

When Will God Intervene *in the Affairs of Mankind?*

People often ask: Why doesn't God intervene and put a stop to man's unjust rule? Some even think that the Creator is hiding Himself by not rescuing us from our tragic plight. Can we know the answer?

Ever-increasing global conflicts, calamitous natural upheavals, a sharp decline in moral behaviour, the spread of international terrorism, greed and ineptitude in financial management, massive incompetence in government, incredible religious confusion: How long can the world survive without help from on high?

The world's greatest newscaster

Jesus Christ had something supremely important to say about general conditions that would prevail in our modern world. He puts us all on notice about the perilous circumstances in our troubled age. Notice His prophetic words to His disciples as recorded in the Olivet Prophecy: 'You will hear of wars and rumours of wars . . . for nation shall rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows . . . *for then there shall be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world . . .*' (Matthew 24: 6-8, 21, emphasis added throughout). Jesus

showed that mankind's errant behaviour would eventually bring humanity to the very brink of total destruction (Mark 13:19-20).

Is man trying to destroy himself? He is certainly heading in that direction. Thankfully, Jesus reassured His disciples that the Almighty will ultimately intervene and not allow humanity to destroy itself. Referring to this unique period of time, Jesus Christ both warns and reassures us that 'unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, those days will be shortened' (Matthew 24:22).

*How long can the world survive without help from on high?
Why has God waited so long?*

God's inevitable intervention

But why has God waited so long? The answer lies in the fact that He has allotted around 7,000 years to fully implement His overall plan of salvation – and 6,000 of these for man to prove his inability to rule himself without God's guidance.

Numerous empires and civilisations, from the ancient Egypt of the Pharaohs

to modern days, have all been given an opportunity to develop a utopian type of government. *All have failed!* Many past empires and kingdoms have ruled without regard to God's approach or His instructions on creating a just society. Others have invoked the name of God in governing their people, but have not been willing to implement His way to rule others properly.

In describing God's plan for His human creation, the Bible uses the expression, 'in the fullness of the times' (Ephesians 1:10). This biblical expression means that events in the world would be allowed to run their natural course, but God would intervene at just the right times to make sure that His purpose sees its proper fulfilment. So it's not a question of God hiding Himself or being oblivious to man's welfare.

On the contrary, God has a step-by-step plan, revealing His overall purpose for the salvation of mankind. One supremely important step is Christ's sacrifice, making possible the forgiveness of our sins. '*When the fullness of the time had come*, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under

the law . . .’ (Galatians 4:4). Other passages clearly show that Christ’s sacrifice applies to all of mankind (John 3:16; 12:32).

Yet even after this awesome event, God allows man to continue to go his own way – rejecting the true way of life that God offers His creation.

Throughout history mankind has consistently spurned the way of peace and of just government, and has instead created his own methods of ruling others, often in a dictatorial and oppressive manner.

But it should come as no surprise that God has on many occasions intervened in human affairs during the last 6000 years. The Bible records pivotal divine interventions – Noah’s flood, the Tower of Babel, the call of Abraham, the Exodus, etc. Even the twentieth century experienced behind-the-scenes interventions from above in order for God’s divine plan to come to its eventual fruition.

God is absolutely sovereign

The fact that God is ultimately in control of the destiny of mankind is shown by what happened during the last century. Some key European powers, in effect, made war on the descendants of the tribes of Israel, singling out the tribe of Judah (the Jewish people). Partially as a consequence of the Holocaust, a prophetically significant event occurred – the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. In order for key biblical prophecies to see their end-time fulfilment, the Jewish people (in substantial numbers) had to resettle in the Holy Land given to their forefathers. (See pages 39-41 of our free booklet *Are We Living in the Time of the End?*)

Ron Prozor, the Israeli ambassador to Great Britain, commented: ‘Israel today celebrates its 62nd anniversary as the reborn sovereign state of the Jewish people. History demonstrated that the Jewish people could not survive, let alone flourish, at the whims of majority

cultures. This is not merely an academic argument but a lesson lived, learned and branded into Israel’s DNA’ (*The Guardian*, 20 April, 2010).

The fact that the Jewish people have survived, as well as the name of Israel, is due to the fact that God promised their survival in Scripture (see Jeremiah 31:36-37) This is verified in the New Testament by the apostle Paul in Romans 11:1-2.

Nuclear war averted

Another time when God intervened was during the Cold War period. It was a critical time when the world was facing the prospect of self-annihilation. It was a time when two nuclear powers threatened to destroy each other – and had the capacity to do so.

In a special Cold War edition, the German news magazine *Der Spiegel* (No. 3, 2008) quoted the Soviet Union leader Josef Stalin as saying during the Korean War in the early 1950s, ‘If war

*Oh, that you would rend the heavens!
That You should come down . . . that the
nations may tremble at Your presence’
(Isaiah 64:1, 3).*

with the United States isn’t avoidable, then we should wage it now’ (page 8). Fortunately, Stalin died not long after threatening the United States and the Western Powers with atomic war.

Then came the Cuban Crisis in 1962 when a shipment of Soviet missiles was discovered heading for Cuba, an ally of the Soviet Union. President John Kennedy went before the American people and let it be known that he would intercept the Soviet ship in the Atlantic. At the last moment, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev backed down. Secretary of State Robert McNamara later said, ‘I asked myself as I watched a glorious sunset across the Potomac [river], just how many sunsets I would still be able to see’ (*Der Spiegel*, ‘The Cold War’, p. 16). After Khrushchev had backed down and ordered the Soviet freighter with its

missiles to return to Russia, Secretary McNamara stated, ‘I don’t think we thought through sufficiently the consequences of our actions.’

‘In retrospect it becomes clear: humanity escaped an atomic inferno by sheer luck,’ was how *Der Spiegel* summed up the fact that man came to the brink of pressing the self-destruct button. But Armageddon didn’t occur at that time because, behind the scenes, God had prevented it from happening, seeing that ‘the fullness of time’ hadn’t yet come.

The awesome time of divine intervention

But when will God’s spectacular intervention in human affairs take place? We are told that it will occur ‘in the fullness of the times’ (Ephesians 1:10). It will not be sooner, for reasons best known to God – not later, lest man destroys himself. It will happen in the Creator’s time because the Almighty holds the destiny of man safely in His capable hands. The resurrected Christ once said to His apostles: ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons *which the Father has put in His own authority* [power, KJV]’ (Acts 1:7).

So what should we do in the meantime? What does God expect from His firstfruits, those who have been called to real repentance and given an understanding of His truth? Our Creator requires us to actively embrace the character of God as taught by Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:43-48; 22:36-40). We are also to be active in helping to proclaim the true gospel of God’s coming kingdom to the world at large – proclaiming the good news of the world tomorrow, a new and just age at peace with itself.

The ancient Babylonian monarch King Nebuchadnezzar realised what all too many leaders today utterly fail to acknowledge: That God is watching world events very closely, and He

(Continued on page 4)

Our Economy: Spend, Cut or Change Our Thinking?

Britain's new government is making radical efforts to rein in massive government debt. What will it take to eventually solve our economic problems?

Across the Atlantic, the US government is pumping a lot of borrowed money into the American economy with the hope that it can be kick-started before it cools off. In the United Kingdom, on the other hand, the coalition government has decided to take the 'bull by the horns.' 'Throughout the rich world, government has simply got too big and Mr Cameron's crew currently have the most promising approach to trimming it' ('Radical Britain,' *The Economist*, 13-20 August, 2010). Yet, even so, *The Economist* reports that the budget cuts and work towards decentralisation are 'a gamble.'

Expecting our grandchildren to pay

The *Economist* article contrasts the American and British approaches to the debt crisis, explaining that 'despite the Tea Partiers zeal, the Republicans seem as clueless as Mr Obama in producing a credible medium-term plan to balance America's budget.' And here is the critical part: 'But pretty soon, as in Europe, somebody will have to come up with one, and Britain, for better or worse, is likely to be the place they will come to for ideas.'

There is no doubt the whole world is still in an unstable economic state. We should not dismiss current attempts made by sincere leaders to keep the global economy afloat, but past over-spending, easy credit and now the US attempt to spend itself out of a stalling economy means our grandchildren must pay for our excesses. That is not ethical. The Bible reminds us of the basic prin-

ciple expressed by the apostle Paul: 'The children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children' (2 Corinthians 12:14). A thousand years earlier King David had written: 'The wicked borrows and does not repay' (Psalm 37:21).

We have to realise that the thinking that led to this financial precipice has to change.

The British Prime Minister's actions to reduce the involvement of the state, to put more responsibility into the hands of the local community, will undoubtedly help to cut budget deficits. Yet it remains to be seen whether the right values will be sufficiently practiced at the community level to make this policy work.

Imagine applying ancient Israel's laws today

Real change has to come from understanding our need for God's revealed way of life. If the civil laws of the nation of ancient Israel were put into effect as the laws of our lands today (many US and British laws do hearken back to those statutes and judgements), our society would be remarkably different.

The economic laws, for example, ensured that high interest rates, called usury, were illegal within the country. Family land, often lost during times of privation, was to be returned to its original owners every 50 years (the Jubilee year), which would create a different frame of mind on the sale of land (Leviticus 25:11-15).

A flat ten percent (a tithe) of productive increase was collected by the edu-

cators of the day (the Levites) to make right education available for the entire nation. (To understand these basic principles, request our free booklet *What Does the Bible Teach About Tithing?*)

Many sound financial principles in the book of Proverbs and in other sections of the Bible teach careful and sensible stewardship. God promises: 'Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth' (Deuteronomy 28:1). One important precept we have generally forgotten follows: '*Honour the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase;* so your barns will be filled with plenty . . .' (Proverbs 3:9-10, emphasis added).

But our people and our leaders have turned away from the laws of God on an ever increasing level. We have carelessly permitted 'politically correct' activities that are sins in God's eyes. 'Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness [the transgression of the law, KJV]' (1 John 3:4, emphasis added). Request or download our free booklet simply titled *The Ten Commandments* to discover how relevant these laws are today.

Prophetic end-time economy

We may continue to try our own way of fixing problems, economic and otherwise, but the time will eventually come when we run out of workable

ideas. The Bible speaks of a future period when, for the sake of stability, nations within Europe will submit themselves to a powerful charismatic leader in an attempt to solve problems that will reach crisis levels. Personal liberty will depend on submission to laws that this European dictator will enforce – including when people can work (Revelation 13:16-17).

This prophesied vibrant economy may sound like a positive development to many. But the loss of liberty will be the price that our people will pay for this world's new order. This is explained in our free booklets *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* and *You Can Understand Bible Prophecy*, which show a sequence of global events that will soon develop. Even now they are shaping up behind the scenes.

Our basic responsibility remains to provide the good news of a different kind of government. The message Jesus Christ brought from His Father to mankind tells of a new society motivated by a complete realignment of fundamental values. We should be preparing for our children's and grandchildren's future rather than spending it in advance.

Living God's way

Moses described the benefits of living God's way: 'Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people"' (Deuteronomy 4:5-6).

Find out more about the message Jesus Christ brought about a new society resplendent with the true values – based on the eternal laws of God, flowing from God's desire to share eternity with us. Read this hope-filled good news in our free booklet *The Gospel of the Kingdom*.

Peter Hawkins

When Will God Intervene?

(Continued from page 2)

reserves the right to intervene in human affairs at any time in order to fulfill His basic plan. At an earlier time in his life, this Babylonian king had boasted of how he was solely responsible for creating the fabulous city of Babylon. For this boastful statement he had to relinquish his rule of the Babylonian empire for seven years. 'When pride comes, then comes shame' (Proverbs 11:2).

Afterwards this ancient king acknowledged publically 'that the most High rules in the kingdoms of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses' (Daniel 4:32). 'And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven . . . and I blessed the Most High and praised and honoured Him who lives forever. For His dominion is an everlasting dominion' (verse 34).

King Nebuchadnezzar had finally learned that God rules supreme, over-seeing the rise and fall of nations and the destiny of man.

Today very few modern leaders acknowledge God's supremacy, and the whole world suffers the tragic consequences.

We should all remember to pray: 'Thy Kingdom Come' – recalling what the Hebrew prophet Isaiah said: 'Oh, that you would rend the heavens! That You should come down . . . That the nations may tremble at Your presence' (Isaiah 64:1, 3). God does not forget. *What He has promised He will perform!*

Gerhard Marx

- For more information request or download our free publication *Are We Living in the Time of the End?*

What if a Creator God Does Exist?

A prominent scientist recently concluded that 'modern physics leaves no place for God in the creation of the Universe' (*The Times*, 2 September). Many assume that He doesn't exist, but what if He does? Would that change the way you live?

Nearly 2,000 years ago the apostle Paul wrote that the pagan philosophers 'did not like to retain God in their knowledge' (Romans 1:28).

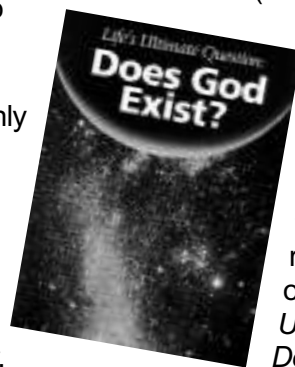
Today in Britain, not only are schools ignoring the legal requirement for Christian collective worship, but in many homes the name of God or Jesus is never mentioned, except in profanity.

Children grow up not even knowing that there is a question to answer concerning God's existence.

Does it matter? If there is no God, then probably not. But what if God does exist? What would He want from us? Why are we here on earth? What is His purpose? And what if there really is a resurrection? (See John 5:24-28.)

Would that knowledge affect your way of life – your thoughts, actions and plans?

To investigate these questions, request or download our free booklet *Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?*



Preview of A World Beyond Today

Jesus Christ kept the Feast of Tabernacles while here on earth, and set us an example to follow. This autumn festival had special significance for Him and He used it to teach His disciples important principles about the utopian age to come.

The United Church of God observes the seven annual Holy Days and festivals as biblically commanded days. Each festival reveals a key element of God's seven-step plan for the salvation of mankind. Keeping these yearly feasts constitutes an essential part of the Church's fundamental beliefs.

Outlining the seven annual festivals

The Church has long understood the need for personal change – for real repentance toward God and allowing Christ to work in us (Galatians 2:20). We find these aspects symbolised in the spring Holy Days. The Passover identifies Christ as our Saviour as His sacrifice makes it possible for our sins to be forgiven. 'For God [the Father] so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish' (John 3:16).

The Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures our need to come out of sin and put on the perfect character of God and Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:43-48). The Day of Pentecost depicts the arrival of the Holy Spirit, which helps us to overcome our human nature (James 4:1-2; Revelation 2:26; 3:21).

However, the autumn Holy Days and the Feast of Tabernacles show us something more – that there will be an abrupt, overwhelming and massive change that will embrace the whole world. The previous annual festivals initially focus on the firstfruits of God,

the 'little flock' (Luke 12:32). But the Day of Trumpets, the first of the autumn feast days, looks to the time of Christ's dramatic return to earth as 'King of kings and Lord of lords' – and to the first resurrection of the saints. The Day of Atonement depicts the binding of Satan for 1,000 years, and the Feast of Tabernacles following pictures the millennial reign of Christ and the saints.

'For I dipt into the future, far as human eye could see, saw the vision of the world, and the wonder that would be' (Tennyson).

The Feast of the Eighth Day looks forward to the Great White Throne Judgement (at the end of the 1,000 year reign) – an opportunity for all those who died without really knowing or understanding God's plan of salvation to learn of it and ultimately be saved. Beyond that time will be the New Heaven and New Earth. (For much more information on the meaning of all these days, request our free booklets *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind* and *The Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God.*)

Basic changes are needed because without them this world is headed for total oblivion (Matthew 24:21-22). Ultimately, the inhabitants can only be saved by God's direct intervention by sending His Son back to this earth to establish His millennial rule (Revelation 20:4-6) – pictured by the annual Feast of Tabernacles.

The importance of keeping God's festivals

So how does the coming rule of Christ fit into this ancient festival declared in the law to be one of the 'Feasts of the Lord?' Chapter 23 of Leviticus details all of these annual occasions in order. 'And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel and say to them: *the Feasts of the LORD*, which you shall proclaim to be the holy convocations [commanded assemblies], *these are My feasts* . . . which you shall proclaim at their appointed times'" (Leviticus

23:1-2, 4, emphasis added throughout). Notice that these are not Moses' feasts, nor the Jews' feasts. Instead they were instituted by the Creator Himself.

We focus here on the Festival of Tabernacles. 'Speak to the children of Israel, saying, "The fifteenth day of the seventh month [of the Hebrew calendar] shall be the Feast of Tabernacles *for seven days to the LORD*"' (verse 34). Note here that this festival is directly dedicated to God Himself.

Highlighting the Festival of Tabernacles

In several ways the Feast of Tabernacles was the highlight of the year for the Israelites. It was a time for rejoicing, when the population of Jerusalem swelled to several times its normal size as pilgrims and others flocked to the city. Booths made of branches were erected on rooftops,

in courtyards and in the streets and squares, providing temporary living quarters. Immediately following was the separate festival and Holy Day of the Eighth Day (Leviticus 23:39).

Several chapters of the gospel of John record how Christ kept the Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day following. The scene is set in John 7:2, just before the start of the Holy Days. Verses 3-11 show that Jesus Christ's initially unconverted brothers expected Him to attend the Feast in Jerusalem. Indeed, so did the Jewish leaders, who were watching for an opportunity to take His life (verse 1). Knowing that some in Jerusalem wanted to kill Him, Christ did not openly travel with his family but followed them a little later in secret.

It was only during the middle of the Feast that He began teaching openly in the temple (verse 14). Christ knew that the Feast of Tabernacles was important and not only did He attend, but He also taught the people. What did He teach? The account in John continues: 'Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me"' (verse 16). Thus we can see that Christ was teaching His Father's doctrine. He claimed the very highest authority for instructing the people attending the Feast.

Exercising divine judgement

Christ went on to address another important quality related to the promised Messiah, that of judgement. Isaiah had prophesied of Jesus' coming reign on earth: 'His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth' (Isaiah 11:3-4). Later Jesus warned us all: 'Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgement' (John 7:24).

A dispute followed as to whether or

not Jesus was the Christ – a poignant matter as the Feast of Tabernacles looks forward to the Messiah's millennial reign on earth (verses 25-27). Many Old Testament scriptures refer to the time of peace and prosperity pictured by this festival (Isaiah 2:1-5; 11:1-9; Micah 4:1-5; Zechariah 14:9, 16-21). For absolute biblical proof that Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah or Anointed One, request our free booklet *Jesus Christ: The Real Story*.

According to a medieval Jewish scholar, Alfred Edersheim, on the seventh day of the Festival – which he calls the last and greatest day of the Feast of Tabernacles – the priest, at the close of the morning sacrifice, poured out a pitcher of water, drawn from the pool of Siloam. Jesus, observing this ceremony, likened this pouring out of water to the pouring out of living waters, by which he meant the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39).

Old Testament Scriptures mention living water in relation to the time of

Keeping the Feast of Tabernacles gives the Church the opportunity to learn more of God's glorious future for mankind.

the Messiah's rule (Isaiah 35:1-7; Zechariah 14:8). Those who have received the Holy Spirit, represented by this living water, form part of the elect (or the saints), who will help Christ in His role as ruler over the whole earth (Zechariah 14:5; Revelation 5:10; 20:4-6).

The eighth day: an annual Holy Day

The following day Jesus again came to the temple at dawn. This time He pointed out another Feast custom and used it to identify Himself.

Jesus pointed to Himself as the light of the world (John 8:12), as a light that could never be extinguished, that would lead His followers to everlasting life.

References to the Messiah's first com-

ing and light began in that same temple (see Luke 2:32).

Great light also occurs at His second coming (Matthew 24:27). Finally God and the Lamb are the light of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:23). No sun or moon will be needed there (Revelation 22:5). This light will also be reflected in Christ's resurrected followers, the transformed firstfruits of God. '*Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father*' (Matthew 13:43).

As an example to all His disciples throughout the Church age, Jesus Christ kept the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day, the final annual Holy Day of the spiritual year. He kept them not only in its physical sense, but with its spiritual meaning uppermost in His mind. It was very important for Him to be there in Jerusalem as one of 'the appointed times' mentioned in the Torah (Leviticus 23:4).

Christ's basic objective during this whole festival was to communicate important knowledge about who He was, whom He represented, His purpose and the way to eternal life.

Observing God's festivals today

Today for eight days His true followers leave their homes and live in temporary (or rented) dwellings which remind them that they are strangers and pilgrims on this earth (Hebrews 11:13).

For a short time they leave the cares of this present world behind and spend important time with those of like mind. They go to worship God and celebrate the annual foretaste of Christ's future millennial reign, when the saints will be with Him and with each other. Keeping the Festival of Tabernacles each year gives each member of the Church the opportunity to study yet again the teachings of Christ, and to learn more of the glorious future God has for us *in a world beyond today*.

David Fenney

News of the Work

From time to time we publish updates about how we are progressing in proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom to the world at large and the British Isles in particular.

While the Internet, *The Good News*, television and other forms of media are essential in introducing people to God's truth, our booklets play a major role in helping our readers gain a deeper understanding of what the Bible actually teaches about various subjects. These free booklets bring people to a greater understanding of God's Word and His plan and purpose for humanity.

Passing another major milestone

The United Church of God has recently passed another major milestone in sharing various aspects of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God with our readers. We passed the figure of seven million when we reprinted seven booklets, including *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*. To put this number in perspective, if all seven million booklets (at the current size) were laid end to end, they would reach more than 900 miles, the approximate distance from Land's End, Cornwall to John O'Groats at the northern tip of mainland Scotland.

Our most-printed booklet is *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* with 361,000 copies printed, followed closely by *What Happens After Death* at

355,000 copies. *What Is Your Destiny* and *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy* run a close third with 350,000 copies each. Globally in most years we have reprinted 500,000 to 700,000 booklets in response to reader requests. This averages about 50,000 booklet requests per month (not counting Internet downloads).

Addressing questions from our readers

Many readers have questions about various passages and concepts in the Bible. Our booklets are designed to answer these queries. Sidebars (or boxes) specifically address certain Scriptures or biblical concepts that have proved puzzling to a number of our readers over the years.

Most of our booklets have been

written by ordained elders with many years of experience in the ministry, as well as other published writings. Most have been penned by one principal writer, but often with contributions from others. All are reviewed for doctrinal accuracy by a large team of elders, all of whom are in agreement with our basic beliefs as expressed in our free booklet *Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God*. Many, many hours of dedicated, concentrated effort have been put into each booklet.

We can all appreciate the fact that it costs a great deal of money to print and post all these booklets, with over 30 titles in all. Those with *easy* Internet access may wish to download some of these booklets. But if you prefer to receive the *printed* booklets, please feel free to request them as usual.

Faithful supporters

We deeply appreciate the generosity and faithfulness of our members, co-workers and donors who make it possible to share God's wonderful truths without charge. The publication of these varied booklets is part of that effort. See the sidebar below, *How our literature is funded*. 'Buy the truth, and do not sell it' (Proverbs 23:23).



How our literature is funded

The United Church of God – British Isles is registered as a charity in England and Wales (number 1079192), and in Ireland (CHY17954). 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: United Church of God, PO Box 705, WATFORD WD19 6FZ, United Kingdom, or donated online at www.ucg.org.uk/donate.html through Paypal or Charity Choice.



Letters From Our Readers

The booklets do help

Thank you very much for your help. Your booklets have taught me the basics of Christianity. And they help me to build my Christian life. God bless you.

J K, London

It was great to read with interest and I must say that I can not stop singing Samuel John Stone's song after reading about the Church Rock [in *The Church Jesus Built*]. The Church's one foundation, elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith . . .'

A M, Coventry

Thank you so much for sending me the booklet [*The Book of Revelation Unveiled*] and the magazine. I am very impressed with the quality of both, and the depth of information in them. I will tell people at my church about them, and hopefully they will become readers too.

H W, Waterlooville

- Please see the article about our free booklets on page 7.

Renewing The Good News

I am becoming spiritually enriched. Please keep sending me more copies of *The Good News*.

J A M, Peterborough

I would like to continue my subscription to *The Good News*. It has helped my son to develop a keener interest in God.

S P J, Waterford, Ireland

Thank you for *The Good News*. I have been a Christian all my life, but only you warn that the end time is coming. Keep up the good work.

J M L, Southampton

Thank you for sending me your *Good News*. I enjoy reading the articles about 'God, Science and the Bible,' among other things.

C O, Oxford

Personal concern

Thank you very much for replying. While I did not think you were going to ignore my email, I never thought you would treat it with such concern and seriousness. Your attitude has truly surprised and humbled me. Please keep up the good work you are doing.

M L, Durban, South Africa

A short question from British readers

Does Joseph's coat of many colours represent Ephraim's Commonwealth of Nations and/or Manasseh's United States?

Mr & Mrs J B, Market Rasen

- It probably represents both! For further understanding, request or download our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*.

Bible Study Course

This course really helps me to focus on God. It also gives me food for thought. It is much easier for me as I am more of a visual learner and the pictures really help. God bless you for all the great work you are doing. I will forward a donation next week on pay day.

L W, Leicester

Thank you for enlightening me in the word of God. I believe if every Christian goes through these lessons, we would all be equipped with the knowledge and the understanding of the word of God.

K A-M, Sandhurst

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate and complete the *Bible Study Course*. I look forward to finishing all of them.

T W, Crawley

I acknowledge receipt for the completion of the *Bible Study Course*. I was pleased to have received good marks because I worked hard on it. Thank you for this interesting, educational and enjoyable course and the informative booklets. Please keep me on your mailing list. I enclose a small donation.

T D, Leeds

I would be pleased to receive the details of your *Bible Study Course*. I am discovering many things that I did not realise before, especially related to biblical prophecy.

D K, Chelmsford

My wife and I would like to thank you for the many 'eye-openers' we have discovered during this Bible study program, particularly regarding the weekly Sabbath and God's Holy Day/Feast Day celebrations. Thus, as 'Bereans' we return to the Scriptures (Acts 17:11).

Mr & Mrs W W, Runcorn

Spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom

Thanks for the information you have been sending to us in order to advance the Kingdom of God here on earth. Keep it going. God bless you richly.

A N, London

Please find enclosed a cheque. From time to time I will send you a contribution.

S G S, Stockport