

WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

January 22, 2023

'ZILLBUMS!' AND OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS!
(PART A) A LETTER TO A PASTOR.
(PART B) JESUS CHRIST VISITS TWO ENGLISH CHURCHES

Number 85



SCRIPTURE
 BASED
 OUTLOOK ON
 A VARIETY OF
 TOPICS



(PART A) Dear Pastor and Reverend,

It was nice visiting you and the church last weekend. I hope you won't mind if I share my heart. As I told you I am new to this area. My son is here also with me, and I am quite desperate for him to find real Christian teaching on a Sunday. He's getting bigger now, nearly 10, so I feel it's important for him. We've been to about eight churches so far in our new city; one we went to, he attended the Sunday school part at St Paul's four times, and he had to sit with the four- to six-year-old and do colouring with them for about an hour. He's very amenable and kind to younger children, so I think he didn't mind in the end. I wouldn't mention this, but this happened four times and no one ever read him a Bible story at that church, like I thought they were supposed to do at Sunday school.

In the adult section everyone was singing modern songs about how they love Jesus and so on, so we didn't really get involved after the fourth time.

I understand your church is more traditional and myself being quite ancient now I do enjoy those great hymns of old that have stood the

test of time. We came up from the south where some churches are reasonably full, that is 50 to 100 people. The adults there like to sway back and forth to these lovely old hymns, men usually prefer to wear sloppy or casual jeans of some type for some reason, and put their hands in their pockets or otherwise cross their arms across their chest while singing to God and 'worshipping' Him.



A few people will close their eyes and wave their hands around in a gently swaying and rocking motion. (Not rock and roll that is!) Again, this was a bit difficult for me to absorb as I grew up as a Christian abroad in South America and then India where people seemed to 'belt out' the songs to Jesus with great vigour and gusto and there was a certain 'buzz' if you know what I mean? Have you had a chance to go to those places, Reverend in your travels?

I'm not expecting your church to be like that, and I did enjoy some of those great hymns the other day. I just want to let you know where we are coming from.

One thing I noticed at the church is that your parish council does seem to be quite busy renting out the Gospel Hall for toddler groups, mothers and elderly folk to meet in, and yoga classes on Wednesdays. I saw that there was even a meeting time for 'ZILLBUMS!' * That new dance craze that has come over from God knows where.



I don't know it very well, I did hear of Zumba, or was that, Samba? Then there was flossing and quite a few other things. I know a bit about that, having seen women mainly do the Zumba in a church hall one time long ago.

> **'ZILIBUMS!'** Seems to be the natural successor to that. Apparently, I have heard, women shake their bottoms and gyrate in your holy sanctuary, and other people who may also wish to be there as well, just observing or having a cup of that nice tea you make there. I was wondering about all this the other day in my morning prayer time, I **suddenly**, and I promise you I am not making this up Reverend, well, I thought of the verse where Jesus said:

> 1. Matthew 21:13

And (He) said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

> 2. Mark 11:17

And He taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? But ye have made it a den of thieves.

> 3. Luke 19:46

Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves



Jesus and the Money-Changers (Boris Olshansky, 2006)

Then I couldn't get it out of my head, that verse I mean. Could it be that some churches should be called a 'House of prayer' but we have actually made them a den

of Zillibums? That God created or allowed us to build holy places to read His Word and grow close to Him, but instead we have partially rented them out to the **'ZILIBUMMERS'** and others? Just a thought. I just hope the real Jesus doesn't come along with a whip like He did 2,000 years ago and throw everyone out? Why don't we do it for Him?

Then I was thinking, and I really don't know why these strange thoughts should come into my mind at all, perhaps it's my age, Reverend? Anyway, I thought about the Charleston dance way



back 100 years ago this year.

My! That was a dance if ever there was one. It's been kept alive so to speak here and there on what is called the mass media. However, there is one thing that all those people have in common, (I also thought), of course they were mostly young like the majority of the **'ZILIBUMMERS'**, but the common factor I realised is that these lovely young people are all dead now. And that made me then think that perhaps one day even the **'ZILIBUMMERS'** may be dead, and if they don't know Jesus, I can't imagine they will have **'ZILIBUMMING'** in the other place, or even the Charleston for that matter.

Now don't get me wrong, Reverend, I like to dance myself at times, nearly as much as dear King David, and sing to high heaven in the bath and my son absolutely nails it when he does the Floss, it's just that it seems a

matter of mixed priorities, to me, but what do I know?

Now if all those people who rented your holy sanctuary could agree to a five-minute prayer and hearing a few verses from the Bible before beginning, that would be great, at least they would perhaps sense they were standing on Holy Ground, and with good fortune, some may one day believe like us, or simply not come back. Either way you win, don't you?

God bless you dear Reverend. My warmest regards, Jerry

(PART B) JESUS VISITS TWO ENGLISH CHURCHES

Jesus is visiting two churches in England in this article. Of course, He likes to be incognito, so people don't really know it's Him! He has done this often in the New Testament and especially



after His Resurrection, where He appeared to His disciples, and they didn't know right away it was really Him!

I hope you enjoy this message. What do you think would happen if Jesus visited your church? God bless you.

The other night I was thinking, taking into account my own experiences of visiting churches in the England for over 40 years.

I was just wondering—what would it be like if Jesus was visiting a more formal church in the UK? I could easily imagine it would possibly go very much like this:

Well, er, what did you say your name was? Oh yes, Jesus, that's right. Thank you. Now Jesus, (you're not a catholic by the way

with a name like that are you?) Well, you have been visiting various churches in the area I have heard and of course we have been very pleased to have had you attend our services too. How many times have you actually been here? Oh five, is it?

Well, my colleagues and I were thinking we would have no objection to your becoming a member here, that is if you wanted to, there's no pressure.

We see you have been very punctual and shown a keen interest in the Word of God, which is very commendable, very indeed. But we know that regular fellowship is really what you need if you are going to grow in the faith. There are a lot of people nowadays who seem to flit around from church to church or just seem a bit, well you know, independent for lack of a better word. Now I'm sure you don't want to be like that. (A pause) Yes, that's right I thought you would agree.

It's definitely not good to be a 'Lone Ranger Christian'.



In our church we usually like to see people attend faithfully for several years before we can offer them some place of greater service, usually for example like organising the distribution of the prayer books or the even greater job of greeting people at the door sometimes and showing them to their seats, what few people do come that is. We do wish to grow in numbers, and we expect to do that by God's grace. So, what do you say?

Then I was thinking what would it be like if Jesus came by a more so-called progressive church here

in the UK?

Pastor: "Have you seen that new visitor, Norman? You know that one who does look a bit strange, but he has been several times now on Sunday mornings. I don't know what to make of him really. What do you think?"

Norman: "Well Pastor, a couple of the elders have already chatted with him, you know in a quiet unobtrusive way to try to get to know him a bit better. He does seem warm and friendly, and there IS something quite nice about him. But I think we should go slow with him, keep an eye on him, definitely don't invite him to any of the house cells for now. Let's wait and see if he keeps coming, to start off with. Some people seem to be 'sheep' if we can use that word, but in the long run they turn out to be more like the seed that falls by the wayside, if you know what I mean?"

Pastor: "Yes, I agree. We should pray about him for sure."

Norman: "Mike on the worship team said he noticed he didn't seem to enjoy much of the music, which was very odd. He said he noticed that only one or two songs seemed to interest him, and also, just out of interest, I could also see he was talking disproportionately with some of the young people. That also struck me as not quite right, you know how things are in society today with all these arrests of paedophiles, you can't be too careful. Also no one seems to know where he actually lives, and he is quite slow about opening up about himself. We don't even know where he comes from, he's obviously not from around here.

I could ask Joe to try and talk more with him, Joe's very good with people like that. I'll get back to you, pastor on it."

Pastor: "Thanks Norman, God bless you. I'm sure the Lord will give us wisdom."

Well, I could go on for many pages, and I don't think there is too much exaggeration of some of these thoughts to fit a few of the British churches.

But when we do actually think about it, how would we react if Jesus came to our church? Firstly, we probably wouldn't know Him. Secondly if we did, what would we do if it actually entered our minds and hearts that standing or sitting in front of us was the very Son of God? It is worth stopping to ponder, meditate and pray over this point.

We can see from the first few chapters of the Book of Revelation that Jesus does seem very interested in the gatherings of believers and their progress, or lack of it.

(Part B is taken from the book 'British Christians and the Coming Civil War!' By Jerry Finch.)

(*Zillibums is a made-up word by Jerry Finch)

Happy new week,

Love THE WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS TEAM

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IF
JESUS
HAD
AN
ABOUT
PAGE,



IN GENESIS HE IS THE SEED OF THE WOMAN.

IN EXODUS HE IS THE PASSOVER LAMB.

IN LEVITICUS HE IS THE ATONING SACRIFICE.

IN NUMBERS HE IS THE SMITTEN ROCK.

IN DEUTERONOMY HE IS THE ROCK.

IN JOSHUA HE IS THE CAPTAIN OF THE LORD'S HOSTS.

IN JUDGES HE IS THE DELIVERER.

IN RUTH HE IS THE HEAVENLY KINSMAN.

IN THE BOOKS OF KINGS HE IS THE PROMISED KING.

IN NEHEMIAH HE IS THE RESTORER OF THE NATION.

IN ESTHER HE IS THE ADVOCATE.

IN JOB HE IS MY REDEEMER.

IN PSALMS HE IS MY ALL & IN ALL.

IN PROVERBS HE IS MY PATTERN.

IN ECCLESIASTES HE IS MY GOAL.

IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON HE IS MY SATISFIER.

IN THE PROPHETS HE IS THE COMING PRINCE OF PEACE.

IN THE GOSPELS HE IS CHRIST COMING TO SEEK & TO SAVE.

IN ACTS HE IS CHRIST RISEN.

IN THE EPISTLES HE IS CHRIST AT THE FATHER'S RIGHT HAND.

IN THE REVELATION HE IS CHRIST RETURNING & REIGNING.

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