

What Scientists Think About God

In Britain the debate over the existence of God continues apace. The 17 March edition of New Scientist magazine devoted 13 pages to discussions on the possible existence of God and the benefits, or otherwise, of religious belief.

It's an argument that simply will not go away. Even the title of this science magazine's special section, *The God Issue*, courts controversy. It reveals that, for many, the existence of God remains a very important issue. Let's examine the arguments and see how they compare with what God Himself is quoted as saying.

While there is some balance in the overall selection of the articles in this edition of *New Scientist*, none clearly advocates the existence of the One True God. Yet all the articles were of some interest. What follows is a miscellany of some of particular note and the thoughts they elicited.

Born believers?

First was an article entitled 'Born Believers,' which proposes that all children are born with a mind containing a 'god-shaped conceptual space waiting to be filled.' By this, author Justin L Barret, director of the Thrive Center for Human Development at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, means that there is an innate need for a supernatural belief to make sense of the world around.

As children grow towards adult-

hood this would perhaps include the most-asked and least-answered questions concerning the purpose of each human being's existence. Director Barrett suggests that 'when it comes to speculation about the origin of natural things, children are very receptive to explanations that invoke design or purpose. It seems more sensible to them that animals and plants were brought about for a reason than that they arose for no reason.'

This fits well with Scripture, which states concerning God: 'He has made everything beautiful in its time. *Also He has put eternity in their hearts,* except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end' (Ecclesiastes 3:11, emphasis added throughout).

Scientific tests for God?

In another article, 'The God Hypothesis,' Victor J Stenger, emeritus professor of physics at the University of Hawaii and adjunct professor of philosophy at the University of Colorado at Boulder, argues that God's existence can be tested by science and proceeds to raise various hypotheses which, he claims, prove God does not exist. He

postulates that as God 'is supposed to play a central role in the operation of the universe and the lives of humans,' then he should be 'readily detectable by scientific means.' Whether science is actually able to test for spirit, as opposed to matter, is not explained in this article.

Concerning the existence of God, Professor Stenger also suggests that Darwinian evolution (natural selection) would account for the way the earth looks today, without any need for a Creator. This is disputable on various levels, including symbiosis, the deficient fossil evidence for 'missing links' and the absence of any obviously mutating life-forms around us today. Natural selection may account for minor local changes within species (such as the peppered moth, where dark or light forms proliferate depending on the available camouflage), but not for the pervasive variety, complexity and perfection that we see around us.

Darwin's theory did not address the first Law of Biogenesis, attributed to Louis Pasteur, which states that 'life arises from pre-existing life, not from non-living material' (Wikipedia). Life

demands a life-giver. Beyond this, the complex coding and information contained in DNA had to be predetermined by someone. In his book *In the Beginning Was Information* (published 2006), Dr Werner Gitt, retired Director and Professor in the information science field at Federal Institute for Physics and Technology in Brunswick, Germany, reveals how the presence of information requires a programmer. Information is dependent on an idea and, as such, is not a property of matter but of thought.

Examining Darwinian evolution

Furthermore, Darwinian evolution cannot account for the existence of matter itself. Scientists claim that once there was nothing – no matter, no energy, no gravity. Then a singularity – which can only occur where there is matter, energy and gravity – came into existence by some unexplained process. At first it expanded very quickly and then more slowly as it cooled down. In the process of time gravitational forces pulled the matter together to eventually produce stars and planets, forming the galaxies of the universe we see today.

According to a British high school textbook, this theory states that ‘an enormous amount of concentrated energy and matter appeared suddenly. Nothing existed before this moment’ (*Edexcel 360 Science*). The Big Bang theory remains just one of several sug-

gested possible origins of the universe. None adequately addresses the source of physical matter, energy and gravity. These three, as with life itself, require a Creator.

Nearly two thousand years ago the apostle Paul was inspired to write this challenge to modern scientists: ‘*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse*’ (Romans 1:20).

Absence of provable miracles?

Another argument against the existence of God put forward by Professor Stenger is the absence of provable miracles. After all, he states, ‘With millions of prayers having been said every day for thousands of years, we would expect some to have been answered by now in a verifiable way. They have not.’

This is a strange sort of expectation, reminiscent of the Pharisees who asked Jesus Christ for a sign of His divinity (Matthew 12:38–40). Except for the crucial sign of how long He would be buried, Jesus generally refused these requests because of their attitude and disobedience. Disbelief also inhibits miracles (Matthew 13:58). So too do pride and covetousness. The apostle Peter sternly rebuked Simon Magus, for offering money for the ability to give the Holy Spirit by the

laying on of his hands, presumably to add to his reputation as a sorcerer.

Scripture records that, when Jesus healed people, sometimes others investigated and discovered the truth about His miracles (John 9:1–38). However, it rarely led to an acceptance of Him or His Father, but rather to persecution.



Earth's atmosphere is finely tuned with a mixture of gases in perfect proportions for life.

Judging by the way the film industry portrays scientists when they are dealing with matters they do not understand, it is highly unlikely that the beneficiary of a major miracle would want it ‘investigated’.

Answers to prayer

Most answers to prayers are responses to cries for help for either physical or spiritual needs, or for inspiration, and come to those truly obeying God. To recipients these small miracles are as welcome as a major and visible event. This ever-present help cannot be assigned to mere coincidence. On the other hand, there is no reason why the Almighty should heed the prayers of those who are knowingly disobedient to Him (Isaiah 59:1–2).

Today, those who receive true miracles from God will, for the most part, quietly thank Him for His benevolence and continue to follow His paths. When doctors have been mystified, because, for example, cancerous masses suddenly no longer appear on their x-rays, it is often put down to human error due to misreading the data, or mixing up patient records. Even when such an event becomes acknowledged, albeit grudgingly, as a miracle, there is rarely much publicity.

Source of morality

Professor Stenger further contends: ‘If God is the source of morality, then we should find evidence for a supernatural origin in human behaviour. We do not.’ He bases this on the fact that people asserting a faith sometimes behave worse than do those who make no such claims. Scripture insists that since the Garden of Eden, where man was first created, only Christ has measured up to the morality of God (Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 4:13). Even true Christians battle daily with the pulls of human nature and must cry out to God for help in their struggles.

However, the real supernatural ori-

(Continued on page 4)

Exploring Life's Unseen Dimension

Today people are almost solely preoccupied by the physical world we experience every day. Most have little or no knowledge of the invisible. How important is this unseen dimension in your life?

We begin our inquisitive exploration by examining an example provided by the ninth century Hebrew prophet Elisha. His ministry spanned some 50 years. The biblical record reveals a spiritual reign marked by many miracles, signs and wonders. As a man of God Elisha was supremely aware of the unseen spirit world.

A telling incident during Elisha's ministry

Syria was at war with the Northern nation of Israel. But the House of Israel possessed one overriding strategic advantage. Elisha was its prophet. Israel's king seemed to know Syrian military manoeuvres in advance. Syria's king strongly suspected a mole in his camp. But an aide explained: 'Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words you speak in your bedroom' (2 Kings 6:12).

So Syria's monarch determined to search for Elisha and bring him to Damascus. He dispatched an entire army to Dothan in Samaria – surrounding Elisha's place of residence. His personal servant was horrified by the sudden presence of the Syrian army. But the prophet remained calm, telling his servant: *'Do not fear for those who are with us are more than those who are with them'* (verse 17, emphasis added throughout).

Elisha prayed and then God supernaturally opened the eyes of the servant. 'Behold the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around

Elisha' (verse 17). His servant must have been astonished by the presence of a protective angelic army. King David of Israel simply stated: 'The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him. And delivers them' (Psalm 34:7).

Appalling ignorance of the unseen world

This modern age remains largely sceptical of the possibility of anything invisible to the human eye or telescope. Science comes up with some sort of

This modern age remains largely sceptical of the existence of anything invisible to the human eye or telescope.

material explanation for just about everything. Even the human mind and brain are said to operate solely through physical means, with no possibility of a spirit-based dimension.

Yet the Bible clearly states: 'There is a spirit in man' (Job 32:8), and 'Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him' (Zechariah 12:1). And finally in the New Testament: 'For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?' (1 Corinthians 2:11).

Still, unbelieving man's pervasive philosophical explanation stubbornly remains. After all, scientific and technical knowledge has produced a world abounding in awesome achievements.

Witness the Internet. If Queen Victoria were to come back to life now in the 21st century, she would be astounded by the marvels of our modern world. Yet she would also be appalled by the rank immorality, violence, unhappiness and almost unparalleled human suffering.

Today mankind possesses the means to erase all human and animal life from the face of the earth. We are 'inventors of evil things' (Romans 1:30). Much of our intelligentsia tries to explain away the need for God by means of the theory of evolution.

Unconverted, natural minds often seek an explanation for the existence of the creation without the presence of a Creator God. The United Church of God offers the solution by publishing the free booklet *Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?*

The role of God's Church

The Church today consists of a small, specially called-out group of members dedicated to doing the work of God (Luke 12:32). Jesus Christ instructed them to preach and publish the gospel (good news) as a witness to a world gone astray (Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20).

The Church makes up the firstfruits of God's salvation, pictured by the Feast of Firstfruits (or the Day of Pentecost). Those the Creator has called are the first to receive God's Holy Spirit. Members are in daily prayerful contact with the personal God who created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). True Christians are ser-

vants of their Elder Brother Jesus Christ and trust in Him as their Redeemer and High Priest.

The apostle Paul explained to Christians throughout the age of the Church: ‘But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and the Church of the first-born, who are registered [written, KJV] in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect’ (Hebrews 12:22-23). Recall that Christ is the firstborn of many brethren (Romans 8:29).

Unbelievers cannot do away with spiritual reality. The existence of the unseen God and His heavenly host is not a problem for genuine believers. They know that the invisible world continuously remains during our age of doubt and unbelief.

The certainty of God’s family

Church members recognise that God the Father has a ‘whole family in heaven and earth’ (Ephesians 3:15). They know their ultimate destiny consists of everlasting spirit life in the Kingdom of God.

Since you are reading the Supplement along with the main *Good News* magazine and possibly receiving our free booklets as well, God may very well be calling you to the same awesome destiny by means of understanding and obeying His truth. Truly it consists of a genuine invitation to eternity, so to speak. For starters, why not take up the challenge by requesting our free booklets *The Church Jesus Built, Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion*, and *What Is Your Destiny?*

John Ross Schroeder

Scientists and God

(Continued from page 2)

gin for the morality and behaviours of human beings comes from a source Professor Stenger appears to have overlooked – Satan the Devil. (Please request our free booklet *Is There Really a Devil?* which explains Satan’s origins and his negative influence on humankind.)

Oddly, in a sidebar to an article on civilisation a couple of pages earlier in this same issue of *New Scientist*, Ara Norenzayan, associate professor of psychology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, puts the opposite viewpoint regarding morality. He suggests that atheists, with no awareness or acceptance of ‘supernatural surveillance,’ are likely to be distrusted in a society where most have some religious belief, whereas those with a deep religious conviction would be expected to honour promises, and behave in an honest and cooperative manner.

Overall, this was a thought-provoking set of articles, showing how the debate over the existence of God ebbs and flows. However, no one commented that the God revealed in the Bible bears little resemblance to any of society’s belief systems, even those that purport to represent Him.

His purpose for creating man far exceeds what most people consider or understand. Astonishingly, His great plan does not apply to the present age, except to the relatively few (the first-fruits) He is calling now – a few who are willing to follow and obey Him (Matthew 7:14; 22:14; Luke 12:32). However the wonderful, utopian world beyond today will have citizens fitted for it.

For more information on the glorious future up ahead, please request our free booklet *What Is Your Destiny?* In addition, you may like to request *Evolution or Creation: Does it Really Matter What You Believe? and Who Is God?*

Barbara Fenney

The Spirit World’s Dangerous Dark Side

The unseen world is composed pre-eminently of God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ and innumerable multitudes of righteous angels.

However, Satan the devil and his fallen angels (or demons) are also a part of this invisible world. The Bible describes the devil as ‘the god of this age’ (2 Corinthians 4:4) and ‘The spirit who now works in the children of disobedience’ (Ephesians 2:2).

Satan is the source of many strange practices and religions, many of which are growing in popularity, particularly in the Western world, and are very far from harmless pursuits. Many people are dabbling in dangers that are well beyond their limited comprehension. These dangerous pursuits are often referred to as the occult — meaning things that are secretive, mysterious and concealed.

The apostle Paul tells us that we should be very wary of such practices, ‘lest Satan should take advan-

tage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices’ (2 Corinthians 2:11). We should simply say ‘No,’ when enticed to play with Ouija boards and tarot cards. Don’t fold under pressure from friends, family or anyone else. Put God and His Word first! Your life and your mental welfare could depend upon it.

God, who knows exactly how Satan works, warns us not to have anything to do with mediums and familiar spirits. The Creator’s word is clear: ‘Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them: I am the LORD your God’ (Leviticus 19:31). So we should avoid all contact with mediums, fortunetellers, witches and their deceitful devices — and not be fooled by whatever means they might try to entice us with.

For much more information, request in print or download our free booklet *Is There Really a Devil?*

Publishing the Gospel: How Supported?

Jesus Christ assigned His Church the work of proclaiming the gospel to the world, making disciples, and caring for those God calls into His Church (Matthew 28:18-20; John 21:15-17). This article shows how blessings come on those who do their part.

Jesus instructed His disciples: ‘Freely you have received, freely give’ (Matthew 10:8). God’s whole way of life is a way of giving and serving. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that Jesus told His disciples to share the gospel without charge. Today God’s truth continues to go out free of charge to those who request it. Solomon instructed: ‘Buy the truth and do not sell it’ (Proverbs 23:23).

Scripture introduces God’s support system for financing the work of preaching and publishing the good news through the example of the patriarch Abraham. Many of the laws codified in Moses’ lifetime were in existence during the age of the patriarchs, including the Ten Commandments. (See pages 13, 28 and 29 of our free booklet *The New Covenant: Does It Abolish God’s Law?*)

The Old Testament support system

God revealed His way of life to Abraham because ‘Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws’ (Genesis 26:5). He also knew that all physical blessings are a gift from God. As ‘the father of all those who believe’ (Romans 4:11), Abraham set us the example of tithing – giving one tenth of the blessings he received from God (Genesis 14:17-20; Hebrews 7:1-4).

When Abraham’s descendants became the nation of ancient Israel after their deliverance from Egyptian bondage, God allocated His tithe to the tribe of Levi for their service to the nation of Israel (Numbers 18:21).

Hebrews describes a change in administration because the New

Testament Church – the spiritual temple (1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:19-22) – replaced the physical temple during this church age.

The New Testament support system

The responsibility for teaching God’s truth now falls on the New Testament Church. In the first century, the followers of the gospel message gave monetary and other aid to Jesus, to His disciples and, later, to other labourers in the Church to support them in doing the work Christ had given His Church to do. Examples of such giving, and principles relating to it, are found in New Testament passages such as Luke 8:3; 10:7-8; 2 Corinthians 11:7-9 and Philippians 4:14-18.

Did Jesus uphold the biblical practice of tithing? He did indeed! Notice His comments to the scribes and Pharisees: ‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, *without leaving the others undone*’ (Matthew 23:23, emphasis added throughout).

Neither tithing nor such weightier matters as ‘justice and mercy and faith’ should be neglected.

Jesus and His apostles taught that a giving attitude should be a major part of the Christian way of life. ‘Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For *with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you*’ (Luke 6:38).

Put God to the test

In reference to tithing, God promises that if you fulfill His will by giving your tithes to Him, He will provide for your needs and bless you. Why not put God to the test?

“Try me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (see Malachi 3:8-10). This is not a guarantee of physical riches, but He promises to give you blessings which will undoubtedly be spiritual as well as material.

He has promised to supply the needs of those who sincerely seek first His Kingdom and become willing and enthusiastic partners with Him in the work of preaching the gospel (Matthew 6:31-34; 2 Corinthians 9:8).

However, for those with no titheable income, it is still very much possible to be in partnership with God. Prayer is of vital importance to support the work and, almost everyone can help by visiting the sick, or sending cards to or encouraging those in need. God promises to bless those who are zealous for His purpose and plan.

Christ has commissioned His Church to carry on the work He started. As Christians, we are called to be co-workers with Christ. ‘For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building’ (1 Corinthians 3:9).

What an awesome gift and responsibility!

To better understand, request your free copy of the booklet *What Does the Bible Teach About Tithing?*

The Gospel

Goes to Zimbabwe and South Africa

This article summarises a recent trip to Africa by Melvin Rhodes, Chairman of the United Church of God's Council of Elders. Mr Rhodes was born and raised in Britain, spending much of his long ministry serving African brethren.

I've just returned from a very positive and uplifting trip to Zimbabwe and South Africa. I spent the Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread with the brethren in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

Members in Zimbabwe are scattered all over the country – a nation that is over three times the size of the state of Michigan – where I live – so it's always a joy when everybody can get together for a couple of days.

In a country that not so long ago suffered from severe food shortages, the ladies were able to put on a really nice meal for us. Thanks to the generosity of a teen in Michigan, I gave every household a box of scripture cards prepared as a fundraiser by our Ambassador Bible Center in Cincinnati.

After Sabbath services on the first Holy Day, I was able to travel to Mutare, a four-hour drive away, where our deacon Mike Mukurati and his wife Primrose live. This beautiful mountainous area is close to the Mozambique border. Mike and I visited new member Claudia Harrison who lives in Mutare, an 83-year-old lady originally from South Africa.

We then returned to Harare, and I flew back to South Africa. I was able to spend the Last Day of Unleavened Bread and the weekly Sabbath with the members in East London.

Their enthusiasm and the spirit of love, joy and peace (the first three

fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5) was an exhilarating experience for me personally. It was a real joy to be with the members in this part of the world.

After returning to Johannesburg, the three ministers serving in the region were able to get together to discuss future plans for serving

the area. At the present time, there is just one elder resident in South Africa, Roy Demont, who was ordained last year. Roy is in his seventies and has been speaking in all four congregations in South Africa, once a month in each as the churches are far apart. While we were talking he offered to go to Zimbabwe a couple of times a year, which will help us out greatly.

In both Zimbabwe and South Africa I had the very real sense of being on the frontline of the work that God has called us to do: preaching the gospel and preparing a people. There are currently 120 attending with us in South Africa and about 30 in Zimbabwe.

South Africa does not need a great deal of help from the Cincinnati home office. They are self-sufficient. But we in the United States do take care of their magazine and booklet printing plus some of their mailing costs. Zimbabwe requires slightly more help.

The members in both countries are excited at the prospect of preaching the gospel in their areas. I hope to hold a Kingdom of God Bible Seminar in Harare the next time I visit.

Spiritually, the visit to both countries was also a big boost for me personally. I had more time for prayer and Bible study and more time to talk with the members – a reminder of the importance of living by the two great commandments, love toward God and love toward neighbour.

As Matthew records: 'Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets'" (Matthew 22:35-40).

Our priorities should always be our relationship with God, first and foremost, and then our relationships with others, primarily our spouses, our children and members of God's spiritual family.

Spreading the gospel to Africa continues to be an important focus of the United Church of God. Jesus said, 'Look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest' (John 4:35). In the previous verse He had stated: 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.'

That work continues to this day and we have a part in it. Jesus gave us our marching orders. '*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you'* (Matthew 28:19-20, emphasis added).

The African field is indeed 'white for harvest.' Those turning in hope to Jesus Christ need to be like Him, to keep His commandments, to live His way of life.

Simply calling oneself a Christian doesn't do this. There's a need for the truth of God to be revealed and for people to take God's commands to heart. 'You shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul' (Deuteronomy 11:18).

Africa is an exciting place, especially when you are visiting those areas where God has called people to be a part of His spiritual family. Remember your brothers and sisters in Christ who live in Africa.

Melvin Rhodes



Q If in the past I did not believe in Jesus Christ, but now have come to believe. Will I still be accepted by God and be forgiven?

WB, Stroud

A Christ's sacrifice was of such value that it could cover the sins of the whole world and of every person who ever lived or who has yet to live (see 1 John 2:1-2). Jesus Himself said: '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).

However, Christ's sacrifice can only cover the sins of those who repent. God the Father wants everyone to come to true repentance (2 Peter 3:9), even those who did not previously know Christ. Those who come up in the resurrection to judgment will be given their opportunity to hear about Christ and His great sacrifice, so they can be offered eternal life (Revelation

20:5, 11-13; Ezekiel 27:11-14; Romans 11:26).

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he mentions that some who had become Christians once knew nothing of Christ and even worshipped idols (1 Corinthians 12:2). God is willing to overlook our past ignorance, if we are will-

ing to repent, accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and begin wholeheartedly to follow Him. Jesus explains: 'There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance' (Luke 15:7).

For more information on this important subject, please request our free booklets *What Happens After Death?, The Road to Eternal Life* and *What is Your Destiny?*

Q Will I be able to be a Christian, seeing as I believe one hundred per cent in evolution?

GB, Honiton

A The essence of Christian belief is that Jesus, the Son of Man, is the Christ – the Messiah or Anointed One - the Son of God. A Christian is one who, as Christ did, believes God's word and obeys it. The Bible records the word of God and in many passages ascribes the creation of the world to God Himself.

To dispute the account of creation as expressed in Scripture is to dispute Christ's own words in Mark 10:6; 13:19 and Matthew 19:4. John's gospel describes Christ as the one who created all things (John 1:1-3, 14). The apostle Paul also believed in the Genesis account (1 Corinthians 15:45). He told Timothy: 'All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16). During His encounter with Satan, Christ firmly stated, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4).

The theory of evolution, which-says there is no need for a Creator, contradicts the truth that the Creator does in fact exist. (See our free booklet *Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?*)

While it would be possible to aspire to some Christian values and still believe in evolution, it would seem illogical to claim to be a committed and faithful follower of Jesus Christ, yet not believe what He said.

There is simply no way of reshaping the Bible into a book that also somehow supports evolution. If we accept the creation account at face value, then theistic evolution becomes impossible to believe.

What we are now obliged to do is to examine the evidence for the authority and authenticity of the Bible. Request our free booklet *Is the Bible True?*

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 Good News

Congratulations on a beautiful and inspiring March-April issue of *The Good News*. Thank you for all your hard work. It was a rich spiritual feast – full of balanced and varied, timely articles. A lovely presentation and a beautiful free gift!

S G, Kettering

We have enjoyed our first three editions of *The Good News*. I read with interest articles on the Middle East and Germany's place in the current European financial crisis. Your booklets are on top of my 'to read' pile. My husband and I appreciate the viewpoints expressed in *The Good News* – especially in areas of controversy and complexity.

Mrs A A, Uxbridge

What a wonderful Christ-centred magazine, with up to date information and good sound Christian advice. This is to the glory of the living God and Jesus Christ. May God continue the good work through this magazine.

C R, Stornoway

In my own view and also from the biblical viewpoint, all those Easter eggs and rabbits are not in Scripture. The Good Friday to Easter Sunday period is not really in tune with the three days and three nights of Christ's claim (see Matthew 12:39-40). Hence the genuine child of God should be wary.

A O, Dagenham

- For a full explanation of the points raised by the reader, request our free booklet Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Matter Which Days We Observe?

I wish to thank you for the *The Good News* and British Supplement. They have been very much appreciated and are informative in their content.

W N, Newtownabbey,
Northern Ireland

Bible Study Course

I wish to thank you all of the United Church of God for all the help you've given me with this *Bible Study Course*. I've been doing it for a year. It's helped me to know a bit more about myself and get started on the right path to know God intimately. I study the word of God five days a week and I love it. At first I couldn't get into reading the Bible, but now I can't stop.

C S, Barrow in Furness

This lesson five is awesome. It has really opened my eyes to the events of the end time. It is really frightening, but at the same time I've got assurance of salvation if only I will diligently prepare myself spiritually.

L O, Loughborough

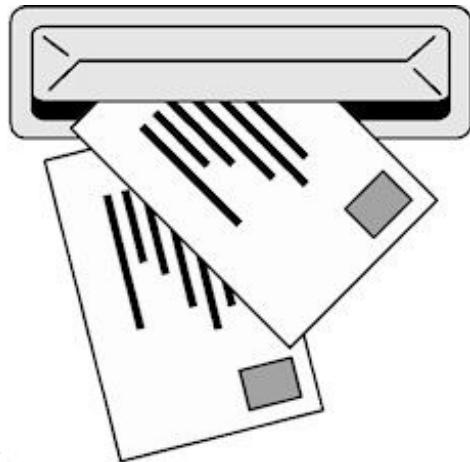
Readers appreciate booklets

The booklets you've sent me are very interesting. A continuous intake of their contents can start a more fulfilling life for a Christian. I am grateful and enclose a cheque for support.

L N, London

Thank you for the last booklet you sent me, *Is God a Trinity?* It was very interesting and helpful. You guys do a great job in providing such an amazing magazine and the booklets. I hope you are not thinking of packing up any time soon.

D G, Norwich



Dates for Holy Days needed

Could you please send me the dates for the annual Sabbaths? I have them for this year, but need the dates for the following years.

F A P, Peterborough

- All the dates of the annual festivals of God from 2010 to 2023 are provided on a two-page spread in our free booklet God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind (pages 28-29). We have posted this booklet to you.

Prayers for reader in Spain

Thank you very much for the excellent advice that I have received. I am still struggling with the hardest situation of my life so far. Your advice at least relaxed my mind to take my trial more wisely and with greater calmness. I need your prayers for our dilemma, and ours are with you too.

M Z, Spain

- While the identity and details of this reader's dilemma must remain confidential, we would appreciate your prayers for a Christian residing in Spain. The Bible does tell us that 'we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God' (Acts 14:23). Yet Scripture also says: 'Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all' (Psalm 34:19). Paul exhorts all Christians to remain 'rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer' (Romans 12:12).