

Winning

The Race for the Kingdom

Are there important parallels between the Olympic Games in London and the purpose of human life? Is there a vital race that all of us must eventually run?

Figuratively speaking, the apostle Paul was a superbly unique ‘Olympic runner’. While making his way along a road to Damascus to pursue and persecute Christians he was suddenly knocked off his course by Jesus Christ, who entered him into another race – a race for the Kingdom of God. This race is part of a relay that began on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given to begin God’s New Testament Church. This relay included those called to take part in announcing God’s Kingdom and the return of Christ as King of kings.

Fast forward some 2,000 years. Today’s world has been invited to see the 2012 Olympic Games centred in Britain. Preparations have been steadily taking place since London was selected to stage the games seven years ago. Athletes have, for the most part been preparing for much longer, honing their fitness and skills, and taking part in qualifying trials for the right to com-



‘They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last for ever’ (1 Corinthians 9:24-25).

pete for the coveted prize of a winner’s medal.

But ‘the discipline that high-level sport demands is useful in spiritual life too. The effort, the goal-setting, the sacrifice, can totally be applied or re-applied to a relationship with God . . .’ (Mark Greaves, *The Spectator*; 23 June).

Winning the spiritual race

Paul had an informed understanding of what is required to win, both physically, and for the ‘spiritual prize’

on offer to all taking part in the relay announcing God’s Kingdom. To the participants in Corinth he wrote: ‘Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, *but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.* Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; *but we do it to get a crown that will last for ever*’ (1 Corinthians 9:24-25, NIV, emphasis added throughout).

The Corinthian brethren were familiar with the races of their own Isthmian games, which took place every two years and were second only in importance to the Olympic Games, which took place every four years. Race winners were crowned with a laurel wreath, which is a perishable crown.

Although the Olympic Games in Greece stretch back as far as 776 BC, ending in the fourth century AD, the founder of the modern form of the Olympic Games in 1896 was Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a French educa-

tionalist and historian whose dictum was: 'The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing is not conquering but fighting well'.

Paul would agree with the importance of taking part, but he would disagree about not winning. Of paramount importance to him was obtaining the prize. This apostle firmly declares: 'Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others I will not be disqualified for the prize' (verses 26-27).

Winning a medal

In 1960 a friend of mine who coached runners introduced me to a schoolboy who he claimed would 'win a medal at the Olympics'. I was somewhat sceptical, but I took great interest in his progress over what was to be the next 12 years. Daily training, a complete change of diet, and single-minded focus led to significant milestones along the way. As a young man, he won an invitation mile race in a time of under four minutes, which was a milestone that signalled he was on course to win at the Olympics.

His crowning glory came when he won the bronze medal in the 1500 metres at the 1972 Munich Olympics. When I first attended Church, Paul's words had poignant meaning for me, having witnessed at first hand those words in action and a medal achieved.

Milestones in pursuit of the Kingdom

We, too, pass milestones in our relay to the Kingdom of God. Annually at the Passover period, we check that we are still on track, and strive to make any necessary adjustments. We have meetings on the seven annual Holy Days and festivals, when we are invited to demonstrate just how much our hearts are in the race by our regular attendance and full participation.

Jesus Christ Himself said: 'Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also' (Matthew 6: 20-21). (For more information about these annual festivals, ask for our free booklet about *God's Holy Day Plan*.)

Our coach Jesus Christ measures how we are doing and how our investment in the race to which we are called is progressing. Christ has already won

'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith . . .'

His race, and as our High Priest offers us both the encouragement and the discipline that we desperately need to win. At Christ's return, all of those called to salvation, then and now, will receive both the free gift of salvation and the rewards He brings with Him. 'God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us' (Hebrews 11:40).

But picture Hebrews chapter 11 as a wonderful imagery of previous winners cheering us on in a great amphitheatre. Hebrews 12:1-3 reads: 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith*, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.'

In coaching his athletes, my friend would assign them various tasks. These would be such as high-mileage road and cross-country running, high-altitude training, and speed running on

the track. These took place in all weather conditions.

Paul also understood the tasks that we are set in our quest for the Kingdom. They should be our all-consuming passion. He wrote: 'I consider my life nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace' (Acts 20:24). Just like Olympic athletes, we must have that single-minded determination to succeed.

Seeking the Kingdom of God

As we enjoy the spectacle of the Olympic Games (as Paul undoubtedly did in his day) let us race, too. Not against each other, but towards the destination we've been set – God's Kingdom. Let us all understand the common principles involved in both. Then we will have the sure confidence that Paul had at the end of his 30-year leg in the relay. In his valedictory statement he declares: 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. *Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but to all who have longed for His appearing*' (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

So let us all run our leg of the race with the same determination as a questing Olympic athlete. Be firmly resolved to be among those who have longed for Christ's appearing, and step forward with them to receive an imperishable crown.

Frank Jarvis

Recommended Reading

For further information on running the Christian race, request our free booklets *The Road to Eternal Life* and *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion*. Or download them on our booklet web site. www.GNmagazine.org/booklets.

Elizabeth II and the Commonwealth of Nations

Although the British Empire may belong primarily to past centuries, the Commonwealth of Nations survives, carrying on as a cooperative network with many common cultural values and even some core beliefs.

Queen Elizabeth II has been the head of state in the United Kingdom for 60 years. In addition the Queen is the Head of State in 15 Commonwealth countries and Head of the Commonwealth itself. She has always been an enthusiastically strong supporter of the Commonwealth of Nations. To help celebrate her Diamond Jubilee, the leader in just about every member nation has written a formal letter of appreciation praising her continuous, long-lasting leadership.

Kamalesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General, stated in the book *Queen & Commonwealth*: 'The peoples and nations which make up our unique family have achieved self-determination, increasing from eight members (at the inception of the modern Commonwealth in 1949) to today's 54 members. And yet, even whilst this growth in independence and membership has occurred, we have continued to be bound as one. *The Queen has been the keystone in an expanded membership and strongly united commonwealth*' (p. 15, emphasis added throughout). It has been defined as an intergovernmental organisation of 54 independent member states. Almost all were formerly in the British Empire. It is not a political union.

Empire countries became dominions

Self-government in the present-day Commonwealth countries emerged over a long period of time. Canada was the first nation to achieve self-governing dominion status in 1867. Then in

1901 Australia became a Dominion, followed by New Zealand in 1907. In 1910 South Africa was changed from a colony into a Dominion, and the Irish Free State followed in 1922. Southern Ireland gained its full independence as a republic in 1937. The Irish Republic is not a member of the Commonwealth.

All dominions were self-governing states, equal in status to one another and the mother country. Yet they were all united in allegiance to the British crown. In 1931 the Statute of Westminster created the British Commonwealth of Nations. India (the largest British Colony) became an independent Dominion in 1947 under the last Viceroy Lord Mountbatten of Burma and afterwards this 'Jewel in the Crown' also became a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. (The term British was dropped in the early 1950s.)

During that general period, former colonies began to join the Commonwealth. The Monarch was the Head, beginning with George VI. Elizabeth II succeeded him following his untimely death in 1952.

Commonwealth member countries

It was in late 1953 that the Queen first toured 13 Commonwealth countries with Prince Philip, visiting selected countries in Oceania, Africa, Asia and the West Indies that dot the Caribbean Sea. She has personally visited all but two of the 54 member states.

We begin our own tour of the Commonwealth nations with Asia. Here there are eight member states including India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Sri Lanka joined much later. Africa boasts of 18 member countries, with South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe in the fold. (It was while Princess Elizabeth was visiting Kenya in 1952 that she learned that she had become Queen.) Ghana, Nigeria and



The Commonwealth Flag consists of the Commonwealth symbol in gold on a blue field. The symbol centres on a globe, representing the global nature of the Commonwealth and the breadth of its membership. The globe is surrounded by 61 radiating spears, which form a 'C' for 'Commonwealth', representing the many ways in which the Commonwealth co-operates around the world (Wikipedia).

Uganda are also prominent member states.

Australia and New Zealand form the backbone of the new Commonwealth in the Pacific region. A number of Pacific Ocean islands also achieved Commonwealth status including Tonga, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The Caribbean sports 13 member countries including Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas and Guyana. Canada rounds

out the Commonwealth club in North America.

Ending our brief tour in Europe, Britain became the founder member-country in 1931. Cyprus and Malta followed in the early 1960s.

Summing up the Commonwealth

British Foreign Secretary, William Hague, stated: 'In a world that is more and more reliant on networks, *the Commonwealth is the ultimate network*; spanning 54 countries, six continents and oceans and two billion citizens' (*Queen & Commonwealth*, p. 141).

In its own way, the Commonwealth has proved an active force for good in a fallen world where alliances of nations are often formed for the wrong reasons. Some say that this group of countries is only a 'glorified

talking shop,' but in fact the Commonwealth provides a positive contribution to the lives of its many citizens.

'Members work together in a spirit of cooperation and understanding to improve the quality of life of their citizens, through . . . training judges, public servants and medical staff, and funding education' (*Queen & Commonwealth*, *ibid*).

The Scriptures refer prophetically to a family of nations which has been especially blessed by God (Genesis 35:11). This particular group of nations was prophesied to influence the world in major ways – bringing greater prosperity to every corner of the globe, feeding starving peoples, and even giving Bibles to the spiritually hungry in faraway lands.

In principle, the concept of Commonwealth in the 21st century could well be considered an outgrowth of that biblical family of nations first mentioned in the book of Genesis.

Elizabeth II (and in future, her successor) is the cement that holds the Commonwealth family together. She has described it as 'the original worldwide web.' When you understand it, the British royal family has roots all the way back to the time of King David of Israel. (Request in print or download our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*).

Queen Elizabeth II joins Elizabeth I and Victoria as three great long-reigning queens who have contributed so much to the British nation and its global influence.

John Ross Schroeder

The Friendly Games

To win a medal, especially a gold medal, at the Olympics must surely be one of the highest aspirations for every athlete. For many young people, years of training and preparation will reach their crescendo with the opening ceremony in London's Olympic Stadium on Friday 27 July.

In 2012 London becomes the first city to host the modern Olympic Games three times, having previously hosted them in 1908 and 1948. Other British cities also have experience of hosting major international sporting events, including the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff (1958), Edinburgh (1970 and 1986) and Manchester (2002).

The Commonwealth Games' motto is 'Humanity – Equality – Destiny'. As part of the Queen's belief in sport as a force for good, they have become known as the 'friendly games'. Organised by the Commonwealth Games Federation, whose website bears the slogan 'Uniting the Commonwealth through Sport', its vision is, 'To promote a unique, friendly, world-class Commonwealth Games and to develop sport for the benefit of the people, the nations and the territories of the Commonwealth, and thereby strengthen the Commonwealth.'

At the Olympics, British athletes and sportspersons will take part as a combined Great Britain team

under the UK national flag and anthem; yet in the Commonwealth Games the individual nations of these islands are separately represented with teams from

England, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales competing under their own individual flags and anthems. (The Republic of Ireland is not a member of the Commonwealth.)

Regarding the significance of the Commonwealth Games, Lord Sebastian Coe, a former athlete and now chairman of the London 2012 Olympics organising committee has said, 'The games are the only cement common to all the Commonwealth countries.'

In the sporting calendar the Olympic and Commonwealth Games alternate in their respective four-year cycles. When the Games of the XXX Olympiad (London 2012) reaches its conclusion, both competitors and spectators can look forward just two years to the 20th Commonwealth Games to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, between 23 July and 3 August 2014.

David Fenney



A Prophetic Perspective: The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The year 2012 will long be remembered throughout Britain and the Commonwealth as the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, celebrating her 60 years on the throne. But is there an unrealised biblical dimension that merits our attention?

My wife, Diane, and I were privileged to be in London for the highlights of the occasion – the River Pageant on the Thames, the special service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, and the procession ending with the Queen and members of the royal family appearing on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

The last (and only other) Diamond Jubilee was in 1897 when Queen Victoria was on the throne. Victoria's Diamond Jubilee has been described as 'the climax of Empire.' The new century soon saw Britain in decline, and from 1945 on its empire began to gradually lose its dominion over country after country during the next half-century.

Often history is simply fulfilled prophecy

In 1897, when Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was being celebrated, Great Britain was at the height of its power, a direct fulfillment of the prophecy in Genesis, chapter 48, when 'he [the patriarch Jacob] set Ephraim before Manasseh' (verse 20). Victoria was the Queen-Empress who ruled over the prophesied 'multitude of nations' (verse 19), comprising a quarter of the world's people.

At the time of Elizabeth II's accession to the throne 55 years later, that empire was still largely intact. It was soon to be dismantled, again fulfilling biblical prophecy. The multitude of nations was Britain's strength; it's dis-

mantling could only result in relative weakness. Although its influence is still way out of proportion to its size, Britain is not the great power it once was. For the present, America is the only global superpower and international policeman on the world scene.

Europe's ongoing megaproblems

Although the news in Britain was dominated by the Jubilee, there was also news of Europe's ongoing serious economic problems. England is going through a period of austerity and economic decline, with rising unemployment a major problem. But the 17-member eurozone is in deeper trouble. There is serious speculation that bankrupt Greece may pull out of the single currency. As Historian Niall Ferguson stated in *Newsweek*: 'Even the possibility of a "Grexit" [Greek exit] has made people in the other Mediterranean countries nervous. The most telling sign of contagion is the deepening crisis in the Spanish banking system as depositors withdraw their money' (18 June).

A 100-billion euro bailout has already been agreed. Some observers even think that the euro as a currency is doomed. What is clear is that the continuing financial crisis that began well over three years ago has had one significant prophetic result – Germany has emerged as European leader.

Professor Ferguson predicted in an interview in *The Sunday Times* on 20

May that only a federal super state could save Europe and the euro. 'I am not a federalist,' he says, 'But the costs of the single currency disintegrating are really so high and would impact so many people, that the only responsible thing for me to do is to argue urgently for the next step to a federal Europe. I see no alternative at the moment that isn't a great deal worse.'

Germanforeignpolicy.com led with the following startling paragraph on 21 May: 'In the run-up to new elections in Greece, the German elite is discussing various scenarios involving the use of force to ensure control over Athens, including the establishment of a protectorate or the deployment of 'protection forces' in that southern European country.'

England may soon have a German-dominated European super state on its doorstep.

Please note I said 'England' and not 'Britain.' In two years, Scotland is set to vote on independence. Although it is by no means certain, a 'yes' vote would result in an isolated England surrounded by potentially hostile powers, weaker than it's ever been since the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth some 400 years ago.

The decline of Britain and America: a comparison

Hosea chapter 5 indicates that Ephraim, Manasseh and Judah will all fall at the same time, within a period of 30 days (a 'New Moon'). 'The pride

of Israel testifies to his face; therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them . . . They have dealt treacherously with the LORD. For they have begotten pagan children. Now a New Moon shall devour them and their heritage' (Hosea 5:5, 7).

The United States, is *presently* the chief nation of modern Israel. Remember that Jacob [Israel] said: 'Let my name be named upon them' (Genesis 48:16), referring to the two sons of Joseph – Ephraim and Manasseh.

With a European super state about to rise, we can see how England has declined as a great power. But what about the United States?

A read of postwar British history shows that the loss of empire was primarily due to the country's financial problems. 'Britain was undone as a global power not because of bad politics, but because of bad economics. Indeed, the impressive skill with which London played its weakening hand despite a 70-year economic decline offers important lessons for the United States' (Fareed Zakaria, 'The Future of American Power,' *Foreign Affairs*, May-June 2008). The United States is now going through pretty much the same problems Britain faced in the aftermath of war – having to face the consequences of military overspending. The need to balance the budget will become much more urgent, and military spending will inevitably be cut, curtailing global American power just as it did British power.

The scene is clearly set for the rise of a European super state and the collapse of British and American power.

Recommended Reading

For further understanding of things to come in the United Kingdom and America, ask for our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*. Or download it on our booklet web site: www.gnmmagazine.org/booklets.

History in the making – prophecy being fulfilled!

The good news is that this new superpower won't last long and will be the final human-led government before the return of Jesus Christ to sit on David's throne (see Luke 1:32), the very throne that was the centre of the world's attention during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

'The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast . . .

These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, *for He is Lord of Lords and King of kings*' (Revelation 17:12, 14, emphasis added). His 'Diamond Jubilee' will almost certainly be the next one celebrated by Britain and the whole world. '*He will reign over the house of Jacob [Israel] forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end*' (Luke 1:33).

Thy Kingdom come!

*Melvin Rhodes,
Chairman of the Council of Elders,
United Church of God*

A Nation in Need of Biblical Renewal

Next June marks the 60th year of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in Westminster Abbey where almost all monarchs have been crowned since the time of William the Conqueror. During her coronation a number of Old and New Testament passages were read. Reliance on God (Psalm 121:1-8), spiritual gifts needed for Christian service (1 Corinthians 12:4-11) and even the footwashing verses of John chapter 13 were among the passages quoted. Submission to one another (Luke 22:24-27) and forgiving one another (Colossians 3:12-15) rounded out the biblical quotations. These are character traits required of every Christian.

When the Queen was crowned it was clearly stated that the laws and principles governing good leadership emanate from God. It was also said as a reminder to the young Queen. 'To keep your majesty ever mindful of the Law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book [the Bible], the most valuable thing that this world affords.' This advice was followed by the words, 'Here is Wisdom. This is the royal Law. These are the lively Oracles of God' (*Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*, 2 June 1953, official royal publication).

More recently when Christianity had come under attack, the Queen said: 'Many of the values and ideas we take for granted in this and other countries originate in the ancient wisdom of our traditions. Even the concept of a jubilee is rooted in the Bible' (*The Times*, February 16, 2012).

Today, however, these traditions from the Bible that contain sound advice on how to conduct ourselves individually and collectively is too often rejected by our Western societies. As a direct result of disobedience to God's great spiritual law, the Ten Commandments, we are increasingly suffering the tragic results that inevitably come from discarding standards that are erroneously viewed as outdated in our modern age.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee is a good time for the Queen's subjects to begin to read and study the Judaeo-Christian Bible. Almost 60 years ago a crown of human glory was placed upon the Queen's head, consecrating her reign to the constitution and laws of the nation. But the Bible tells us of another 'crown of glory' that the true followers of Jesus Christ will receive at His return. (See main front-page article.) Every obedient Christian can rightly aspire to the crown of eternal life that God promises in the pages of Scripture.

Gerhard Marx



ously of utmost importance. To establish sound doctrines the first choice should be a fairly literal edition such as the New King James Version or New American Standard Bible.

Manuscripts which have been discovered since the King James Version was translated show it to be extremely reliable.

Comparing the King James Version with what was found in the Dead Sea Scrolls, 'the King James Bible is 98.33 per cent pure' (Norman Geisler and William Nix, *A General Introduction to the Bible*, 1974, p. 263).

For the New Testament, about 98 per cent of the 4500 known Greek manuscripts agree with the basic text used for the King James Version. Even the variations found in the remaining two per cent of those manuscripts rarely affect the basic meaning. The preservation and transmission of Scripture has been handled remarkably well.

The Old Testament books are equally trustworthy. Although a few textual errors are found in some of the manuscripts used in translating the King James Bible, comparisons with other Bible versions can easily clarify most problems.

The Bible is the best-attested book from the ancient world. Sir Frederic Kenyon observed: 'The number of manuscripts of the New Testament, of early translations from it, and of quotations from it in the oldest writers of the Church, is so large that it is practically certain that the true reading of every

doubtful passage is preserved in some one or other of these ancient authorities. This can be said of no other ancient book in the world' (Neil H. Lightfoot, *How We Got the Bible*, 1963, p. 120).

But what about the meaning-to-meaning versions? They, too, can be valuable, *as secondary sources* to put the Scriptures into more understandable wording. When the text is not clear, a modern meaning-to-meaning translation may be of help. The Revised English Bible, The New International Version, and The Good News Bible are popular meaning-to-meaning translations.

Paraphrased Bibles can also be somewhat useful. These can be described as interpretive translations. Caution is necessary in using these, because poetic licence is often exercised in interpreting some basic biblical terms.

So paraphrased versions such as The Living Bible and The New Living Bible can be consulted to better grasp the story flow, *but they should never be used to establish doctrine*.

So which version(s) of the Bible should you normally use? The King James Version, although accurate, can be somewhat difficult to understand because of language changes. The meaning of many words has altered over 400 years.

With some exceptions, the literature published by the United Church of God usually uses the New King James Version, which is more readable and usually faithful to the original text.

If possible, it would be wise to have two or three reliable translations available for study. For further information request our free booklet *How to Understand the Bible*.

Q Which version of the Holy Bible would be the best to study? I have the King James, the NIV, The New Living, etc.

P B, Orpington, Kent

A Surprisingly the most helpful tool for Bible study is not a single Bible, but more properly, two or three versions among which you can compare the wording. People will often seek to find the translation that is most accurate, most literal or easiest to read. However, no single translation fits all these requirements.

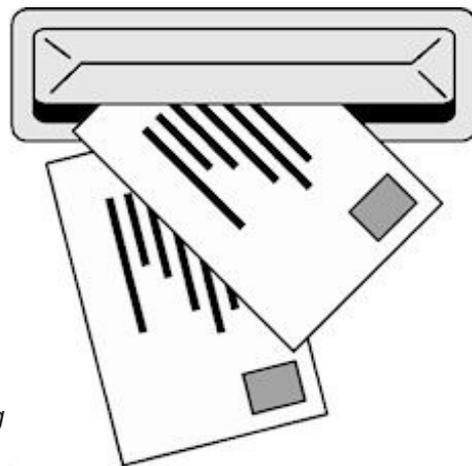
More than 60 English versions of the Bible are available. For convenience of discussion, we can divide them into three broad types: word-for-word, meaning-by-meaning, and paraphrased. The word-for-word versions most accurately follow the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts. *The King James Version of 1611 and its modern counterpart, the New King James Version, are both generally sound word-for-word translations.*

The accuracy of a version is obvi-

How our literature is funded

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Letters from our readers



Bible Study Course

I would like to complete the *Bible Study Course*, as I find it very informative, encouraging and such a delight. I also thank you for the enlightening, encouraging and uplifting articles and booklets. They have really lifted me up. The work I have been doing can be very discouraging, but I've found all of this reading matter is a wonderful light for me. I only wish I'd known about you a long time ago.

M M, Winchester

The Good News

With reference to your recent letter, please continue to send *The Good News* plus the British Supplement. We enjoy reading both publications. For sometime *The Good News* contained articles from United States publication sources, but the more recent magazines contain news from European publications. Keep up the good work.

P T, Wellingborough

I will be 90 years old on my next birthday. I've been receiving *The Good News* for a number of years. It is the only one that makes any sense in this troubled world.

I G, Tonyrefail, Wales

• *Congratulations!*

Appreciates the booklets

Thank you for the two booklets *Who Is God?* and *Jesus Christ: The Real Story*. With time on my hands in my home, these publications represents a superb read and thoughtful study material. I've been a subscriber to *The Good News* for sometime now and await each magazine with enthusiasm. A small practical help is enclosed.

R W J, Loughborough

Thank you for the tremendous job you are doing. I have benefited a lot from your booklets. I will not remain the same spiritually.

M M H, Barking

Seeking spiritual answers

I'm an avid reader of your *Good News* magazine and booklets. Although I have attended Church for many years, I have learnt many things from your publications. I wish to make a monetary donation in future. I am a tither and also give to Christian Aid.

S A, London

I would like to thank you for sending me your magazines and booklets. You are the only Church that I know that is not afraid to answer any questions. I live in Surrey and would like to visit one of your churches.

S I, Woking

I would like to thank you for the wonderful privilege of knowing more about Jesus through reading your materials that you are sending me. I want to know more about what God wants for me. I'm looking for your Church where I can attend on the Sabbath day. I appreciate your endless efforts to teach the good news.

M C, London

• *Enquiries from the last two readers have been forwarded to the pastors in their regions. These ministers will gladly respond by letter, email or telephone.*

I am writing to tell you how very wonderful the booklets are that we received recently. Our former organisation has misled myself, my wife and others regarding the real truth of God's

Holy Bible. I have been interested in your teachings for a number of years now. My eyes have been opened over the last two or three years. I have enclosed a donation to help cover costs.

Mr A D, Bolton

Spreading the true gospel

Thank you for sending me the booklets I asked for. I pray that God will strengthen your ministry and hope that this small gift goes some way in achieving this.

P C, Manchester

Kindly accept this token of appreciation. I pray that God will bless, provide and make a way for me, so that I can really do as I desire concerning the spreading of His work and gospel.

A O, Milton Keynes

Please accept my donation towards the costs of literature that you have been kindly sending. Many thanks and keep spreading the gospel!

S L, Billingham

• *The gospel of the kingdom must go free. The Bible mandates this godly policy: 'Buy the truth, and sell it not' (Proverbs 23:23) and 'Freely you have received; freely give' (Matthew 10:8). The gospel is much too precious to put a price on it. Yet especially in this modern day and age, it costs a great deal of money to spread the truth in the British Isles and around the world. So we deeply appreciate the freewill contributions of our readers.*