. These volumes are welcome, but expensive and potentially daunting for the beginner.

Among the many critical works on Traherne cited on the Association website, are the helpful, accessible and easily available titles by Denise Inge, Richard Wilmott and David Buresh:

Buresh, David (ed), *Waking Up in Heaven: A Contemporary Edition of Centuries of Meditation*, Spencerville, MD, Hesed Press 2002

ISBN 978-0972160216

Inge, Denise. *Thomas Traherne: Poetry and Prose*, London, SPCK 2002

ISBN 978-0281054688

Inge, Denise. *Happiness and Holiness: Thomas Traherne and his Writings*. Norwich, Canterbury Press 2008

ISBN 978-1853117893

Wilmott, Richard. *The Voluble Soul: Thomas Traherne's Poetic Style and Thought*. Cambridge: The Lutterworth Press, 2021.

For those interested in musical settings, the Association website notes settings of Traherne's writing currently available, via this link:

[Traherne Association - Each Jubilant Chord \(thomastraherneassociation.org\)](http://thomastraherneassociation.org)

The setting of Dies Natalis: *Cantata for soprano or tenor and*

⁴ [Welcome to The Oxford Traherne | THE OXFORD TRAHERNE](http://www.oxfordtraherne.com)

string orchestra by the composer Gerald Finzi was performed to a full house at the Three Choirs Festival held in Hereford in 2022.

A Personal Note

I have discovered that some readers are interested in personal voyages of reading discovery. Here, in brief, is how I discovered Traherne:

As a teenager, the 16-17 years variety, I listened to the music of the contemporary folk (for want of a more precise description) band, Incredible String Band. On their double album – yes, it was an album, vinyl – *Wee Tam and the Big Huge*, was a song containing two lines of Traherne’s poetry. I got excited and looked up more about the author, eventually landing a copy of *Centuries* (London: The Faith Press, 1960). These lines in *Centuries: The First Century: 29*, were those which initially inspired me, and the continuing voyage of discovery of Traherne’s work opens vistas above the everyday concerns from which we cannot escape, but which we can redefine in the light of God’s love:

‘You’ll never enjoy the world aright, till the Sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with the stars ...’

I hope this short introduction to Traherne may encourage you to explore his work, and maybe, to join the Association.

Information for this brief introduction found on:

The Traherne Association website

<http://www.thomastraherneassociation.org>

Leaflet produced by the Traherne Association, available in the Audley Chapel, Hereford Cathedral.

The Oxford Traherne website:

[Welcome to The Oxford Traherne | THE OXFORD TRAHERNE](#)

[You searched for traherne - Teddington Parish](#)





A Lifeline of Hope in the Middle East

SAT-7 UK Press Officer Lindsay Shaw introduces a media ministry that gives a window into the faith and life of Christian believers to viewers across the Middle East and North Africa

Hope is in short supply for many populations served by SAT-7 in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Türkiye is still in shock after February's devastating earthquakes that claimed 48,000 lives and left 1.5 million homeless. Seven thousand lives were also lost in neighbouring Syria, deepening a humanitarian crisis caused by 12 years of war. Afghanistan now lives under the heel of the Taliban and the people of Iran are exhausted by foreign sanctions and decades of religious coercion. Lebanon is in political and economic crisis with soaring prices across the region pushing more families into poverty. Meanwhile, Christians in many of the region's countries continue to face discrimination and state persecution in some.



SAT-7 celebrates Christian festivals by filming special devotional and musical programmes such as this series filmed in Jordan

show the region's people that God loves them, that hope is possible, that in Christ they can find meaning, comfort, and the resources to flourish in the face of life's many challenges.

SAT-7 has been doing just this since 1996. Its faith-filled satellite TV and digital media reaches into countries where Christian activities are severely restricted and directly to people's homes and

and the people of Iran are exhausted by foreign sanctions and decades of religious coercion. Lebanon is in political and economic crisis with soaring prices across the region pushing more families into poverty. Meanwhile, Christians in many of the region's countries continue to face discrimination and state persecution in some.

All of this adds to the urgency to show the region's people that God loves them, that hope is possible,



Living Faith uses the Book of James to explore practical Christianity for new believers in Afghanistan

phones in areas where there may be no public churches of any kind.

Over more than 25 years, the network has grown from very small beginnings to offer its holistic Christian programming 24/7 in Arabic, Persian and Turkish. As technology and media have developed, it has added online and social media content and, in 2021, the region's first Christian on-demand streaming service.

Cultural sensitivity

SAT-7 presenters live in or come from the region, share the Good News of Jesus in culturally sensitive ways, and relate it to the issues of daily life. With studios based in Egypt, Lebanon and Türkiye, as well as in London and Cyprus, SAT-7 gives the local and diaspora Christian community a platform to share their beliefs and values with their own communities.



Inner Revolution is a new Persian language series that offers biblical and psychological responses to the challenges faced by different generations in Iran

From church services to talk shows, documentaries and even drama, SAT-7 comes alongside viewers as a friend, fellow Christian,



Quality Time is one of many youth and children's shows that help young Arabs to grow in their Christian faith



Turkish programme *You Are Not Alone* gives emotional, practical and legal advice to women on topics ranging from anxiety to domestic violence

or pastor. Women and children are prioritised, too. Programmes by and for women living in patriarchal societies highlight their value in God's eyes, address family relationships, women's potential, and offer practical advice. In a region where 30%¹ of the population is

under 15 years of age, fun and interactive children's programmes, including a 24/7 Arabic children's channel, are an important part of SAT-7's output. These help children to encounter God's love at an early age and are a support for parents unsure of how to pass on their faith in Muslim-dominated communities.

"We long to see children enter into fulness of life in Christ," says SAT-7 International CEO Rita El-Mounayer, "and we know that the future of our precious but troubled region lies in their hands."

Supporting isolated believers

Worship from some of the region's leading churches and teaching by gifted pastors allow viewers to join in praise and learn even if no fellowships exist where they live. Many of SAT-7's most enthusiastic viewers live in locations where it is not possible for them to go to church.

"While we still breathe, we need to be fed daily with God's Word," Mazdak from Iran messaged us. "Over the last 12 years, I have had no access to a church and it is through teaching clips from SAT-7 and really good programmes that teach the Bible that I have grown."



The Gathering, produced by a new team in Tunisia, explains Christian belief and values to North African viewers

Believers in Afghanistan – who risk death for following Christ – watch eagerly and many contact SAT-7's viewer support staff who pray with and send them encouraging biblical materials. Arman said, "The only hope we have is in the true God ... who grants us comfort and grace. This faith has caused me to live with peace in my heart and mind, without anxiety and fear."

Connecting through social media

In recent years social media has become a contact point for many new viewers who are drawn to SAT-7 Facebook pages dedicated to themes such as family, youth, and biblical devotions.

Salem, a non-Christian from Morocco, found SAT-7 through a Fa-

cebook page linked to the North African testimony show, *Free Souls*. He explained, "I pray, fast, and obey all the religious requirements, but I don't feel any peace." Salem welcomed the opportunity to hear how peace with God was possible through Christ and, like many who contact the network, he prayed to commit his life to Jesus.

SAT-7's viewer support teams answer the messages sent via social media and other channels. They offer advice, pray with viewers, connect them where appropriate to local Christians or counsellors, and have many opportunities to help them on their journey of faith.

Many viewers find encouragement in simply having the opportunity to watch fellow Christians from their own culture on television. The latest addition to SAT-7's output is a small team based in Tunisia. Since 2020, its productions have given a platform for the tiny Christian community there who use the opportunity to share their beliefs and vision for society.

Please pray that SAT-7 will continue to meet and adapt to its viewers' needs, increase its audiences in closed countries, and be able to recruit more presenters from MENA countries where the Christian community is small and fragile.

Learn more about how SAT-7 brings joy, shows love and strengthens faith in the Middle East at sat7uk.org

¹World Bank, 2020



CHRISTIANS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES (CLIS)

Daily prayer guide for each month

2023	<p><i>Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Cor 4 v 16-18</i></p>
Day	<p><i>Ask and it will be given you. Mt 7.7</i></p>
1	Praise God for who He is - knowing that He is mighty, just, holy & love & thank God for what He has done through LCF/CLIS since 1976.
2	Ask that we will be true to our Aims and Objectives: 1: To make Jesus known within the profession 2: To provide a Christian network for the support and development of members
3	Ask that we will be true to our Aims and Objectives: 3: To promote Christian values and to be a Christian voice within the profession 4: To provide a forum for discussion of professional issues within a context of Christian belief 5: To provide associated professional services to Christian organisations both in the UK and abroad.
4	The Holy Spirit's guidance in formulating a Christian viewpoint on professional issues
5	CLIS Fellowship, love, forbearance, unity about future planning, and a deep, contagious passion for Jesus.
6	Prayer Request Online Form - reach and effectiveness
7	Christian representation (salt & light) in CILIP Council, Branches, Groups, staff & Ethics Committee
8	CILIP governance and members - for faithfulness, integrity and wisdom in decision making
9	CILIP policy & advocacy on: information management; school & public libraries (especially cuts which affect the vulnerable); academic resources provision; information literacy; intellectual property; censorship issues
10	CLIS President (Richard Waller) Life Vice-Presidents (Elizabeth Barber, Donald Davis, Gordon Harris, Eddie Olliffe)
11	CLIS Executive Committee and Officers. Chair: Robert Foster Treasurer: Diana Guthrie Membership: Janice Paine Scottish Secretary: Anne MacRitchie, Website Manager: John Wickenden, Overseas: Eleanor Neil Library Assistance: Rachel Johnson Prayer: Karen Hans, Andrew Parker, Louise Manners, Annabel Haycraft
12	Calling of members to take on CLIS roles , especially Secretary, Treasurer & Recruitment Secretary

13	Recruitment of new members , including Christians at the start of their LIS career.
14	Publicity and promotion of CLIS. Website. Facebook, Twitter & LinkedIn Groups. Exhibitions.
15	Finance. Using our resources wisely, in light of the desire to reach new members and serve existing members
16	CLIS activities , visits, socials
17	Publications: <i>Christian librarian</i> ; the e-newsletter, for those preparing these
18	Growth and effectiveness of UK and overseas assistance work
19	CLIS Spring Conferences: for the organisers, the speakers, for godly fellowship and worship
20	CLIS Autumn Events: for the organisers, for godly fellowship and impact
21	Positive presentation of Jesus Christ to the profession and to individual colleagues
22	Organisations that CLIS supports: Transform Work UK, Speaking Volumes, BookAid
23	For individual Christians working in LIS UK , for their witness and wellbeing
24	For individual Christians working in LIS overseas , especially living in poverty or oppressive regimes
25	Fellowship of Christian Librarians and Information Specialists; Association of Christian Librarians USA
26	Christian Association for Librarians in Africa; Forum of Asian Theological Librarians.
27	Church libraries: those running them and their effectiveness
28	For all CLIS members: their activities and influence
29	For all CLIS members: their material, physical, emotional & spiritual wellbeing
30	For all CLIS members & families: including those who are grieving & those in a caring role
31	Christian presence at IFLA (every Aug): for godliness and impact on individuals and policy

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
Ephesians 3:20-21





“Speaking of sensations ...”
by
Paula Renouf
of
Speaking Volumes

This article appeared in the July 2023 issue of *Together* and was kindly sent to us by the author.

We all know that feeling - when the hairs on your arms prickle, your body heat rises and you find yourself wiping the back of your neck, just before the realisation hits you that.... doh!

.....God is at work. Well, I had one of those moments recently and I believe our esteemed *Together* editor/owner Luke did too.

Alas, we have to be strict these days about when people can apply for a grant. It is between March and April - just one allocation per year in order to keep costs to a minimum. So, when Luke told me he intended to apply for a grant in May for books for the children of an asylum seekers hotel in Exeter, my heart sank. I repeated the sad mantra that we couldn't help, could he apply next year? Yet very shortly after, we received a cheque from our very faithful friends at CLIS (Christians in Library and Information Services) for £300 that could go toward Luke's project. Then a further £160 became available through Choice Words Christian Bookshop, then further anonymous funding was offered to top up to £1,000. It was therefore with great pleasure that I was able to hand over the first boxes of books purchased at Bridge Bookshop, Exeter, to Jason Ham, operations, communications and creativity coordinator at Rediscover Church in Exeter.

As we know, it's no picnic in these makeshift detention centres. 360 people, about 70 of which are children, live in two converted hotels located outside of the city. Each family is allocated just one room. The home office can send families anywhere at any time, they are given prison style food and £9 a week to live off. Security is tight, they're not allowed to open windows but they can leave and return to the hotel. The children can go to school but the under fives stay with their families. Hotels aren't known for their provision for children such as outdoor play spaces and security, indeed there is growing concern for the safety of minors disappearing in the current system.

Families come from various countries where there is war, conflict

or unrest, or where they are at risk of torture, unfair trials, Sharia law or they're forced into marriage etc. Many are traumatised, lonely and lack certainty even though they have reached 'safe' shores. Apart from the intervention of English lessons and access to medical care the Home Office have no further responsibility and charities have no legal access. Processing applications for refugee status can take two years in which time they have no permit to work.

In this background, Luke's church, Rediscover Exeter, got involved. At Christmas, Devon Refugee Support reached out to local churches asking for vital warm clothes which they took to the hotels and were hugely appreciated. Seeing other needs, the church got busy providing toys, bikes and books and activities such as friendship bracelet crafting, inflatable surf boarding games etc. A regular playgroup for under 5s and a Kids Matter parenting class started (15 babies have been born to families whilst in the hotel), school backpacks with essential items were given to the school children. Lifts are provided to Church and many people are exploring the Christian faith. And now, there's a library of Christian books for the children. These will enhance the other activities and give families opportunities to read and learn together.

It's tough being an asylum seeker, to say the least, arriving from an unsafe place on an unsafe route to be placed indefinitely in unsafe accommodation, so any help received is warmly accepted and the simplest of things bring much joy. Let's hope and pray that the simple act of giving Christian books will also bring joy and hope. And for us? well, we'll probably get the tell-tale goosebumps knowing that Jesus is being served and is present in the hotels.

Jason, Paula and Mary in the Bridge Bookshop, with some of the books purchased for Exeter's Asylum Seekers hotels.



Volunteer Opportunity

The Library at Ripon College, Cuddesdon is seeking volunteers to assist with shelving, tidying and general library housekeeping duties. There has been a college in Cuddesdon (a village 6 miles outside Oxford) since 1854, training ministers for ordination in the Church of England. The historical collections require working at height, and there is no lift currently to the first floor library space. A contribution towards travel expenses and free lunches during term time are available to those able to make a regular commitment. Any availability (from 2 hours per week or more) would be very welcome and please **contact the Librarian/Archivist, Annabel Haycraft, on annabel.haycraft@rcc.ac.uk or phone 01865 877411 if you would like to discuss the possibility further.**

(Although details are yet to be confirmed there is also the possibility of a separate volunteering opportunity at the College's Gloucester/Hereford site, involving de-cataloguing stock).



Ripon College,
Cuddesdon,
Oxford
OX44 9EX.



**CHRISTIANS IN
PROFESSIONAL
SECTOR GROUPS
[CSPG]**

Report by Janice Paine

On 22 March 2023 TransformWork hosted a meeting for leaders of CSPG. This was attended by representatives from Police, Care, Media, Road Transport, Government, Pharmacy, NHS, Lawyers, Teachers, and (on Zoom) Firefighters and Dental. It was an encouraging, informative and challenging event.

During the initial ‘networking’ time I met the rep from the (new) Christians in Care group who works for Alex Davis, a speaker at our 2021 Conference!

Talk 1: Dr Jonathan Oloyede spoke to encourage us to interpret Daniel’s situation in a 21st century context; God can give us the wisdom we need. As the light of the world, we should “glow in the authentic reality of who we are”. We should be both brilliant and spiritual in the workplace, relying on prayer and the Holy Spirit more than brains or common sense. Cf Acts 6:7 : the numbers increased as the leaders aligned themselves to what God was doing. Like radiators, we should bring the warmth of Christ to our place of work.

Sharing: Each representative shared examples of encouragement and challenge from their group. Everyone had interesting stories to bring – unfortunately we ran out of time to cover the planned post-lunch session on “Engaging with students and young professionals” which will now be covered in a future Zoom meeting (see below).

The main themes from this session were:

- Importance of prayer and listening to the Spirit

- Focus on mission and influence, not survival

- Use social media

- Look at the issues and needs of our sector and provide resources

- Challenges: time, apathy, aging membership, valuing people as human beings not just customers/colleagues, control from employers, connecting with students.

Talk 2: Anne de Leyser spoke about the ministry of blessing and her retreat centre in Wales which some CPSG members had attended.

Follow-up

- The talks from Dr Oloyede and Anne de Leyser are available via <https://tinyurl.com/3nkhph9w>.

- Lawyers gave out samples of resources including “Living for Jesus at work” (daily reflections, an advice booklet, Bible study guide).

- TW include CPSG events on their calendar.

- Future Transformwork events can be found on their website transformworkuk.org /what's on.

Non-majority world theological library associations

Winette Field BA(Hons) MA MCLIP

William Booth College Librarian

Introduction

Following on from the talk given at the 2023 Spring Conference, about the work of the Langham Partnership, I thought that members of CLIS might like to know about some organizations supporting the work of Theological Education and in particular its libraries here and abroad.

To that end this article focuses on The Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries (ABTAPL), Bibliothèques européennes de théologie (BETH) and American Theological Library Association (ATLA). But first a reflection on the current state of UK theological education.

Reflection

All UK accredited courses, aimed at training theology students and clergy, are overseen by validating/awarding bodies and, until recently, the Quality Assurance Agency. In addition, students express their thoughts via their National Student Survey with the results collated and placed on the Office for Students website. Thus, although some places may seem to compete against each other for students, as institutions sharing experiences collaboration is important. This is done not just at the level of Library staff but also Bursar and Principal level.

In the UK many theological libraries do not participate in SCOUNL or JISC projects linking collections. This is due to funding formulas and size. However, via ABTAPL members of one library can often access inter-library loans. In addition, attempts have been made to secure the future of some journals within member collections.

Current challenges for college libraries include:

- eBook pricing models and costs of online resources
- Digitization challenges
- Finding appropriate electronic texts
- The ability to offer aggregated search options using Discovery services

- Appropriate staffing
- Students are increasingly time poor
- Diversification of courses and training models



ABTAPL

Established in 1956, its aim is to share information, experience, and advice as means of supporting libraries/archives in this sector and their staff. As such it does not ascribe to any particular faith, approaching matters from a technical perspective. This does not mean participants don't come from varying traditions but that all faiths, and none, are represented in the collections serviced. Thus, members include big Universities, solo staffed archives, cathedrals, and theological colleges.

Over the years it has worked on collective projects looking at benchmarking, union lists, a union catalogue, and an e-library.

Meeting face to face twice a year, ABTAPL also offers monthly online opportunities for informal conversation through ABchaTL. This started as a means of supporting each other during the Covid-19 lockdowns and has continued.

CPD of LIS staff is very important to the organization and to this end video conferencing has been used to deliver a wide range of training opportunities in the last few years. Formats vary from formal sessions, involving a single trainer, to multi-presenter gatherings to community in practice groups. COP groups normally involve discussion and the sharing of practice. Much of this online activity has been delivered for free to members and more recently to BETH member institutions.

Support for majority world theological libraries has been an important aspect of ABTAPL for a number of years. But more recently funds have been established to help UK based members in hardship or needing money for training.

More information can be found on its [website](#).



BIBLIOTHÈQUES EUROPÉENNES DE THÉOLOGIE
EUROPEAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES
EUROPÄISCHE BIBLIOTHEKEN FÜR THEOLOGIE

BETH

This is an ecumenical association of European national theological library

organizations and single libraries. ABTAPL is a member of BETH,

able to send 2 representatives to its annual general assembly. Overall, BETH aims to facilitate networking and co-operation within the European sector to develop this area of cultural provision further.

The name BETH came about in 1999, but the group has its roots in another 1950's initiative UNESCO's *International Association of Theological Libraries* (1955). *Although that ended, a few continental countries worked to re-establish something similar in 1961; and over time that has grown to what it is now.*

Currently members are involved in

- Open access resources
- Books and articles
- Catalogues of theological literature
- Journals
- Erasmus exchange

The 2023 gathering is in Spain focusing on the challenges of ecclesiastical libraries in Europe. The papers delivered will follow on from material collated for a book entitled *Theological Libraries and Library Associations in Europe*. Two chapters of which were written by ABTAPL committee members.

The logo for ATLA, consisting of the lowercase letters 'atla' in a blue, sans-serif font.

ATLA: collectors and connectors in Religion and Theology

Connections by ATLA are made between students, scholars, and researchers to libraries, librarians, and research tools. It is older than the organizations already outlined starting in 1946 as a member

organization but also as a publisher of research tools including: *Atla Religion Database*[®] (*Atla RDB*[®]), *AtlaSerials*[®] (*Atlas*[®]), and *AtlaSerials PLUS*[®] (*Atlas PLUS*[®]).

ABTAPL gets some funding from ATLA via BETH based on royalties re members' use of the Atla RDB.

Further work:

Books@Atla Open Press - titles published using Creative Commons Licences

[Summary of Proceedings](#) – official records of the ATLA conferences

[Theological Librarianship](#) – peer-reviewed open access journal

[TCB: Technical Services in Religion & Theology](#) – open access
[Atla Annual Yearbook](#) – the business reports of the association

This commitment to open access materials is commendable and the accessibility of material continues in its truly annual hybrid conference. ABTAPL has 2 speakers lined up for this year's ATLA Annual June 2023, Fort Worth Texas, and once more will be supporting a committee member to attend as an online delegate.

The Annual offers libraries from the same denomination the opportunity to get together as well as LIS staff with the same special interests. Last year's conference covered everything from the library as part of God's mission working with student foodbanks through to information literacy projects and assessing collections in relation to new subject offerings.

Conclusion

- This was just an overview. If you are interested in finding out more: please do look at the various websites.
- sign up for one of the conferences as they are amazing opportunities to see the library / archives world through a different lens
- visit a Cathedral Library near you

References

¹ [NSS data: provider-level - Office for Students](#) accessed 15.05.2023

² [Society of College, National and University Libraries](#)

³ Jisc is the UK digital, data and technology agency focused on tertiary education, research and innovation.

⁴ [Home - Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries \(abtapl.org.uk\)](#)

⁵ [BETH | 51st – 2023 – Cordoba](#) accessed 27 April 2023

⁶ [Theological Libraries and Library Associations in Europe – A Festschrift on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of BETH | Brill](#) accessed 27 April 2023

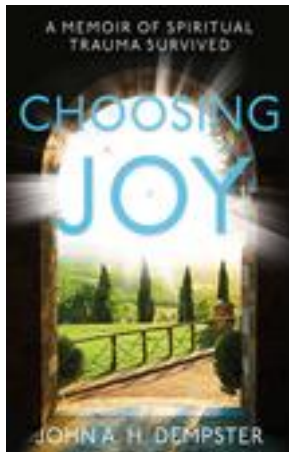
⁷ Chapter 1 – Tolerating religious libraries in England by Anna James and Chapter 3 Theological Libraries in Oxford by Hannie Riley

⁸ See the Learning and Engagement section of [Collectors & Connectors in Religion & Theology \(atla.com\)](#) accessed 27 April 2023

Book Review by Anne McRitchie

Choosing Joy

by John A. H. Dempster



This is a big book in 3 parts subdivided into chapters and covers all John's life. John had many struggles in his youth and young manhood both with various mental health issues and his relationship with his parents. While they were loving, John never felt he quite came up to their expectations and found real communication with them difficult.

Also John found little joy, peace or inspiration in the various Churches he attended though he did get baptised by full immersion as a young man. John was always beset with doubts in his faith until recent years and some-

times even now. He read many books on theology and religious views some of which were more helpful and encouraging than others. He was however, blessed with some good and supportive friends and had a fairly joyful experience at a Scripture Union mission in St. Andrews even though it was out of his comfort zone.

Eventually John met Lorna through a Christian dating site when John was 40. They settled in Inverness and have two grown-up daughters who have brought John much joy. John also got the job of IT manager for Highland Libraries which he was really happy in, happier than in any of his other previous jobs in various libraries and bookshops. "Choosing Joy" is a tale of triumph through many difficulties and insecurities and coming to happiness and indeed joy. I would recommend this book to anybody having the sort of mental health issues John suffered from in his youth, but has now largely overcome, and also to anybody beset with doubts in their faith in God.

Choosing joy : a memoir of spiritual trauma survived is published by Troubadour, ISBN 9781803132242

*Anne is Scottish Representative on the CLIS Committee
John Dempster was the very first Scottish Rep back in the 1970s*

Literacy, leadership, learning and librarianship

Karen Hans MA FCLIP

Librarian, Forest Hill School, London



This time last year I was preparing to begin what I thought was a year-long course to improve my leadership of literacy in the school. There is no Literacy Lead or Literacy Co-ordinator in my school, a role that exists in many (most?) other schools, so as Librarian and with an increasing concern about literacy I had taken on some of what this role would normally entail. Several years ago I instigated a Word of the Week, which I have run ever since and a couple of years ago I did the same with tutor time reading aloud, which is effective at secondary school when done well – and there lies the rub. Not being literacy lead means lacking legitimacy in following up on staff committing to these initiatives. I'm also aware that tutors have many calls on their limited tutor time, some regular and



planned on certain days (as are the WOW and reading), others are ad hoc but frequent and very important too. Part of my reasoning in committing to the course was that with training in literacy my voice with our school leaders would be louder.

The course had been advertised by the School Library Association and the Literacy trainer was to be a fantastic practitioner that I was already very aware of and knew I would really benefit from. I understood it to consist of six modules over a year, delivered as online lectures / workshops and with some practical tasks to imple-

ment in school. As it was an apprenticeship it would be paid from the levy that the government otherwise takes from school finances. I spoke to our school senior leaders involved in finance and literacy about the opportunity and they were keen for me to undertake the course, as was my line manager. I had to find my O-level Maths and English certificates from over 3 decades ago and undertake online tests in maths and literacy. These were quite time consuming and frustrating, as I felt they were quite poorly written (I have an MA, but apparently that cannot be taken as proof of literacy or numeracy), but I was excited to be on the course and pleased when I passed this hurdle.



At the end of the summer holiday, however, it became clear that I was on quite a different course to the one I thought I had signed up to! I was sent a lot of forms to fill in, committing to the course (very official, mainly due to the apprenticeship levy aspect) and asking me to rate my leadership and management skills / experience in various aspects and give examples to explain my ratings. I was rather bemused at this and called the provider, only to find that I was about to begin a degree level 18 month course in leadership and management, with a tiny side order of leading literacy. This was a complete shock and I was rather dismayed when I realised the time and work it would require. I could see that it could be useful though and it did incorporate a literacy aspect delivered by the specialist that I admired. I took a deep breath, signed on the dotted line and logged in to attend the first remote session on Leadership.



Once I knew the main content of the course I had dreaded being taught bullying or manipulative ways of managing the people in your organisation: I remembered rumours of senior leadership courses from much earlier in my career, not to mention how I have too often observed or suffered from these behaviours. I was par-

ticularly alert for Neuro-Linguistic Programming, which went through a popular phase in the 1990s, around the time I was studying for my Information Services Management MA and which I had critiqued in an article. I was extremely relieved to hear then, that virtually the first thing that we were told by the National College of



Education was that their ideal model is 'servant leadership' and that this would be the tenor of the course content they delivered. This aligns perfectly with my biblical view of leadership and from then I was able to relax.

I have learned such a lot that has already been useful during this year at work. Due to the focus on coaching and mentoring in the early sessions of the course, I took up an opportunity that arose in school to be

coached for one term by a senior leader who was with us on secondment. I would not otherwise have volunteered for this, but found it really useful in thinking differently about my career and my place in school. I had formerly been very happy to 'manage' myself, having once been micro-managed and another time been



regularly given things to do that were my line manager's remit, but not really my priorities. I had for many years now at my current and former school been trusted by my line managers and thus left largely to my own devices, saving when I requested a listening ear or needed crisis support. I saw via the coaching that this was actually not serving me or the organisation well, though it took some time to fully embrace this mentally, emotionally

and practically. I am now in a healthier position regarding this and the leadership structure of the matrix library lesson team that I lead by default, but not by organisational structure. I have also benefitted from instigating more structured line management meetings with my assistant. As we work together constantly we would simply discuss things as we went along, but I have gained from her great ideas through a focussed time of brainstorming upcoming events and we both gained from me explaining my think-

ing, rather than assuming she would understand what was in my mind!



Writing essays for the first time in 25 years was interesting, though fortunately I do a fair amount of writing anyway so it hasn't proved too difficult. Very embarrassingly, however, I didn't think to reference my sources in my first essay, which must be a cardinal sin for a librarian! My learning mentor has been fantastic, very supportive and just the right person for me. I will be re-

lying on her heavily in the next term as I complete the final lectures and essays and move on to the end project and the viva. Part of the time commitment is to read research on leadership, or listen to podcasts. Some of these I have found very useful and challenging and it is good to know that people involved in the Harvard Business School suffer from the same frustrations and insecurities as I do!

Circling back to the 'servant leadership' ethos: I have learned to develop my listening more than my speaking, to seek consensus (even though my ideas are – of course - the best!) as we can 'go fast alone, but go far together'. I have learned to view negotiation as a process where both parties can succeed and to be brave enough to have difficult conversations, but to plan for them well.



I have also learned to communicate regularly with my line manager so that they can do their job, which includes guiding and protecting me.

My greatest 'success' this year is very bittersweet, as my assistant is no longer my assistant, having developed so much in skills and confidence during the year that she secured a promotion to be the Librarian in a nearby school. Part of her decision to leave was that

we would be able to work together still, but as partners, and that I would also be close by for support in the early stages of her next career steps. I am proud of having helped her to develop, mainly by giving her opportunities beyond her job description as I could see that she was very capable. Of course I now have to recruit and learn to work with a new assistant and I am very glad that the knowledge from the course will help me set a healthy course as a team leader and manager. I always did my best previously, but this was based on a mixture of wanting to be a good colleague, adopting a professional attitude and learning from the good and



bad that I had observed in my own managers.

The state school environment is a very pressured one to remain in till retirement, although very rewarding as well. In learning more about good leadership from this course and exploring career options for myself during the coaching sessions, I have been discouraged from taking a career step any time soon. The exception to this would be to lead a whole team of school librarians as I would feel confident in my specialist knowledge, but positions like that are few and very far between. To move to a different sector of li-

brarianship, or to a higher position within schools would mean knowing less about the day to day operations than the team(s) of librarians or teachers I would be leading. This feels very daunting as I can see from the course how demanding good leadership itself is, without that added learning curve. I also know, however, that women tend not to apply for a role until they are 100% sure of their capabilities on all aspects, whereas men tend to apply if they tick only a couple of the boxes; I expect I will look around prayerfully from time to time.

I've reflected on learning, leadership and libraries, but what about literacy? This has been a useful, but definitely a more minor, part of the course. It has enabled me, however, to work meaningfully with senior management on our literacy tracking and interventions, resulting in an enhanced service for the pupils. This should also mean that we are in a good position as a school on these metrics for our imminently expected Ofsted inspection. My end of course project is likely to be on Information Literacy: working with teachers to deliver aspects of critical thinking through subject related lessons. This is exciting as it is something I have been asking and planning to implement for a few years now, but has been delayed for various reasons. I have encouraged other school librarians to sign up for the whole course as both the literacy and the leadership topics are so pertinent to our roles. I have also become a convert to the idea of all middle leaders attending the leadership and management main course: I have found it so helpful to have explicit instruction on these skills and expectations, it is something that is generally lacking for school staff and everyone deserves the opportunity to have and to be a good (servant) leader.

