



# Church of God International, United Kingdom

## ~ Newsletter ~

— August 2020 —

Warm Greetings to one and all.

Like the rest of the world, the UK has been greatly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic; and just like everyone else CGI UK have adapted to having online services only in our homes. Although we may be a small congregation, we are blessed to be able to provide four speakers to deliver weekly sermons.

Our last service where we met together was way back in March before the Spring Holy Days.

But as with many things every cloud has a silver lining, and to that extent we here in the UK have a regular meet up on Skype every Sabbath, where we discuss at length the Sermon that was streamed live earlier that Sabbath, either via YouTube or Facebook.

More often than not we are joined by our brethren in Kenya, Pakistan, and India, who have grown immensely under the guidance, support, and teaching of our Pastor, George Ramocan.

Another area where our Ministry is developing is the continuation of our podcasts. We have been able to keep the momentum up by aiming to deliver two short bite-sized messages every month. You can find them online at [cgiuk.podbean.com](http://cgiuk.podbean.com). The full list is also visible and playable from the home page of our website at [www.cgiuk.org](http://www.cgiuk.org) (scroll down the page a bit if necessary to see the list). We invite you to like and share our podcasts on social media and with your friends, if you feel so moved, as we look to spread the Word of God.

CGI UK are also delighted to be able to hold a small Feast of Tabernacles in the rural setting in the county of Suffolk. It promises to be an ideal setting for our small group, and we are very thankful to God for providing such a peaceful and picturesque venue at such short notice in these unprecedented times. There is space for a few more visitors so please contact us if you desire to worship with us, but please bear in mind accommodation on site is already fully reserved.

On a different note, CGI UK are delighted to be able to confirm that Brothers Sean Goldburn and Gary Monks have been accepted on to the Ministerial Apprentice Programme.

Both currently serve as deacons in the church. Gary Monks has also been involved in the blog posts on our website, at [www.cgiuk.org/blog](http://www.cgiuk.org/blog).

One of his blog posts in particular is relevant to the current times:

### Are You Thankful or Forgetful?

You remember don't you? ... that time when you were full of anxiety, worry, and maybe occasionally outright fear?

Don't you remember those days when you prayed constantly from first thing in the morning, snatching every moment praying, walking down the street.



Deacon Gary Monks

In fact, every spare minute was spent asking God to answer the prayer to your personal desperate situation... and in God's own time, when deliverance came, you were oh so thankful, that you would never forget this time in your life.

However, how many times when the dust has settled, have you realised that when the going was getting a bit tough that you found yourself once more moaning, complaining, and groaning?

Had you forgotten that time of deliverance when God answered your prayer of desperation?

In Numbers 20:16, the Bible shows us the example of the Israelites in captivity in Egypt, when they cried out to the Lord, or more accurately they shrieked out in distress.

These were a desperate people, but God heard their cry and delivered them in the most spectacular fashion.

Among other things they saw and were led by the pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, and the ultimate deliverance where the waters of the



Deacon Sean Goldburn

Red Sea parted, enabling them to flee from the pursuing army.

Israel were obviously very happy and they believed in the Lord after all they had seen.

Notice in Exodus 14:31 “And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians; and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and His servant Moses.”

Unfortunately as with many cases there is a “but” on the horizon, and within a very short space of time they moaned and groaned, desiring to go back to the very place that caused them so much distress in the first place.

Numbers 14:4 tells us: “And they said to one another, ‘Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt.’”

From being thankful, were they now forgetting those times where God so clearly delivered them?

As Christians we mustn’t fall into the same trap; we cannot allow ourselves to moan and groan when all in life is not milk and honey.

Have we had our own Red Sea experience — a time when we have been desperate, in real need of God’s mercy and love, a time when we know that God has intervened? If we have, then let’s look at some points to help STAY in that frame of mind.

## Thankfulness Was Important to Jesus

Luke 17:12–19 is the passage where Jesus healed the ten lepers, but only one came back to give thanks. Jesus asked the one who came back, “Where are the nine?”

In the time of Jesus, leprosy was incurable by human means — it isolated a person from his community. Had the other nine forgotten the stigma associated with it?

Spiritually, SIN isolates us from God, but through the shed blood of our Saviour we have access to being healed from the death sentence that it brings.



Pastor George Ramocan

Understanding the spiritual depth of this gift means we should surely demonstrate our thankfulness by living according to His Word.

## Thankfulness Shows Our Trust

Colossians 3:15–17 shows us that if we are called from this world and its ways we can be thankful to Christ who should be dwelling in us. If we have and are led by His Spirit then it shows our Father that we understand what has happened in our lives, that we may have trying times, but through the indwelling and the teaching of the Holy Spirit, the Power of God in us, we can have total trust that by staying on the path this demonstrates our thanks and trust to the One who called us.

## Jesus the Perfect Example

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 we see that it is the will of God for us to be thankful in all circumstances.

Now cast your minds back to the evening just before Jesus was crucified, the mental anguish that Jesus was in, yet He still gave thanks for the bread and wine that were symbolic of His soon-to-be beaten body and shed blood.

Jesus Christ is our perfect example who throughout His life practised what He preached.

These are just a few pointers to help us to be thankful on our journey along what may be a bumpy road to the Kingdom of God. So in those times ahead... remember your own personal Red Sea experience, and continue to be thankful, not forgetful.

*(The original post can be found online at [www.cgiuk.org/are-you-thankful-or-forgetful](http://www.cgiuk.org/are-you-thankful-or-forgetful))*



Deacon David King

So until the next Newsletter, may each and every one of you have a deeply meaningful upcoming Holy Day Season.

God be with you all.

— *The CGI UK Ministry*

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### Church of God International UK

Website: [www.cgiuk.org](http://www.cgiuk.org)

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Main CGI website: [www.cgi.org](http://www.cgi.org)

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Podcast: [cgiuk.podbean.com](http://cgiuk.podbean.com)

Email: [infodesk@cgiuk.org](mailto:infodesk@cgiuk.org)

Pastor: George Ramocan

**Sabbath services held weekly online at present**

A sermon on YouTube or Facebook, followed by an online discussion at [www.cgiuk.org/meeting](http://www.cgiuk.org/meeting)

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