

# **Dr Martin Lloyd Jones**

**congregational letters  
1954 - 1968**



# Westminster Chapel

## CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE:  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1954.

Dear Friend,

It is difficult to believe that another year has come and gone since last I had the privilege of addressing you in this way. Time passes so quickly, and is most certainly "an ever-rolling stream." It brings us along almost unconsciously, and we only realise what is happening when the end of the year or some special event in our lives makes us stop for a moment to consider.

More and more in connection with my work as your Minister, and in the life of our Church, I have realised the importance of the exhortation given by the saintly William Chalmers Burns to a young minister: "Brother, we must hurry." The opportunities are endless, the need of men and women has never been greater.

I have certainly never known a more active and busy year in connection with the life of our fellowship. Neither have I known a more interesting, or indeed thrilling year. Never have I been more deeply conscious of the high privilege of being the Minister of such a Church. The many-sidedness of the work is quite astonishing.

The work of direct evangelism goes on regularly, and the histories and background of those brought to a saving faith in our Lord is quite astonishing. At one extreme are those who literally had no religious background whatsoever. At the other end are those who were brought up as Roman Catholics. The commonest type, however, consists of those who had always regarded themselves as good Christians, but who found after attending the services that they had never known the Truth at all. But, coming thus in various ways, they have all arrived at the same knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

More and more, also, at the same time, we seem to be attracting those who have spiritual problems. The confusion prevailing in the religious world is acute, with so many movements and ideas and special emphases. Added to this are problems and

difficulties and perplexities of a more personal character. On top of all I am persuaded that Satan is unusually active these days, and is making a special onslaught on those who are most faithful. It is to me as great a joy to watch our Lord healing and restoring these, as it is to see Him saving the first group.

I say all this because I would have you know that you are in active participation in this work and ministry. You hold up my hands, and your faithfulness and prayers mean more than you can realise. I can but thank God for you and appeal to you to continue to bring with you all who have any kind of spiritual need.

We all rejoice together in those of our company who have heard and responded to the call of our Lord to service in other lands during the past year. It is a privilege to feel that they belong to us. Let us continue to remember them in our prayers.

Thus, while thanking God for all His goodness to us and all His gracious dealing with us, my profound conviction is that "the best is yet to be."

"Commending you to God and to the word of His grace which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them who are sanctified."

I remain,

Yours in the Lord,

*J. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

# Westminster Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE:  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1955.

Dear Friend,

Again it is my privilege to send you a word of greeting as your minister as we face together the demands and the possibilities of a New Year. I assure you that this is not just something formal, but that I regard it as an opportunity of greeting you in a more direct and personal manner than is normally possible. The peculiar character of our church, owing to its location and various other factors, makes a word like this more necessary than is the case with a church of a more parochial type.

There are certain general impressions in my mind which I would like to share with you.

The first is that the sense of fellowship in our church is becoming more and more evident. The meetings now held bi-annually, when my wife and I are privileged to meet with you more intimately, demonstrate this very clearly. More and more we are becoming a family. The opening of the school halls at the close of the service on Sunday and Friday nights has been a still greater stimulus in this respect. We are greatly indebted to the friends who are undertaking this service so willingly and so efficiently.

A further manifestation of this fact is found in the increasing number of strangers and visitors who pay tribute to the warmth of welcome they are given, and who say they feel at home at once. Here we owe a great debt to our faithful stewards who carry out what can often be a difficult and thankless task with great wisdom and efficiency. You can give them great help in this respect by observing the rules that apply to seat holders, and also in the welcome you give to visitors.

The mention of visitors reminds me of the fact that I am becoming increasingly aware of what we as a Church mean to many Christian people, not only in other parts of this country but, indeed, in many parts of the world. In a time of confusion and uncertainty, and when they are often tempted either to compromise

or even to depart from the faith, or to be discouraged in their faithfulness, many have testified to the fact that the thought of our meeting together Sunday by Sunday in such numbers has strengthened and encouraged them, and given them the assurance that they are not alone in the fight. Only recently I received a letter from a man, unknown to me, stating that he felt that any single service at Westminster Chapel was a complete answer to, and refutation of, an article he had read in "THE TIMES" on the subject of the authority of the Bible. He was referring not so much to the ministry as to the number of "intelligent and educated people" who obviously believed and rejoiced in what the article said was quite unacceptable to such people. Your very presence, therefore, in a service is a witness and a testimony, and a real service to our Lord and His cause.

The one other thing which I would mention is a sense, which I share with many others who have spoken to me about it, of ever increasing depth and reality in our common acts of worship. We come together to worship God and to seek to know Him and to experience His power more and more, and there have been times when we have felt Him to be especially near. But still we are not satisfied, and in the words of Isaiah I would say: "Ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth".

With humble hearts we thank God for all who have found and experienced the great salvation in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ during this past year. To them once more we extend a most cordial welcome into our midst. We continue to thank God for our fellow members who are serving our Lord in various parts of the world, and we assure them of our prayers for them and their work.

God grant that our experience in 1955 may be that described in Acts ix, 31: "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified and; walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."

With warmest greetings,

Yours in the bonds of Christ,

*J. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

# Westminster Chapel

## CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE:  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1956.

Dear Friend,

Again it is my privilege to send you a word of greeting as we face together another New Year.

Looking back across the past year we find many reasons for thanking God for His continuing goodness to us. The greatest things in the Christian life cannot be assessed statistically, indeed as the Scriptures often remind us, they are "unspeakable". Such are, an awareness of God, a conscious foretaste of the joys and glories of eternity, and all that warm fellowship with fellow-believers and fellow-Christians here on earth can mean. They are the things that finally matter; and, for myself, the things which stand out chiefly, and in which I rejoice chiefly, are certain services, and certain moments in certain services. My deepest desire is that we shall experience this in yet greater measure, and that we may be given to know what a man like George Whitefield meant when he stated that "the Lord came down amongst us".

Once more, also, I would testify to an awareness of an ever-deepening sense of fellowship amongst us. I have been astonished many times at the way in which fellow-members have rallied round those who have been called upon to pass through some grievous trial. There is no question but that the fellowship after the Sunday and Friday evening services has been greatly helpful in this respect. All members who belong to the various Bible classes and study groups and the various other activities "behind the scenes" rejoice more and more in the sense of belonging to a great family.

All this expresses itself also in a most practical manner. The generous way in which the work is supported financially is truly remarkable. Many of you who are unable to attend the Church meeting where the business side of the Church is dealt with may not realise this. I was encouraged when I realised that during 1954 we, and those who worship with us who are not members of the Church, had contributed over £2,500 towards Christian activities in this country and abroad outside our own work. In this was included the tithe of all our collections which we have always allocated to missionary work.

There are, of course, aspects of our Church life which leave much to be desired. There are problems which are inevitable in view of the very location and character of the Church. We are striving to deal with this matter, and I would ask for your patient co-operation. It is always a real help to be told of those who are ill or in trouble.

I would again give a special word of welcome and greeting to those who are receiving this letter for the first time.

My appeal to all is that we shall continue to stand steadfast together, and, above all, strive together in prayer for revival. Nothing but a mighty movement of the Holy Spirit is adequate to meet the need of the Church and the world at a time such as this.

May "the God of all grace" bless you abundantly and manifest Himself to you more and more during 1956.

Yours in the bonds of the Lord Jesus Christ,

*J. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

# Westminster Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE:  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1957.

Dear Friend,

It is scarcely creditable that a year has passed since I last sent you a word of greeting as your Minister and Pastor. But such is the case, and it is a joy and privilege to greet you once more in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This has been a remarkable year in many ways. Above everything else there stands out the consciousness of God's good hand upon us. This is shown not only in the size and steadiness of the congregations and the marvellous generosity shown by the free-will offerings Sunday by Sunday, but still more in an ever-deepening sense of the privilege and the glory of being "Fellow-citizens with the Saints and of the household of God". We praise God for all who have been convicted and converted by the Truth in our midst during the past year, but our praise is no less for the marked and evident signs of a process of deepening, both as regards understanding and experience, which are noticeable in so many. Growth and maturity are as much the work of God as birth, and a Church which neglects this aspect does not conform to the New Testament pattern. I cannot imagine anything more uplifting and thrilling, and indeed exciting, than to try to follow the glowing mind and soaring spirit of the Apostle Paul, as we have been doing on Sunday mornings and Friday evenings in our studies of the Epistles of the Ephesians and the Romans. We have not only been given to see that "in Christ" we are "seated together in the heavenly places", but at times even to feel it and to rejoice in it.

All this has been the inevitable effect of consolidating our sense of fellowship and of relationship to one another. Nothing gives me personally greater delight than this, and to hear frequent testimonial to it. Quite often visitors tell me that they are conscious of this in our services, and it has been almost pathetic at times to receive letters from friends from other countries, who have spent a year or two as Members of the Congregation, stating how greatly they have missed the friendship and the fellowship, even after returning to their home Churches! In giving a special word of welcome and of

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greeting to those who have joined us during the past year, I would urge them to enter into all the various activities of the Church "behind the scenes" that they may enjoy the fellowship fully.

The past year saw the coming amongst us of Mr. Iain Murray, B.A., to help in the work of the ministry. He has already settled happily amongst us and his devout spirit and teaching gift are much appreciated.

While thus enriched, we have suffered a great loss in the passing of Sister Dora, who, although in semi-retirement for the past two years, nevertheless continued to handle certain vital aspects of the work. She had rendered most loyal and devoted service to the Church for nearly 50 years. I cannot praise too highly her personal loyalty and her meticulous accuracy and carefulness in all she did. These are the supreme virtues in anyone who serves the Lord in a secretarial capacity. We thank God for her, for all she did and for all she was, especially to "the poor and needy".

"Here have we no continuing city", but thank God, "we seek one to come". May He Who has promised "never to leave us nor to forsake us" fill us all with "all joy and peace in believing" during 1957 and always.

Yours in His glorious service,

*J. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

# Westminster Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE:  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1958.

Dear Friends,

Once more I have the privilege of addressing a few words to you as we face another New Year together. I do so with feelings of real joy and of gratitude to God for His good hand upon us.

I try, on this occasion each year, to express the things that are uppermost in my mind and heart, the things that have impressed me most during the past year. In trying to do so this time, I am in no difficulty whatever. Above everything else, I am conscious of two things.

The first is the ever-increasing sense of fellowship among us. Some of my predecessors have held the view that true Church life was impossible here because of the very location of the building, and regarded Westminster Chapel as either a preaching station or an evangelical platform, in the heart of London. While not rejecting such ideas altogether, and acknowledging that all these aspects of our work are still being carried out, I must nevertheless say that nothing gives me greater joy than to feel that a strong Church and family feeling is developing among us. It is one of those things that almost eludes definition, but which we can feel strongly and deeply. The way in which Members rally round those in sickness or trouble is really wonderful. There have been several instances during the past year, where relatives and friends of our Members have been deeply impressed by this, and have commented upon it.

For this we thank God, for a Church is not just a place where people come together to listen to sermons and addresses; it is a Meeting House where we come together to meet with God and with each other; and, as the work of grace grows and men and women are born anew, they become Members together of God's Household and family, and are aware of a very real and strong relationship to one another. It is something which is quite inevitable. A common interest can hold people together in a superficial manner, but the family tie is something much deeper and more durable.

"Before our Father's Throne,  
We pour our ardent prayers,  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares."

[P.T.O.]

Accompanying this, is an evident deepening in spiritual understanding. These two things go together, the latter is largely the reflection of the former. Here again is something that can be sensed. Strangers visiting us often note it, and comment upon it to me. They refer to the seriousness and deep spiritual concern that are manifest in the congregation amongst people of all ages. There are two other things which often cause amazement to such visitors. The first is the number of young people present, in spite of the absence of the usual attractions which are deemed to be essential. The second is the quite unusually high proportion of men in the congregations. My only comment on these things is that I do not regard them as strange. Surely they are what the New Testament leads us to expect; and my one concern, more and more, is that we should be a New Testament Church.

I would like thus, in writing, to express to all who have come amongst us during the past year the hope that they are settling happily and finding much joy in our midst. The more they attend the meetings and activities of the Church, the more will they receive as well as contribute.

It has been a year of sorrow and bereavement and loss to some. We have all felt for them and with them, and our prayer is that "the God of all consolation" may continue to sustain them.

To all who give themselves so regularly and faithfully, and lovingly to the various activities that supplement the public Services of Worship I can but say: "Your Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward you openly".

We are living in momentous days; the world seems to become darker and darker, but, thank God, we can say "God Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians iv, 6).

May He lift up the light of His countenance upon you more and more day by day throughout 1958.

Yours in His glad service,

*J. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

# Westminster Chapel

## CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE:  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1959.

Dear Friends,

I find myself having the privilege once more of addressing a few personal words to you as we start a New Year together under the good hand of our God.

Though we do not meet personally as frequently as I should like, owing to the exceptional circumstances in which we are placed, I am nevertheless conscious of being in a special relationship to you as your Pastor.

There is nothing which I treasure in my heart so deeply as the memory of the way in which I am privileged from time to time to be with certain of our members in their hour of crisis or of deep need. Nothing can give such joy to a shepherd's heart as the realisation of the fact that the members of his flock can trust him, and turn instinctively to him when in trouble or distress.

In the same way, there is no greater source of satisfaction than to see people "growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord".

The work in Westminster Chapel itself as a Church, I can say quite truthfully, always comes first in my mind and heart and dictates my conduct. There are those elsewhere, and especially in other countries, who do not hesitate to tell me that this is sinful in view of the state of the churches and of the world at the present time. There is but one reply to such a charge and that is that "every one of us shall give account of himself to God". No man can be another man's conscience.

I emphasise all this particularly this year in the light of the fact that it was the privilege of my wife and myself to minister in the Union of South Africa for five weeks this last summer. That experience convinced me more

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than ever of the fact that at Westminster Chapel we are able to exercise a ministry and an influence which extends much further than I had ever imagined. It was a joyful and yet humbling experience constantly to meet people who said that they had worshipped among us and were regular readers of the "Westminster Record". In a very much smaller way I began to understand what John Wesley meant when he said, "The world is my parish". Today, without excessive travelling, it is possible to exercise this wider ministry.

This is rendered possible only by your sympathetic understanding and co-operation, and I thank God that He has enabled you to see this. For you are with me in this ministry, as you are, finally, the proof of what I preach and teach. This is especially true as I challenge others with the statement that the evangelical presentation of the Gospel is ultimately the only truly scriptural one, and the only one which we have the right to expect the Holy Spirit to honour and to bless. I therefore thank God for you.

It is a joy to give a word of warm welcome in this way to all who have joined the Church during the past year. In the same way "we mourn with those who mourn". It would be idle to attempt to thank all who labour so regularly and lovingly behind the scenes in various ways. I cannot imagine a happier fellowship than that which is to be found in the various meetings and activities that supplement the central meetings in the church.

"How good is the God we adore." How comforting the thought that He never changes and cannot change.

May you know Him and His grace in 1959 as you have never done before.

Yours in the bonds of Christ,

*J. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

# Westminster Chapel

## CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE:  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1960.

Dear Friends,

The beginning of another New Year provides me with an opportunity for sending you a word of greeting. Never have I done so with a greater sense of joy and of thanksgiving to God for His great goodness and mercy toward us.

Years, and dates, and calendars have not the same significance in the realm of the Church and the Christian life as they have in the world, nevertheless while we are "in the body" we cannot be entirely unmindful of this element of time.

You and your fellow members were good enough last September at the "At Home", to call attention to the fact that I had just completed twenty-one years of ministry at Westminster Chapel, and to celebrate the occasion by presenting to my wife and myself a valued gift which we shall always treasure.

It is indeed a very great privilege to have been called to, and allowed to exercise, a continued ministry for such a number of years in a place like Westminster, especially when we think of the dark and trying period of the war and the days of reconstruction that followed. What stands out pre-eminently is the loving kindness and faithfulness of God and his enabling power.

We can all join in saying "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" and we can, in the light of that, face the future with confidence, saying:

"He who hath led will lead  
While year succeedeth year"

With regard to the past year we can thank God that He has been pleased to be gracious to us. My own feeling is that there is an obvious deepening in the spiritual life and tone of the church, which of course manifests itself in various ways. I felt constrained to preach for twenty-six Sunday

[P.T.O.]

mornings on the theme of "Revival", and I am more than ever convinced that this is not only the greatest need of the church but also her only hope. I would appeal to you therefore, to be pleading with God to have mercy and pity upon us and to pour forth His Spirit upon us, and upon His people everywhere. Do this alone, do it with others in the church, in your home, and everywhere.

We do not and must not "despise the day of small things". We thank God for every soul that has been awakened and given new life during this past year, for all problems solved, "for every victory won", for all increase in knowledge, and for the way in which He has given us clear tokens that our work together is being blessed, not only to those who attend the Chapel regularly but to many, many others not only in this country but in many other countries also. Nevertheless, these are but "small things" and we must look and long for great things. "Our God is able" and He will "arise and scatter His enemies".

We extend a very warm welcome to those who have come amongst us during the past year. If you but avail yourself of what is provided by way of meetings and fellowship, you will find that you have joined a happy and warm-hearted company of people.

A special word must be said about the Rev. George Hemming, B.A., who took up in October the work formerly done by Mr. Iain Murray, B.A. Mr. Hemming and his family have settled happily amongst us and his work and ministry are being greatly appreciated.

Alas! year by year we are reminded that, "Here have we no continuing city". The past year saw the passing of friends greatly loved and greatly missed, some of them because of their faithful and loyal service. We offer again our deep sympathy to their loved ones who remain with us, and we rejoice together more than ever "in the hope that is set before us". As the world seems to get darker and darker and more and more obviously evil, how greatly should we rejoice in "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ".

My prayer for you and for myself is that we may "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ".

With loving greetings, and in the bonds of fellowship,

*J. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

# Westminster Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE:  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1961.

Dear Friends,

It is once more my privilege to send you this word of greeting as we come to the beginning of a new year. I do so with a heart full of praise and of thanksgiving. God has been gracious to us and has granted us many encouragements.

It is difficult to grade the things that bring rejoicing to a minister's heart. First is the knowledge that many during the past year have found salvation through the services at the Chapel. Sometimes these are reported immediately, while in other cases one only comes to hear the good news months later. The important thing, however, is the knowledge that it has happened.

Next to this comes the great privilege of watching the growth and development of the Christian life in many a soul. This is quite as wonderful as the birth and brings equal glory to our Lord.

At the same time I trust we are all aware of the great privilege we enjoy of being witnesses to the Truth at such a time as this. We live in an age which boasts of itself as "an age of tolerance", which in reality means that it has lost its grip on principles and vital doctrines. Most of the things for which the Protestant Reformers and their followers in subsequent times lived and died are regarded as being unimportant, and any insistence upon them is dismissed and derided as mere bigotry. Doctrine is at a discount and an atheistical psychology governs most activities. The results are to be seen in the increasing lawlessness and immorality that abound. Never, therefore, was there a greater need for a clear exposition of biblical Truth and urgent prayer for a mighty visitation of the Spirit of God. That we are allowed to play a small part in calling attention to this is indeed a high privilege.

[P.T.O.]

Most of you will be aware of the extensive structural alterations that have been taking place during the past year. We have built a new ladies' cloakroom, a rest room, library accommodation, and class room and office space in what used to be known as the alms-houses. In addition we have built a new kitchen between the tea-room and the junior hall.

All this has become necessary owing to two main factors. The first is the large numbers which attend regularly at the close of the Sunday and the Friday evening services for fellowship and light refreshments in the halls. The other is the fact that increasing numbers are staying to lunch and tea on Sundays and thus spend the whole day at the church. It is most heartening to see the young families that are growing up in our midst—though situated in a down-town area we are more and more becoming a real family church.

While we have thus spent a large sum of money on the premises in improvements it is good that we should all realise that each year (apart of course from an unusual item such as above) we hand over a larger sum of money to Home and Foreign mission work than we spend on maintaining our own work at Westminster. I am increasingly amazed at the generosity and faithfulness of our members and friends.

As ever in a church such as ours we have to say farewell to a number who have had to move elsewhere. Most of them desire to remain in touch as friends of Westminster Chapel and we are encouraged by this. We have been happy to receive many others and I assure them once more in this way that we have greatly rejoiced in their coming. Some have gone on to their everlasting Home. We thank God for them and pray that God will continue to comfort and sustain their loved ones.

As we face the future together let us keep in mind the exhortation of the Apostle Peter: "Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter i, 13).

With warm greetings and good wishes,

Yours in Christ's Name

*J. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

# Westminster Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE:  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1962.

Dear Friend,

It is once more my privilege to send you a brief word of greeting and good wishes as we enter upon a New Year. I do so with feelings of profound gratitude to God for all His goodness to us during 1961.

What a year it has been! Unrivalled in achievement such as the conquest of the force of gravity and the sending of a human being into orbit in outer space. It has also been a year of tensions, trials, and alarms. Never, surely, has the human race been reminded more forcibly of the truth that "in the midst of life we are in death".

I am sure that, like myself, you have had two thoughts uppermost in your mind. On the one hand, one is amazed at the fact that people who lack the Christian understanding of life in this world can live at all. It is not surprising that they turn more and more to drink and drugs and to the passing "pleasures" and excitements of the hour. How utterly bankrupt life without Christ is revealed to be.

On the other hand, one has never been so thankful for the Christian faith and message. What a wonderful thing it is at such a time to prove in experience the truth of the words of the Psalmist concerning the man who fears God: "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord" (Psalm cxii, 7). How can we ever thank God sufficiently for having brought us "out of darkness into His marvellous light" (1 Peter ii, 9).

Speaking for myself, I have never been so conscious of the high privilege of being a minister and a preacher of the everlasting Gospel. What authority we have in God's Words, and how petty and puerile are all the thoughts and ideas of men. We are custodians and guardians of God's Oracles — the only hope for a dark and disillusioned world.

[P.T.O.]

I have very solid grounds for saying that many, in many different parts of the world, are looking to us as a church for a sense of stability and strength in these present days. In times of crisis the soul cries out for large and solid foundations. To the extent to which we have been enabled to help a little in this respect we thank God. How inadequate is our best, and how feeble our greatest exertions.

The masses of the people are blind and confounded, and take arrogant pride in their supposed knowledge. We cannot blame them, for they have been instructed and encouraged along that line for many years. They will not listen to God's Word. There is but one hope, and that is that God will pour out His Spirit upon all who remain faithful to His Truth in such measure that the people will be compelled to listen and to pay attention. Above and before all else I appeal to you to continue in ceaseless prayer, in public and in private, for revival. Let us pledge ourselves to this as we enter upon a New Year.

On behalf of the Church I would extend again a very warm welcome to all who have come among us as members during the past year. To those whose loved ones have gone "to be with Christ; which is far better" and who are left to mourn their loss, we extend again our loving sympathy.

What does 1962 hold for us? No one knows. But thank God we can say with the Apostle Paul, "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us". And again: "I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans viii, 18, 38, 39).

I can wish nothing better or greater for you than that you should have absolute certainty concerning these things.

With warmest greetings in Christ Jesus, and in His glorious service,

Yours very sincerely,

*D. M. Lloyd-Jones*

# Westminster Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1963.

Dear Friend,

The coming of another New Year provides me with the occasion once more of sending you a word of greeting and of good wishes. How good it is to realise that as Christians we do this in no mere formal and empty manner, but in the knowledge that when we wish each other God's rich blessing our wish is based upon the Almighty power of God.

We can truthfully say that "hitherto hath the Lord helped us". We know also that we have the highest authority for saying that "He Who hath led will lead, While year succeedeth year". We have every reason for thanking God for His many blessings to us as a people during 1962. He has often been pleased to visit us and to let us know that He is amongst us. Our Lord Himself when on earth spoke of "one of the days of the Son of man" (Luke xvii, 22). Peter likewise speaks of "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" (Acts iii, 19). What is there on earth that compares with this, and how can we thank God sufficiently for such occasions? And what can we desire for ourselves for 1963 beyond desiring that we may know such seasons with much greater frequency? The ultimate test of a church is that we be an expectant people, coming together with longing and a sense of joyful anticipation, ever expecting the rich enjoyment of the things that "the world knows not". A formal attendance at God's House out of mere habit or custom, or a sense of duty, is just a confession of utter ignorance of the "riches of His grace".

What a year 1962 has been! It looked at one time as if indeed it was to be the last. How did we react to that thought I wonder? Did it make us rejoice all the more in "the hope that is laid up for us in heaven"? As the world outlook becomes blacker and blacker our hope should shine more and more brightly.

The opportunity for the proclamation of our glorious Gospel has never been greater. I cannot understand the Christian who only deplures the publicity that is given on the television and elsewhere to various false religions and cults. I would almost make it compulsory for every one to listen to, or to read, some recent interviews with

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leaders of such thought. What utter bankruptcy they have displayed, and what final hopelessness! No God, no prayer, no comfort, no understanding, no hope!

There is only one message that explains the world and the times through which we are passing. There is only one message that holds out any hope of deliverance. It is ours, it is "the glorious Gospel of the blessed God".

But how are we to get this message to the people? The media of communication are obviously opposed to an Evangelical presentation of the Truth, and purvey what often amounts to a denial of the true Gospel. What can we do?

The Biblical answer is quite clear. We are told of king Asa, that after he had "put away the abominable idols" out of the land, and "renewed the altar of the Lord", and had turned to God truly with his people, that "they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the Lord his God was with him" (2 Chronicles xv, 9).

That has always happened throughout the long history of the Church. When people hear that the Lord is with and amongst a church they always crowd there. Let a revival break out in a church and she will not need to resort to doubtful expedients and advertising to make herself and her message known.

If we fail to seek His face at a time such as this, and to plead with Him to make it known that He is amongst us of a truth, we are traitors to His Cause, and missing one of the greatest opportunities ever presented to the Christian Church.

Our privileges are great and our responsibility is correspondingly great. And "we shall all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; and give an account of the deeds done in the body. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord...." (2 Corinthians v, 10).

We welcome all who have come amongst us in 1962, and we continue to thank God for those whom He has taken to be with Himself during the past year. We are all "marching to Zion", and they have but gone on before us. I often think of those words of William Chalmers Burns, who was so used of God in Scotland and China last century - "Brother, we must hurry". Yes, as regards our work and labour; but at the same time, thank God, "he that believeth shall not make haste!"

Commending you unto God and "the Word of His grace", and with warmest greetings in Christ Jesus, I am happy to remain

Your minister and friend,

*D. N. Lloyd-Jones*

# Westminster Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1965.

My dear Friends,

The time for me to address you in this particular manner has come round again: so as we end 1964 and enter 1965 I send you warm and loving greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour.

I extend these greetings especially to those who have become members of the church during the past year. I trust that you have found friends and fellowship amongst us. The surest way of doing so is to become acquainted with the various meetings and activities that go on "behind the scenes" in the various Halls.

With you I thank God for His continuing goodness to us. To His glory I can thankfully say that the past year has been one in which I have been conscious of increasing liberty and authority in the proclamation of the Gospel. I have often read of others, and have listened to the confessions of fellow ministers, who have said that they have found that the task of preaching has become increasingly difficult as the years have passed. My own experience, I thank God, is the exact opposite. Never have I had a greater sense of the glory of the Gospel or of the privilege of being allowed to proclaim it.

Nothing, of course, gives me greater joy than to have positive proof that it is still "the power of God unto salvation".

I thank God for all who have helped me in this great and glorious work in so many different ways - faithful attendance at the meetings, generous financial support, and above all constant prayer and intercession.

When I hear of the lot of certain other ministers who meet active discouragement and persecution, I am humbled at the thought of God's great goodness to me.

What of the general situation confronting us and the church in general? Apart from certain odd superficial observers there is universal agreement that the situation is worsening at an alarming pace. This last year again has seen the publication of a book, by a man in a most prominent position in a religious denomination, which is nothing but a denial of all the essential elements of the

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Christian faith. But still more serious is the painful slackening of the hold upon the Truth of people regarded as evangelical. Men who once gloried in evangelical principles are now blatantly denying them, not so much in words as in actions. What the Protestant Fathers and their successors until now regarded as vital matters are dismissed as no longer being live issues. Leaders no longer lead but allow their views to be determined by the majority.

Thank God there still remains a faithful remnant. It is our duty to stand by them, and, in particular, to give all needed aid to those who are ready to make great sacrifices and to suffer for God's cause and Truth.

There is, beyond any doubt, a time of great testing and sifting coming, and we must be ready for it. The way of preparation is still the same; diligent study of the Scriptures in every way, and increasing prayer for a mighty outpouring of the Spirit of God. He alone can vindicate His own truth and cause, and He will do so. "If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him." What a privilege!

Our deep sympathy goes out to all who have lost some dear one during the past year.

May God make us all equal to the hour, and fill us with His Spirit.

With warmest greetings and in the bonds of the Gospel,

Yours very sincerely,

D. M. Lloyd-Jones

# Westminster Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

January, 1966.

Dear Friends,

As I write to you once more at the commencement of a New Year the feeling uppermost in my mind and heart is one of profound thankfulness to God for His great goodness to us during another year.

Nothing is more glorious than to feel the presence of God in private and in public services, and I feel that we have been privileged to realise this increasingly during this past year. This is something that I have been conscious of as I have been preaching, but not only as regards the speaking but also in the listening. I have been aware of a new eagerness and attention in the listening which can only be accounted for by the activity of the Holy Spirit. May it continue and increase until we experience a blessed revival.

During the year we have celebrated the centenary of the opening of the present chapel building and it was good to review God's dealings with the generations of people who have met here to worship Him. Though we come and go He abides ever the same. That alone is our comfort and our encouragement.

During the year we have also said farewell to the Rev. George Hemming and welcomed the Rev. H. M. Carson into our midst. He has already settled happily amongst us and his ministry is much appreciated.

I take this opportunity of welcoming all who have come amongst us during the year. Nothing pleases me more than to be told by such that they have discovered a warmth of fellowship here which they had thought to be impossible in a "down-town" church.

We would like to express our sympathy again with all who have lost loved ones during the year.

More than ever are we conscious that we live in a time of change, and especially in connection with the life of the Church. By next May all Congregational Churches are asked to declare whether they are prepared to covenant in the formation of The Congregational Church of England.

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Though bearing nothing but a nominal relationship to The Congregational Union of Great Britain and Ireland it seems right to the deacons and myself that we should ask you in a Church meeting to register your opinion officially on this matter, and we hereby give notice that this matter will be discussed and dealt with at the Church meeting on 20th January. Many ministers and churches throughout the country are looking to us for leadership and guidance in this matter and in the whole question of the ecumenical movement and the World Council of Churches.

May God keep us humble and give us unusual wisdom at such a perplexing time. The days in which we live are momentous and it is a great privilege to be allowed to play some part as church and pastor in the determination of the future under the mighty hand of God.

May he continue to bless you in your own soul and all of us together as His people.

With abiding and increasing love in the Lord,

Yours most sincerely,

D. M. Lloyd-Jones

# Westminster Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

1st January, 1967

Dear Friends,

In the middle of my 29th year here at Westminster it is my privilege once more to write a word of greeting to you.

Looking back across these years I naturally see many changes: and yet the feeling uppermost in my mind is one of the remarkable continuity of which I am aware.

My difficulty this time is to know what to select out of the many things in my mind and heart. Of all these in my opinion the most vitally important is the relationship between the local church and the general situation.

There is always the danger of living only to ourselves, and for ourselves, in the local church. While that must ever remain our chief concern we must not stop at that. We are part of a larger whole, and we are responsible for what happens there also. Failure to realise this accounts for much of the confusion at the present time. This applies to all sections of the Christian Church. The feeling too often is that as long as we are happy and all is going well with us locally that nothing else matters. But we cannot contract out of our responsibilities in that way.

The year 1966 has reminded us of that very forcibly and more so than ever before. It has been an astonishing year which has witnessed momentous events. Among them are the following. Last May the great majority of Congregational Churches in this country covenanted together to form the Congregational Church of England. We refused to do so for the reasons with which you are familiar. As if to confirm the rightness of our decision the following events have also taken place. For the first time since the Protestant Reformation a Roman Catholic priest has preached in Westminster Abbey, the Archbishop of Canterbury has paid an official visit to the Pope, a united procession of all the churches of Westminster (apart from ourselves and the Baptist Church in Horseferry Road) marched from Trafalgar Square to the Roman Catholic Cathedral for a joint service at which the Scriptures were read by a Free Church minister, prayers were read by an Anglican minister, and the sermon was preached by Cardinal Heenan. On top of all this a meeting was held in June at St. Martin-in-the-Fields at which representatives of all the 'world religions' took part. All these and many other less publicised meetings and conferences are but moves in the direction of the formation of a 'World Church' including the Roman Catholics.

It was in the light of all this that I made an appeal, at a meeting held in the Westminster Central Hall in October, to all

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truly Evangelical people in all the denominations to come together and to form local independent Evangelical churches which should be in a loose fellowship together in order that the world might hear and see a living witness to the truth of the Gospel.

What of the future? Our duty is clear. We must continue to maintain our life and regular witness to the truth of the Gospel in all ways. As the Apostle Paul reminds the Philippians we are set for 'the defence and confirmation of the Gospel', and are meant to 'strive together for the faith of the Gospel'.

But we must not do that in isolation. As 'no man liveth unto himself' no church can live unto herself. It is our duty to be in close fellowship with all similar and like-minded churches and to do all we can to help them and encourage them and enrich their lives in all ways. They in turn will help us. It has already been our privilege to be of some help to churches which, because of their loyalty to the 'Truth', have suffered financially. We hope not only to continue this but greatly to increase it.

We intend in the annual business meeting of the church on Thursday, 16th March next to consider the question of our formal relationship to such churches, and I hereby give notice of that.

We are living in momentous times, undoubtedly one of the great turning-points of history. The opportunity for Evangelical witness is unique, the possibilities are tremendous. Are we equal to the times?

May God enable us to realise these things and to be aware of the privilege of our position, and the high responsibility that rests upon us. But above all may He enable us to rise to this 'high calling'.

We thank God for the memory of all who have gone 'to be with Christ' and offer again our deep sympathy to their loved ones who remain to mourn their loss.

We welcome all who receive this letter for the first time who have joined us during the past year.

May the Holy Spirit shine upon the Word and in our hearts more and more, building us up and making us strong to fight the battles of the Lord.

As we end one year and start another what can we say but 'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ' (Ephesians i, 3).

With an increasing sense of the high privilege of being called, and enabled in a measure, to serve you in the Gospel,

I remain,

Yours in the bonds of Christ,

D. M. Lloyd-Jones

# Westminster Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL

TELEPHONE  
VICTORIA 1731

BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1

1st January, 1968

Dear Friend,

As I send yet another Annual Letter and word of greeting to you at the beginning of a New Year I am more conscious than ever of the distinction drawn in the New Testament between the Christian Church in its general and universal aspect and in its local manifestations in a particular church. What makes me particularly conscious of this at the present time is the striking difference between the two as far as I am concerned in my personal experience. Indeed I thank God for the difference.

As far as we are concerned at Westminster Chapel, by the grace of God we have so much for which we can be truly thankful. I am more than ever conscious of a deep seriousness among us and an ever increasing desire to know God and to serve Him. This is something which many visitors notice, and discuss with me when they come into my vestry at the close of a service. A letter recently from an American doctor serving in Vietnam testified to the fact that she had been more conscious of the presence of God while worshipping with us for several months than anywhere else, and that amidst the horrors of war she was helped and sustained by the memory of this.

This leads to a sense of oneness and a sense of high purpose which control everything. Nothing can be more encouraging to any preacher than to feel that people come to the services, not out of habit or a sense of duty, but with a deep desire to worship God and to get to know more of Him through our Lord and Saviour. The sense of expectancy can actually be felt - and again visitors sense this.

As a direct result of this there is also the desire for the salvation of others. I have been told at times that certain critics have said of me, 'Oh! he just preaches to a group of people who agree with him'. The fallacies in that statement are staggering. The Church after all is not a debating society, and these critics are the very people who are always talking about unity! But, furthermore, the statement is a lie. Constantly I am being told not only of individual non-Christians who are attending on Sunday nights, but sometimes of even groups of such. But above all I have had the regular experience of welcoming such friends at the close of services, and hearing from their own lips of how they had been brought to a knowledge of salvation.

Thus I find myself greatly encouraged, and thank God for His goodness in calling me to minister to people who are so concerned about His glory and the extension of His Kingdom.

When one turns to the more general position however, the situation is very different. Here, the main impression is one of confusion, uncertainty, and divided opinions. This is true not only in this country but throughout the world. This is something that one expects in 'Christendom', but in the past it has not been true of those calling themselves evangelical. This is the new feature which

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is so disturbing. No longer can it be assumed that to be evangelical means to accept the authority of the Scriptures on matters of history, and on the creation of the world and man, and at the very lowest to be sceptical about the theory of evolution. In the same way there has been a recrudescence of denominationalism and an entirely new attitude towards Romanism. Institutions which for almost a hundred years have been regarded as bulwarks of orthodoxy are being divided by what is called 'the new thinking', which, in fact, is but some of the old heresies in a new garb.

It is, alas, a time of conflict and of trial, indeed a time of tragedy when old comrades in arms are now in different camps. It is not that one in any way questions the honesty or the sincerity of such friends. There is only one explanation and that is, 'an enemy hath done this'. Never has that enemy been more active or more subtle.

Each one of us has to be loyal to his or her convictions and conscience, and we must align ourselves with all who are like-minded. To that end, as you will know, we have joined The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches during the past year, and through them The British Evangelical Council.

With them it will be our privilege to continue in the good old fight for The Faith. What the outcome of the present upheaval will be no one can tell. Our duty is to be faithful knowing that the final outcome is sure.

During the past year we bade farewell to the Rev. H. M. Carson on his departure to be minister of the Baptist Church in Bangor, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. We shall ever be grateful for the fellowship and co-operation of such a faithful and courageous contender for The Faith.

We have welcomed as his successor the Rev. Edwin E. King, and he has already settled happily among us. He will continue in the same tradition.

During the past year we have seen the passing of a number of dear friends and fellow-members. They will be greatly missed not only by their nearest and dearest but by all of us who knew them. 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.' We thank God for them and for all they meant to us in terms of loyalty and encouragement. May their loved ones know the full 'comfort and consolation of the Scriptures'.

I send a special word of greeting to all who joined our fellowship during 1967.

'Onward, then, ye people,  
Join our happy throng,  
Blend with ours your voices  
In the triumph song;  
Glory, praise, and honour  
Unto Christ the King,  
This through countless ages  
Men and angels sing.'

With my warmest greetings and prayers for the prosperity of your soul and body in 1968 and always,

Yours in the bonds of peace,

*D. H. Lloyd-Jones*

Westminster Chapel  
Buckingham Gate  
S. W. 1.

Thursday, May 30th, 1968.

My Dear Friends,

I am sending you, individually, this letter which is really addressed to the entire church. My feelings as I do so are naturally mixed; and I assure you that nothing but the clearest possible conviction that I am obeying the unmistakable will of God would lead me to write in this way.

On one matter, however, my feelings are not mixed, and that is in profound gratitude to you all for your prayers on behalf of my wife and myself during these past three months. I was deeply conscious of being upheld and was able to enjoy "the peace of God that passeth all understanding."

The object of this letter is to inform you that last night in a Deacons' meeting, I gave the Deacons 3 month's notice of my retirement from the pastorate of Westminster Chapel. In other words I shall not be resuming my ministry amongst you as intended next September.

I thank God that this decision is not based on considerations of health. My medical advisers assure me that I can regard myself as having had "a complete surgical cure," and I am thankful to say that I am conscious of returning and increasing strength daily, and am already looking forward to fulfilling my various preaching engagements in various parts of the country, as from the first week in September. In other words, I am simply retiring from the pastoral charge of Westminster Chapel and hope to continue with all my other interests and activities.

My illness has simply acted as a precipitating factor in what was becoming an increasing conviction that I should take this step. However, owing to the wonderful and affectionate bonds that have bound us together for so long, I simply could not bring myself to do it. The moment I realised that I had to undergo an operation, I felt that God was saying to me, "This is the end of one ministry and the beginning of another." I said that to my dear wife and colleague before the operation, and, ever since, this conviction has deepened and become more and more clear.

The considerations that had weighed with me were the following. I am already past the age at which most people retire today. I have completed 30 unbroken years in the ministry of Westminster and given the best years of my life to it. This has meant that I have refused invitations from various parts of the world to lecture at colleges and seminaries and to address conferences of ministers, etc., etc. But, and perhaps most important of all, it has meant that I have only been able to publish but little of what I have preached at Westminster. Great pressure has been brought to bear on me to publish more, and recently, increasing pressure to write some account of my spiritual pilgrimage and what it was that led me—over 41 years ago—to leave the medical profession and become a whole time preacher of "the glorious gospel of the blessed God."

It is because I am as certain that God has now called me to fulfil these tasks, as I was of His call 41 years ago, that I am taking this step and informing you of it.

As I said at the beginning, my feelings are mixed, inevitably so, and I cannot imagine what my life will be like without preaching three times each week at Westminster Chapel—apart from my summer vacation. But when God calls, He is to be obeyed in spite of all natural feelings.

I know that you dear people will understand. If you do not, then my ministry has been in vain. I must not begin to write about the past and of the blessed and happy times that by the grace of God we have been allowed to have together. I cannot imagine a happier ministerial lot than mine has been. No minister could wish to have a more faithful and loyal people. I shall ever thank God for you all and those who have "gone before".

What things we have experienced! To a preacher nothing is so wonderful as to feel the unction of the Holy Spirit while preaching, and to hear of souls being brought under conviction of sin, and then experiencing the new birth. Thank God, that has often been our experience. But not only that, one remembers marriages, births, deaths, even war and bombing, reconstruction of buildings and many other matters faced together; but above all I shall treasure the privilege of ministering to those with grievous problems of various types and enjoying the trust and confidence of those passing through dark and deep waters.

But I must refrain. I know that you will all stand together and commit the future of our beloved church to God. It is His, not ours; and as He has led, He will continue to lead. As I have often reminded you, what happens at Westminster Chapel is observed and scrutinised far and wide, imitated and criticised. Your responsibility therefore is a very great one but I am confident that, as always in the past, you will face it, shoulder it, and rise to it in a manner that will bring great glory and honour to our blessed Lord and Saviour.

I need not assure you of my constant prayers and thoughts, and what applies to you will also apply to your new minister and leader.

Thus, with loving and most tender greetings from my wife and myself—what I and my ministry owe to her you all know—I subscribe myself for the last time.

Your privileged and unworthy minister and friend,

*D. T. Lloyd-Jones*