

BIBS NEWS 2012

Issue 19

And He made some... Eph 4:11



Special Feature:
Church Government

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BIBS:NOCN Centre



BIBS Graduation



2012 Olympics



BIBS Family

WELCOME TO BIBS NEWS

In our last edition of BIBS news, we warned about humankind satisfying their quest for knowledge, especially the Bible, through the worldwide web. Knowledge of God is contained in the Holy Scriptures (Bible) and God has commanded us to study it.

The Church, known as the Ecclesia are called out from the world unto God, "that we should be holy and without blame before him in love". To fulfill this calling the believer must study (2 Tim 2:15) and do His Word.

Knowing God's Word is so crucial that God gave Teachers to the Church: to edify and perfect the Saints, until every member of the body is united in the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God; to prevent Saints from being tossed about with every wind of doctrine by crafty and deceitful men, "who subvert whole houses teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake" (1 Tim 1:11).

BIBS however, was foreordained by God for such a time as this and adorned with anointed teachers who were gifted to the Church by Christ; the college teaches the unadulterated truth of God's Word. Read the Special Feature on God's system of government for His Church on p.8.

The purpose of BIBS News is not only to bring you up to-date with developments at BIBS over the last 12 months but also to inform you of news and events that is essential to your spiritual wellbeing.

Did you know for example, that the Olympic games is worship and upholds De Coubertin's humanistic values? He openly proclaimed: "The first essential characteristic of the Olympics, both

ancient as well as modern, is to be a religion...[I]t represents, above and outside the Churches, humanity's superior religion." Yes, the Olympics promote idol worship. See pages 10 and 11 for more...

The main feature is BIBS 2012 Graduation, which was indeed a special occasion. The joy of honouring our graduates, who sacrificed two years of their time to undertake the accredited Course in Biblical Studies, was evident in the rapturous applause that filled the room as each graduate approached the podium to receive their Credit Awards and Nationally Approved Qualifications.

The jubilation further intensified when Dr. Nelson surprised four of our senior teachers: Elders Easton Laird, Oscar McLean, Denson Lewin and sister Louisa Sinclair by awarding each of them with an earned Bachelors Degree in Theology.

Finally, Bishop Martin Simmonds and myself were each conferred with a Doctorate degree (PhD) in Theology, Counseling, Philosophy, Administration and Christian Education as we both stood in stunned silence. What an honour? Read the testimonials inside...

The high standards practiced and the quality and dedication of our teachers and courses has also won BIBS recognition in the UK, as a centre for delivering NOCN qualifications. For details of courses, enrolment and contact details see page 3.

Thanks be to God for His continued approval of BIBS, the Board of Bishops whose faith and commitment to the school have been unwavering,

the intercessors for their unceasing prayers and the teaching and administrative staff, the backbone and engine of BIBS, for their labour of love in the Lord.

My special thanks to sister Louisa who has worked tirelessly with me to produce this magazine and our financial donors whose contribution is invaluable.

Enjoy!



*Dr. Mavis Taylor
Dean of Studies*

STUDY... UNTO GOD

It's Official! BIBS is now a Certified Centre for delivering NOCN Qualifications in the United Kingdom, having won recognition for the high standards practiced and the dedication and quality of our teachers and courses. The Certificate, Degree and Short Courses in Biblical studies are all accredited; the skill set courses offered are all nationally recognised.



And that's not all! At the BIBS Graduation in March this year, our Dean of Studies was conferred with a Doctorate Degree (PhD) in Theology, Christian Education, Counseling, Administration and Philosophy; And four of our divinely ordained teachers were each awarded a Bachelors Degree in Theology. A greater achievement however, is the life change witnessed continually in our students and the fruit of their ministries. To God be the glory!

Come and experience BIBS; however little or much Bible knowledge you may have, you will benefit from one or more of the courses outlined below; more importantly we will arm you with the unadulterated Word to enable you to earnestly contend for the Faith.

Courses on Offer 2012/2013

One-Year Foundation Course: Do you want to know what the Bible is all about but can only commit to ten weekends? Then this is the course for you.

Our aim is to help you understand the fundamental teachings of the Old and New Testaments: how the New Testament is contained in the Old and how the Old Testament is fulfilled in the New.

Two-Year Certificate Course: If you are ready to delve into the riches of God's Word, seeking a more structured approach to studying and understanding the Bible or simply in pursuit of a more intimate knowledge and relationship with God, then this is the course for you.

The Certificate Course begins at Genesis, systematically follows the timeline of the Bible and the Jewish heritage of the promised redeemer, because salvation is of the Jews; the second year focuses on the life and ministry of the incarnated Word (Jesus), His sacrifice to save humankind and the origins and structure of the Church. The units include: The Pentateuch; Israel's Conquest and Life in Canaan; Four Portraits of Christ; Principles of Christ's Doctrine; The New Testament Epistles.

Short Courses and Degree Program: Do you know how to unlock the intended meaning of difficult Bible passages? Do you know what the Bible teaches about the End Times? Are you aware of the plans for a one-world religion? If you answered no to any of the above questions, you would benefit from attending one or more of our Short Courses.

The duration of each course is two Saturdays, commencing 27 October 2012 and may be comprised of any unit from the list below; the credits earned may count towards the degree.

- Interpreting the Biblical Scriptures
- Christ, His Work and His Church
- The Principles of Christ's Doctrine
- Christian Church History
- Christian and Ministerial Ethics
- Understanding the End Times
- The Covenants of the Bible

How to Apply?

Obtain an Application Form and a leaflet from the Secretary by:

Email: applications@bibsuk.org or
Tel: 07515 407 808 or
In person from the BIBS stand at the Bethel Convention Centre (BCC) 22–26 July 2012

Send your completed application and non refundable deposit of £150 to: BIBS, PO Box 14755, B6 9BW (Cheques are payable to 'BIBS')

Enrolment

Date: Saturday 22 September 2012
Time: 9am to 4pm
Venue: Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich B70 7JW.

BIBS Weekend Dates 2012/2013

Weekends	
1	29 September 2012
2	27–28 October 2012
3	24–25 November 2012
4	15–16 December 2012
5	26–27 January 2012
6	23–24 February 2012
7	23–24 March 2012
8	20–21 April 2012
9	18–19 May 2012
10	22–23 June 2012

A warm welcome awaits you



BIBS GRADUATION 2012

The Awards Ceremony...

As the last lesson concluded, we eagerly made our way to the Bethel Convention Centre and everyone and everything were in their places: students were robed and poised for their family portraits, blushing and smiling; others waited patiently in line, laughing away as they shared a precious memory.

Much warmth and joy filled the foyer. The ushers, elegantly dressed with the most beautiful orange corsage, respectfully escorted pastors, family and friends to the Alexander Suite, where they were greeted with anointed worship.

Suddenly the organ sounded, it was time for us to march in; with a deep breath and shoulders back, the procession began. Suddenly a flustered graduate rushed into the foyer, holding her hat firmly on her head and clutching her gown, just in time to join the procession. Sliding quickly into place, her fellow students reached for a hair pin and straightened her gown, in true fellowship!

With everyone assembled, the officiator led us into Devotion. Dr. Joe Nelson, our guest speaker, was then invited to the podium to teach on 'Church Government'. He began by establishing the number of leaders in the room, which surprisingly, made up a large proportion of the audience.

The seminar was well executed, edifying both pastors and saints and capturing their hearts and minds. Even the musicians with their Bibles open on their keyboard, were enjoying the Word. See p. 8 and 9.

It was the joy of our hearts to see the graduates honoured who had worked so hard over the two years; everyone applauded as Dr. Colin Cawley presented the:

Credit Awards for the BIBS Certificate Course:
Sylvia Dean, Tsitsi Guruwo, Maxine Huie, June Johnson, Lorna Lewin, Rachel Lewin, Tracey Lewin, Geraldine Moore, Angela Smith

BIBS Certificate Units:
Laswell Salmon, Thames Sylva, Alastair Barnett, Pawsey Lynn

BIBS Certificate of Attendance
Paul Gocan, John Nowicki, Renisha David, Marjorie Campbell, Clive Roberts

Saluting the graduates, Dr. Taylor said: "We really thank God for our students and honour them tonight... It's no mean feat; it takes hard work, dedication, fasting and prayer. The BIBS Certificate in Biblical Studies is an accredited course; to receive this award you have to achieve 33 credits across 9 units. The credits may be used towards other courses in the UK ..."

Dr. Cawley was then invited to the pulpit; he began: "Tonight we have certain persons that will be conferred with degrees..." He then welcomed Dr. Joe Nelson to the podium, who opened the proceedings by saying: "We will be presenting degrees in two academic areas: The Bachelors and Doctorate Degrees (PhD).

To earn a Bachelors Degree in Theology you need to complete 128 credit hours (1 credit hr = 3 hrs) in the academic areas of Theology,

Religious Education, Administration, Counseling and Philosophy. To earn a PhD you must have a doctorate in all five academic areas: Theology, Religious Education, Administration, Counseling and Philosophy. To earn a Doctorate in Theology you need 200 credit hours in the academic area plus an academic spread of 21 credits of Administration, 24 hours Counseling, 60 hours of Philosophy, 72 hours of Theology and 51 hours of Religious Education. ...I was overjoyed to do the evaluations and highly commend the following..."

Bachelors Degree in Theology
Sis Louisa Sinclair, Elder Denson Lewin, Elder Easton Laird, Elder Oscar McLean

Doctorate Degree (PhD) in Theology, Religious Education, Administration, Counseling, Philosophy
Bishop Martin Simmonds, Evangelist Mavis Taylor (Dean of Studies)

The room was filled with shouts of joy amongst the rapturous applause and standing ovations; tears were mixed with smiles as everyone expressed their joy to see the servants of God highly honoured.

To complete the Ceremony, Dr. Colin Cawley blessed our souls with the Word from the Lord. Following the benediction, everyone proceeded to the foyer where a light finger buffet was served. There was much joy and laughter as pastors, saints and delegates shared the highlights of the day and enjoyed sweet fellowship. The food was great (loved the mini patties) and served with such flair. It was such a WONDERFUL day...We just did not want to leave. Hallelujah!!!

Teacher's Testimonials

In 1995, God instructed me to give up my allotment and use the time to study. I enrolled at BIBS and gained the Certificate in Biblical Studies in 1997. BIBS taught me how to study systematically in a very spiritual environment that caters for the whole person.

Twelve years ago the Dean of Studies obeyed divine instruction and recruited me to the teaching staff. The entire staff inclusive of the administration and prayer team worked tirelessly, under divine orchestration, to progress the Bible College, including accrediting the courses. Being a fellow labourer has been an awesome experience. God's grace has since empowered me to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Theology, awarded at the 2012 BIBS Graduation ceremony. God bless, Elder Denson Lewin



It was an honour to be amongst those divinely chosen from the very beginning to teach at BIBS; I humbly accepted. In the early days we taught from Friday evening until Sunday morning. Over the years I have been blessed, not only through imparting the Word of life but I have grown in the knowledge of God.

I have never looked for any reward for giving my best to the Master, serving at BIBS, but the Lord has seen it fit to reward me with a Bachelors Degree in Theology at the 2012 BIBS Graduation. I give Him all the praise, the honour and the glory. Elder Oscar McLean



It is the joy of my heart to see the advancement of BIBS; the College was birthed in 1994 and I have been a teacher since its inception. I had no idea how wonderful it would be to watch the progress of the school over the last 18 years: the classes have increased from one to four, which currently includes the degree. I have enjoyed being part of the fellowship at BIBS and a fellow labourer.

May God strengthen our Dean, who works tirelessly to maintain the high standards expected by all, my fellow teachers and the admin team as we continue the good work. Long live BIBS and I pray that God continues to bless this work so that many more can experience a life change.

At the 2012 Graduation ceremony, I was delighted to be honoured with a Bachelors Degree in Theology; to God be the glory. God bless you, your labourer-in-Christ, Elder E. Laird



Serving at BIBS since its inception has been an absolute honour: it was also a divine privilege, being the youngest member of the team that God himself formed to realise the vision: to equip men and women for life and ministry.

It has indeed been a labour of love, in fasting often and prevailing prayer, as we through the help of God poured out sacrificially into the body of Christ. I am far richer in the knowledge of God and character and poorer in spirit, as a result of working alongside the Dean of Studies; I have been highly favoured.

It was also a very humbling experience to be conferred with the Bachelors Degree in Theology at the 2012 BIBS Graduation. God alone is deserving of the praise. Hallelujah! Sis Louisa Sinclair





PHD AWARDS 2012

And he made some...

Bishop Martin H. Simmonds (PhD)

For many, if not all of our BIBS students, BIBS is more than a Bible College with a life-changing and challenging agenda, BIBS is a journey. For Bishop Martin Howard Simmonds the journey begun deep in his heart many years ago; as a young man of God he greatly hungered for biblical knowledge and spiritual growth. As his love for the word grew (he was blessed to attend many classes and institutes over the years) so too did his desire for a Bible College; his dream was realised in 1994.

The time had come for The Bethel United Church to give birth to its Bible College, Bishop M. H. Simmonds was chosen by the Board to establish it and to be the Principal of the College, which he later named, Bethel Institute of Biblical Studies (BIBS). He structured the course on a weekend model that he himself followed at the University of Birmingham several years earlier.

There were several faithful workers who helped in laying the foundation; some who remain to the present time and are worth mentioning, not only for their unstinting dedication in preparing and delivering their lectures but more so, because their dedication was not induced by financial rewards. They are Dr. Mavis Taylor (now the Dean of the College); Elder Easton Laird, Elder

Oscar McLean and Sis Louisa Sinclair. Teaching two sessions on a Friday evening, six on a Saturday and two on a Sunday morning before attending one of the local Church services made the weekends very exacting, especially for those who were also in full-time employment.

These workers were committed to their assignment at BIBS and it was not long before BIBS had two classes (first year and second year). The Principal's task was to write the lesson outcomes and to appoint appropriate teachers to deliver them. In serving the College faithfully for six years; the principle worked long hours, made countless journeys from Ipswich, set up systems, wrote and taught lessons, assessed and verified assignments, initiated BIBS graduation ceremonies; so much was accomplished by the grace of God. The Principal challenged all to the search the Scriptures, to delve deeper, to think – And the Word grew...

The Principal working tirelessly with Bilston College helped the Bethel Churches including Gibson Road and Wimbledon secure funding to enhance local Sunday School programmes. They were structured and the learning measured – And the Word grew...

The Principal believed it was his duty to teach himself out of a job. After a year's notice he relinquished his position and as led by the Holy Spirit a capable successor was appointed.

The College continued to progress to the point where some of the students became teachers. In addition to that, the current Dean of Studies has taken the College forward to an accredited college in association with NOCN and Parkersburg Bible College.



Bishop Martin H. Simmonds receiving his PhD

The Dean of Studies – Dr. Mavis Taylor

Some eighteen years ago, as Evangelist Taylor lay meditating on the Lord late one night the telephone rang; it was the Bishop: Bethel had given birth to its Bible College and the Board had appointed her to manage the college's financial affairs. After obtaining the blessing of her Pastor, she agreed to the appointment. Little did she know that this was just the beginning: The Lord had great things in store...

By the second weekend Evangelist Taylor was asked to teach her first lesson, "The Gospel according to St Matthew": It was evident from her very first lecture: that she was especially anointed by God to teach His Word and to make known its depth and riches of the knowledge of God. In skilfully opening up the Word, she gave the sense and watered the souls...

Working tirelessly and faithfully alongside Bishop Simmonds, Evangelist Taylor helped to establish the College: driving straight from work on a Friday afternoon to teach two or more lectures during the weekend; helping to write the curriculum and lesson outcomes; assessing and verifying student's work; securing funding and managing the finance; giving counsel and spiritual guidance to students.

In 2000 Evangelist Taylor was appointed Dean of Studies by the Board of Bishops: with the full approval and blessing of Bishop Martin Simmonds; the decision was unanimously supported by every lecturer. She immediately invited Elder Denson Lewin to join the teaching staff.

At the very next graduation the Lord spoke through the Bishop: "...lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes"; the number of students soon began to increase until the number of applicants exceeded the number of places available each year. Soon after, the Dean recognised a need for a foundation level course and after consulting with the Lord, launched the Foundation Course: This was greeted with excitement; students enrolled; the class was full to overflowing.

To bring the Scriptures to life and make them vivid in the minds of the students, the Dean set up and led study tours to Bible lands: The Exodus, Rome, Footsteps of Saint Paul, the Seven churches in Asia and the Isle of Patmos. Retreats were run, from time to time, by our Dean to strengthen the students spiritually.

Year by year the Lord spoke; a 24 hour prayer team was established: prayers went up for God to send different nationalities – It happened; prayers went up for God to send brothers – it happened; prayer went up for sinners – they came, were converted and baptised in Jesus name.

Another level... The Dean was led to accredit the BIBS courses, offer skill based units with nationally recognised Qualifications. This was no small achievement: our Dean, with the help of her team, had to re-write the unit outlines, which included the lesson outcomes and the methods of assessments, and put the appropriate administrative systems in place. Another Level... In conjunction with Parkersburg Bible College, the four year Degree program was launched: to make the degree more accessible



Dr Mavis Taylor receiving her PhD

and allow students to study at their own pace, our Dean launched the Short Courses: a flexible route to obtaining the Degree. In 2011, after meeting NOCN stringent criteria, BIBS became a Recognised Centre for delivering NOCN Qualifications.

Following the leading of the Holy Spirit, the Dean opened the doors of the College to souls hungry for the Word of life: Two of our senior teachers are from Beulah Apostolic Church: Yes, BIBS has crossed over organisational barriers to accomplish the will of God.

The extent of the work undertaken in realising the vision, to equip men and women for ministry, is duly reflected in the earned Doctorate in Theology, Religious Education, Administration, Counseling and Philosophy, conferred upon our Dean of Studies at the 2012 Graduation, also the Bachelor's degrees in Theology conferred upon four of our most gifted and dedicated teachers: Elder Denson Lewin, Elder Easton Lard, Elder Oscar McLean, Sister Louisa Sinclair.

Having obtained help from God and with the love and support of the BIBS family, Pastors and Saints, our College continues to this day.

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is without doubt one of the greatest and most important organisation that has ever existed in the entire history of the human race.

Its establishment and continued existence are critical to God's overall plan for the salvation of humankind. It is therefore important for the Church, which is so significant in the relationship between God and man, to be governed as God intended.

The Church

At Caesarea Phillipi, Simon Peter's revelation about who Jesus was, led Jesus to declare: "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." [Matt 16:18]. Not only was Jesus revealed to be the builder and owner of the Church but he is also the Head (Col. 1:18); Christ loved the Church and gave himself for it. (Eph. 5:25)

The love which Christ has for the Church can only be appreciated when one realises that He purchased the Church of God with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

The Church is a living organism and God purposed that it would make known the manifold wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10) and be a source of glory to Him throughout the ages. (Eph. 3:21)

The God Ordained Government for the Church

The system of government for the Church is a theocracy. In its simplest form God is the Shepherd who leads

his flock, who follows him because they know His voice. The Bible sets out God's statutes, laws, precepts and regulations for his people who seek to please him through loving and willing obedience.

Worldly systems of government have no place in God's Church. Some examples of these man-made systems are:-

- **Dictatorship:** a system in which man dictates and acts as a Lord over God's heritage
- **Monarchic Rule:** a system in which God's Church is ruled as a dynasty and handed down to the next generation as an inheritance, regardless of their calling
- **Democratic Rule:** a system in which the congregation has the last word and decides on the leadership

These systems are all redundant in God's economy because they serve the will of men and not the will of God. God's system of government for the Church was designed to enable His purpose to be fulfilled on earth. God's plan is that the Church should be a place of refuge for whosoever wishes to access his Salvation.

The Church, the household of God, was built upon the twelve Apostles whom He trained and later made apostles. As representatives of the Church, they were given delegated authority, that whatever they bound on earth would be bound in heaven and whatever they loosed on earth would be loosed in heaven.



The offices and gifts are outlined below:

- Bishops and Elders were ordained to "set in order the things that are wanting". (Titus 1:5)
- The five-fold ministry gifts which Jesus gave to the Church, when

he ascended up on high and led captivity captive, are integral to the government and ministry of the Church. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-12)

- The Pastors and Teachers would guard and ground the flock and ensure that they are feed. Paul warned them to "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers to feed the Church of God". (Acts 20:28)

Christ intended that the ministry gifts and offices would work together to bring about the perfecting of the Saints. In addition the administrative structure must be properly organised to ensure that the Church is governed righteously and effectively.

As Dr Joe Nelson rightly pointed out at the recent BIBS Graduation Ceremony, "The Church must therefore revisit and seek to realign itself with God's plan for its government and by so doing it will move away from the man-centred ideology and philosophy which govern so many Churches today". It is evident however that for this system of Theocracy to operate effectively THREE elements must function in unison:-

1. God is to be revered and his sovereignty acknowledged and respected by everyone in His Church.
2. The God ordained leadership must govern His church justly, with

integrity, righteously under his authority and prepare themselves and the saints as a chaste virgin for Christ, their bridegroom.

3. The Saints who constitute the body of Christ must be willing to co-operate with the leadership structure that is appointed and installed by God.

So then while everyone understands that God is in control, it is crucial that the God ordained leadership and the Saints work together as "labourers together with God" (1Cor 3:9), in order that God's will and purpose for the Church be accomplished.

Conclusions

Many of the problems that today's Churches face maybe attributed to the drifting away from God's prescribed order and government for His Church. As a priority we need to get the order right, more than ever before, as the Church is destined to face some of the most serious challenges ever experienced in the Church's history.

Finally, God's **Theocratic Government** will supersede all man-made systems because it is not only just and righteous but far more effective.

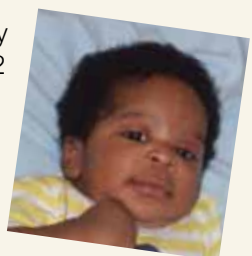
The BIBS Family

Zachary Myers the son of Elder Nicholas and Sis Debbie; was born on the 11th November 2011 at 3.24pm, weighing a healthy 7lb 8oz.



Sis Debbie, looking back on her experience with a grateful heart said, "I really have to thank God for bringing me through an emotionally and spiritually draining pregnancy. Bringing Zachary into the world was an ordeal that I never expected, but God be praised! After 30 plus hours of labour, significant blood loss and an overcrowded maternity unit, God gave us a baby boy who has a beautiful spirit and calm nature, Zachary Nathaniel Nicholas Myers."

On Wednesday 9th May 2012 Nicholas Samuel Fletcher was born weighing 8lb 12oz. I had a high risk pregnancy which was like a roller coaster ride of going in and out of hospital, with fibroids, pregnancy related diabetes, low water levels around the baby, the cord being wrapped tightly around his neck and body when he was being delivered. All through this God's miracle was not going to be taken away from us. What a mighty God we serve, He is the guiding light and the captain of our household. We thank him for blessing us with our beautiful son. As the Lord's Prayer states "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven".



“OLYMPISM” – A RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY FOR LIFE



In one way or another, whether its road closures, essential building works to host the games or the ‘Get Set’ programme at your child’s local school, our day to day life is being impacted by the London 2012 Olympic Games. Just turn on the radio or glance at the TV and programme after programme features some aspect of the 2012 Games. Even the news headlines count us down to the games: Torch Reaches Land’s End, Medals Released Today, Tickets on Sale and so on...

It’s not just the media’s influence on what we watch and read, that is fuelling the nation’s desire to be a part of the games; but the commercial world is also drawing us in through what we buy. Major companies such as McDonalds, BP, Samsung, British Airways and BMW, have all partnered with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), giving them exclusive rights to use the London 2012 Olympic brand at the detriment of others. The UK is bursting at the seams with commercial sponsorship; everywhere you look you can see the 2012 logo, emblems and marks.

Ah! the devil’s strategy is so clear to see; in bombarding us with messages, funding our schools and community programmes and game awards, we naturally become more receptive; then little by little people of all nationalities across the country start to embrace ‘the Olympic Spirit’, which is in essence the values of fair play, respect, excellence and friendship and its vision to ‘inspire young people... through sport’.

When De Coubertin, the founder of the International Olympics Committee and a Humanist, revived the games

in 1896, his sole aim was to promote humanist values to shape our societies. It is these values that form the basis of what is commonly known today as ‘the Olympic Spirit’. Under the guise of sport, education and fostering world peace, De Coubertin deceived world leaders, governments and in fact every level of society and revived the ancient worship of Zeus with its religious rites, ceremonies and Hellenistic beliefs.

An Excerpt from De Coubertin’s Olympic Charter *“Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example, social responsibility and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.”*

De Coubertin’s ‘Ode to Sport’ reads: *“O Sport, You are Peace! You forge happy bonds between the peoples by drawing them together in reverence for strength which is controlled, organised and self disciplined. Through you the young of the entire world learn to respect one another,*

and thus the diversity of national traits becomes a source of generous and peaceful emulation!”

His new civil religion focuses man on himself, what he can achieve by his own strength and by revering others; in short, ‘Hero Worship’. De Coubertin placed young people at the centre of his Olympic vision and Lord Sebastian Coe is now running with De Coubertin baton, saying: “We will place young people at the centre of the Torch Relay...”

Did you know..?

On the day De Coubertin announced the revival of the Games, he openly proclaimed: “The first essential characteristic of the Olympics, both ancient as well as modern, is to *be a religion...* it represents, above and outside the Churches, *humanity’s superior religion.*”

So, in what way are the games a religion? You only have to look at what takes place today to see the many ways in which it mirrors the Ancient Olympic Games. The Games originated as a funeral ceremony but later became a religious festival where all the sports, rituals and sacrifices

(100 oxen) were offered in worship to Zeus (the chief god of the Greek Pantheon). The actual Olympia site was split in two: the stadium where the athletes competed and the sacred grove where religious ceremonies took place. The grove was full of temples, idols (including the gold statue of Zeus, a wonder of the ancient world) and sacrificial altars.

On the 10th May 2012, the Lighting Ceremony for the London 2012 Olympic Games took place in the ancient sanctuary of Olympia; the very site where the ancient Greek games were held in honour of Zeus c.a. 776 BC.

Lord Sebastian Coe and other dignitaries assembled at the ancient ruins of Olympia, the oldest religious centre in ancient Greece to light the flame; in his address to the nation he connected the values of ancient games with the modern games (“... values, which I believe...”), The 2012 ceremony was held at the temple of Hera (wife of Zeus) and although enacted, the role and rituals were those of ancient vestal priestesses clothed in ceremonial dress. It’s not surprising that the ceremony includes a flame, lit by rays of the sun and a parabolic mirror: lighting flames were central to worship in Ancient Olympia: in fact an ‘eternal flame’ was kept burning in honour of Hestia and used to light all sacrificial fires throughout its complex.

It’s interesting, that what many saw as a well choreographed dance, the Daily Telegraph recognised it for what it was, stating: *“...the Mt Olympia torch lighting ceremony evoked a bygone age through the medium of dance”.*

Still not convinced, that Olympism is a religion? Well, the 2012 ceremony started in the ancient temple of Hera



Lighting Ceremony Source: London 2012

(wife of Zeus) with vestal priestesses; ancient rituals and flames were lit in honour to the gods Zeus and NIKE; songs, prayers and creeds will be said prior to and at the opening of the Games in worship.

Before athletes participate in the games they must take an oath and recite the creed.

The Olympic Anthem, a prayer to Zeus, that will be sung at the Games begins: *O Ancient immortal spirit, pure father of beauty, of greatness and of truth, Descend, reveal yourself and flash like lightning here within the glory of your own earth and sky.*

Even the medals worn by victorious athletes have engraved on the surface, NIKE the pagan winged goddess of victory. If you look closely you can see her stepping out of the pantheon in Olympia, Greece to arrive in the host city where the Games will be held, with a Laurel leaf (a pagan symbol) in her hand. It is believed that she gives victory to the athletes. My dear reader is this any different to wearing a cross, which for some is a symbol of their faith and allegiance to it? You may say that you would not wear the medal, true! But wearing NIKE sportswear, branded with (put a tick) suggests your faith in the goddess NIKE to give you the victory.

Draw your own conclusion; if every aspect of today’s ceremony is in honour of the gods Zeus and NIKE, should the spirit of the Olympic Games be embraced?

Olympism is nothing less than IDOLATRY!!! There is but One God and we must worship him and him alone, in Spirit and in Truth. Duet.6:4; Jn 4:24 Jesus is Light of the world and the light of life; He is True Light that came down from heaven and lighteth every man that cometh into the world. (Jn.1:4 & 9; 8:12) The goddess NIKE has no power or ability to give victory. Jesus has all power in heaven and in earth and it is He who gives us the victory. (Ps. 62:11 Matt. 28:18)

What may seem an innocent opportunity to promote sports, physical wellbeing, business opportunities and jobs, a boast to the economy, an event for youth and athletes to aspire to and an occasion for all cultures to unite and celebrate a common cause, is a subtly means by which the devil is deceiving millions into worshipping him. The world without even realising it will be embracing De Coubertin’s civil religion by the worship of Zeus and NIKE and by the glorifying and deifying of humanity.

Be not deceived God is not mocked. He alone upholds the world by the Word of His POWER.

Sources:

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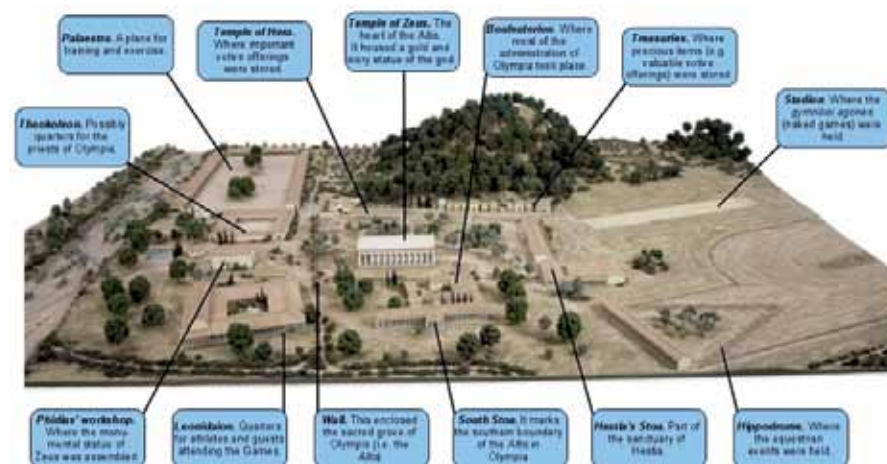
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