

In the Steps of Moses

A nine-day trip to Egypt brings history recorded in the Bible to life. A highlight was seeing the mountain believed to be Mount Sinai, from where God spoke the words of His law.

It seemed rather peculiar to be going into Egypt towards the end of the Days of Unleavened Bread, since these days celebrate the Israelites leaving Egyptian slavery in Exodus.

Organised by the United Church of God as part of an educational programme, the trip, which took place in the Spring of 2007, included visits to many well-known tourist attractions such as the pyramids at Giza, the Temple at Karnak and the Valley of the Kings and Queens. The intent behind the tour was to bring to life biblical accounts and give a physical context to enhance scriptural understanding.

A personal quest

When I first heard about the trip I jumped at the opportunity and thanked God in prayer for it. About a



Peter Corrigan at the Tomb of Rameses.

year earlier, I had suffered a heart attack and was also told I was diabetic. For four months I was off work, during which time I received the prayers and support of United church members.

A minister prayed for and anointed me for the condition (see James 5:14). I considered this a trial and spent much time in prayer and Bible study. To be well enough to go on an expedition like this, after such an ordeal, was amazing.



Above: Huge pillars of the temple at Luxor.

Visiting Luxor and the Valley of the Kings

At Cairo airport we were greeted by our guide for the duration of the tour, a young man called Yousef. He was a Coptic Christian. About ten percent of the Egyptian population of 73 million are Coptic Christians, but the majority are Muslims. Our group of around fifty

included several church elders and brethren from a number of countries. I was the only Scot.

We started our tour in Luxor and the temple at Karnak. This vast complex



Hatshepsut's temple between the valley of the queens and the valley of the kings.

was built and enlarged over a 1,300 year period and consists of several temples dedicated to false gods such as Mut, the mother goddess and goddess of fertility; Montu, the war god, and Amun-Ra the sun god.

As we were to find out, the ancient Egyptians had gods for everything. Little wonder that when God sent the plagues on the Egyptians, He said: 'And against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgement' (Exodus 12:12).

The next day we visited the Valley of the Kings and Queens and the mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut, who ruled Egypt for 15 years in the fifteenth

century BC. Hatshepsut was the first woman pharaoh, although apparently she often dressed as a man. She reigned the longest of all the female pharaohs.

Sabbath services took place at the hotel in Luxor, with split sermons by Randy Schreiber, an elder from Arizona ('Against All the Gods of Egypt'), and by Robert Berendt from Canada ('That You May Be Sons'). The following day we flew back to Cairo.

The Great Pyramid

While in Cairo we visited the Great Pyramid at Giza. The largest of three pyramids in the vicinity, it stands 756 feet tall and the sides are at a 45 degree angle.

It was constructed around 4,500 years ago, and took

around 23 years to build using between 20,000 and 30,000 Egyptian craftsmen. There are an estimated 2.5 million blocks of stone in the pyramid.

Scripture states that Israelites built store, or 'treasure', cities for Pharaoh at Pithom and Rameses (Exodus 1:11), both of which are believed by archaeologists to be in the delta area further north of Giza. Whatever it was the Israelites were forced to build, they were in great distress and were crying out to God to free them. It seems unthinkable for a people to dwell in slavery for so very long. I thank God for His Son and His grace that we are not in slavery in most nations now. And even more importantly, with the help of Christ living in us through the Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20), we can be freed from being enslaved to sin as well.

On the Last Day of Unleavened Bread we heard split sermons from elders David Register, with a message on 'Remember the Amalekites', and Dr Ralph Levy, who spoke on 'The Cost of Leaving Egypt'. Later on, Dr Levy gave

an open question-and-answer session about Joseph in Egypt. (If these biblical festivals are somewhat unfamiliar to you, please request our free booklet *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind*.)

In the steps of Moses

Our next visit involved a six-hour bus journey to Jebel Musa, which means the 'mountain of Moses'. This mountain is believed to be Mount Sinai, where God came down in cloud and fire and spoke the words of His law to the children of Israel. En route we



Above: Our guide Mira tells our group about the pyramids of Giza.



The great pyramid at Giza near Cairo stands 756 feet tall. It took 23 years to build it with an estimated 2.5 million blocks of stone. You would have to lay a block every five minutes to build it in 25 years.

stopped at the Springs of Moses (Exodus 15:27). Seven of the twelve springs still exist.

Later, I looked out across the Red Sea and tried to imagine around two million people crossing it with the waters piled up on either side of them. We also stopped at Wadi Firan, the place where it is believed that Joshua defeated the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-15). We also tried to imagine the children of Israel wandering around this hot, barren and sparsely populated wilderness for forty years.

Very early in the morning, with a black sky full of huge bright stars overhead, I declined the offer of a Bedouin camel to take me up the mountain, and began my climb. About halfway up the 7,498 feet, I took a break. Looking down I could see a snake of torch lights coming up the mountainside. We estimated that there were more than two thousand climbing that night.

Then I climbed onward and upward. However, just when I thought I must be almost at the top, the path was replaced by a flight of steps. These were cut by monks in the fifteenth or sixteenth century and there were more than 750 to negotiate before reaching the summit. They call them the 'steps of repentance' – quite appropriate since we had just celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Thankfully, by 5.20 am I had reached the summit, and I watched the sunrise with the other brethren.

Whether or not this really was the correct location of the Mount Sinai



The 'Springs of Moses'

of the Bible, it was still an amazing experience, and a personal triumph of physical endurance for me. I reminded myself that Moses may have climbed this mountain at least four times, and probably in less time than my three hours.

I truly thanked God for allowing me to be well enough to participate.

*Peter Corrigan,
Stirling/Edinburgh congregation
United Church of God*

Are We Pleasing God?

A survey by Keele University in northern Staffordshire revealed an appalling lack of basic honesty among far too many citizens. Cutting corners in basic morality is more prevalent today than previously thought possible. Is this behaviour pleasing to God?

Over a third of our citizens use cash in order to avoid tax. Nearly a third keep very silent when erroneously given too much change by a clerk. Nearly 20 percent pilfer small items from the office with impunity. Over 10 percent manage to avoid paying their TV license. And the list goes on and on.

Obviously, committing so-called petty crimes is not like robbing a bank in broad daylight. Most people 'get away' with indulging in these 'misdeemeanours' simply because of the cost and inconvenience of detection.

Incredibly 'the worst perpetrators are said to be highly paid people facing temporary financial difficulties' (*The Times*, 25 June).

Professor Suzanne Karstedt, a criminologist from Keele University, stated that 'contempt for the law is as widespread in the centre of society as it is assumed to be rampant at the margins and among specific marginal groups' (ibid).

Hiding our sins from God

But what may be hidden from men is always known by God. Our Creator is fully aware of what people are really doing behind the scenes. Lawbreakers are sometimes afraid of being caught by police or officials in authority, but generally speaking have no real fear of God in their thoughts and actions.

Yet the Bible shows that our Creator is the One we should be much more concerned about. After all, God is the Being who will ultimately determine our eternal destiny (see Matthew 10:28).

At various levels, men and women

have been trying to conceal their misdeeds from God since the time of our first parents in the Garden of Eden. In some cases perpetrators have only half-believed in His existence (see Psalm 14:1 and 53:1).

Fortunately for all of us humans, God is quicker to forgive and forget than members of our own species. Jesus Christ was very merciful to repentant men and women even when they had committed serious capital crimes.

God's forgiveness, once granted, is total. He even has the capacity to wipe all of our misdeeds from His great mind, as though we had never committed them. He is far more concerned with

Pleasing God involves far more than rote obedience to law. He also wants a willing attitude and a right heart.

our present attitudes than our previous actions. He wants to cast our sins into the depths of the sea and leave them there. He awaits our true repentance.

God does not condone human sin, however. Although mercifully forgiving, Christ's words to repentant sinners, on occasion caught in the very act, were to 'Go and sin no more.'

What it means to please God

Obviously God is not pleased when we transgress biblical moral standards. When normally righteous King David of Israel committed two capital crimes, God's Word says: 'The thing David had done *displeased the LORD*' (2 Samuel 11:27, emphasis added throughout).

Yet when the king repented, God

was quick to forgive, although He imposed severe temporal penalties, simply because much greater responsibility is incumbent on rulers who influence many thousands and more. They are expected to set the right example, while avoiding scandal and corruption. But David's claim to eternal security is secure: '*The LORD has also put away your sin; you shall not die*' (2 Samuel 12:13). Those must have been among the most comforting words ever said to the king.

Pleasing God involves far more than rote obedience to law. He also wants a willing attitude and a right heart.

Complying with and exhibiting the fruits of the spirit of the law is enormously important to God (Matthew 5:20-22, 27-28).

From early on the apostle Paul evinced a great interest in a Christian's ethical behaviour.

(A number of biblical scholars believe that 1 Thessalonians may be the second letter he wrote in chronological order.)

'Brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more; just as you received from us how you ought to walk *and to please God*. For you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus' (1 Thessalonians 4:1-2).

Then Paul went on to give the brethren at Thessalonica one or two striking examples of proper ethical behaviour – including the importance of sexual self-control. Pleasing God clearly requires appropriate Christian conduct.

Remember that Jesus Christ Himself said, 'I always do those things that please Him [the Father]' (John 8:29).

And on the human level, honouring our parents is ‘well pleasing to the Lord’ (Colossians 3:20).

The apostle John added: ‘Whatever we ask we receive from Him [God] because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight’ (1 John 3:22). The Hebrew prophet Isaiah said, ‘We are to choose those things that please God’ (Isaiah 56:4).

Mercy and redemption

We have all made serious mistakes. Although we firmly witness against all types of bad behaviour and strongly encourage Christian conduct, neither *The Good News* nor this Supplement is in the business of throwing stones.

The apostles Peter and Paul owned up to past bad behaviour on the part of early Christians. Peter wrote: ‘For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties and abominable idolatries’ (1 Peter 4:3).

Paul adds: ‘For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another’ (Titus 3:2-3).

But how does God react to those truly repentant sinners whom He is calling to salvation, now in this age of man?

Notice the next few verses: ‘*When the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done [we cannot earn our salvation], but according to His mercy He saved us through the washing of regeneration [water baptism] and receiving of the Holy Spirit, [which] He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that having been justified by His grace, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal [everlasting] life*’ (verses 4-7).

Please do not misunderstand! Certainly obedience to God and good works are an integral part of the Christian life. The context of Titus chapter 3 clearly shows this. ‘Remind them to be subject to rules and authorities, to obey, *to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men*’ (Titus 3:1-2; compare Romans 2:7).

Learning to please God

You may already be fed up with the inevitable negative results of living a wrong way of life. You may wish to

embark on a completely different manner of life – one that is both satisfying deep down and, more importantly, will eventually result in everlasting life in the Kingdom of God. You may want to totally put your past sins behind you.

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is ever there to free the repentant sinner from a guilty conscience brought on by past transgressions of God’s law (1 John 3:4). Many New Testament passages assure us of God’s redemption and forgiveness. Notice just a few.

‘While we were still sinners, Christ died for us’ (Romans 5:8). ‘Christ died for our sins’ (1 Corinthians 15:3). He ‘gave Himself for our sins’ (Galatians 1:4).

‘In Him [Christ], we have redemption through His [shed] blood, the forgiveness of sins’ (Ephesians 1:7). God ‘loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins’ (1 John 4:10).

Could anything be plainer? A loving God will forgive and redeem any truly repentant sinner through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:37-39; 3:19).

If you would like some help in embarking on a new and abundant life, one that pleases God, request our free booklets *The Road to Eternal Life* and *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion*.

John Ross Schroeder

Follow Jesus Christ’s Example

Jesus plainly said that He had kept His Father’s commandments (John 15:10). Also, as recorded in Matthew 19:16, He was asked what must be done to inherit eternal life. His answer: ‘If you want to enter life, obey the commandments’ (verse 17).

Christ then enumerated several to show which set of commandments He meant: “You shall not murder”, “You shall not commit adultery”, “You shall not steal”, “You shall not bear false witness”, “Honour your father and your mother”, and, “You shall love your neighbour

as yourself” (verses 18-19).

Fulfilling God’s law

Christ also stated, ‘Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfil’ (Matthew 5:17). Heaven and earth would disappear before the smallest part of the law would do so (verse 18).

The word fulfil in Matthew 5:17 means *fill up, make full, fill to the full or complete*. Jesus came to fill completely full the meaning of God’s law. His teaching that a man who lusts after a woman has already commit-

ted adultery in his mind, represented Christ’s magnification of all of the Ten Commandments.

He expects more than just a legalistic approach; He wants a submissive, yielded attitude of heart and mind. So in Matthew chapters 5-7 Jesus explained that the Ten Commandments were to be kept in the spirit as well as the letter. He was fulfilling a prophecy about Himself from Isaiah 42:21: ‘He will magnify the law and make it honourable.’

Why not request our free booklet entitled *The Ten Commandments?*

The Sabbath Day

A Haven of Spiritual Rest

As a reader of our magazines and booklets, you may wish to expand your understanding of biblical truth and increase your awareness of the next steps necessary in living the Christian life. One of those steps is observing the same day Jesus and the apostles kept.

You are probably aware that *The Good News* and the related booklets teach biblical doctrines that are different from what many may have been taught. We challenge the traditional views many people hold in regard to the most important issues in life.

Speaking with authority

There is a crucial reason why we are able to speak plainly and publish articles that are refreshing in content and make logical sense from a biblical viewpoint. It is because we focus our readership on the pages of the Bible rather than accepting religious traditions that are contrary to what God's immutable Word teaches.

Some 2000 years ago, it was Jesus Christ who was hailed by many as 'One who speaks with authority' – that is with biblical authority – unlike the religious leaders of the day whose belief system largely stemmed from humanly added traditions rather than God's Word.

Jesus was different! He shunned harmful and God-opposing traditions. 'And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for *He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes*' (Matthew 7:29, emphasis added throughout).

Abandoning biblical truth

History has a way of repeating itself. The truth of God is 'hidden under a bushel' by all too many ecclesiastical

officials. This was the case with the scribes and Pharisees at the time of Christ. They had largely abandoned many biblical truths from the Old Testament and replaced or altered them with human traditions. '*Why do you also transgress the commandments of God because of your tradition?*', Jesus asked them (Matthew 15:3). Clearly, to those

'Make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.'

religious leaders, human traditions meant more than divine truth.

This drift away from the truth of the Holy Scriptures and into human traditions took on an even more sinister phase in post-New Testament history. This was a time when gentile philosophers, encouraged by the pagan population of the Roman Empire, influenced the religious leaders to sanction and incorporate into the 'Christian' religion outright pagan beliefs and superstitions. This process is called syncretism.

Numerous of these heathen concepts and practices are still adhered to by many mainstream Christian churches. (To understand how all this happened, request our free booklet *The Church Jesus Built*.)

The introduction of Sunday as a replacement for the biblical seventh-day Sabbath is just one case in point. Jesus Christ stated categorically that He was Lord of the Sabbath – not Sunday – as

we see in Mark 2:27-28. Jesus 'said to them, the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore *the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.*' Jesus never demeaned the day of rest that God had instituted at creation, but He was critical of the hundreds of burdensome regulations that had been artificially added to the

Sabbath, preventing people from enjoying this day as the Bible teaches. God's seventh day of rest was intended to be 'a delight' and a day of rest from work. It also allowed people to acknowl-

edge God's magnificent creation (Isaiah 58:13).

(If you would like more information about how the true Sabbath day was gradually replaced by Sunday observance, request our free booklet *Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest*.)

The United Church of God continues to honour our Creator on the day that God finished the physical creation. 'On the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested [refrained from work] on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. *Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it* [set it apart as holy] . . .' (Genesis 2:2-3).

A true identity

The Bible identifies God's Church as a small Church. Jesus called it 'a little flock' (Luke 12:32). It is, nonetheless, represented in almost every nation on earth and is fulfilling Christ's commis-

sion in Matthew 28:19-20: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' One of those things is the true biblical Sabbath day.

Referring to the end time, Christ stated in His Olivet Prophecy, 'This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come' (Matthew 24:14). God's true Church is faithful to that commission.

Here in the British Isles, we are striving to do our part in fulfilling that global commission. Please let us know if we can serve you in any way that may edify you spiritually and strengthen your faith in the promises that God has given us in His Word.

Gerhard Marx

A Day of Spiritual Rest

One of the blessings of the Sabbath day is the opportunity to congregate on the day of which Jesus is Lord, in a church service environment, where geographically possible. The United Church of God holds regular Sabbath services and Bible studies in the British Isles where people of like-minded beliefs can come and worship God collectively.

Please write to our office at P O Box 705, Watford WD19 6FZ to learn where worship services are held on the biblical seventh-day Sabbath. Although the highlight in these formal services is the main message or sermon, there is usually an opportunity to praise God in song as well as Christian fellowship.

For those not living close enough to a site to attend on a regular basis, we do offer recorded messages (in the form of DVDs or MP3s) from the ministry of the United Church of God here in the United Kingdom and those residing in the United States. Please let us know if you wish to receive these messages.

What is True Worship?

We live in a time when many people are disillusioned with traditional worship services. They find them largely without meaning and irrelevant to their lives. It is high time to take a fresh look at what worshipping God is all about. When we come to understand its real significance, true worship becomes supremely relevant to our lives now and to our human destiny.

In many people's minds, worship involves a public service with hymns of praise, prayers and a well-planned liturgy. Such services epitomize worshipping God. Yet this scenario provides only a partial picture.

A dictionary definition of worship is 'reverence tendered to a divine being' and 'an act expressing such reverence.' The word 'worship' comes from an old English word meaning 'worth-ship' and refers to worthiness, respect and reverence directed towards the Creator God.

Appreciation for God's worth

Our worship of God means showing our appreciation of God's worth. Certainly forms of outward religious practice, such as rituals, ceremonies and prayers, can show proper worship. But we must also pay careful attention to what God tells us in His Word.

God the Father seeks those who worship Him to do so 'in spirit and in truth' (John 4:24). Jesus Christ enjoined: 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only shall you serve' (Matthew 4:10). The apostle Paul described his worship of God as, 'according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers,

believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets' (Acts 24:14) – referring to what we call the Hebrew Bible.

God asks us to live 'by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4). Our worship of God is reflected in how we live our daily lives. Christianity is a way of life (Acts 18:25, 26; 19:9, etc). It is a way of thinking, acting and living which affects every aspect of our lives.

What true worship involves

True worship of God involves nothing short of the inward transformation of the human heart by faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice. External worship practices alone are inadequate. We should worship God in spirit and in truth, from a converted and transformed heart.

Jesus Christ firmly rebuked the religious leaders of His day because they misrepresented God's commands and substituted their own humanly devised teachings (Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7). He said such worship was in vain. Christ reserved severe words of warning for those who would profess to worship God, but refuse to obey His laws. Such worship is empty and without merit, unacceptable to God and Jesus Christ.

Sabbath full of meaning

The seventh-day Sabbath – God's day of rest and communal worship – is full of meaning, and supremely relevant to the lives of all humanity. We are missing out on some of God's most wonderful blessings if we ignore the observance of His commanded day of rest. Request our free booklet *Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest*.

Questions & Answers

Q I don't fully understand your views on the Judgement. Surely we can't all be saved. Or can we?

P B, Sheffield

A Although the doctrine of absolute universal salvation is a false one, God holds out a great hope for all those who have never heard or really understood His message of salvation. The Bible assures us that the vast majority of human beings who have ever lived are going to be saved (Romans 11:26).

Our loving Father in heaven does not doom people to the fiery hell preached by many mainstream churches. (If you would like to understand the truth about this false teaching, request our free booklet *Heaven and Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach?*)

The apostle Paul told Timothy that 'God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth' (1 Timothy 2:4). This is not happening in this present age of man, but it will occur after Jesus Christ returns to this earth. Revelation 20 speaks of the restraint of Satan, and Christ's millennial reign. The firstfruits of God (those saints saved during this age) will rule with Christ after the first resurrection (verse 6).

However, that is not the end of the story.

'The rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished' (emphasis added throughout). But why this second resurrection? The

truth about it has largely been hidden from the world. It is at this future time that God will call these untold millions to the knowledge of His truth. The religious confusion that exists today will have disappeared forever. At the time of the millennium and the Great White Throne Judgement to follow, 'They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, for *the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea*' (11:9). Most people today do not really know God or His truth.

Unlike the firstfruits of God, who will be resurrected to everlasting life with a new spirit body (1 Corinthians 15:22-23, 51-54), the second resurrection will be to a physical life, as shown by the vision of dry bones given new life in Ezekiel 37:1-14. The Scriptures show that over time the overwhelming majority of these people will repent of their sins, accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for forgiveness and be saved.

However, God will not force salvation on those relatively few who, after their minds have been opened to His truth (having been given every chance to repent of their sins), still stubbornly persist in practicing a sinful way of life.

As Revelation 20 tells us, they will be thrown into a lake of fire and simply cease to exist. It will be as though they had not been. Their punishment is *not* eternal life in hell fire. The Hebrew prophet Malachi reports that those who are saved shall 'trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet' (Malachi 4:3). Their fate is far more merciful than the unbiblical view

of the wicked suffering forever in hell fire. 'The wages of sin is death' (Romans 6:23). Death is the absence of life.

All ungodly things will ultimately be purged from the earth. Even the physical elements will melt and disappear (2 Peter 3:7-13). Yet the glorious Kingdom comprising God, Jesus Christ and all the glorified saints will remain forever, along with all the holy angels who serve God. God the Father will be present on this earth and bring every heavenly blessing to His children (Revelation 21:1-3). Death and sorrow will be but a faded memory (verse 4).

This explanation is but a summary of all these events. To truly understand the encouraging details, request our free booklets *What Happens After Death?* and *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for all Mankind*.

Q Who are *The Good News* group? Is it a denomination or a church?

E H M, Glasgow, Scotland

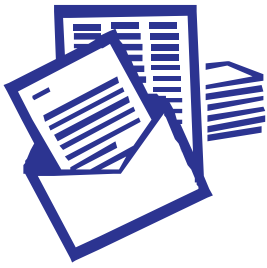
A Our free booklet *This Is the United Church of God* answers your questions.

Additionally, the companion booklet, *The Church Jesus Built*, gives a broad overview of the Church over the last nearly 2,000 years.

Taken together these two booklets render a much-needed overall perspective of what the Church should be and how it would carry out its mission to preach and publish the gospel to the world (Matthew 28:18-20).

If You Would Like to Help

The United Church of God – British Isles is registered as a charity in England and Wales (number 1079192). The publication of this Supplement and other literature is funded by the generosity of members of the Church, co-workers and our readers. Following Jesus Christ's instruction (Matthew 10:8), it is supplied free of charge so that His message can be made available to all. We are grateful to those who assist financially in the work done by *The Good News*. Donations may be sent to: The United Church of God, PO Box 705, WATFORD WD19 6FZ, United Kingdom, or donated online at www.charitychoice.co.uk by selecting 'search' and entering 'United Church of God'.



Letters From Our Readers

The Good News

The Good News is a very inspirational magazine and I am proud of the work you are doing. I wish the world, especially this part of the world, would . . . turn away from evil and sin. Your magazine actually reveals a lot of truth of the end time – but still a lot of people doubt this. Someone actually called me a fool for believing in God and His Son Jesus Christ. How sad! I think you and all Christians need to spread *The Good News* a lot more.

A O, London

I enjoy reading *The Good News* articles. They are full of wonderful teaching and information about biblical truths. I love the last issue on 'How You Can Help Your Child Succeed'. It was a blessing to my family.

Mrs V N, Dublin

Your magazine brings our family hope amongst all the dreadful things that happen every day around us. We prefer to read your good news rather than watch the bad news on TV.

B H, Reading

I have found many articles in *The Good News* helpful in clarifying my thinking. It is often difficult in this confusing and worrying world to distinguish between bigotry and genuine concern about the way acceptable behaviour and justice are being eroded. Your articles have definitely helped.

Mrs I B, Peel, Isle of Man

I really enjoy reading *The Good News* and the British and European Supplement. Please kindly send me details on how I can make a small

contribution on a regular basis.

K O, East Finchley, London

- Please see the box at the bottom of page 7.

Finding the true God

It has taken me 37 years to find you. Now my faith in God and Jesus Christ goes from strength to strength. Keep up your much needed work. Thank you for helping me to find the true God.

M W, Boston, Lincs

The Ten Commandments and other booklets

I have just returned from two weeks holiday. I took *The Ten Commandments* booklet with me to read and God's Word, the Bible. I found out so much more information, combining reading both together.

S D, Banwell

I would like to say thank you for revealing to me the way to true salvation. Your booklets are eye opening.

P F, Neath, South Wales

Free Bible Study Course

May I take this opportunity to thank you for an excellent *Bible Study Course*? I find it very enlightening and comforting too, having lost my wife due to cancer. If I may, I would like to recommend a friend of mine who would also like to do a Bible study course.

R M, Belfast

The *Bible Study Course* contains very good teaching and has given me more insight in how to understand the Bible. I look forward to receiving the rest of the lessons.

D C, Dagenham, Essex

I must inform you that I have gained a lot from your *Bible Study Course*. I

now know that I have never really understood the Bible before.

S O, Libya

Enquiry about the biblical festivals

I would like you to send me a list of the Jewish feasts and festivals and what they meant. Do they mean anything to the Christian? What are the dates they are held on today?

W S, Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland

- We have posted our free booklet God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind. *This attractively printed publication answers all the questions you pose – including the exact dates for many years. Other readers who may wonder about these matters are very welcome to request this booklet as well.*

Questions about attending Church

Is there a Church congregation near where I live? I can travel to Port Talbot by bus. I would like very much to fellowship with others.

Mrs A C, Port Talbot, South Wales

Please can you tell me the nearest Church to my address? I would like to contribute when I can towards your good work. I enclose a donation.

Mrs D J D, Devizes

- We have sent you the telephone number of the nearest elder. Our congregations are fewer in number than we would like. Please pray that God would send more labourers into His work (Matthew 9:37). DVDs and MP3 recordings of sermons are available upon request.