

| This booklet is a revised and updated version of 'Crossing Over' first published by Issachar Ministries in 2022. To be an Issachar People is to understand the times, and to know, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, what needs to be done. Whilst the world of 2022 was in many ways unrecognisable compared to the 'normal' life we knew before Covid and lockdowns, the year and a half since Sarah Winbow and I wrote the first edition has seen further momentous changes which will affect our lives and future. The rise of the 'climate religion' and particularly developments in Israel and the disputed 'Palestinian' territories have necessitated an important update in this second edition. Many people are searching for an understanding of these evil times, the enormous societal and political changes taking place and for some answers as to how they should respond. This booklet represents our understanding of the times in which we live and some guidance for those believers who seek to play their part as God works out His end-time purposes on the earth.

Whilst principally authored by Sarah Winbow and myself, this edition was written with the support and contributions of fellow Trustees and members of our core team who have authorised and endorsed its publication. Our hope and prayer is that this booklet will be of practical help to many by bringing into sharp focus the great challenges ahead for us. There are, and will be, enormous opportunities for us to bring many lost and despairing souls to Christ.

**Nick Szkiler**

**Chair of Trustees, November 2023**

## CROSSING OVER

It is right and fitting to honour Clifford and Monica Hill for their decades of faithful service to the ministry they founded, a ministry which was prophetic in nature and which had for some decades been ‘sounding the alarm’ to a nation seemingly careering towards a spiritual precipice – a nation that was increasingly ignoring God’s laws and precepts that had been the foundation of Britain’s past greatness and its leading role in modern history.

Cliff’s Preface to the first edition in August 2022 included this assessment:

*“Today we are witnessing the crumbling of Western civilisation. Every news bulletin brings further evidence that the nations are being shaken to an unprecedented degree. The days of upheaval of which we have been warning for many years in this ministry are now upon us. The ‘church’ of the future needs to be so attractive in the lifestyle of believers that people will want to belong, so growth becomes natural, and the mission becomes a movement. This is what happened in New Testament times as the believers witnessed to what Jesus had done in their lives, and the mission became an unstoppable movement that overcame persecution and conquered the Roman Empire.*

*In our lifetime we have seen the massive secularisation of the nation and the decline of the church. Britain can no longer be described as a Christian nation and for those under the age of 40*

*who have received no biblical teaching at school, the gospel is entirely unknown. This is the mission field that faces the church today and is the challenge presented in this booklet.*

*In our lifetime we have also seen the rise of the charismatic movement and the recognition that spiritual gifts are given by God to all believers in Jesus. This recognition has coincided with the rise of a multitude of small groups of Bible-believing Christians meeting in each other's homes as they did in the Early Church.*

*This is preparing the way for a great transformation of the Church and the radical reformation of biblical teaching – moving away from a rules-based understanding of the Word of God to a relationship-based understanding – in other words from law to grace. This is something that Paul endeavoured to teach the Galatians – “Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law” (Gal 3:25).*

*We believe that it is in the small groups of Bible believing Christians that the Christian faith will be preserved during days of great hardship and testing that are coming upon the nation. Issachar Ministries is uniquely positioned to face the challenge of these times and to play an important part in the re-evangelisation of the nation. This is the significance of this booklet as part of the resources that God is providing for his people today. As small groups of believers gather in community with one another, sharing resources in times of hardship, they can, under the direction and empowerment of the Holy Spirit,*

*become a powerful movement of social and spiritual change that can transform the nation, turn darkness into light, scarcity into prosperity, and death and disease into health and happiness. Each generation of believers needs to make the message of an 'Issachar People' come alive in their lifetime - and keep 'passing on the baton' and their experience and understanding.*

*Cliff and Monica Hill*

*August 2022*

### **Epochal Change**

An epochal change in the world began in the spring of 2020 and there will be no return to the 'normality' we once knew. A 'crossing over' into a completely new season is taking place affecting Issachar as a ministry and each one of us as members of the body of Christ.

The Hebraic word for 'Hebrews' is *ivrim*. This literally means 'those who cross over'. On the eastern side of the Jordan, the Hebrews were still a people being prepared; as they made the crossing over the Jordan, their fundamental purpose changed; they were no longer a people being prepared, they were a people on mission, on task. Their purpose was to possess the land, to rout their enemies and to live in the blessings that flow only from being completely obedient to God. For us, this implies a change in perspective, in understanding and equipping, in order to live as those who actively take the enemy's ground and live victoriously as overcomers within a nation and world that is

hostile to almost everything for which we stand. We are not called to be a passive or stationary people but those on the move; those who are taking the necessary steps of faith to cross over and to implement God's will and purposes in a new season of history. We are to be a people called into action!

## **Current Context**

The world of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century looked very different to today. The moral compass of our nation pointed to God as the foundation of our laws, education system, government, social order and family structure. The Christian faith sustained our nation through the horror and trials of two great wars during that century. There were widely accepted truths and moral standards that were certainties in much of the world, particularly in the church. Societal acceptance of God as foundational to Western civilisation began to be less evident during the 1960s, 70s and 80s and was no longer widespread by the end of the century.

At the very beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the nations were presented with a new kind of war in the aftermath of 9/11 - a 'war on terror'. This was a misnomer. Terrorism is a tactic and does not describe an enemy. Linguist George Lakoff put it this way: *"Terror cannot be destroyed by weapons or signing a peace treaty. A war on terror has no end."*<sup>1</sup> Western governments exploited the so-called 'war on terror' to pursue long-standing policy and military objectives, to restrict civil liberties, and in

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bethelatwar.org/a-fraught-narrative-qualifying-the-war-on-terror/>

many cases to remove basic human rights. The ‘extraordinary rendition’ of Guantanamo inmates to CIA black sites in Poland where waterboarding and extreme interrogation techniques were used are examples of this.

This outworking of Western government plans post 9/11 set the stage for the kind of sweeping global changes introduced in 2020 to address a new threat – a ‘war on a virus’. The implementation of controversial Covid-related rules, laws and tactics, which threatened grave implications for the unvaccinated, represented an unprecedented new level of state control and coercion. The use of behavioural science and nudge theory, inducing unwarranted fear in an unsuspecting population who believe in the benign nature of national government, has left our society defenceless against a propaganda onslaught delivered through heavily controlled mainstream and social media.

Writing in The Guardian in October 2020, former Supreme Court Judge Lord Sumption said: *“The British public has not even begun to understand the seriousness of what is happening to our country. Many, perhaps most of them, don’t care, and won’t care until it is too late. They instinctively feel that the end justifies the means, the motto of every totalitarian government which has ~~su~~ ever been ... The government has discovered the power of public fear to let it get its way.”*<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2020/oct/27/covid-measures-will-be-seen-as-monument-of-collective-hysteria-and-folly-says-ex-judge>

There is a real sense of history repeating itself, and there are echoes of the rise of totalitarianism and extreme levels of antisemitism in the 1930s. The level of state-endorsed brainwashing, with endorsement from all levels of society has ushered in an unquestioning compliance which is unprecedented in modern times.

### **Uncompromised Truth**

The beginning of the 2020s introduced the world to a novel coronavirus called Covid-19. Government responses to this so-called pandemic were unprecedented and draconian. Most people would be shocked to discover that as early as 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Covid-19 was officially no longer considered to be a high consequence infectious disease (HCID) in the UK.<sup>3</sup> Yet new phrases soon entered the popular vocabulary e.g.: ‘social distancing’, ‘lockdown’, ‘flattening the curve’, ‘un-vaxed’ and many more. We were treated to a daily media diet of fear and death statistics. In an unprecedented move, government

statistics on mortality during two winters were added together to heighten public alarm.<sup>4</sup>

For those with no faith, the finality of death is to be feared above anything else. By 2022 it became clear that all-cause annual mortality in the UK was not exceptionally high in 2020/21 and

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3 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/high-consequence-infectious-diseases-hcid#full-publication-update-history>

4 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-deaths/covid-19-daily-announced-deaths-archive/>

those who succumbed to the disease were on average three years beyond the normal life expectancy.<sup>5 6</sup> -As mortal fear, propagated by compliant paid media gripped the nation, what was particularly notable was that Western governments would brook no dissent, and allow no public policy discussion. The explanation the public were given was that '*We must follow the science*', as though there were only one scientific understanding of the disease and what the public health response should be. Of course, many eminent scientists were demonised and de-platformed for pointing out that governments were doing anything but following the science and previous pandemic preparedness plans. One of the best examples would be the treatment of Dr. Mike Yeadon, Pfizer's former Chief Scientific Officer for respiratory diseases, a lifelong researcher and acknowledged expert who challenged the UK Government's approach to combating Covid-19 and having spent his working life in this field was branded an 'anti-~~v~~vaxxer' as he spoke out against the use of experimental Covid 'vaccines'<sup>7</sup> Interestingly, he later experienced his own spiritual epiphany as he began to understand the spiritual nature of the battle he was facing.<sup>8</sup>

Mike Yeadon and many others from his field alleged that the Government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies'

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5<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfoi/averageageofthosewhohaddiedwithCovid19>

6<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfoi/deathsintheukfrom1990to2020>

7 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_Yeadon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Yeadon)

8<https://www.conservativewoman.co.uk/mike-yeadon-on-his-epiphany-as-mankind-faced-evil/>

(SAGE)<sup>9</sup>, made up of Government advisers and ‘nudge units,’ were comprised of too many behavioural psychologists and not enough card-carrying immunologists. Certainly, almost every dire predication and proposed solution proved to be wrong and the health outcomes for nations like Sweden that did not adopt similar measures were ultimately proved to be no different. Whatever our views on One World Government, the World Health Organisation, or Klaus Schwab’s World Economic Forum and their ‘Great Reset’, something was very clearly going on in terms of societal coercion and control beyond anything related to a respiratory disease.

Covid-19 was just the opening act in a new era of top-down government and authoritarian control. The move to ‘Net Zero’ carbon emissions in order to protect the environment, ‘Cancel Culture’,<sup>10</sup> ‘Transhumanism’<sup>11</sup> and ‘Digital Identities’ to verify our status within a social credit system are all expressions of the ‘New Normal’.

As we contemplate the events of the past three years, one event more than any other should act as a prophetic warning of what we may soon face...

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9 <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies>

10 Cancel culture or call-out culture is a contemporary phrase used to refer to a form of ostracism in which someone is thrust out of social or professional circles – whether it be online, on social media, or in person. Those subject to this ostracism are said to have been "cancelled".

11 Transhumanism is a philosophical and intellectual movement which advocates for the enhancement of the human condition by developing and making widely available sophisticated technologies that can greatly enhance longevity and cognition. It also predicts the inevitability of such technologies in the future.

## **The Example of Canada**

On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau, a graduate of the World Economic Forum's young leaders programme, did something never seen before in a Western Parliamentary democracy. He cancelled the vehicle insurance and froze the bank accounts of peaceful protesters from the truck convoy that had come to Ottawa to protest against his newly introduced vaccine mandate for all truckers crossing the US-Canada border. He did that by edict, invoking the 1988 Emergencies Act<sup>12</sup>, using these draconian powers against those who opposed his policies by peaceful demonstration in a supposedly democratic country.<sup>13</sup>

Trudeau did this just as easily as in the following month, Western powers froze the bank accounts and impounded the assets of those Russians believed to be aligned with Vladimir Putin in the war with Ukraine. Here in plain sight, we see what is ahead for those Christians who will and who must stand for truth and righteousness as God wages war on secular humanism and works out His end-time purposes.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/e-4.5/page-1.html>

National Emergency: 3 For the purposes of this Act, a national emergency is an urgent and critical situation of a temporary nature that (a) seriously endangers the lives, health or safety of Canadians and is of such proportions or nature as to exceed the capacity or authority of a province to deal with it, or (b) seriously threatens the ability of the Government of Canada to preserve the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Canada and that cannot be effectively dealt with under any other law of Canada.

<sup>13</sup> <https://financialpost.com/fp-finance/banking/trudeau-gives-banks-power-to-freeze-funds-without-court-order-in-bid-to-choke-off-protest-funding>

## **New World Order**

We are no longer waiting for the implementation of a New World Order; it is here – although few people perceive it. Most of Western society still believes there will be a return to the ‘normal’ we once knew, yet the lessons of the 1930s and 40s lead us to conclude that the implementation of this globalist agenda has already brought fundamental changes to our way of life that will not be rescinded and may only intensify, leading to persecution for Jews, Christians and others who stand against it.

The rise of the ‘climate religion’ is just one example. We see ‘Just stop oil’ blockading our roads and disrupting public events. Yet few people are aware that CO<sub>2</sub> represents only 0.04% of the atmosphere. Plant and animal life flourished at a time when CO<sub>2</sub> was three times that level in geological history. Annual human energy use by earth’s almost 8 billion inhabitants amounts to the equivalent of just 45 minutes sunlight falling on the planet, yet we are told CO<sub>2</sub> concentration not the sun, drives the earth’s climate. Even if CO<sub>2</sub> were a driving factor, Britain produces less than 2% of the world’s CO<sub>2</sub> and the answer would be to grow more plants which absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, not lock the population into ‘15 minute cities’ and curtail their freedom to travel. Just as with Covid, the relentless use of propaganda has caused the less scientifically informed to believe the lie.

## **The Banking System**

The concept of programmable Central Bank Digital Currency introduces the practical means for a state not only to control

access to the money we hold in banks and building societies, but also to control what type of purchases for which it may be used. In Britain this has taken a step closer to becoming a reality now that CBDC introduction is being examined by the Bank of England.<sup>14</sup>

It may not always be possible for us to use the existing banking systems that will at some point require us to be microchipped or take a mark of some sort in order to access our own money. To some, this still seems an unlikely development, yet the means to use biometric technology to verify financial transactions via wi-fi or 4/5G already exists. Unnoticed by many, the Microsoft Corporation filed patent number WO2020060606 on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The patent was headed CRYPTOCURRENCY SYSTEM USING BODY ACTIVITY DATA.<sup>15</sup> Human body activity associated with a task provided to a user may be used in a mining process of a cryptocurrency system, The potential implementation of the mark of the beast is now a real and present danger.

## **Freedom of Speech**

Issachar Ministries has always sought to be a standard for truth in the nation. For decades this ministry has blown a trumpet of warning, never holding back from stating the truth. Much of today's society and government stands in opposition to everything we believe. We need to be prepared for future

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/research/digital-currencies>

<sup>15</sup> <https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/detail.jsf?docId=WO2020060606>

control by finding other means of communicating with those who look to the ministry for guidance and support.

### **Food Supply – A New Type of Trading System?**

The opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> seal in Revelation 6 and the riding out of the black horse shows us that one of the consequences of God's weighing the nations on the scales of justice and finding us wanting will be great hunger and famine. If God's people cannot trade in the normal manner because we refuse to take the 'Mark of the Beast', then how can we possibly feed ourselves? Verse 6 implies that the cost of barley (a 2<sup>nd</sup> class grain) could be as much as a whole day's wages. The concept of storing wealth and developing a means of trade and exchange using verified stocks of grain is one we worked on in some detail in 2014 using Canadian high protein wheat. At the time we were asked why grain could not come from abundant stocks in the Ukraine rather than Canada, the answer to that has now become obvious. Such a project will require a £ seven figure investment.

The present FIAT<sup>16</sup> currency system is no longer underwritten by gold in the way it was until 1971 when U.S. President Nixon ordered an end to the convertibility of the United States Dollar into gold. Real currency value today is based on little more than

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16 <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/fiatmoney.asp> The word 'fiat' is derived from Latin and can be translated as "it shall be done" or "let it be done." Fiat is defined as currency that is declared by a country's government to be legal tender. Unlike other historical currencies, which were backed by the value of a physical commodity, such as gold, or silver, the value of fiat is derived from its demand and supply as well the stability of the issuing government. The majority of paper currencies, such as the ones used to purchase everyday goods and services, are fiat currencies.

confidence. Perhaps grain will be the new gold standard and an alternate trading system based on an essential verifiable commodity will be established by believers who have an understanding of the times. Certainly, moves to link our money to some form of passport or digital identity provide the worrying prospect of governments and banks arbitrarily disconnecting us from access to money.

In Jesus' end-time discourse, **Matthew 25:14-30**, it shows clearly that a talent was a monetary unit of gold, not a natural or spiritual gift. **Luke 19:11-26** tells a very similar story, this time with monetary units are of silver. In **Haggai 2:6-9** the Lord clearly speaks of a final great shaking across the whole earth that will precede the return of Messiah Jesus. Verses 8-9 read *'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty. 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty.* Is it possible that God is pointing us to consider very carefully in this season of shaking who the true owner (master) of our bank accounts and pension pots might be?

The Early Church radically disposed of their worldly assets and laid them at the apostles' feet. Are we being challenged to surrender the hold we have on our personal resources and place them completely at God's disposal whilst we still have control of them? An end-time trading system and other initiatives will still need financing, but it may not be possible for them to be paid for out of a ministry bank account as before. We have to face the possibility that if we do not wrestle with these difficult concepts now, then as sweeping judgement decimates the world's

economies and stock markets, we may end up like those who did nothing with the master's money and wake up one morning to find we have lost everything.

## **Persecution and Places of Refuge**

Over the last twenty years, God has been busy stirring the hearts of some of His children to prepare their homes and businesses as places of refuge and resource. There is a growing underground hidden network throughout the UK from the top of Shetland right down to Lands End in Cornwall. This is not something any human being is organising; it is a Sovereign work of God. Some of those involved believe these refuges are just for Jewish refugees, others are prepared to give refuge and shelter to anyone. Indeed, some are already providing refuge to fugitives fleeing the Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria. It is possible in the near future we may be required to shelter one another. The horrific events of October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 in Southern Israel and the appalling rise of antisemitism which followed Israel's response to the barbarism of Hamas shows us that refuges for displaced Jewish families may soon be needed.

As our economy is squeezed and tradeable commodities become increasingly expensive and scarce, if we are to be a blessing to others in the days ahead, then we must not delay practical preparation for more difficult times. God will never let us down. Scripture reveals that He fed the 5000, but there needed to be something available for God to multiply. We will always be required to exercise our faith before we see Him work in miraculous power. Like the wise virgins, our practical

preparations need to be done now before the days of darkness become overwhelming.

## **Being Community**

One aspect of the preparation of places of refuge and resource is the emphasis God is placing on community. We need to explore together what community really means and wrestle with the uncomfortable aspects that will necessarily be thrown up to challenge our Greek-thinking individualism and 'what's mine is mine' society. We all know the old saying that 'fish goes off after three days', meaning that visitors can often outstay their welcome after such a short time. So, how will we cope with having to share our homes with traumatised individuals who may appear rude or ungrateful, or whole families who cannot simply go home and leave us in peace after three days? The challenge is for us to become much more like the early church we read about in Acts 2: people so in love with Jesus and so filled with the Spirit that, living under severe persecution, our hearts are open, generous and compelled to not only share the Gospel, but also to lovingly and sacrificially serve, meeting each other's practical needs.

Christians often fail to recognise that the early church was not an organisation, rather it was a radical movement of God's people who understood the times in which they lived and knew either instinctively or by the Spirit what they (wider Israel) should do. This is what God means an Issachar People to be and to model in these end-times.

## **A Movement of People**

Issachar is currently an organisation. It has structure that defines what the organisation does. It has leaders who organise, issue policies, and manage financial and other resources, enabling ministry to happen both from itself and through others.

A movement is completely different. It carries an emotional heart, and its purpose is to incarnate the 'mission' of who its people are to be. It is an informal gathering, a cooperative coalition of like-minded people who are driven by a shared DNA, values, strategy and action. The early church turned its world upside down, so a movement that is driven not by people but by the Spirit of God can be a powerful catalyst for enormous societal change.

Leaders are simply there to see the current 'mission' achieve its goal. These people tend to emerge from within the movement as the spiritual gifts of individuals are discerned and put to use.

Ultimately, the movement itself is the leader that continues to drive it forward, not the leadership team. Those who are part of the movement are loyal to other individuals but above all they have a greater loyalty to a cause – the Kingdom of God – which is larger than those individuals. E.g.: 1 Chronicles 12:38 where the Israelites came together determined to make David king.

The gathering and partnership of God's People should look like this:

1. Be a living organism (not an organisation).
2. Follow God's plan (not man's).

3. Be living and dynamic (not stagnant, dead).
4. Be primarily about relationship (not religion).
5. Follow the Holy Spirit (not rituals, traditions).
6. Be focused on heart issues in the Body (not structures, positions).
7. Be fluid and changing (not rigid, static, unbending).
8. Be characterised by anointed, powerful works (not dead works).
9. Have a pioneering spirit (not bound by conformity).
10. Be powerful, life-changing (not powerless, having a form of godliness).
11. Have decentralised control (not centralised).
12. Be under God's control; doing things his way (not under man's control; doing this his way).
13. Be permeated by the Spirit of God (not by a spirit of religion).
14. Focus on anointing, function (not on titles, positions).
15. See maturity, character and lifestyle changed in disciples (not people trying to behave for appearance's sake).
16. Be characterised by transparency, honesty, mutuality, interdependence and vulnerability (not people wearing masks, hiding, dishonesty, independence and self-protection).
17. Have disciples who know they are sons and daughters of the King of kings (not mere members).
18. Have servant leaders, facilitators of what God is doing (not autocratic authority figures).
19. Have ministry that is open to everyone (not just professional clergy or a particular team).

20. Be motivated by God's love, mercy and compassion having his heart for those outside the 'family' (not motivated by duty and obligation).

### **A Catalyst for Change**

The Early Church movement did not belong to one group of people, rather it was something universal that spontaneously erupted from a small group of praying people in a room in Jerusalem and was carried, by those affected, to influence and powerfully impact and change the whole known world at that time. We live in a time where God is massing His army and knitting His units together right across the world. He is acting Sovereignly to draw people together so that a diversity of giftings flow together under His anointing.

To limit what God wants to do to one organisation, Issachar Ministries for example, would be missing the point. We believe that it is entirely possible God might just use our tiny network, like the 120 or so disciples who humbly surrendered themselves wholeheartedly to God and obediently waited for Him to do what he had promised, also to be a catalyst for change more widely among the Body of Christ in our nation. We must not allow what is, or has been, to limit our perception or expectation of what may be.

### **Lifeboats**

Covid restrictions changed the face of church and it will never return to how it was, nor should it. The old 'ship' is no longer

‘seaworthy’ for the strength of the ‘stormy’ seas that are ahead. What is needed is a completely different type of vessel altogether, something more akin to a lifeboat. Since its inception, the lifeboat has never been a cruise liner, for entertainment or lecturing or teaching; it has never been a trading vessel or a trawler. It is an emergency vehicle with one task only: to rescue people in danger of perishing in the hope and expectation they will be saved.

Therefore, the lifeboat is built in an entirely different shape; something specially designed to ride over the waves at speed; something that is much smaller, agile not cumbersome and with much more sensitive steering. It is also thoroughly equipped for every eventuality. Its highly trained staff can not only do everything needed to give emergency first aid, they are also able to radio ahead – to call on others to get ready to receive those being brought ashore so they can be ready to respond to their next emergency.

### **Small Groups**

Many of us who form part of Issachar Ministries have come out of mainstream expressions of church – not because we sit in judgement on the people concerned – but because God had placed within us a deep desire for something more than what we perceived. That something more is Him; our hearts have longed to be allowed to spend time resting in His presence; to hear His voice and simply obey His instructions; to receive His heart for the poor and to be allowed to do something about it. Many of us have longed for the intimacy of true community over and above

just belonging to a Sunday congregation; to be part of something that is lived out in everyday life, each day of the week, not a gathering on a Sunday morning which then has no bearing on the rest of the week.

The seemingly drastic action of stepping outside the 'boat' of mainstream church has caused many believers to feel misunderstood, judged and guilty – which is exactly why we need to continue to gather together. The writer to the Hebrews puts it this way:

*'Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.'*<sup>17</sup>

It is in gathering together that we are able to enjoy much needed fellowship, partake in the Lord's Supper, and share openly and honestly with one another. This builds intimacy and transparency in relationships; building one another up, listening to God corporately, using our gifts, to teach, disciple and pray. But this is a very different way of gathering than we have been used to. Jesus says to Nicodemus: *"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Hebrews 10:23-25.

<sup>18</sup> John 3:8.

## **Celtic Wind of the Spirit**

This implies that everyone born of the Spirit is free to follow the promptings and direction of the 'wind' of the Spirit of God. When contemplating this imagery recently, one friend had a picture of an autumn scene: the trees were bare and the ground covered in leaves. As the wind blew, some of the leaves were blown into groups of two or three, others into heaps of slightly more whilst others danced around on their own for quite a while before being blown into an existing clump for a period of time.

This beautiful picture recreates very well the informal and simple *modus operandi* used in the earliest days of the Celtic church across Britain and now common in the underground church all over the world. The challenge is for us consciously to become less organised and structured, less meetings based and more open to allowing the Holy Spirit to gather us according to His days, times and seasons. Part of this will be a return to gatherings around the Biblical feasts, not the Roman ones, and the simplicity of the Hebrew Shabbat; making room to spend time in His presence, listening to His voice and simply doing what He says. He will not fail to set passionate hearts ablaze.

As we stand in the 'storm' and see the institutions in our nation increasingly shaken and crumbling, we find our society has as much an uncertain future as that of 2nd-4th century Celtic Britain as the Roman withdrawal saw the pillars of their society crumble. The 'lifeboat' God gave at that time was the incarnation of the glory and light of God through the believers. They did not

fail in their challenge; the light they carried did not go out, in fact it burned consistently (like glowing coals) for over 600 years – during which the British church grew phenomenally and impacted society whilst officially under persecution for its first three hundred years.

God is offering us the opportunity to take up our own torches, lit from the glowing embers of who they were and the living vibrant faith they carried, into our own time and season. He is preparing us to see the Kingdom advance powerfully in a time of great adversity. Important questions emerge from that understanding.

- *Why is it that a church that is persecuted and underground cannot possibly have the same structure as one above ground?*
- *Is living in genuine 'community' really possible for God's people today? How might that look in your locale?*

### **A Faithful Remnant**

The early Celtic church was only ever a remnant within a much larger society, but it was an incredibly important and significant one. In the 2nd-4th centuries it was an underground hidden movement that was so powerfully ablaze with the Spirit of God it impacted and changed whole communities. Despite persecution, the ruling powers of the day were powerless to extinguish the glowing flame that led to the transformation of society at that time. Eventually God used the foundation laid by this underground body of believers to be the plumb line for the

whole fabric of future society from which our Judeo-Christian heritage, morality and values emerged.

God is now offering us that same opportunity: to become a powerful force of influence for His Kingdom in the reshaping and rebuilding of society in the 'storm' and whatever follows. But that rebuilding has to begin NOW; within a people who are willing to be wholly abandoned to Him and His purposes: those who are fearless and willing to open their mouths and not be silent in the fight for righteousness and justice; who are willing to open their homes and use their God-given resources to rescue those adrift; to become believing communities that provide stability, support, security and refuge throughout the period of the 'storm'.

It is too late to prepare the 'lifeboat' when the 'storm' is at its height. It needs to be prepared, equipped, and resourced in advance. It follows that this change needs to happen under the leading of the Holy Spirit within a remnant people who are willing to be prepared and equipped, ready to meet the great challenges we will all face. Whilst there is most certainly a change in mindset required concerning the nature and ministry of the Body, the change that is needed is more than just spiritual; it is extremely practical as well.

## **Noah**

Please read the story of Noah in **Genesis 6-8**.

Noah was alert when God warned him of the coming storm. In view of the mocking and indignity he must have faced, it would

surely have been far easier for him to simply ignore the warning or try to place it to the back of his mind as he got on with normal life, but he did not do that. The Bible says Noah did everything just as God commanded him<sup>19</sup> and that obedience appears to have been unquestioning. His preparation was not a last-minute thing; on the contrary, it was carefully considered, thought through and God's instructions were followed to the letter to bring about the very detailed and costly practical preparations needed to save his family; those who became the foundation for a whole new society at the time.

- *Does your fellowship perceive that God could well be giving his church the greatest opportunity to demonstrate the gospel since WWII?*
- *How ready is the church in your town or village to respond to those whose lives are shaken or collapsing around them?*
- *How would you identify your fellowship of believers on the scale of 1-10 in moving towards carrying the simplicity of the Celtic flame?*
- *Consider Noah: what does the Ark represent to you? Have you ever thought of your home as a refuge and/or storehouse? Who might that be for?*

### **Transitioning - Joshua 3**

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<sup>19</sup> Genesis 6:22.

Clearly the task that lies ahead for us is an enormous one. It will not be achieved quickly because it needs to be done carefully, reverently, and wholly in step with the Spirit of God. We do not have the blueprint for this, but our God does.

When Joshua and God's people crossed over the Jordan they were instructed as follows:

- v1 To get into position and simply sit tight waiting for further instructions.
- v2-3 To look for the signs and only step out when they saw them happening.
- v4 It was a new challenge. No-one knew the way, only God, because something like this had never happened before. They had to keep their eyes wholly on God's Ark.
- v4 They had to respect God's holy leading and presence among them. They were to keep their distance and not get close enough to touch the holy things of God.
- v5 They had to begin their new season with consecration. Setting themselves apart afresh to God, to his will and purposes. If they did this then they had the assurance that they would see God do amazing things for them.
- v8 They had to take a step of faith to place their feet into a river that was raging in flood and on any other day of the year would have swept them to their deaths.

The fierce anger of the flooded Jordan is a picture for us of the sheer tsunami of devastations that are already happening and



ability to be a loudspeaker to the nation and the world, not only by the written word, but also through audio-visual media.

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## Discernible Steps Forward

The task and the vision are enormous, and we cannot do it without God. As long as we do not presume that we know how to navigate the way forward and are willing to stay humble, submitted, and willing to allow God to lead, then we can be confident that He will.

This new phase of our journey begins with some important steps. These are:

### 1. **Repentance – A Trumpet Call to the Nation**

Please read the whole of **Joel 2**. In summary this is a call from God for his children to issue a clarion call for either one sacred assembly or a series of regional gatherings calling the wider mainstream church to repentance – to rend our hearts before God – and to a consecration the depths of which we have never reached before. Issachar should be *“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”* (Matthew 3:3).

In 1 Samuel 1 we read how God stopped up Hannah’s womb until she was provoked into prayer by her circumstances. If our desire is to see God sweep through our nation, bringing many thousands into His Kingdom, then this must be preceded by serious, sober, sacrificial repentance and prayer.

- *Can we truly say we have renounced secret and shameful ways or are we still living daily with compromise (2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6) of some sort?*

- *Are we a people who reflect God's glory?*
- *Are we distinct and recognisable as belonging to God?*
- *There is a need to encourage the Body into greater degrees of purity and holiness – to become a people able to consider what it means to love God with ALL their heart, soul, mind and strength and to truly surrender EVERYTHING to Him.*
- *This clarion call is not intended for those who have already heard the message. It is to go out to a different constituency – those who have not heard. We have a responsibility to proclaim this message, whether people listen or not. We live in a time where God is massing His army and knitting His units together right across the world. He is acting Sovereignly to pull people together so that a diversity of giftings flow together under His anointing.*

## **2. Communication**

One of the important lessons from our experience of the Coronavirus pandemic has been that we can no longer take for granted our historic right to meet and communicate with each other in person. Nor can we expect to be able to exercise free speech, or trust established mainstream and social media to publish what would historically have been regarded as legitimate debate or the airing of opposing views. Platforms such as YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram have all exercised blatant censorship over the past

two years, under the banner of ‘breaching community guidelines’.

As a result, many believers have turned to new platforms like Brandnewtube, Odyssey and Rumble to host video and used smartphone apps like Signal and Telegram with robust end-to-end encryption to send messages securely. Communicating with other believers may not in future be possible in the ways we have taken for granted. We may lose access to the internet; our cell phones may be disconnected and ministry websites may be hacked or subjected to DDS<sup>20</sup> attack if they publish Christian messages of which the authorities do not approve.

These are all real and present threats we need to carefully consider and find solutions for under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, if we are to be a people prepared for the uncertain times ahead of us.

### **3. Preparing an Unshakeable People**

How we will respond to and endure the increasing storms we will face will depend on the spiritual foundations we have in place. We need to have proved God’s constant love and faithfulness through our personal storms now, so that when bigger storms hit, we will be able not only to stand strong ourselves but also reach out, offering the gospel of true hope to others. Not one of us can say with any certainty that we *WILL* stand under such immense testing; we hope that we

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<sup>20</sup> Distributed Denial of Service.

will, but we may not. Faced with the seriousness of this, we must be willing to take whatever steps we can to mature in the things of God. Theory, theology and head knowledge will not suffice. We will need much more than this. The day is coming when it will no longer be sufficient just to say the right things, sing the right songs or raise our hands at the right moment; we will need to truly *KNOW HIM* and have proved Him faithful through our experience of Him at work in our everyday lives.

There is an urgent need to:

- Equip people to put down deeper roots into their relationship with God.
- Enable believers to live as overcomers.
- Teach what Kingdom values really are and how they challenge our lives.

The Celts not only expected that believers might face ‘red’ martyrdom that involved being killed, but there was also an expectation that all believers would be brought to ‘green’ martyrdom i.e., the laying down of their lives from self before God as wholly His to use and direct as pleased Him. This is both the beginning of true servanthood and the cost of true discipleship.

#### **4. Reaching Out**

Sometimes people are held back from sharing their faith by their own feelings of inadequacy, low self-worth or repeated negative cycles of thinking and behaviour.

There is a need to:

- Disciple the Body into maturity so that it stops going round in inward-looking circles and begins to look outwards and learns to love its neighbours as itself.
- Equip the Body so that everyone becomes a person living 'on mission' and understands how to express the gospel to someone else.
- Equip small groups to reach their neighbours and friends.
- Effectively disciple new converts so that they, in turn, can also make disciples.
- Equip and resource the Body in effective means of intercessory prayer.

#### **5. Practical Preparation**

There is a need to:

- Equip the Body in practical preparations for the end-times.

The generations raised before the 1960s were taught a wide range of practical skills, from how to take care of themselves to cooking, personal hygiene, sewing, home DIY, basic first

aid, gardening and animal husbandry. We now have two generations in our society who lack these, the most essential skills for surviving in much straitened times.

The modern education system has left people completely unprepared for the life circumstances we envisage. We must step into that space, or many will needlessly perish through lack of practical knowledge.

### **Britain, Israel and lessons from the past**

At the time of publishing, the State of Israel and the Jewish people were facing the most dangerous crisis since the inception of the modern Jewish state. The barbarous attack by the terrorist organisation Hamas on communities in Southern Israel on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 ranks as the worst atrocity committed against Jewish civilians since the holocaust. As the Israeli government responds to this act of terror, we are seeing a level of antisemitism and outright Jewish hatred on the streets of our nation, not seen in England since the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.

History shows clearly how much God was with Britain throughout World War II and there were many instances when He sovereignly intervened to support and protect our tiny vulnerable island nation against the tyranny of Hitler's Third Reich. However, one of our greatest national sins involves the Jewish people for whom the British were given a special and sacred responsibility. The facts of this are largely unknown by the populace, including many Christians. Even when known the spiritual significance of this is generally overlooked. A basic understanding of this issue is vital for all Christians.

A return to Biblical teaching in the 19th Century brought back understanding of the significance of the Promised Land and the Jewish people to the British church. This rise in Biblical understanding came alongside the founding of modern Zionism by Jewish political activist Theodore Herzl. He argued strongly that a national home for the Jews within their historic ancestral land would ease persecution. Others, possibly with Genesis 12:3 in mind argued that a Jewish homeland would also guarantee the nations of the world peace and security.

In 1917 General Allenby captured Jerusalem from the Ottomans - a significant factor in the subsequent fall of the Ottoman Empire. Several key leaders in the British Government of the day supported the Zionist cause.<sup>21</sup> On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1917, Lord Balfour, on behalf of the British Government made a solemn promise to Lord Rothschild as representative of the Zionist Federation, that the Government would support the creation of a homeland for the Jewish people within the land known as Palestine. From 1917, the British army ruled Palestine until a civil administration was established on July 1st 1920. Britain was granted a Mandate for Palestine on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1920 at the San Remo Conference of the principal allied powers from World War one. On 24<sup>th</sup> July 1922, in a unanimous vote, this Mandate was approved by the League of Nations. Great Britain was thus entrusted with the responsibility to administer the area delineated by the “Mandate for Palestine” in accordance with

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21 Prime Minister Lloyd-George, Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour and Secretary of State for War & Air Winston Churchill.

the provisions of the articles of the Mandate – described as a *'sacred trust of civilisations'*.

The extent of the Land promised is shown on the first map below. However, in December 1922 Britain cut away 77% of the land allocated for the Jews and gave it to Abdullah Faisal bin Hussein, creating the new country of Trans-Jordan, or Jordan as it was later named. In 1947 U.N. Resolution 181, recommended the remaining 23% of the territory be further partitioned with the result that in 1948 when the Jewish homeland was finally created, just 18% of the land was given to establish the modern State of Israel.

Please read **2 Samuel 21:1-14; Deuteronomy 19:14; 27:17 and Hosea 5:10.**

Clearly our covenant-making God takes the breaking of covenants - even when made by a previous generation - and the moving of boundaries most seriously, even if our people, our government and the leaders of the world do not. Recognising the *'sacred trust'* Britain undertook for the benefit of Jewish people worldwide over a hundred years ago, the present wave of antisemitism on the streets of Britain, particularly involving young people, does not bode well for our future in these islands.

The breaking of the *'sacred trust'* given us as a nation to support and protect the Jewish people, restoring them to their ancient



homeland is believed by many to mark the beginning of God lifting His hand of protection over Britain. The MacDonal White Paper, issued by the Secretary of State for the Colonies Malcolm MacDonal in 1939 essentially nullified our national commitment to facilitate a Jewish state under the terms of the 1917 Balfour Declaration. Whilst calling for the establishment of

a Jewish national home in an independent Palestinian state within 10 years, it also limited Jewish immigration to 75,000 for five years with the result that many desperate European Jews were denied refuge in Palestine as the Nazi threat increased. It could be argued that we subsequently saw the removal of the blessing that had given us great victory over our oppressors during the war and the gradual erosion and breakdown of family life, society, morality and godly values as our leaders successively passed further unrighteous laws.

***“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”***

**Genesis 12:3**

The very pillars of our society have been shaken and the cracks are now clearly discernible in public services, healthcare, education, industry, transport, armed forces, police, the judiciary and government.

The basic building block of our society is the family unit. This has been severely challenged since WW II with the result that today the majority of couples with children are unmarried. Many families comprise children from multiple fathers many of whom are absent or even unknown. Over several generations the results have been a reduction in parental discipline, respect for authority and life-skills amongst the 20s-40s generation throughout society but especially in certain socio-economic groups. Drugs, feral children, knife crime and sex trafficking are growing problems in many towns and cities as society continues to break down and our institutions - many of which were

founded by the great 19th Century Christian reformers - break up. In the Bible no distinction is made between the nation and the people of God within the nation; they are one and the same.

## **Battle Stations**

A new phase of history has begun, and we see the titanic struggle between good and evil unfolding before our eyes with alarming speed. The book of Daniel and his experiences of the awesome power of God in a pagan nation should give us the confidence

that even when all seems lost and the consequences of sin seem overwhelming, God reigns supreme. He will be with His people and His purposes will be fulfilled. The battle we face is not for the faint of heart and will require a level of courage and commitment to our faith that many of us have not experienced and never imagined before. We face an uncertain future in a rapidly changing world and there is much work to do. As we respond to this call, beginning with repentance and in prayer, we will be challenged about how we will use our time, our finances, the resources we have seen as our own.

This booklet began with the story of Joshua crossing over the Jordan River and a description of Britain's falling away from its godly heritage in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – a rapid decline from any semblance of being a God-fearing Christian nation. It is fitting to quote the scripture from **Joshua 24:14-15** where the Covenant was renewed at Shechem, and Joshua challenged the people:

*“Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.**”*

The last sentence serves as a reminder of the covenant we have each made as the Lord urges us now to take our place in His great end-time army.

### **Crossing Over ...**

We have outlined the challenge and called for a personal response, but in order to be the people God needs us to be for this season, Issachar Ministries also need to make a response. The Trustees and Team Leaders made the following undertaking to:

- Review current activities and reshape the ministry as led by the Holy Spirit. The first fruit of this was a series of regional gatherings around Britain in the autumn of 2023 where New Beginnings, a Hebraically-based Discipleship Training School, was introduced.
- Support a network of small groups of believers and encourage them to grow in maturity. We trust this network will grow and become ever more localised and less reliant on online meetings that may in the future, be unavailable. These

small communities of believers right across the nation who will be committed to sharing their testimonies and the good news of the Kingdom with their friends, families, and those around them, in particular those who are fearful and without hope, as the 'storm' in our nation intensifies.

- Be a catalyst for change as the formal structure of ministries gives way to a movement centred on the Lord Jesus, functioning through the spiritual gifts and talents in those he has called to serve His end-time purposes for the Body of Christ..
- Realign our calendar intentionally with God's Biblical one. To equip small groups in gaining a greater understanding of the Biblical feasts and Sabbath.
- Issue a clarion call to the nation to stand in repentance and lamentation over the state of His church and because of this, the nation as a whole.
- Support those who are part of this movement to be equipped with respect to:
  - a. Knowing and learning to abide in the Lord's presence.
  - b. Putting down deeper roots into our relationship with God; understanding more of what it means to be in a covenant relationship with God.
  - c. Enabling believers to live as overcomers.
  - d. Teaching Kingdom values and how they challenge our lives.

- e. Preparation for mission, testimonial witness, sharing the Gospel with neighbours and friends.
- f. Effective means of intercessory prayer.
- g. Practical preparation for the end-times.

Many of us recognise that we are not the holy, spotless and set apart people we are called to be. Yet we understand that it is only the presence of the Lord that will hold back the tide of evil we face. In this time of turmoil and judgement, no human strategy will suffice. As we regularly gather before the Lord, small groups, with no agenda - simply coming as living sacrifices to worship, to listen, to pray, to welcome the Lord and ask Him to dwell with us, we will see extraordinary things take place. Our focus must be on the Lord, much more than each other. We could think of this as coming together with our focus entirely vertical, rather than horizontal. Arni Klein is a Messianic teacher and worship leader who with his wife Yonit founded Emmaus Way, a ministry based on the Galilee. —Arni describes three groups meeting in Israel in the autumn of 2022 who received what he describes as *“a sequential prophetic message for the Body at large”*. He sums up perfectly what we believe is planned for our world and what the Lord requires of us as He works out His end-time purposes for the world. *“The first part, given to the September group that began on the day of the Queen’s passing, was about how world events were rapidly moving in the direction of nations consolidating their power to prepare the way for a governmental system that would seek to exercise total control over the world’s population. However, at a deeper level, it was God working to call out and purify those with a heart like David.*

- *The message to the October group was to come away from the things of this world -- worldly things, words, hopes and dreams - and fix our attentions on eternal reality. **It was a call to the desert for more than some days of retreat but to a lifestyle of separation unto a deep inner quiet to hear the whisper of the Spirit.** It came with an urgency that the grace to pursue this new way would not remain as it is today.*

- *The word to the November group was a vision of a butterfly breaking out of its cocoon. More than simply expressing one of creation's marvels, it was an exhortation to be intentional about leaving the old behind and following God into unknown territory, even as did Abraham. All this was remarkably confirmed in our congregational Shabbat meeting when Pastor Claude [Ezagouri] spoke about the worm becoming a butterfly, incorporating into the message the condition of the world and the cocoon being like the desert. We sat listening in amazement and thankfulness at how Father let us know beyond question that this was in fact a word for the hour. **In the appointed time, if the new creation chooses to remain in its former habitat, it will die.***

We are presently neither equipped or prepared to face the challenges ahead of us and be the people we are called to be, the light in the darkness and despair many communities and individuals will experience. As we set aside and dedicate time in our homes, businesses and meeting places to worship, to make our Lord welcome in our lives, doing so without an agenda, we believe that Jesus will abide with us. We also need to have a clear understanding of the centrality of Israel in preparing a dwelling

place for the presence of the Lord. These are momentous days which in many ways represent a new beginning, not just for those of us who are already believers, but to countless others who will come to salvation, reaching out to God for the first time in their lives.

It seems appropriate to close this booklet with such people in mind. If you are one of those whose eyes are being or have been opened to the realities of what is happening on the global scene and yet you do not yet have the reassurance of knowing God for yourself but would like to, then please pray the following prayer and a prayer which could be used at the beginning of their own journey of faith:

*“Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Sson of God, who died on the cross and rose again on the third day, that I may be forgiven of my sins and enter into~~have~~ eternal life in You.*

*I admit all the things I have done wrong in my life, the sins I have knowingly and unknowingly committed confess—and I am sincerely sorry for them. ~~all the things I have done wrong in my life, the sins I have knowingly and unknowingly committed, for which~~—I ask Your forgiveness. I turn away from those sins and I ask You to give me a new beginning~~start~~, with You as the Lord of my life. ~~Let your blood wash me clean.~~—I open the door of my heart and I ask You to come in Lord Jesus, to change me and teach me Your ways”.*

*Amen.*

Holy Bible - John 3:16 New International Version

*16-For God so loved the world that Hhe gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

It is very important that you now tell someone you have become a Christian. You are welcome to contact co-author Sarah Winbow through the New Beginnings Discipleship website where you can download a free copy of the booklet *Just the Beginning* that explains more about the prayer you have just prayed and what it means to begin Your journey of faith in Jesus.

<https://newbeginningsdiscipleship.com/community/leaders-guide-useful-extras/> - Look for *Just the Beginning*.