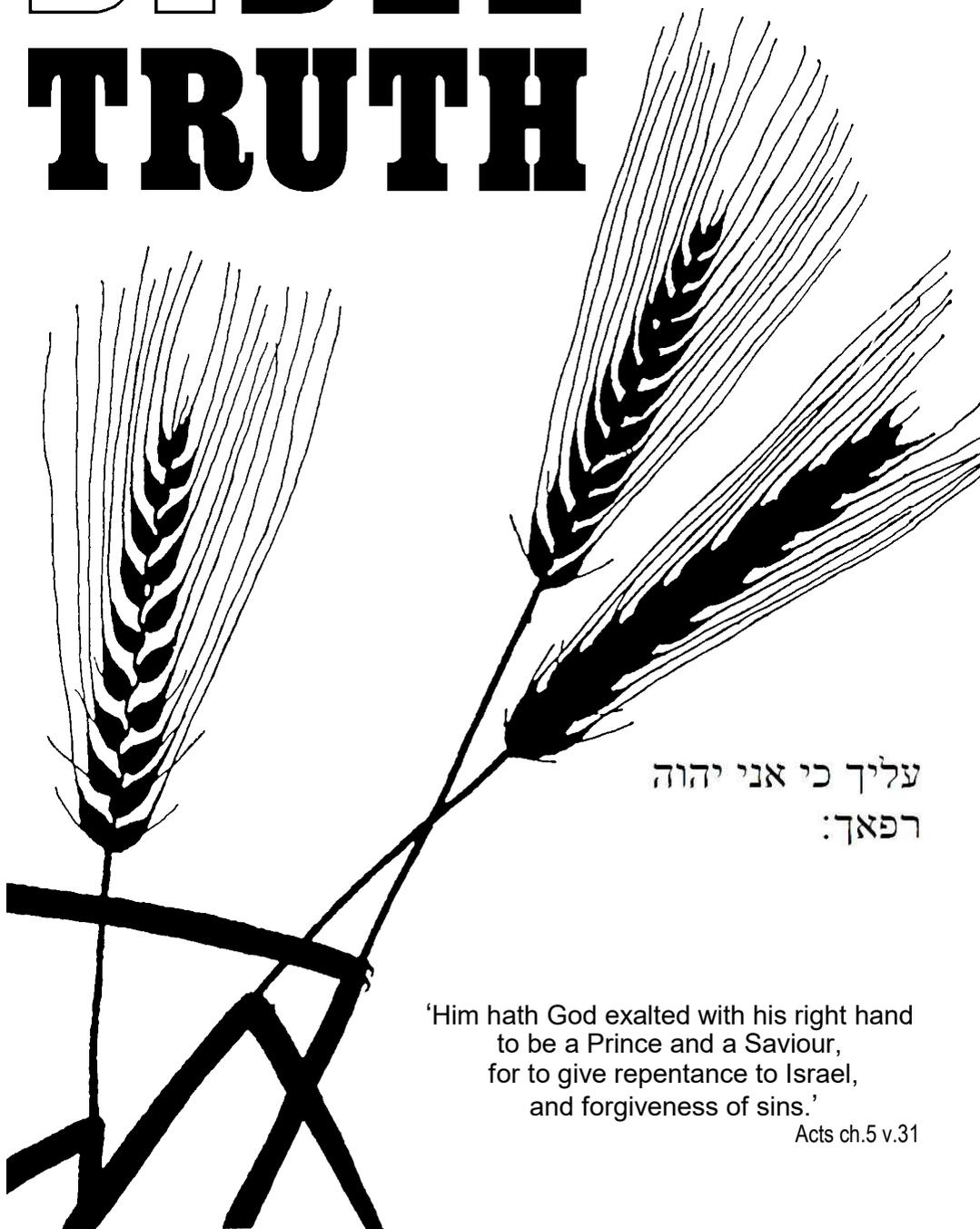


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 288
October/December 2017



עליך כי אני יהוה
:רפאך

'Him hath God exalted with his right hand
to be a Prince and a Saviour,
for to give repentance to Israel,
and forgiveness of sins.'

Acts ch.5 v.31

'Jehovah Raphe'

עליך כי אני יהוה רפאך:

'... I am the LORD that healeth thee.'

Exodus ch.15 v. 26

A Testimony and Vision
for personal and National Healing Today

by Michael D. Bennett OBE



1. Introduction

As BIBTF President, it has been my duty to chair most of the forty-two Annual General Meetings of the British Israel Bible Truth Fellowship. In that capacity it was my privilege, from year to year, to make some introductory comments helpful for our meeting.

This year was different as due to ill health I felt it was unwise to chair the entire AGM business, so I was grateful to my colleague (Vice President Derek Gash) who fulfilled that role. I was also grateful for an opportunity to give 'a word from the President'. This word comprised two parts. First my testimony to God's great goodness and healing power regarding my recent rapid recovery from an acute stroke, and second an exhortation to pray and believe for a miraculous Divine deliverance and healing for all the Israel nations, especially our United Kingdom of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in the present serious world situation, as well as the increasingly imminent return of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

We teach and believe that God is our Divine healer. I was blessed to grow up in a family and church which both accepted and experienced this truth. My father, Pastor Stanley Bennett, was an accredited Minister in the Bible Pattern Church which was founded by Principal George Jeffreys. It taught that the Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour, Healer, Baptiser in the Holy Spirit and Coming King. George Jeffreys also held to the Israel School of Bible prophecy and in his day wrote that, 'According to the Israel School, the British Commonwealth of Nations, the Americans, and all Celto-Anglo-Saxon and Jewish peoples are the lineal descendants of Israel. But like the lineal descendants of Gentiles each Israelite must be born-again to enter the Church of Christ'.

George Jeffreys was a talented writer and he authored a little book whose title *Healing Rays* is based on almost the last words God spoke to Old Testament Israel.

‘But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with **healing in his wings (or rays)**’

Malachi ch.4 v.2

I inherited my father’s copy of *Healing Rays* which I treasured for years given his Personal Testimony of Divine healing. My father contracted tuberculosis in the mid 1930s and was given only about a week to live by his doctor. However, he was anointed with oil with prayer according to James ch.5 vv 14-16 and soon afterwards he was miraculously and instantly healed. My father’s testimony entitled ‘**An Amazing Healing**’, which I often heard, was published in *Pentecostal Times* - see Section 3 below.

Principal George Jeffreys



2. Restoration and *Healing Rays*

The wife of a good friend was diagnosed with melanoma (cancer) and was not expected to live. I witnessed to my friend and his wife about Divine healing and wanted to lend them my copy of *Healing Rays*, but I was reluctant to part with it in case it was lost. The Lord told me they needed to read it. So I loaned it with trepidation. My friend’s wife was healed and is alive today. But, as I feared, my father’s book was not returned, and so I prayed for another copy. Just a few weeks later a lady gave me some boxes of Christian books which had belonged to her late father. To my delight I found they included a copy of *Healing Rays* by George Jeffreys. It was signed by G. Bowler who had pastored the Bible Pattern church at Bedford and was a firm adherent of, and who lectured on, the Israel school of Bible prophecy. I was recounting this extra little miracle of restoration during a convention at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, in July 2017 when I realised that a lady in the room [Ann Knight] had attended the Bedford Bible Pattern church when George Bowler was its Pastor. I showed her my replacement copy of *Healing Rays* which

I had with me and she immediately authenticated his signature. Praise God! Nothing given for use in His work is lost or wasted. So, the Lord first answered my prayer to heal my friend's wife of cancer. Second, He sent me a replacement copy of *Healing Rays* similarly owned by a Pastor that knew its author George Jeffreys, who also held to and lectured on the Israel school of Bible prophecy. Third, he also provided a witness to confirm my testimony.

'For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.'

Amos ch.9 v.9

Remember the five loaves and two fishes when twelve baskets of fragments were gathered after five thousand men were miraculously fed (see Matthew ch.14 vv 15-21).

3. My father's testimony to his amazing healing

My father had contracted tuberculosis at the age of 23 and was given only about a week to live by his doctor in 1937. However, he was anointed with oil and prayed for according to James ch.5 vv 14-16. Soon afterwards he was miraculously and instantly healed. My father's testimony, reproduced below which I often heard him tell, was published in *Pentecostal Times* where its editor Pastor Percy Brooks of the Apostolic Faith Church reported, 'This is an abridged version of the testimony given at our Boscombe Convention this year by Pastor Bennett of Gravesend, Kent'.

An Amazing Healing

'I was a very ambitious young man ... I bought a small laundry business, and to save wages sacked the man who stoked the boiler! That meant getting up myself at 4.30 a.m. I also did inside work from 8 am until 5 pm and also took home the accounts to do at night. Business did well and I was saving wages, but it was at a price. My health and strength broke down.

One Whitsun I was in the gallery of Kingsway Hall, London at a meeting when I collapsed. The next morning the doctor told me I had severe pleurisy. On my right lung I had a large patch and on the other lung I had a cavity and a tearing. My illness was now diagnosed as galloping consumption. I went down from eleven stone four pounds to seven stone. During one of my moments of consciousness I heard the panel doctor say "I give him about a week to live". I knew about Divine healing, and my mother said

that I should be prayed for so she sent for a Minister, who came at once and prayed for me according to the Scriptures.

“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

James ch.5 vv 14-16

But nothing happened, so we sent for the most important man I knew with such a ministry. He came, anointed me and prayed for me. But nothing happened.

All this time a voice deep down inside me, was telling me that I had a feud with a Christian minister that I had never put right. I felt I was in the right and he was in the wrong, but the inner voice said,

“You are not sending for the right man to pray for you. You will die and be buried unless you send for the man with whom you are not friendly. I will heal you through him”.

I thought to myself, “It is better to die, I shall go to heaven anyway”. But the lower I went in weakness the greater the conviction grew that I was grieving the Lord and by my attitude had damaged the Church of Christ. I felt I must put the matter right before I died, but I did not want to give in and humble myself.

Then a knock came at the front door. A little Christian woman, turned seventy years of age, stood there. She had walked two miles late at night. “Does Stanley Bennett live here?” she enquired. “I have got to tell him something.” It was explained to her that I was very ill. So she said, “I was praying this evening and the Lord told me to go and tell Stanley Bennett this – it’s in the Bible.”

“In his humiliation his judgment was taken away:” Acts ch.8 v.33

“You’ll be sure to tell him won’t you? Goodnight”.

Already for some days God had made it clear in my own spirit what I should do, but I was rebellious. However I thought, “If Jesus takes the trouble to send an old woman to bring me this message, it must be the right way for me to take”. So I sent for my old Pastor with whom I had the feud.

His coming to see me was not a bit as I expected. The Spirit of God was working with him too, and the tears ran down both our faces. We both cried together as he prayed with all his heart “Lord, heal Stanley!” I knew this time in my spirit that the healing work was done, though I felt no better. Not long afterwards, lying there in extreme weakness, sticking to the sheets with perspiration, I heard a voice say “I have finished the work you gave me to do”. I thought it came from somewhere outside in the street. I heard the sentence repeated, and again, the third time, and this time the revelation broke upon me. My inner being received Him Who is both Spirit and Life.

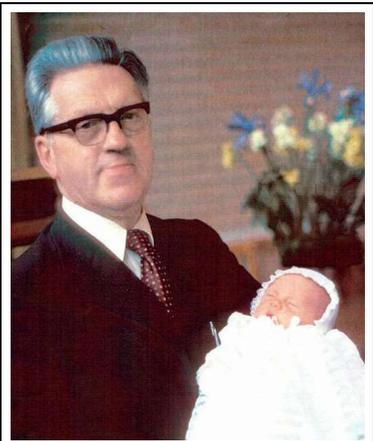
It seemed as if two great powerful generators started up in my lungs. Life was being generated in my lungs and surging up into my whole being, filling me, energising me! Not only in my lungs, but in every muscle, every particle of my being. It was God’s own miracle. He had finished it.

I tossed off the bed sheet and leapt to my feet. I, who had been too weak to open my eyes, ran to the window, pulled it up and put out my head. ... Grabbing a dressing gown I ran through the door and down the stairs, two, four, six, eight! – my hand sliding down the rail. One hundred per cent fit in a moment of time by the wonderful healing power of Jesus!

Had I not listened to and obeyed His Voice I would have had an epitaph instead of a testimony. The Word of God is true, and Jesus is the Divine Healer when the conditions are met within the province of His purpose and will.

The doctor sent me back to the hospital for two X-rays. I have in my possession from the TB specialist, proof that this is an accredited miracle, because the plates show my condition before and after my healing. In cases of natural healing there would be the shadow of scars, but because this

was a miracle the X-ray plates show two entirely new lung surfaces. To God be all the glory!



Pastor Stanley Bennett

N.B. Stanley Bennett was a BIBTF Council member 1977-81, and died in 2000 aged 86. He was Pastor of Chalk Pentecostal Free Church in Kent for thirty-nine years 1958-1997. I remember him sitting on my bed telling me how God had often delivered Israel Britain in history including at the battle of Britain and at Dunkirk in 1940, after our King had called a national day of prayer. So I grew up knowing our true identity, sure that God had healed my father on his death bed, and certain that had He not granted Divine healing, my parents would not have married in 1941 nor I born in 1943. This blessed faith and experience was witnessed and inter-generational in our family as I often heard my father's story confirmed by many eye witnesses including my mother and grandmother.

4. My Grandmother's faith and Divine Healing

When walking home from church my grandmother, who lived to be 96 years old, would often pause under a certain tree near our home in Wrotham Road, Gravesend to emphasise to me that it was the exact spot where she first accepted the truth of Divine Healing and was healed of a heart problem. One day when I was a child she felt unwell and asked me to pray for her. So we prayed together in the street for her healing. She soon recovered, and I remember her standing me on a table at the women's meeting she led on a Monday



Gran Bennett

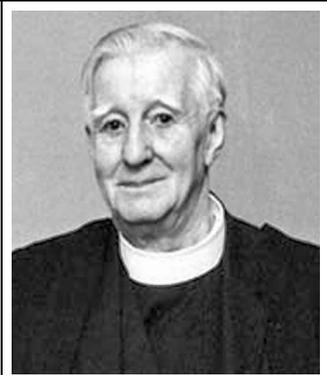
afternoon to testify to God's healing. I was five years old and it was the first time I had spoken at a public meeting. The ladies were attentive and kind and the experience made a deep impression which lives in my memory. It was in the 'Covenant Hall' [now demolished] on the Overcliffe in Gravesend, where the British Israel Bible prophecy meetings, which my grandmother took me to, were also sometimes held.

5. My Healing from recurrent headaches as a student

I needed healing myself when I was a student in Aberystwyth. I had dived into the University swimming pool hitting my head on its wall. Worryingly painful headaches came every day for two weeks, preventing me from studying when I needed to revise for important exams. Headache tablets and bed rest did no good. I knew I should obey the Bible and so I went to church and asked to be anointed at the midweek prayer meeting. That headache did not come next morning, and never returned. I could revise normally, passed my exams successfully, and knew assuredly again that God is my healer — (**Jehovah raphe**).

6. Rev McKelvey's remarkable recovery in 1973

Some stalwarts are old enough to remember that the Founder Organiser of the BIBTF, Reverend Charles Samuel McKelvey, suffered an acute illness in 1973 which stopped him speaking and travelling to meetings but confined him to bed. I remember visiting him at Romford while he was an invalid unable to talk clearly, or to get up. Yet he was cheerful and expecting the Lord to restore him to ministry. His faith was soon rewarded as he recovered his voice and was soon out preaching again. Amazingly only a few months after suffering his debilitating illness he was using public transport to attend many engagements hundreds of miles away, some in Scotland. His divine healing was another great witness to God's power and love today, and seeing it encouraged me to believe for a similar restoration experience after I recently suffered an acute stroke. My ability to address the BIBTF AGM, just 7 months later, proves that the Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. Thanks be to God for His unchanging Name and character.



Rev C.S. McKelvey

Interestingly, '... I am the Lord that healeth thee...' was the very first thing which God said to Israel at Marah just three days after He delivered them from Egypt following the Exodus which surely emphasises its foundational importance. At Marah God showed Moses a tree which made bitter waters sweet and gave Israel a lasting statute and an ordinance.

'... If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.'

Exodus ch.15 v.26

— (Jehovah raphe).

7. My acute stroke in October 2016 and God's purpose

Nothing, not even bitter things, happen to us without God's purpose. This includes illnesses which He sometimes uses to show His glory and to teach us to trust Him more.

'And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. ... If God be for us, who can be against us?'

Romans ch.8 vv 28 & 31

This spiritual truth applied to me in the early hours of Saturday 15 October 2016 when I suffered an acute stroke, but I was also greatly blessed as God's perfect timing and His control of all my circumstances was clearly seen.

My wife Anita was awakened by strange noises I was making. She spoke to me many times but I didn't respond. I slid onto the floor and eventually staggered towards the bathroom. Anita called 111 (the emergency services) and the operator tried speaking to me. I was incoherent, so he called an ambulance which arrived very quickly. After being assessed I was taken to Cambridge Addenbrookes Hospital arriving at A & E (Accident and Emergency) within 15 minutes. By God's grace Dr Warburton, the senior stroke consultant, had not yet finished her night shift. She immediately assessed me and I was given a brain scan. She told Anita that the scan showed blood clots in my brain. She said it was potentially life threatening (and the following 24 hours would be important). Dr Warburton said the situation was serious and suggested informing our three children, who all came to the hospital that morning. I was admitted to the Acute Stroke Ward and fitted with various tubes and lines whilst unconscious. Two Christians who were in the ward prayed for me. One told Anita she believed I would make a full recovery and she was praying for that and nothing less. A third witness, my daughter Danielle, also prayed aloud at my bedside assured by God that I would be restored to health.

There was some paralysis on my left side, particularly my arm and face, and my speech was impaired. I was in the Acute Stroke Ward for four days after which my feeding tube was removed and I was transferred to the Stroke Rehabilitation Unit. A week later (Friday 21 October) I became unconscious again and following several scans it was discovered I had an infection. I stayed in hospital a further week and was discharged on Friday 28 October.

I want to thank the Lord for His care and healing power, and express my gratitude to the many Christian friends who prayed for my full restoration. **I also praise God that my condition was amply documented by the medical staff so that the facts of my serious condition and miraculously rapid restoration are beyond doubt.**

My hospital discharge papers noted under 'patient active problems list': 'Acute ischaemic right PCA stroke'. The consultant told Anita that this was serious and my daughter Michelle, who was a nurse and ward sister, confirmed this. Under 'clinical narrative' my notes state 'admitted 2 a.m. with inability to walk, inability to understand instructions and incoherent speech. Stroke mechanism cardioembolism ... Unable to perform complicated task like tying his robe. Gait very unsteady...' Despite this, my recovery after prayer was very rapid and surprising.

Rapid Healing of speech. On 15 October 2016 I was unconscious and my speech was incoherent then for several days after. My rapid improvement in this regard was striking and undeniable as only 9 weeks later, on 18 December 2016, I stood unaided before the congregation at a Carol Service at Studlands Park Christian Fellowship, Newmarket, and read aloud the first lesson.

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,'

John ch.1 vv 1-14

I was easily heard and understood, as all present testified afterwards. Most were surprised I was even there, and I was encouraged to note how appropriate that reading beginning (v.1) with '**In the beginning was the word ...**', was for someone receiving healing for incoherent speech. So '**In the beginning was the word ...**'. Thus, the Lord restored my speech early in my healing, allowing me to pray, praise and sing aloud in public. To God be the glory for that healing! He also quickly restored my ability to move.

Rapid Healing of mobility. Following the stroke my balance, co-ordination and mobility were all affected and poor as physiotherapists tests showed. My hospital notes record that I was unable to perform complicated tasks such as 'tying his robe', and my 'gait very unsteady'. At first I needed help to get up, wash, dress, comb my hair and walk. I was given a walking stick and told to use it [but only for short walks and with someone to hold my arm]. My rapid improvement in this regard was also striking and undeniable as evidenced by the fact that I was soon able to go for a mile long walk at the National Trust's Anglesey Abbey winter garden on 2nd December using my stick.

I heard that my grandson Harry was praying asking the Lord to heal grandad 'so he can come to my school carol service'. So prompted by the Lord, but against both medical advice and common sense, I travelled 120 miles by car from Cambridge to Canterbury to attend St Edmund's School carol service in a wheel chair on 16 December 2016 in Canterbury Cathedral. I had faith to dispense completely with my stick after attending a friend's funeral in March 2017, as by then I could walk alone, climb stairs, wash my hair and shave, dress myself except for a few buttons, and lift 50 litre bags of compost from the car boot into a wheelbarrow!

Healing my mind / thinking. After my stroke my mental capabilities were also significantly impaired - 'Patient presented with acute confusional state'. I found it more difficult to read, write, remember names, or concentrate on topics and tasks; I often fell asleep, even in mid-sentence and was hard to reawaken. I found it hard to type - hitting multiple keys and reduced to typing with one finger on each hand. I found composing sentences and ordering paragraphs for letters and articles difficult.

However, my stroke forced me to focus on doing several complicated legal and financial tasks. My testimony is that I was able to do so with help from my family, despite having to switch to a new personal computer with new software, migrating from Windows 7 to 10. This mind marathon started in January 2017 with doing our financial accounts for 2016. It also involved changing our car in February 2017, and applying to renew my driving licence. In April 2017 after my stroke consultant discharged me saying he did not want or expect to see me again, which is further undeniable proof of God's healing power. I was also enabled to prepare an address for the BIBTF Annual General Meeting at Orange Street Church on 13th May 2017, and to testify for an hour at the CPF (Covenant People's Fellowship) Convention on 3 July 2017 at High Leigh Conference Centre.

Coping with such work and the tiredness it caused has been the most difficult effect of my stroke and slowest part of my recovery, but I was enabled to do these things through Christ who strengthened me (see Phillipians ch.4 v.13), in answer to the prayers and faith of the many individuals and groups from Sri Lanka to Scotland who contacted me by cards, letters, phone calls, and e-mails to express their intention to pray for my complete recovery. My gratitude goes to over 200 people who fasted, prayed, sent a prayer cloth, and communion wine.

Important ministries of the Holy Spirit to the mind. There is little to do in hospital except rest, meditate and pray. My brain was active thinking about Bible matters and I was aware of a flow of scriptural thoughts which I felt were not initiated by me but implanted there. I felt strongly that God was guiding my thinking and directing me to recognise that I was experiencing Bible truths including words which Jesus said to his disciples. First I became strongly aware that I was not afraid or alone. One passage filled my mind, namely this.

‘God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore will not we fear,’

Psalm 46 vv 1-2

In my weakness I received strength by repeating and receiving this truth. It fitted well with my previous experiences on operating tables while having eye surgery without fear or pain as I fixed my being on repeatedly reciting the following promise - ‘There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love’ (1 John ch.4 v.18). It really works!

Second, another passage became an undeniable focus for my meditation, namely,

‘These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid’.

John ch.14 vv 25-27

It occurred to me how important it is to read, remember and meditate on the Bible when one is in good health and enjoying a normal life. For how can a Christian remember such things unless they are first aware of them and familiar with their authorship and context? So I became convinced that God was speaking to me, and was quite excited to discover what He would highlight next for each day. Each day I would pray asking ‘What is the special thought or word for remembering today?’

In confirmation the Lord brought this scripture to my mind, especially the thought that His mercies are new every morning.

'This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because **his compassions fail not. They are new every morning**: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.'

Lamentations ch.3 vv 21-26

His mercies are new every morning filled my mind. One morning as I was thinking this I looked at the nurse who had just come to awaken me for pills and blood tests. The staff all wore name badges, and I noticed that her name was 'Mercy' (meaning compassion). I told her she had a lovely name and said 'I think your parents must be Christians to have chosen that name for you'. She replied, 'Yes, they are Christians'. I said 'so am I', and felt specially blessed with the fitting appropriate immediacy of God's purposes in life.

Witness to the food laws - 'no pork, no seafood'. Amazingly I also had a prime opportunity to witness to our British Israel identity and faith. A notice above every bed stated the consultant's name and also the patient's name and permitted diet. A man in the ward noted that mine said 'no pork, no seafood', so he asked me if I was Jew. When I replied 'No' he asked 'then, why are you keeping the Jewish food laws?' I told him the food laws are for Israelites, and are also kept by many Christians like me who believe they are Israelites and want to obey God's laws. He asked me 'Why'? I said it's because they think He knows best what we should eat for a healthy life, and as Creator He has told us to avoid eating scavengers such as pigs, crabs and prawns. He said he had met some Christians in America who believed in obeying Bible food laws and had found them to be kind and honest unlike many of his own church who were hard hearted and often ignored Bible doctrine. He encouraged me to stand firm in my faith to Bible truth. We shook hands. I thought how strange to have such an honest conversation invited by a complete stranger in hospital, while outside it is hard to have one on this subject with fellow Christians who deny God's food laws and are often quick to oppose any who seek to keep them (and serve ham sandwiches at every church event!). If I had not been hospitalised I would not have been given this blessed experience, so my illness worked for my good.

One man I met in hospital was suffering pain stoically. He kept telling me we could get through everything by our own will power. He was very positive but God reminded me that his philosophy was flawed as I remembered some apt words of Jesus. 'Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?' (see Matthew ch.6 v.27). Human willpower is not enough, and will fail, but Faith says 'thine is the power', and prays 'thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven'.

So much for my personal testimony of healing. When prayer is answered it is important to give thanks to the Lord and acknowledge His goodness to us in the sanctuary.

8. Praying to the Lord to heal our land and nation.

Finally, a short word about our national and global situation. For we are also praying and expecting the Lord to heal our land. Indeed, we believe He is already active in this regard, and we are seeing a miraculous change begun in our nation and world - nothing less than a promised miraculous change of heart.

'Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.'

Ezekiel ch.18 vv 29-32.

In the above passage Israel is told to make a new heart and spirit themselves. However God knows our weakness and soon after He promises that He Himself will do the commanded miracle for us. So we can depend on Him for our national Divine Healing and Life in these Last Days. Thanks be to God for His eternal love, truth and grace.

'Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.'

Ezekiel ch.36 vv 25-27

‘Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock.’

Ezekiel ch. 36 vv 36-37

‘For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.’

Malachi ch. 3 v. 6

‘And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts.’

Malachi ch.3 v.12

‘But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth,’

Malachi ch.4 v. 2

The BIBTF Annual General Meetings in London often coincide with important moments in British History. In 2015 it was held one day after the 70th anniversary of VE day (Victory in Europe) which was on Friday 8th May, and was marked by three days of official events organised by the British Government. We thank God that anniversary did not pass without some public memory of the National Days of prayer called by King George VI at times of great national danger, and thanksgiving for recognition of the miraculous deliverances at Dunkirk and on D-Day (Normandy Landings).

Our 2016 AGM fell between two momentous national events. The first was on 21 April 2016 when our Queen reached her 90th birthday. The second was on 23 June 2016 when our nation voted in a referendum on the question of whether or not the UK should continue as a member of the EU (European Union). For decades it seemed impossible that such an opportunity would be given to our electorate as all large parties were hell bent on supporting the EU project and like three brass monkeys could ‘see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil’. Nevertheless, we prayed humbly and earnestly for many years, in Orange Street Congregational Church, London, that God would make a way out and deliver our nation from our captivity in a godless Babylonian EU organisation, so we can avoid sharing in its iniquities and receiving its plagues.

We should not fail to recognise that it is a miracle how (despite all the main political parties still favouring continued EU membership), God has so changed things, engineering leaders against their better judgment to the point where a referendum was held, and a majority voted to leave the EU (Brexit). This event was nothing less than miraculous and shocked most leaders, many of whom promptly resigned.

So today we must give thanks for this miraculous step, to continue to humble ourselves confessing our national sins, to pray that God will guide us all the way until we leave the EU, to choose life and deliverance as well as departing from sinning more and receiving end-time plagues on 'Babylon'.

We must be about our Father's business. There is no more important matter to report or discuss at the Annual General business meeting. Let us all pray for the miraculous healing of our nation.

'Almighty God, and merciful heavenly Father, we humbly beseech thee in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Redeemer Jesus Christ to hear our prayer and forgive us our national sins. Like Daniel in Babylon before us ... We confess O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy with those that love him, and to those who keep his commandments. We have sinned and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments.

O Lord, we thank you that you have worked miraculously in our national affairs bringing about this day of opportunity. Lord we believe that your prophetic word, which commands your people to come out of Babylon in this New Testament age, must be fulfilled in due time. O Lord, who knows the hearts of all men, we pray that your people Israel will not harden their heart, as in the day of provocation, to delay deliverance. O Lord, move on the heart of this people, in this day of our salvation. O Lord, hear; O Lord forgive; O Lord hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name [Israel] ... O satisfy us early with thy mercy: that we may rejoice and be glad in our days.

Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us: yea, the work of our hands, establish thou it. We ask this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Israel's Redeemer. Amen.'

Our presence at meetings in Westminster provides an important opportunity to pray as part of God's faithful remnant that God will overrule in our national affairs.

We believe man proposes but God disposes. 'Have mercy upon us, and grant us wisdom to live and witness in these difficult and ungodly times.'

We have already seen one miracle in our land and now we must pray to frustrate all the knavish tricks of the enemies who scheme to break up the United Kingdom. So we must pray for miracles of healing for Scotland and Ireland and believe for a change of heart there, as another profound work of the Holy Spirit.

As we have already seen a miracle in our land we must pray for more here. But we must now also pray for and believe to see God's arm made bare in Europe to pour His end time plagues on enemies there who would frustrate Israel Britain's plan to obey God and come into her prepared chambers. God rules and overrules. He does not change, but can change everything and everybody else!

*God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea [= walks on water!]
And rides upon the storm.*

*Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.*

William Cowper 1731-1800

My personal testimony is that God has completed healing me from the physical symptoms of my acute stroke so that I can live a normal life today. My mental healing is well advanced but needs completion to fully restore my energy, memory and sharpness to pre-stroke levels. I find mental activity such as prolonged concentration, reading, writing, public speaking, problem solving and remembering many peoples' names and place details tiring. My consultants said this could take a year or two to normalise. However,

like the nurses in hospital I am still believing and praying only for complete healing including full energy and mental restoration. So I ask friends to use their faith joining me in continued prayer for nothing less than full mental and energy restoration to empower me to serve the Lord with my mind.

Since student days in the 1960's at Aberystwyth I have known that my prime calling is to serve as a Bible student and teacher. I thank God for His leading and power inspiring and enabling me to research, write, teach and publish so much over the past 50 years. To God be the glory, for without Him we can do nothing. I believe my work is unfinished as many draft sermons, articles, booklets and books exist only as unfinished symphonies. So I invite Christian friends to pray on, asking the Lord to complete my mental healing, to restore my typing and writing (key board and composition) skills and to grant me the wisdom, guidance, strength and energy I need to progress and finish the things ordained for my life yet to be used for His glory and to bless others.

'The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.'

Psalms 37 vv 23-24

'For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained [prepared] that we should walk in them.'

Ephesians ch.2 v.10
