IN SEARCH OF THE ANCIENT PATHS



THIS IS what YAHWEH says:
"Stand at the crossroads & look;
ask for the ANCIENT PATHS,
ask where the good way is,
AND WALK IN IT. . ."

In Search of

THE ANCIENT PATHS

An introduction to
The Congregation of Yahweh

CONGREGATION OF YAHWEH



Throughout this booklet, you will see the names Yahweh and Yahshua.
Yahweh is the original Hebrew name for the heavenly Father, and Yahshua is the actual name of His Son, our Saviour. The term Elohim, usually translated 'God' in the King James Version of the Bible, literally means 'Mighty One'.

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Substitution of the Holy Names in all Scripture quotations in this booklet has been made at the author's discretion.

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INTRODUCTION

Year after year, **The Congregation** receives hundreds of enquiries regarding its origin, its doctrines, its standing concerning other faiths, and its views on various significant matters. Over the years, we have tried to satisfy each enquirer's need, but the questions about and interest in **The Congregation** continue to grow. This brochure pulls back the curtains and opens the heart of **The Congregation** to you, declaring its beliefs, values, activities, and quests.



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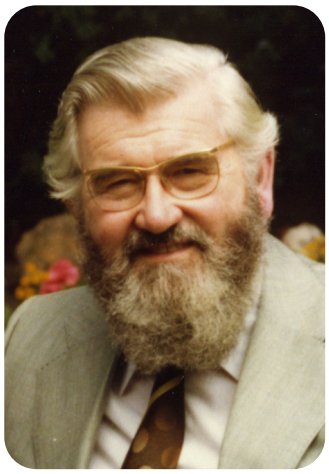
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A BRIEF HISTORY

The Congregation was founded in 1960 when Peter Warsop received a call from Yahweh to work in the city of Nottingham. There he found a group of people desiring to know more about Yahweh and to follow the Biblical injunction to *"...see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it..."*[1]



The Church then entered a period of restoration as they searched the Scriptures. Under Peter Warsop's leadership, many truths were uncovered, including the truth of the Holy Names. In 1970, a decision was made to use these Names at the risk of being alienated from the rest of the Christian community. The Church, then known as the '*Church of God*', began to preach and publish literature bearing the Names of Yahweh and Yahshua. The Church's name was officially changed to "The Congregation of Yahweh" to reflect this new understanding.

[1]Jeremiah 6:16 (NASB)

As the Congregation progressed in revealed truths, some practices entrenched in Christian traditions, such as the celebration of Christmas and Easter, were no longer observed because of their association with old pagan customs and are not mentioned in the Scriptures. Instead, the Congregation began to keep the seventh-day Sabbath and Biblical Feast Days. The calendar of events, taken directly from the Scriptures, is as follows:

MARCH/APRIL	-	Feast of Passover
MARCH/APRIL	-	Feast of Unleavened Bread (7 days)
MAY/JUNE	-	Feast of Weeks
SEPT/OCT	-	Memorial of Blowing of Trumpets
SEPT/OCT	-	Atonement
SEPT/OCT	-	Feast of Tabernacles (8 days)

THE CONGREGATION



Today, the Congregation is built up of people from many different cultural and social backgrounds. It is a dynamic demonstration to the world of the unity Yahweh has purposed for His universal Church.



The Congregation of Yahweh observes the Sabbath from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. It is a time for physical and spiritual rest and refreshment, when rich and meaningful fellowship with the Almighty and His Congregation is enjoyed. Services are held each Sabbath throughout the country, and these normally last between two and three hours. They do not follow





a rigid pattern; the Congregation relies on the Holy Spirit's leading and direction. However, a typical meeting would incorporate a time of worship and thanksgiving, the operation of Spiritual gifts, Bible reading, testimonies, exhortations, discussions, musical contributions, and a sermon. Of equal value is the informal fellowship after the service.

Anyone is free to attend, regardless of race, colour, or creed.



The practical teaching of the Bible helps to prepare us for all aspects of life and eternity. Emphasis is placed on the preaching and teaching of the whole Word of Yahweh, i.e. the Bible. The Congregation believes the Bible has the answers to today's problems. It is not just a book of prophecy, philosophy, and history but is a manual for living, providing sound guidelines for promoting mental and physical health and wholeness. The guidelines are clear concerning marriage, commitment, family life, raising children, and the benefits of remaining single. It is essential to have a correct understanding and approach to these topics, given the uncertainties and difficulties of today's society.

We understand that discipleship, learning to walk as Yahshua did, is a lifelong journey. With this in mind, members are encouraged and supported with resources to develop their relationship with Yahshua. They engage in the disciplines of prayer, quiet times, Bible reading, personal and group study, and fellowship with the Spirit and with one another.

Children and Youth

The Congregation has engaged itself in children's work almost from the start. Today, in association with Youth Link, it operates several weekly





functions for children and youth in its branches.

Youth Link is responsible for Youth & Children's work in The Congregation. Its aims are:

- To present the Message of Yahshua to young people so that they can understand and respond positively to it.
- To teach young people to appreciate those moral values which seem to be lacking in our educational institutions.
- To enable young people to find social fulfilment in an environment based on Biblical values.
- To encourage its members to discover and learn about Yahshua in regular social interactions.
- To help prepare the faith of its members to meet the challenges of life in the 21st Century.

Youth Link offers a variety of social activities and the opportunity to develop artistic skills. Each year it organises national youth events such as residentials and youth rallies, which the young people find fun and rewarding. For many, it is the high point of the year.

Senior Citizens

The Congregation believes that no matter how old a person is, they are of great value and have a valuable contribution to make. So often, older people feel rejected by society because they are no longer considered 'useful'. There are fellowship gatherings and activities designed to include and specifically cater for Senior Citizens. Over their life journey, our seniors have accumulated much experience that can benefit the younger generation. We encourage our young people to spend time with the older members, hear their faith stories, and draw from their wisdom. No family is complete without grandparents – so it is with Yahweh's Family; our Senior Citizens fulfil this role among us, bringing balance and joy.



WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

We believe:

- There is one true and holy God, "**Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our Elohim, Yahweh is one.**"
  Deuteronomy 6:4

- That the Bible is the inspired and infallible word of **Yahweh**, it is the supreme source of truth for the Congregation's beliefs and living.
  2 Timothy 3:16

- That sin came into the world because of Adam and Eve's disobedience. Consequently, all humans 'have sinned' and are in need of salvation.
  Genesis 2:17; 3:1-24; Romans 3:23; 5:12

- That Yahweh, because of His great love, sent His one and only Son to pay the full penalty for sin and to rescue humankind from eternal punishment.
  John 1:29; 3:16; Romans 5:6-8; 2 Corinthians 5:21

- That the personal name of the God of Israel, our Heavenly Father, is **Yahweh** and the name of His Son, our Saviour, is **Yahshua**.
  Exodus 3:14-15; Matthew 1:21; John 5:43

- That **Yahshua**, the **Son of Yahweh**, was born of a virgin; lived a sinless life; died a cruel death; was raised to life after three days and three nights, and ascended to heaven where He reigns with His Father.
  Matthew 1:18-23; 16:16; Hebrews 4:14-15; Matthew 28:1-9; Acts 1:9-22

- That those who repent, putting their faith in **Yahshua**, are justified and made heirs with Him, having the hope of eternal life.
  Romans 8:15-17; Titus 3:7

- That after repentance and faith, one must be baptised (immersed in water), in the name of **Yahshua**, for the remission of sins.
  Acts 2:38

- That followers of **Yahshua** should be baptised with the Holy Spirit, which is the promise of the Father.
  Acts 2:28-39

- That the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as outlined in *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*, are still applicable for believers today, and these gifts play an essential part in the life and development of **Yahshua's** Congregation.

- That the Church is the Body of Messiah; that **Yahweh** imparts gifts of ministry and service to members for the growth and health of the Body.
  Ephesians 4:11-14; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:28

- That **Yahshua** will return to the earth for a millennial reign and finally establish an eternal, heavenly kingdom with those who have accepted His salvation and rule.
  Acts 1:9-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Hebrews 1:8; Revelation 21:1-7

- That the celebrations appointed by **Yahweh** in *Leviticus 23* were continued in the New Covenant era and are applicable today – this includes the seventh-day Sabbath.

- That the Church of the New Covenant dispensation has not replaced Israel, but that together they are a part of **Yahweh's** great plan and purpose.
  Ephesians 2:12-13, 19

- That the land of Israel will be restored to its former glory and productivity; that the 12 Tribes of Israel will be regathered to their inheritance; that all this will take place in the Last Days.
  Jeremiah 3:18; Luke 21:24

The Congregation of Yahweh does not claim to have all the truth. We believe that Yahweh is an Elohim of ongoing revelation; our hearts are open to receive what He reveals through Scripture and confirms through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we are receptive to change.





THE MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR TODAY

The Congregation of Yahweh attaches great importance to Messiah's commission, *"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."*[2] Accordingly, much of its resources are dedicated to publishing. Over the years, The Congregation has printed millions of pieces of literature. All of which have been distributed freely in many English-speaking countries of the world. It has been said that the printed page never sleeps and is, therefore, a constant witness to all who read it. The Congregation of Yahweh is committed to preaching "the good news" through every means of communication available to it.



The printing and publishing enterprise began in the early 1960s, small at first, with a hand printer on which simple testimony pamphlets were painstakingly produced. Later, larger and more sophisticated printing machines were installed to accommodate magazines such as 'Reality', 'Ha'Shem' and 'Uplook!' (a publication for youth); and many other pieces of literature for children, youth, and adults. The Congregation's

[2]Mark 16:15 (NRSVA)

printing operation is much smaller in our current digital world. Most of its publications are now digitally based and available online to all who have access to the internet.

Currently, the Congregation is producing resources that deal with various Biblical and contemporary topics. Included are some of the more vital issues in our modern world, e.g. dating, marriage, divorce and its effect on the younger generation, and many more. The Congregation of Yahweh has no political leanings or aspirations but recognises its obligation to address the many contemporary issues presenting themselves in the postmodern world. The voice of truth, righteousness and justice must be heard throughout the world, at every level of society. Yahweh's Word is eternal and still holds the keys to many of the world's problems if only people would submit themselves to it.

The Congregation has committed itself to using varied and appropriate means to communicate the Gospel's message of hope. This includes printing, the internet, and social media.



PRAYER FOR ISRAEL

We hold firm to the belief that the descendants of Abraham, the entire house of Israel, will be restored to the land as promised by Yahweh through covenant. The enduring word of the prophets reveals Yahweh's purpose for His ancient people, which will be fulfilled in the last times. We eagerly anticipate the reunion of the two kingdoms, Israel and Judah, in accordance with the Scriptures (Jeremiah 3:18). Therefore, we wholeheartedly support the legitimacy of Israel and fervently pray for the regathering of its people as foretold by the prophets (Ezekiel 36:22-38; 37). Furthermore, we are committed to interceding for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6-9).





BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE

For more than forty years, people from various parts of the world have been requesting help from The Congregation. Each year, hundreds of letters and emails arrive in our International Development Department (IDD). Our volunteer staff sensitively deal with questions regarding Biblical teaching, requests for support, visits to their church, and being affiliated with The Congregation. We desire to help those in need wherever possible. Consequently, thousands of pieces of literature and hundreds of clothes and food parcels have been dispatched to *"brothers and sisters"* overseas.

The desire for mutual fellowship with others of like faith prompted the launching of an **"Adoption Scheme"** in 1992. Its objective was to promote strong affiliation between branches of The Congregation in England and similar overseas groups. Many contacts with individuals and whole groups were established in Europe, Africa and the Far East, and The Congregation of Yahweh is, at present, affiliated with groups in North America, Scandinavia, the Caribbean, and Africa. Today, we continue to reach out to those seeking to walk the Ancient Paths and are encouraged as the Spirit connects us to so many worldwide.

The Congregation is a founding member of the *International Congregation of Yahweh* (ICY). ICY is an association of National Congregations that are being restored to the Hebraic roots of the faith and who are committed to sharing fellowship, ministry, resources and a vision for the expansion of Yahweh's Kingdom. ICY is the umbrella under which this international association of like-minded congregations functions.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The Congregation's income is derived from several sources:

Members practise the Biblical principle of tithing, which contributes to The Congregation's global outreach programme and supports full time ministers.

Monetary gifts and donations from members, friends and other supporters of The Congregation's aims and endeavours make up a big part of our income.

As a registered charity, The Congregation is under scrutiny by the U.K. Charity Commission, and has to conform to the rigorous requirements of the various charity acts of Parliament. Strict internal accounting procedures are employed to ensure accurate and thorough accounting of finances. The Congregation also prepares annual financial statements.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?



The Congregation of Yahweh looks forward to the time when *"...the earth will be full of the knowledge of Yahweh..."*[3] What seems to be filling the earth, today, at an alarming rate, is wickedness, anarchy and the hideous violation of human life – all a direct result of humanity's abrogation of Yahweh's moral law. Humankind is in dire need as it dashes headlong into the abyss of degradation and self-annihilation. The crisis it faces cannot be resolved through the equitable distribution of wealth in an attempt to improve social and environmental conditions, i.e. *"make the world good, then*

[3]Isaiah 11:9 (NASB)

surely men must be good!" History has proved that such philosophical reasoning does not work in practice. Samuel Chadwick summed it up when he said,

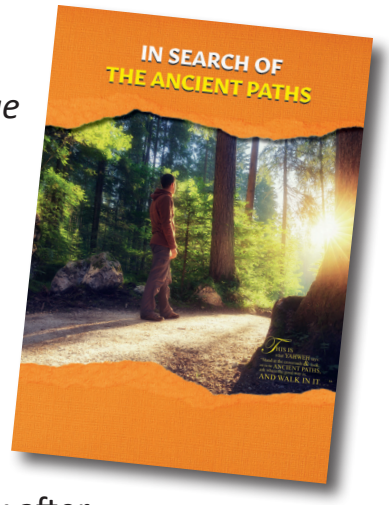
> *"It is not the sty that makes the pig, but the pig that makes the sty; neither is it the slum that makes the slummer, so much as the slummer that makes the slum."*

People's noblest endeavours to secure their survival and salvation are not sufficient; their needs are essentially spiritual; their problems theological. Hope is not found in the improvements of outward conditions, it is through regeneration – a change of heart. This work is performed by Yahshua when we turn to Him in repentance.

The shocking decline in moral standards, the atrocious events taking place in our world, right now, are sure indications that we have entered a phase identified in Scripture as the Last Days when Messiah will return. Matthew 24:37 and 2 Timothy 3:1-5 describe the conditions that will exist before the day of Messiah's return. Messiah, Himself, said, *"Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."*[4] We are undoubtedly living on borrowed time – 1967 saw Jerusalem back in the hands of Jewish authorities. The heavenly timepiece is counting down the final hours to end humanity's mismanagement of Yahweh's earth.

The eternal Father is *"...not willing that any should perish..."*[5], and this will remain His attitude to the very end. There is an answer to humanity's damning plight. It is in the Person of Yahshua Who said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life."*[6] He is the **way** to having a right relationship with the Father. In Him, we find the **"ancient paths"** of righteousness, integrity and truth. We believe the coming of Messiah Yahshua is imminent, that the proclaiming of this message of hope is more urgent today than at any other time in history.

Accordingly, we are devoting our resources, strength and energy into reaching people everywhere with the good news of Yahshua. *"There is no pit so deep that the Saviour cannot reach down and rescue wayward humanity."*[7] The **"ancient paths"** will bring peace, security, harmony, prosperity and fulfilment – those things which every human heart needs. It makes sense to seek after and walk in the **"ancient paths"** of truth.



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[4]Luke 21:24 [5]2 Peter 3:9 (AKJV)
[6]John 14:6 [7]Corrie Ten Boom

CONTACTING US

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