

# “Take Heed” Ministries:

January 2022 – June 2022

**Dear praying friends and supporters of ‘Take Heed’,**

Normally my mid-year ministry update letter only ‘runs’ to two pages but so much has been happening since I issued my December 2021 letter that this update letter will ‘run’ to 4 pages.

In that December 2021 letter I gave details of the close-working relationship that had been established with **Pastor ‘JJ’** in Malawi and I want to begin by sharing a photo and comments that I received from him soon after the issue of my ministry letter.



**It has been a gracious day (15/12/21). I have today launched a leadership training program in my home area. I was puzzled to see my blood relatives, old youth friends and many people of my home listening attentively to our lectures. These people have been inviting me to visit them for training for over two years. I was very touched to see a big turn up. We have distributed books and commentaries by Matthew Henry, Haddon Spurgeon, Sermons by CBW, Holiness by Ryle, **Evolution by Cecil Andrews**, English Bibles by TBS and Chichewa Bibles. **All these books except English Bibles were translated into Chichewa/Chinyanja language.** About 150 people attended the one-day conference.**

Since sending that report **Pastor ‘JJ’** has had to deal with the aftermath of severe rainfall and flooding in Malawi so do please keep him and his work in your prayers.

## Articles posted to Ministry web site

The following articles are really 'inextricably linked' even though posted 3 months apart

### **'FOUR CORNERS' FESTIVAL BELFAST:**

**Pope Francis and Justin Welby to speak.**

### **STEVE STOCKMAN:**

**Shaking hands with 'The Devil'?**

The **'Four Corners'** article, posted in January, dealt with the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual festival of that name organised by a liberal/ecumenical Presbyterian minister called **Steve Stockman** and his close friend **'Father' Martin Magill**. The highlight for them this year was that the festival 'kicked off' with an ecumenical service in St Anne's Cathedral (nominally Anglican) that featured a video message from **Pope Francis** and then finished a week later with a guest appearance by **Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby** at a service in St Peter's Cathedral (Roman Catholic).

The **Steve Stockman** article, posted in April, dealt with a visit to the Vatican by both him and **'Father' Martin Magill** where they met and shook hands with **Pope Francis**. In my article I explained my sub-heading to the article as follows -

In closing, perhaps you may be wondering why I subtitled this article **Shaking hands with 'The Devil'?** Well, bearing in mind what I said in a talk I gave some years ago on **'The Papacy'**, where I compared some **'Papal features'** to Judas Iscariot, and remembering also what we read in **Luke 22:3 "Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot"**, this photo that **STEVE STOCKMAN** shared explains my 'subtitle' –



In stark contrast to the ecumenical compromise with Rome by Steve Stockman it was lovely to be able to post the following article to the ministry web site on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### **Testimony of JOHN DORAN (former Roman Catholic):**

**Introduction by ALAN DUNLOP (retired minister).**

I have known **John Doran** for the best part of 30 years and I was delighted to obtain, for distribution, copies of a little booklet detailing his conversion and also introductory comments by the minister who was motivated to get John to put his testimony into print. Here is how **John** explained his own and his wife, Rita's, conversion –

I could see now from the Bible that Jesus Christ, on the cross, became the actual substitute for me, the guilty sinner, and that by the shedding of His own blood redeemed me to God by paying the price of my sin in full. The more I read the Bible the more I could see that this simple message of God's forgiveness never once mentioned the mass or confession to a priest, nor did it say anything about praying to the Saints or to Mary. Purgatory, the Rosary and Penance were likewise absent and the whole subject of salvation centred on Christ and His work. These very words of God in my New Testament taught the very opposite to all my previous religious schooling and, as the light of God began to enter my heart, I was struck by one verse in particular. It was already quoted in another little booklet I had been given by this childhood friend, a publication of the conversion of a R.C. Priest, Bartholomew Brewer. In the book, Brewer quoted **Ephesians 2:8-9 "for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast"** ... My salvation would not be in any act of mine, not by my works, not by my church, not by my priest, but by my personal acceptance of the work of Christ on the cross. I called for my wife Rita and said "Listen to this, this is what we have been looking for". I thank God He used the same truth to the enlightening of her heart also. It was in February of 1988 that we both simply did as the Scriptures asked, confessed our sin to Jesus Christ and accepted by simple faith His forgiveness. We simply flung ourselves on the mercies and promises of God as revealed in His word, and knew immediately that our prayers were heard and our confessions accepted. **"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37)**. We were indeed Born-Again spiritually; we were now Bible Christians. We were Saved sinners.

As a 'neat' follow-on to the item about **John Doran**, Margaret and I were blessed to be present at a baptismal service in Ballygomartin Baptist Church in Belfast on Sunday evening 15<sup>th</sup> May. Amongst the 3 candidates being baptised were two ladies, Helen and Stacy, who had been raised as Roman Catholics. In the providence of God, they both separately came to saving faith through the faithful witness of 2 close friends of mine, both of whom are ex Roman Catholics themselves. I was asked if I could perhaps recommend a fellowship for them to attend and I directed them to Ballygomartin which is pastored by, guess what, a former Roman Catholic, Seamus Bradley. They have settled well and are growing in their faith. It's just lovely to see (now) saints rescued from the darkness of Rome. The photo shows Helen being baptised by Seamus (in shorts) with Stacy (back left in blue) looking on.



Another article posted to the web site is related to so-called ‘**Progressive Christianity**’ –

**ANDREW CUNNING:  
‘PROGRESSIVE THEOLOGIAN’?  
(APPENDIX added 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022)**

Many doors have already opened since the beginning of this year for me to speak on this serious challenge to ‘**Biblical Christianity**’ – it is known as ‘**Progressive Christianity**’ and one of the leading local proponents for it is a young ‘theologian’ called **Andrew Cunning**. He is articulate and that makes him extremely dangerous. He is a ‘darling’ of the local BBC and in an interview on BBC NI’s ‘Sunday Sequence’ he quite casually stated that he was ‘**bisexual**’ and, being the BBC, that comment was allowed to pass totally unchallenged. Please pray that the Lord will continue to open doors for me to warn God’s people of this ‘wicked perversion’.

What do they believe – well here is just one of their 8 points of faith – ‘**(We) Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience “God,” the Sacredness, Oneness and Unity of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom, including Earth, in our spiritual journey**’. The mention of ‘**many ways**’ is a denial of **John 14:6, Acts 4: 12**. The reference to ‘**diverse sources**’ embraces ‘**syncretism**’ and the expression ‘**Unity of life**’ and the capitalising of ‘**Earth**’ to basically divine status sounds more akin to Hinduism than to Christianity. This movement is a diabolical deception!

On page 4 of my December 2021 Ministry Letter, I wrote the following

**There is also the possibility of some changes on the domestic work-front where my wife Margaret is concerned. Without Margaret’s faithful and steadfast work as a nurse over the years of ‘Take Heed’ it is doubtful if the ministry could have functioned, so your prayers for wisdom and guidance as to possible changes in this area, in the relatively near future (DV), would be very much appreciated.**

We had in mind that Margaret might have formally retired from her practice-nursing job in April, after 32 years of service in it. However, with the onset of what has come to be dubbed ‘**the cost-of-living crisis**’ that aspiration has been put well and truly on hold and so Margaret ‘soldiers on’ – thanks to all who prayed for us to know His will on this matter.

In closing, we are truly grateful to all who continue to prayerfully and practically support ‘**Take Heed**’ – it is appreciated and never taken for granted. Increasingly in recent times I have been asked if support for ‘**Take Heed**’ can be made by a **direct online transfer** to the ministry bank account. The answer is ‘**yes**’ and enclosed with this Ministry Letter is a little slip that gives the required details should anyone wish to support the work by this means. **For anyone reading this online and who wishes to make a donation by ‘direct online transfer’, if you email me at [takeheed@aol.com](mailto:takeheed@aol.com) I will let you have the necessary bank details for ‘Take Heed’.**

With deep appreciation from both Margaret and myself.

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