

## Why the Family is So Important in Nurturing Our Children

*Are children mere possessions to be exploited or discarded for self-gratification, or are they society's future, needing, among other things, to be trained to distinguish between right and wrong?*

Families form the building blocks of society where mother and father nurture the children together to become responsible citizens and raise their own children if they have them. Without this solid foundation, sense of duty and a basic idea of right and wrong, society gradually breaks down.

The failure of schools and churches to teach these godly principles, coupled with a lack of teaching in the mores of correct living by preceding generations, have led to the often dysfunctional state of the modern 'family,' a word now more synonymous with a blend of past relationships and a succession of 'partners.' Add to this the issues of alcohol, drug addiction, sexual exploitation and violence and the result, according to Sir Michael Wilshaw, the Chief Inspector of Schools in England and current head of Ofsted, is children who 'suffer because they are not given clear rules or boundaries, have few secure or safe attachments at home and little understanding of the difference between right and wrong behaviour.'

In recent decades, schools have been prevented from teaching tradi-

tional codes of ethics. Many religious institutions have abandoned even the lip-service they used to pay to time-honoured biblical standards found in Scripture.

With teachers shackled and church leaders abrogating responsibility for teaching right from wrong, many parents have been left uneducated in basic ethical behaviours and without a moral compass. How then could they fulfil their responsibility to teach their children? Thus, we arrive at the unfortunate situation in Britain today.

### Britain's families

Following the publication of a recent report on failings within the social care system, Sir Michael Wilshaw spoke out on the state of Britain's families.

Although the focus of his report concerned failures within the social care system, in his speech on 15 October, Sir Michael highlighted the failure of some parents to assume the responsibility that comes

with having children, calling it a 'poverty of accountability.'

Some of the more frightening statistics resulting from this neglect of duty include:

- '700,000 children living with a parent or carer who is dependent on alcohol.
- '100,000 children with parents receiving treatment for hard drug addiction.



Andresr, Shutterstock Inc

- '130,000 children living in domestically violent homes.'

Sir Michael referred to these situations as 'the hollowing out and frag-

mentation' of families and communities. He continued to explain the consequences of this breakdown in the fabric of society.

'Children abused because their biological parents were long ago alienated from each other and the new man in the house (the latest in a succession of men) is violent and resentful.

'Young girls exploited sexually because a history of neglect has left them vulnerable to ruthless men who prey on their need for attention' ([ofsted.gov.uk/resources/social-care-annual-report-201213-hmci-speech](http://ofsted.gov.uk/resources/social-care-annual-report-201213-hmci-speech)).

### A two-fold dilemma

Two issues are prevalent here: the state of the family structure, and the lack of knowledge and teaching required by parents to instill basic decent behaviours in the children they have produced.

The latter is reflected not only in the frequent lack of attainment by these children in school, but also in the growing crisis within the social care provision.

With regard to the family structure, when God created human beings He made the man first and then a suitable mate for him. Scripture records, 'And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh"' (Genesis 2:23-24).

As recorded in Matthew's gospel, Jesus Christ reiterated this passage, attributing the original instruction to the Creator: 'Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?"' So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man sepa-

rate' (Matthew 19:4-6).

### Godly love versus self love

Children are a gift of God (Psalm 127:3). Scripture indicates they are a divine responsibility as well (Malachi 2:13-16). Far from seeking their own lusts and desires, whether in substance abuse, multiple partners or violence, parents have a duty to bring up their children according to God's standards outlined in Scripture. If societal change is to be forthcoming, a major re-think on 21st century parenting is required to prevent future generations of young people from plummeting into the abyss as a result of possessing few morals or common courtesies with more of a penchant towards drug addiction and criminal behaviour often leading to mental and emotional breakdowns.

Not only children suffer due to the lack of good parenting, but society does too. The lack of good parenting is too often due to the failure of parents to bring up their children in a nurturing and consistent environment – probably reflecting their own deficient upbringing. If mother and father are fighting, literally or verbally, the atmosphere is not conducive to teaching appropriate behaviour. If one or other parent has a string of partners, it is unlikely that they will see an unrelated child as any responsibility of theirs. Divorce is no quick fix when it comes to dealing with relationships, especially when children are involved.

The Message translation renders

## Right or Wrong – Who Decides?

Can you find a proven source for lasting standards and values? God revealed the heart of His standards – the Ten Commandments – long ago at Mount Sinai. But what sets them apart from man-made rules and guidelines? What do they reveal about the nature of God Himself?

The Ten Commandments explain clearly, in plain language, the foundational principles behind God's laws that define right from wrong. For an in-depth explanation of why we should think, feel and behave according to God's principles, be sure to request or download your free copy of *The Ten Commandments*. In this booklet you'll discover the answers to these questions and more. To complement this booklet in terms of family life, also ask for *Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension*.

Malachi 2:15-16 in this way: 'God, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does He want from marriage? Children of God, that's what. So guard the spirit of marriage within you. Don't cheat on your spouse. "I hate divorce," says the God of Israel.'

### Teaching moral values

Of teaching moral values and standards to children, God says, 'Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates' (Deuteronomy 11:18-20).

Sir Michael Wilshaw set out his views on how the social care system could deal with these struggling families. However, until parents take responsibility for their own and their children's behaviour, matters are

(Continued on page 4)

# ‘Your Word I Have Hidden in My Heart’

Have you considered the many benefits – for all ages – of memorising parts of the Bible?

In my youth I remember the feeling of accomplishment when I memorised Bible passages such as Psalm 23 and the Ten Commandments. Timeless passages such as these can powerfully influence a child ‘in the way he should go’ (Proverbs 22:6) and be a useful practice for any child of God – of whatever age.



## A means of character growth

An article titled ‘In Defense of Memorisation’ from *Education Reporter* states that memorising can ‘etch the ideals of their civilisation on children’s minds and character.’ It adds: ‘The Greeks discovered that words and sounds – and the rhythmic patterns by which they were bound together in poetry – awakened the mind and shaped character.’

This article, published in October 2004, discusses how memorising declined rapidly after 1940. By 1970 it became largely dead. Is it any wonder that a society that no longer commits to memory the Ten Commandments also no longer knows or values this most basic of all the laws of God?

Neglecting our human capacity to memorise impedes our comprehension and understanding of matters of great importance. Most all of us use this capacity when something really interests us. For instance, I often delight in hearing my two girls running laugh-

ingly and flawlessly through the lyrics of their favourite songs and funny YouTube videos. It amazes me how easily they recall whole sections of dialogue when they put their heart into it.

## Memorising God’s Word

Memorising the Bible will work toward that very end when it comes to putting His word into our hearts and the hearts of our children.

Author Elizabeth George passionately advocates committing Bible scriptures to memory as a part of meditation and Christian growth. She recommends carrying around 3 x 5 cards, often just by taking advantage of downtimes that commonly occur on an average day.

‘Meditation also involves memorisation,’ states Mrs George in *Following God With All Your Heart*. She explains: ‘That’s what the psalmist described when he wrote, “Your word I have hidden in my heart”’ (Psalm 119:11,

emphasis added throughout). David desired God’s Word in his heart and mind . . . He valued the law of God greatly and considered it a treasure worthy of being stored in the very core of his being.”

What’s the connection between memorisation and meditation? Depending upon age and natural inclination, memorising a verse usually takes time, perhaps going over and over it for

several days. On rare occasions, however, a particular passage impresses one so strongly that it becomes permanently fixed in one’s mind after reading it only once. Impression remains one of the laws of memory.

Also having it prominently in mind naturally leads to pondering it. As an example, let’s take Deuteronomy 30:19

*Is it any wonder that a society that no longer commits to memory the Ten Commandments also no longer knows or values this most basic of all the laws of God?*

about choosing life. After long familiarity you suddenly take note that the payoff is not just for you, but also ‘that your descendants may live.’ Instant awareness hits you that this passage is bigger than yourself and will affect your children and heirs.

## Available when needed

When Christ was tested by Satan for 40 days and 40 nights, Satan tried to deceive Him by misapplying passages of scripture. But Christ was able to answer each temptation with 'It is written . . .' from the book of Deuteronomy. Of course, Jesus was the Living Word and He had inspired the Hebrew Bible. (For the biblical evidence, download or request our free booklet *Who Is God?*)

The three passages in Deuteronomy Christ used were in His heart, since He lived by every word of God. We also should exert enthusiastic effort into internalising key passages in the Bible. Sometimes they will flash into mind when needed even though one may not know the exact chapter and verse.

## Are we ready for the famine of the word?

Accurately recalling key passages that inspire us can be of tremendous help to us today. (See suggestions in sidebar.) But now is the time to prepare for what is prophesied for tomorrow. Amos 8:11 promises: "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD." For those who may argue, 'Why memorise when I can look it up so easily?' – dire and difficult times are coming when we may not have personal computers, concordances or Bibles handy (see Luke 21:12).

US Senator John McCain spent 5½ years in captivity as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. Conditions included solitary confinement for two years. He wrote in the *U.S. News and World Report* (May 1973): 'It's vital to keep your mind occupied . . . I had read a lot of history. I spent days on end going back over those history books in my mind . . . I thought a lot about the meaning of life . . . People have asked me how we could remember detailed things like the tap code, numbers,

# Suggested Memory Scriptures

The following are Bible passages that you may wish to commit to memory. They can give you confidence and encouragement in the pursuit of your spiritual goals.

Amos 3:7	Proverbs 3:4-5
1 Corinthians 15:50-54	Psalms 23
Deuteronomy 30:19	Revelation 21:1-7
Genesis 1:26-27	Romans 8:7
Hebrews 4:15-16	Romans 8:28
James 1:2-5	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
1 John 5:3	2 Timothy 3:15-16
Joshua 1:9	Zephaniah 2:3
Philippians 4:13	

Another way to learn Scripture, although not necessarily word for word, is to have an overview of what certain chapters contain. For example, many people might be familiar with 1 Corinthians 13, often called the love chapter. Chapter 15 of the same book covers the resurrection of the dead. Hebrews 11 is sometimes called the faith chapter. Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 relate the Ten Commandments.

names, all sorts of things. The fact is, when you don't have anything else to think about, no outside distractions, it's easy.'

## The value of memory passages

Even when we don't have a Bible handy and are singing biblical hymns remembering certain passages can be valuable. Take, 'Mine Eyes Upon the Lord Continually Are Set.' This song is based on Psalm 25 and singing it reminds us to practise keeping our minds on God through knowing His word more precisely.

For youths and adults alike, memorising key verses in the Bible is a reasonable and rewarding challenge because it has so many benefits: stimulating the mind, shaping character, promoting meditation, building confidence in God and preparing us for coming challenges. Give memorising key passages in God's Word a real try. But remember it may take time.

*Adapted from an article by  
Robert Curry,*

*United Church of God member, USA*

*(Continued from page 2)*

## Why the Family Is Important

unlikely to improve. This becomes ever more difficult without a corresponding change in society itself.

Those changes are promised in the Kingdom of God which will rule on earth during Jesus Christ's millennial reign. During this time everyone will be taught about God and His ways and all children will live safe, secure and satisfying lives. (Please see the article about preparing for tomorrow's utopian age beginning on page 5.)

In the meantime, parents can improve the training of their own children, even if time, chance and perhaps unwise choices have left them single. Providing a loving, calm, nurturing environment with consistent rules and structure is essential for producing the 'godly offspring' God wants to see. The parent has a responsibility to provide these blessings, seeking our Creator's help.

*Barbara Fenney*

# Preparing Today for Tomorrow's Utopian Age

*This year the United Church of God observed the autumn Festival of Tabernacles in Stirling, Scotland. Were brethren there acting out a future utopian age in a deeply symbolic sense? Let's understand!*

**W**hy are the annual festivals and Holy Days so important to God? Why would God want us to follow this particular pattern of religious observance? Perhaps mostly because these biblical God's Holy Days and festivals have a much deeper meaning beyond the obviously important fellowshiping of a unified group of Church brethren gathered together in Scotland.

Relatively few people realise that observing these biblical Holy Days is absolutely essential for truly understanding the meaning of life and the reality of the magnificent plan of God for mankind.

Are there times watching the news on TV that make you feel you would like to somehow put right things that society has clearly got wrong? God's word shows you how to prepare for such positive action in a future age. In 2013 one of the major themes of the Stirling festival concerned the future role of God's firstfruits in assisting Jesus Christ to rule the world during His 1,000-year-reign.

## The biblical basis

A Christian should not be keeping any religious festival unless it is clearly mandated in God's word. Leviticus 23:1-2 contains the fundamental basis for observing these God-revealed annual occasions. 'The LORD spoke to Moses saying . . . "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations [com-

manded assemblies] at their appointed times. *These are My feasts*"' (emphasis added throughout). God is their sole owner, and not any man. And He instructs us to observe them every year.

In Leviticus 23 we fast forward through the spring festivals all the way to the biblical instructions concerning the third autumn festival called the Festival of Tabernacles (or Feast of Ingathering). 'The fifteenth day of the seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days *to the LORD*' (verse 34). We emphasise yet again that it is God Himself who seeks our worship during His festivals, so that Church brethren and others who are becoming interested can grow in understanding of His great plan for humankind.

The weekly seventh-day Sabbath commenced immediately after Adam and Eve's creation on the sixth day (Genesis 2:2-3), but God's festivals and Holy Days started when the Old

Testament Church began in the wilderness (Acts 7:38).

Later in the New Testament Jesus Christ is on record as having kept the Festival of Tabernacles (John 7:1-39).

## The Feast of Tabernacles and the firstfruits' future role

Not long after His second coming to this earth, Christ will begin His millennial reign from His magnificently refurbished capital city of Jerusalem (Revelation 20:4-6). The kingdoms of this world will have become the kingdoms of Jesus Christ (Revelation 11:15). Reigning with Christ will be the firstfruits of God that He will resurrect to everlasting life upon His second coming – symbolised by the Feast of Trumpets (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54).

They will rule with Christ as kings and priests (Revelation 5:9-10) – helping Him to convey His righteous values around the world. But back up a few



A choir from many nations sings praises to God at the Feast of Tabernacles.

years just before Christ's arrival on planet earth. It will be a troubled time of severe persecution which will come on the Church. Daniel saw it in vision. 'I was watching: and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days [Jesus Christ] came, 'And a judgment was made in favour of the saints of the Most High, *and the time came for the saints to possess the Kingdom*' (Daniel 7:21-22). Further: 'Then the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High . . .' (verse 27). What a glorious future for the firstfruits of God – those called now during this age of man.

Do we think that God is unable to bring these awesome events to pass? Isaiah clearly tells us: 'For as the rain comes down and the snow from heaven . . . [and] waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please' (Isaiah 55:10-11).

Righteous rulership is coming to a chaotic and confused world gone badly awry. Active participation in Christ's utopian reign is in your future – that is if you already are or wish to become truly converted (see Acts 3:19; 2:38).

### Previewing the saints' role

In vision Jesus gave three of His apostles a brief glimpse of the glorious Kingdom of God. Luke's account tells us that '[there are] some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Kingdom of God' (Luke 9:27).

A little later Jesus took Peter, James and John up to a mountain and 'as He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. And behold two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, *who appeared in glory*' (verses 29-30). These three apostles witnessed both Moses and Elijah appearing in the Kingdom of God in a glorified state.

As this Transfiguration vision drew to a conclusion, Peter was inspired to say to Jesus: '*Let us make three tabernacles: One for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah – not knowing what he said*' (verse 33). The clear implication is inspiration entirely apart from normal human rationale.

In essence the Transfiguration account exemplifies what observing the Feast of Tabernacles is all about. Moses and Elijah bore responsible rulership in their human lives. Both will be rewarded with awesome responsibilities after the future resurrection.

Although the Government of God will be on Christ's shoulders during His 1,000-year-reign (Isaiah 9:6-7), He will not be without lots of assistance. It is interesting to note that the law of God was to be read every seventh year during the Feast of Tabernacles (Deuteronomy 31:9-13). Moses had a big role in writing it all down.

The twelve apostles will be rewarded with rulership in the

### Recommended Reading

For more understanding about the Feast of Tabernacles, please see the Q&A feature on the next page. Much more information is available by downloading or requesting our free booklets *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion*, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*, *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind* and *What Is Your Destiny?*

Kingdom of God as well. Each one will reign over a tribe of Israel (Luke 22:29-30). In fact every member of God's firstfruits will receive a reward suitable to his or her's performance while in the human flesh (Revelation 22:12). Remember that while we are saved by grace (unmerited pardon), we are rewarded according to our works.

### How we will rule

How did Christ rule while on earth and how will He reign in the future

age to come? Notice Isaiah 40:10-11: 'Behold the Lord God shall come with a strong hand and His arm shall rule for Him . . . *He will feed His flock like a shepherd. He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those with young.*' We will follow His perfect example.

But how will we help people who are tempted to sin? Isaiah tells us: 'Yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore. *But your eyes shall see your teachers.* Your ears will hear a word behind you saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn the left' (Isaiah 30:20-21).

The spirit-composed firstfruits of God will be able to visibly manifest themselves to fallible human beings whom they are seeking to help.

### Ensuring your salvation

How can we know that we will be among those resurrected to everlasting spirit life at Christ's coming? How can we be assured that we will be 'sons [and daughters] of the resurrection'? (Luke 20:36).

The apostle Peter gives us a tried-and-tested formula in his second letter. If we increase in love, faith, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness and brotherly kindness, we will be inducted into the Kingdom of God when Christ comes again (2 Peter 1:5-8).

Summing up, Peter wrote: 'Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things [increase in the above qualities] you will never stumble; *for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*' (verses 10-11).

Being one of the firstfruits of God's Family is more than worth every effort on your part. Remember what the apostle Paul wrote to the brethren at Rome: 'For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us' (Romans 8:18).

John Ross Schroeder



peace with God (Isaiah 11:9-10).

The basis for the Messianic rule of Jesus Christ will be God's law. It will likely be read every seventh year during the Feast of Tabernacles (Deuteronomy 31:9-13; compare Isaiah 2:2-3).

The foundation of our relationships both with God and others hinges on the law of God. It tells us how to worship God and to treat one another with love and diplomacy, emphasising both love of God and neighbour (Matthew 22:36). This Feast pictures an era when God's law will cover the earth 'as the waters cover the sea' (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14).

The name of the Feast of Tabernacles derives from God's command to build temporary 'tabernacles,' sometimes called 'booths' to reside in during this festival. The Israelites left their houses and built temporary dwelling places. This reminded them of their release from Egyptian slavery (Leviticus 23:34, 41-43).

In stark contrast to the hardship of slavery (still with us today in many forms), this seven-day festival emphasises rest, peace and prosperity for the whole world. It looks forward to the time of the first resurrection when 'our earthly house of this tabernacle [our human body] will become a glorious spirit body (see 2 Corinthians 5:1-2).

Christ's 1,000-year-reign will be a time when many sons and daughters of

God will be brought to glory (Hebrews 2:10). This festival pictures a time of marvellous opportunity to obtain salvation for those left alive at the beginning of the Millennium as well as for their physical descendants that will follow.

Keeping all of these Feast days is as important as observing God's weekly Sabbath (Leviticus 23:1-4). They are annual Sabbaths.

To understand further, please see the article beginning on page 5 of this issue. Also download or ask for our free booklets *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind*, *Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest* and *What Is Your Destiny?* These publications elaborate on many points that we can only cover here in part.

**Q** What is the Feast of Tabernacles?

SF, West Midlands

**A** During the time of the early New Testament Church just after Pentecost, the apostle Peter urged his audience: 'Repent therefore, and be converted . . . so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ . . . whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His Holy prophets since the world began' (Acts 3:19-21, excerpts, emphasis added). This passage sums up the basic meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles.

This annual autumn festival pictures the wonderful world of tomorrow. It symbolises this restoration process. Its other name, the Feast of Ingathering, celebrates the great harvest of humanity during Christ's millennial reign. All will receive the call of salvation during this time of peace and prosperity. Humanity as a whole will at last be at

**Q** May I have an article to help me pray more meaningfully? I seem to repeat similar things every night.

Mrs A P, Felixstowe

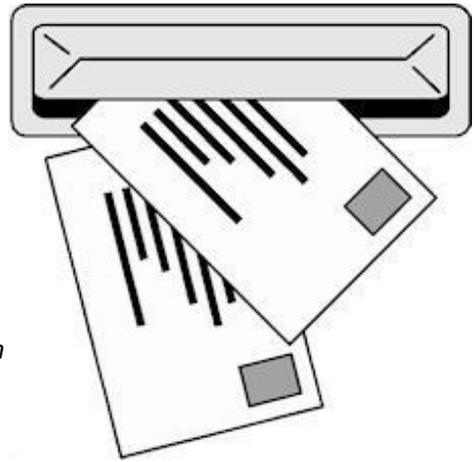
**A** We have posted our free reprint article 'How Should We Pray?' and the booklet *You Can Have Living Faith*. We hope they will help you expand your prayer life.

Some repetition is fine, as the Bible often repeats important points. Yet David prayed regularly (Psalm 5:3; 55:17) and many of his psalms are prayers to God on a wide variety of subjects. Reading them on your knees is a very helpful spiritual experience.

### ***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](http://www.ucg.org.uk/donate.html) through Paypal or Charity Choice.

# Letters from our readers



## **The Good News**

Thank you for your commitment and faithfulness to the gospel work in our generation. I appreciate the clarity and biblically robust nature of your *Good News* articles and video teachings.

*D B, Harrogate*

## **Managing your personal finances**

Thank you for sending the reprint article 'Managing Your Finances in Tough Times: Five Steps You Can Take.' Our church has just been looking at 'wants and needs.' It's a very helpful article and I will be applying some of the suggestions.

*Mrs S R, Isle of Man*

The lack of money brings divorce, disrespect, unhappiness, and boredom in one's life. But people should be taught how to put all our trust in the Lord for our daily supplies.

*M E, Dartford*

I feel that this literature about finances [*Managing Your Finances*] is the only hope that I and my family have to give us directions in our debt troubles. I give thanks to the Lord that you are there.

*E W, Dublin, Ireland*

## **Bible Study Course**

I want to express my heartfelt thanks for providing me with the tools (*Bible Study Course* and booklets), and your tireless efforts in responding to my enquiries about the word of God. This is the best spiritual experience I have ever had and the beginning of my interest and passion to know more about the Bible.

I delight in the knowledge of truth.

*S W, Birmingham*

Please accept my contribution to the work of God.

*Mrs M E C, London*

Thank you for your prompt responses to my requests and the good teaching. I really appreciate all your efforts to get the world to know about Jesus. Thank you for the Bible verses and chapters specified in Lesson 1. I wish to continue with the other lessons.

*P A, Orpington*

I am taking this opportunity to thank God the Father for the life of *The Good News* family. Through the Bible Course I have learned so many things about the Holy Bible. Please check my file and see if I have completed the *Bible Study Course*. If I have missed any lesson, please send it to me ASAP.

*O A, London*

• *Staff members will answer any queries from our readers and students and if necessary, check the database.*

A very interesting Lesson 4. As a new Christian I am finding this course very informative. I stopped for awhile due to commitments of my Open University degree, but am now back on track. I wish to continue studying the course.

*S W, Birmingham*

I have just received my certificate for completing the *Bible Study Course*. I would just like to thank you as I found the course extremely interesting and challenging, as well as good fun. Please find enclosed a gift. Once again, thank you.

*A B, Alfreton, Derby*

• *For many millions, God's Word is unexplored and uncharted territory. Yet the Bible is not only designed to help humans cope in a bewildering world caught up in all types of crises, it also contains the good news of the coming Kingdom of God – showing how our Creator will solve the many problems of a world edging ever closer to catastrophe (See our free booklet Are We Living in the Time of the End?)*

*It is in just such a threatened, confused and crisis-charged age that a many centuries-old organism – the Church – is called upon to do its work. Deeply sensitive to its duties and responsibilities in spreading and teaching the true gospel message (Matthew 24:14; 28:19-20, the United Church of God, an International Association, offers this free twelve-lesson Bible Study Course – filling a most important need in our troubled nation.*

*Why not enrol today? Write to us at PO Box 705, Watford WD19 6FZ, email [info@ucg.org.uk](mailto:info@ucg.org.uk), or telephone 01494 875 003.*

## **Spreading the gospel to the nation**

Thank you for your latest magazine, *The Good News*. It is full of knowledge, wisdom and understanding. It is essential for our guidance in these difficult days. I enclose an offering to help in the work. I thank you for all that you are doing.

*D A C, Leeds*