

# BEYOND TODAY

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## Strangers in a strange land

*The issue of immigration is very much in the news today, both across Europe and in the USA. It raises issues of identity and citizenship. What rights and responsibilities do citizens have and how do they translate to God's future Kingdom here on Earth?*

I am an Australian citizen by birth. I speak like an Aussie and friends say that I think like one too. Some years ago, I was also naturalised as a citizen of the United Kingdom. So I am now British as well.

Additionally, as a disciple of Jesus Christ I aspire to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God when it is set up at Christ's return to Earth. Christ's followers are currently registered in heaven as future citizens of God's Kingdom on earth (Hebrews 12:23). However, since "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God," we must wait for Christ's return and the resurrection of the dead or the change from mortal to immortal of those in Christ still alive (1 Corinthians 15:50-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Such citizenship even now brings with it responsibilities, as well as rights in the future (see for example Revelation 22:14).

So, what does citizenship encompass?

### Rights and responsibilities of citizenship

Firstly, citizenship gives the right of abode. I can live here in the United Kingdom or I could go back to Australia and live there. A second right I have is being able to work in the UK. Also, I have the right to live here without being discriminated against ethnicity, religion and the like. Furthermore, I have the right of protection from harm, the right to receive government funds for social services and the right to vote should I desire to do so. All of these will have their equivalents within the Kingdom of God (Revelation 21:1-7).

With these rights come various responsibilities. For

example, I had to affirm my allegiance to the Queen who is the reigning monarch. I have to abide by the laws of the UK and respect the rights of fellow UK citizens. I must also pay taxes. In the same way citizens of God's Kingdom will be loyal to Him and abide by His laws.

### Earth's current ruler

Scripture identifies Earth's current ruler, Satan, in the account of Christ's temptation by the devil. Luke records that after Jesus had fasted for 40 days, "Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the



Documents represent our nationality now, but our future citizenship lies elsewhere.

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kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours” (Luke 4:5-7).

Jesus did not dispute the statement from Satan that this authority was his to give. Even today he retains this authority. Although Jesus Christ has qualified to replace him, that has not yet happened (Revelation 12:7-12; 20:1-3). Other scriptures confirm that Satan still rules the earth. The apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth

*Christ’s followers are currently registered in heaven as future citizens of God’s Kingdom on earth.*

concerning “the god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4). While God has ultimate authority, Satan still has the ability to hinder our growth as disciples of Christ as he seeks to put blocks in our path to salvation.

### **Ambassadors from another kingdom**

The apostle Paul explained that although we live on a planet where Satan still rules, we are not subject to him: “He [God the Father] has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Colossians 1:13).

Paul reiterated this point in his letter to the Galatians.

When speaking of Jesus Christ he records that He “gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father” (Galatians 1:4).

Since we have been conveyed or transferred into Christ’s kingdom we are no longer “of the world” (John 17:14-15). Instead, we have become ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). Ambassadors are the highest-ranking diplomats who represent their own country in a foreign land. They are “strangers in a strange land,” so to speak. Scripture refers to them as “strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13).

Ambassadors have “diplomatic immunity,” which means they are subject to the rulers of their own country. In the same way we are here on Earth as ambassadors for Christ’s coming kingdom. Satan can make accusations against us to God our Father, but if we are submissive to our King in heaven, keep His laws and repent when we slip up, the devil can make nothing stick (Revelation 12:10).

God even promises to write those laws on our hearts, so we can learn to live by their spiritual intent as Christ did. The book of Hebrews notes, “I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Hebrews 8:10).

To avoid any doubt, God had these same laws written in the Holy Bible. We are to live according to that law here on Earth as His ambassadors. While Satan will attempt to influence us to deny our true kingdom, or distract us from

## **Could God’s Kingdom be here already?**

Shortly before His arrest, trial and crucifixion, Jesus Christ prophesied of a worldwide period of upheaval and unrest unparalleled in human history. This time would be characterised by religious deception, warfare, earthquakes, famines and disease epidemics, along with other catastrophes (Luke 21:7-28). In this discourse, Christ made it plain that the Kingdom of God would not be here until a number of prophesied events would be fulfilled.

He told His disciples that after these events people “will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory . . . When you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near” (verses 27, 31). Christ clearly said that the Kingdom of God will not be established on earth until after His triumphant return in power and great glory. An often recited prayer also shows that God’s Kingdom is not here yet. Jesus Christ spoke these words when the disciples asked Him to teach them

how to pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come . . .” (Matthew 6:9-10).

Near the end of His life, while being questioned by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate before His crucifixion, Jesus clearly stated: “My Kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here” (John 18:36).

Even Abraham, the father of the faithful, “waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10).

Although God’s people today experience a foretaste of His coming Kingdom in their lives, many scriptures make it clear that the Kingdom of God has not yet arrived, but will be established on earth in the future.

For more information on events that have to occur before Christ returns to set up the Kingdom of God, please request or download our Bible study aid *Seven Prophetic Signs Before Jesus Returns*.

representing it as we should, he has no authority over us. This is a very important concept because if we keep in mind the fact that we are no longer citizens of this world we might more easily reject the things Satan offers us and stay focused on who and what we really are.

### Benefits of citizenship

Having had our citizenship transferred from Satan to Christ, through repentance, water baptism and the laying on of hands to grant us the gift of the Holy Spirit, we then have access to the amazing benefits on offer.

One major advantage is direct access through Jesus to God the Father. The book of Hebrews describes us as being able “to enter the Holiest [Holy of Holies] by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh” (Hebrews 10:19-20). This is what was depicted when the veil, a heavy curtain between the holy part of the temple and the most holy place, was torn from top to bottom (i.e. something no human could have done) at the moment Christ died (Matthew 27:51).

Consequently, we can “come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). If we have sinned and broken our God’s holy law, or if we are being tempted

*The apostle Paul warned of the possibility of becoming “denaturalised” or disqualified from God’s kingdom.*

to break it, or if we are struggling with a bad habit or addiction, we can go to our Heavenly Father and ask for forgiveness and help to overcome these failings.

God has promised, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13). Often, we do not see a “way of escape,” especially in times of deep distress. At times like this we can cry out for God’s comfort and help.

With direct access to our Heavenly Father we can claim the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for our sins. Since the punishment for sin is death (Romans 3:23), God knows we can’t pay this penalty and still live. Because of this, upon true repentance, He accepts Jesus Christ’s sacrifice in our place: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Our salvation cost them both dearly, and

## Is the Kingdom of God within you?

Many believe Jesus Christ taught that the Kingdom of God only exists in the hearts and minds of believers. They base this on Luke 17:20-21, which says: “Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.’”

Such assumptions are incorrect for several reasons. The Greek word *entos*, translated “within,” is better translated “in the midst of” (*Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, 1985, “Within”). Several translations, including the New American Standard Bible, Modern King James Version and Green’s Literal Translation, translate Christ’s words as “the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

Jesus Christ could not have been telling the Pharisees here that God’s Kingdom was something that existed within their hearts or minds – after all, they wanted to destroy Him (Matthew 12:14, Mark 3:6).

Rather than telling the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God was something in their hearts, Jesus Christ warned them that they were so spiritually blind they couldn’t recognize the very personification of that Kingdom in Him.

There is no basis in this passage for believing the Kingdom of God resides in one’s heart.

we should never take this matter lightly.

### Citizenship can be withdrawn

There is a warning for all naturalised citizens. Although it rarely happens, it is possible to forfeit UK citizenship. This is usually for “the public good,” as in cases of terrorists. In the same way, God does not want anyone in His Kingdom who in his or her heart would rather be following Satan.

The apostle Paul warned the Corinthian Church of the possibility of becoming “denaturalised” or disqualified from God’s Kingdom (1 Corinthians 9:27; 2 Corinthians 13:5). We need to be sure that we love God and His Kingdom so much now that we fulfill our current responsibilities to the Kingdom of God. In this way we will not forfeit our citizenship and will enter that glorious realm at Christ’s return.

To learn more please request or download our free booklets *The Gospel of the Kingdom* and *Christ’s Reign on Earth: What It Will Be Like*.

Carl Torcetti

# Scientists discover charitable giving could extend life

*Research over several decades seems to show that those who are generous with their time or their possessions receive an unexpected blessing.*

Scientists have found that there are definite physical benefits to giving. A 2006 study by Jorge Moll and colleagues at the National Institutes of Health (an agency of the US Federal Government's Health Department) showed that donating directly to charity activated regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection and trust (*PNAS Journal*, October 17, 2006). Scientists also believe that altruistic behaviour releases endorphins in the brain, producing the positive feeling known as the "helper's high."

It seems that charitable behaviours can also lead to longer lives. A 2011 study of elderly couples by Stephanie Brown and colleagues at the University of Michigan showed that those individuals who provided practical help to friends, relatives or neighbours or gave emotional support to their spouses had a lower risk of dying over a five-year period than those who didn't. The study was called "Motives for Volunteering Are Associated With Mortality Risk in Older Adults" and states, "Volunteering contributes to a sense of deeper meaning . . . compared with other types of social activities, although other social activities may contribute to temporary and less meaningful aspects of happiness . . . Other researchers have suggested that volunteering behaviour might prevent feelings of meaninglessness . . . with resulting health implications

(Musick, et al., 1999)." Interestingly, receiving help wasn't linked to a reduced death rate.

When speaking to the visiting church elders from Ephesus, the apostle Paul recorded that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Taken literally, this statement could create a conundrum, even a paradox, in that if no one is willing to accept the blessing of receiving, then no one could experience the greater blessing which Christ said comes from giving.

Some people have trouble receiving. For instance, they may be reluctant to accept being treated to a meal in a restaurant. Maybe they feel they are being demeaned by charity. At the opposite extreme, they may feel unworthy of the gift. While one shouldn't freeload, be grasping or greedy or abuse the kindness of others, one should not deny others the blessing of giving.

Paul also recorded that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). A giving, sharing attitude is so important to God that he is only prepared to give eternal life to those who show this attitude now (Matthew 25:31-46).

As we go about our daily lives we should remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive, both now and forever.

We must also sometimes allow others to receive a blessing by giving to us. In that sense even receiving can be a kind of giving.

*Philip Perry*

## The Depth of Christ's Sacrifice

I am probably not alone in struggling to grasp the full meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That in itself is hard enough, but His entire life represented a "living sacrifice."

Having set aside His divinity so He could die for us (Philippians 2:6-8), Christ's very existence was on the line. "If Jesus had sinned, then who would be the sacrifice for Him? If He had made the choice to sin, just once, He would have incurred the penalty of death – death for all time" (*Jesus Christ: The Real Story*, p 65).

A true disciple is not expected to deliberately or willfully sin. When we slip up, we can kneel before the throne of grace, confess our sins and receive forgiveness (1 John 1:7-10). That is an incredible privilege.

However, it is a privilege Jesus never had. For Him to

be our sinless Passover Lamb, He had to do everything right first time, every time – no exceptions. Every moment of every day He had to cast out every potentially evil thought or impulse before it could take root (James 1:13-15).

His focus, His commitment, His total reliance on the Father all tend to overawe us. The Father's support was vital but the life Christ lived, He should now be living in us (Galatians 2:20). We are also to be living sacrifices as He was (Romans 12:1). We are to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow His example (Luke 9:23).

To study the depth of Christ's sacrifice more deeply please download or request our booklet *Jesus Christ: The Real Story*.

*Hazel Huck*

# More precious than silver or gold

*Since our reputation defines us, maintaining it should be a high priority.*

Each of us probably remembers school or college classmates whose behaviours we sincerely hope have improved as they have grown older. They might have been fun to hang out with at a party but in time proved themselves to be unreliable, often in trouble or prone to deceit.

What we really need are rock-solid people who can be relied upon when needed. All they require is a call and they'll be there to assist. If there's a project to be completed, they'll help out. You turn to these people when the chips are down and, when they ask for help, you'll be there.

Dictionary.com defines reputation as: "The estimation in which a person or thing is held, especially by the community or the public generally; good name; a favourable and publicly recognised name or standing for merit; achievement, reliability, etc."

The Webster's 1828 dictionary gives these examples: "1. Good name: the credit, honour or character which is derived from a favourable public opinion or esteem . . . 2. Character by report: in a good or bad sense" (websters-dictionary1828.com article "Reputation"). In other words, our reputation is built upon who we are, not by a one-time act necessarily, but who we are consistently.

## Reputation is ubiquitous

Wise King Solomon wrote, "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favour rather than silver and gold" (Proverbs 22:1). He reiterated this thought in Ecclesiastes 7:1: "A good name is better than precious ointment."

Whether or not we want it, we cannot deny our reputation. We cannot buy a good name, nor can we inherit one. Above all we cannot acquire it without changing ourselves in a positive way.

It is not that people don't remember good characteristics – integrity, honesty or kindness – but it only takes one bad action for the good to be quickly forgotten and a reputation tarnished, possibly beyond retrieval. It is common to hear people say "I don't care what others think of me." That attitude cannot be backed up by Scripture. Disciples of Christ are imperfect people, but they are striving for perfection (Matthew 5:48).

We are to be people of integrity. If we are not, sooner or later our true colours will show through. Actions so often speak louder than words.

What goes through your mind when Biblical characters like Abraham, David, Cain and Jezebel are mentioned?

How do you categorise them? Simply put, we mentally classify them as heroes or villains according to their character and reputation. While still imperfect, Abraham is known as the "Father of the Faithful" or of "all those who believe" (Romans 4:11) and David as "a man after God's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14; 1 Kings 15:5). Cain, however, is remembered for murdering his brother (Genesis 4:8) and Jezebel for her cruelty, her harlotry and her idolatry (1 Kings 21:1-16; 2 Kings 9:22).

## Tips for acquiring and maintaining a good reputation

Reputation is not what we say we are. The old adage, "our actions are speaking so loudly about us that people cannot hear what we say" should be true for all Christ's followers. Reputation is not how good we think we are, but rather how others perceive us.

One tip is not to talk negatively about anyone except perhaps in a one-on-one situation where a matter of discord needs to be discussed (Matthew 18:15-17). Another possibility might be a group environment where criticism is requested. In both cases critique should be given kindly and in a humble manner. If you can't think of good things to say about someone, it may be better not to say anything at all (Psalm 15:1-2). This can be very hard for some people to do, but it's a key part of building a good reputation. People who are constantly negative rarely have a positive reputation.

*Reputation is not how good we think we are, but rather how others perceive us.*

It should go without saying that an imitator of Christ should be honest and truthful in all his or her dealings. Keep your word unless you have promised to do something wrong or foolish, in which case extricate yourself honestly from the situation (Psalm 15:2, 4-5).

Be punctual, especially at work, and try as hard as possible and practicable to complete any task on time. If you work for someone, be diligent, loyal and trustworthy. Go beyond what is expected and try to help others achieve their goals. If you are the boss treat your workers fairly and with respect (Ephesians 6:5-9).

Be faithful in marriage – the life-long joining of a hus-

band and wife represents the spiritual relationship Christ has with the Church (Ephesians 5:25-33).

Keep anger under control (Proverbs 19:11). Practise using a soft response if someone approaches you in an angry state (Proverbs 15:1; Ecclesiastes 7:9).

Drunkenness and drug abuse do not aid a good reputation (Proverbs 20:1).

Where possible help those less fortunate (Proverbs 14:31). Acts of kindness rarely go unnoticed.

Keep your own counsel. Don't tell others about a third party's business and be careful what you say about your own. Don't pass on information about others, even if it is true. If it is true and you need to pass it on, as in a case of criminal activity or where there is danger to life, make sure you tell the correct authorities not everyone on social media (Proverbs 11:13).

Along with keeping your own counsel, guard your tongue. The epistle of James, the "brother of the Lord," devotes several verses to the importance of controlling our tongues (James 3:1-12). Above all don't use foul, malicious

or blasphemous language (Exodus 20:7; Ephesians 4:29). Strive to let the Golden Rule become your habit (Matthew 7:12).

It does not matter how excellent your reputation has been and how long it has been that way, it can become a "stink" with a little foolishness (Ecclesiastes 10:1). We need to be cautious and stick to doing what we know to be the right thing! It is far harder to rebuild a damaged reputation than to maintain a good one.

### **A lasting legacy**

What does your life say about you? If you died today for what would you be remembered? As with the aforementioned biblical characters, reputation can follow us far beyond every victory we win in this life. We defend our good reputation by maintaining an honourable lifestyle.

Guard your reputation. It is worth more than silver or gold. For more tips on building and maintaining a good reputation please request or download our booklet *Making Life Work*.

*Ademola Adesupo*

# Make a joyful noise

In recent years it has been interesting to watch *The Choir* on BBC television. Gareth Malone brings together people from diverse walks of life and encourages them to perform. By doing so, he has prompted and promoted the development of other choirs and groups of singers across the country.

The climax of the 2011 television series was a performance by the Military Wives' Choir at The Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on 12 November, in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen. Written by Paul Mealar, the song "Wherever You Are" included extracts from correspondence between the choir members and their husbands, fathers and brothers in Afghanistan.

In 2016 a chance was given to amateur choirs from all over the United Kingdom to battle for the title "Gareth's Best in Britain."

Throughout the Bible, singing and music were a very important part of worship towards God. According to *The Book of Music* edited by Gill Rowley (page 20): "In Solomon's temple (built c. 950 BC), ritual music was provided by the priests and Levites (men of the Levi tribe). Sung psalms were the basis of temple music, accompanied by the *kinnor* and large ten-stringed harp (*nevel*). Trumpets and *shofarim* were also sometimes used, and dance was important."

The Bible encourages us to sing praises to God, and biblical hymns and psalms should be used as part of Church worship. The book of Psalms contains many songs that have been put to music over the years. Almost everyone will know at least one version of "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (Psalm 23). Other psalms with multiple versions include 19, 46, 100, 121 and many others.

References also abound in the New Testament to singing psalms, for example Matthew 26:30 and Acts 16:25. Scriptures also imply that spiritual well-being can come from singing appropriate biblically based lyrics (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; James 5:13).

During the last 500 years musical style has gone through a series of rapid changes. Many great classical composers used the Bible as their inspiration and produced stirring sacred pieces. For instance, George Friedrich Handel (1685-1759) who is well known for *Messiah*, and Mendelssohn, who penned the oratorio *Elijah*, both based these works on passages from the Bible.

In addition to aiding the remembrance of biblical passages, it has also been acknowledged that singing is good for the health, helps our breathing and strengthens our lungs. All good reasons for singing!

*Margaret Pugh*



**Q** Please explain Luke 14:26-33 which seems to say that Christ's disciples should forsake all they have and even hate family members.  
*Reader from Sutton Coldfield*

**A** This passage can sound quite harsh if taken out of context with the rest of the Bible. What did Jesus intend when He said that "if anyone comes to Me and does not *hate* his father and mother, wife and children . . . he cannot be My disciple"? (Luke 14:26).

We need to recognise first of all that the Bible teaches that we are not to hate anyone, not even our enemies. Instead we are to love our neighbours as ourselves. That is the teaching in both Old and New Testament (Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:31). So hating anyone cannot be what Jesus had in mind, seeing that such an attribute was not reflected in His life and teaching.

The Nelson Study Bible has this to say about what Jesus was implying: "To 'hate' one's family and even one's life is rhetorical. It refers to desiring something less than something else. This expression was especially appropriate in Jesus' day, since a decision for Jesus could mean rejection by family and persecution even to the point of death. Those who feared family disapproval or persecution would not come to Jesus . . . Therefore a disciple must be ready to face and accept such rejection."

In our calling, God has to come first in our lives, and

## Let the Bible Answer...

### *How does the Bible describe a disciple?*

Much of the New Testament talks about discipleship – the relationship between Christ and His followers. For the cost of discipleship, see passages such as Luke 9:23-26; 51-62; John 15:1-17.

The epistles of Paul list traits that disciples should put on or put off ( for example Colossians 3:8-17).

that can often mean that our own family are against us taking up the challenge of believing and embracing what is right and rejecting what is wrong. That doesn't mean that we cut ourselves off from our own family. We follow what Jesus said in Matthew 22:21, "Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

To prove that Jesus' words were not intended to insist that His disciples abandon close family, the apostle Paul mentions his colleagues, including Peter, other apostles and Christ's own half-brothers, being accompanied in their ministries by their wives (1 Corinthians 9:5). In Peter's case, Christ had previously healed his mother-in-law, so this was a long-standing marriage relationship that had existed before Peter was called (Matthew 8:14).

The seriousness of being one of Christ's disciples is further highlighted in verses 27-33 of Luke 14, where a person who is willing to follow Christ needs to count the cost before making a firm commitment to stay the course. In Luke 9:62 Christ says, "No one, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Once the commitment is made, one can't throw in the towel.

With regard to "forsaking all" Christ tried to get the point across to the rich young ruler that his wealth had become an idol – something he had put before God (Matthew 19:16-22). He was unwilling to give up everything for Christ.

In contrast Zaccheus promised to give half his great wealth to the poor and to repay with compensation anything he had taken unlawfully (Luke 19:1-10). His attitude was completely different to that of the young ruler.

In the last book of the Bible Jesus tells us to "hold fast what you have till I come" (Revelation 2:25). This is not referring to physical possessions but to the truth of God and the way of life Christ modelled for us.

In following Jesus Christ we are to serve both God and man, including our own families, but our service to God should always take precedence.

**Q** Revelation 13:3-4 mentions a beast whose "deadly wound was healed." To what is this referring?

*Reader from Blackburn*

**A** This refers to the fall of the Roman Empire in AD 476, and its revivals as the Holy Roman Empire firstly under Justinian in AD 554. Rome was the last of four empires described in Daniel chapters 2 and 7.

Five further revivals followed, and we await the seventh which will exist at the return of Jesus Christ and will fight against Him.

For an overview of the history of these superpowers, their predecessors and their ultimate demise, please request or download our Bible study aid *The Final Superpower*.



# Letters From Our Readers

## **Facing the inevitable: What happens after death?**

Yes, death does come to us all, but often we don't know how to prepare for it. Maybe this booklet will help me to stop fearing and worrying about living and dying. I look forward to receiving it.

*Reader from London*

I work with children under five with disabilities and have lost a few children in the last couple of years. Supporting the families following this has been very challenging, so I am particularly interested in this subject at the moment.

*Name and address supplied*

I enjoy reading your literature. I would like to know more about *What Happens After Death?* My husband died recently and I am grieving with so much pain and anger. How do I live without him?

*Name and address supplied*

Thank you so much for these booklets. They are so needed and very much appreciated.

*Reader from Sheerness*

## **Beyond Today renewals**

Thanks for sending the *Beyond Today* magazine. I would like to con-

tinue the subscription. Also could I have a booklet about the Feasts of the LORD as stated in Leviticus 23?

*Reader from Luton*

*Editor's comment: Our booklet God's Holy Day Plan has been sent to you.*

Your magazine offers answers to many spiritual questions. It's encouraging and gives me the strength to learn more.

*Reader from High Wycombe*

It has always been a joy to receive *Beyond Today*, and reading it makes me really think. It has enabled me to learn more. I look forward to future copies.

*Reader from Wales*

## **Comments from Bible Course students**

Thank you for all the lessons, booklets and blessings I have received through studying your materials. God has blessed me in many ways.

*Reader from Scotland*

May I commend your ministry for this *Bible Study Course*. I look forward to receiving the Certificate of Completion and then furthering my study with you via your many

resources. Many thanks.

*Student from Belfast*

Studying this lesson has made me think that I really don't know as much about my God as I should. I am looking forward to the next lesson.

*Student from London*

Your *Bible Study Course* has given me extra insight into the Bible. A big thank you.

*Student from Hull*

## **Issues with alcohol**

Your magazines are saving my life. Please inform me of any AA-related information you have on the 12 Steps to recovery from alcohol through faith in God.

*Name and address supplied*

*Editor's comment: We have sent you our booklet Overcoming Alcoholism: There Is Hope. We will also pray that God will help you in your recovery from this problem.*

**Our literature can be downloaded from our website, [www.ucg.org](http://www.ucg.org) or requested from the address at the bottom of the front page.**

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