

# BEYOND TODAY

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## Reciprocating God's love

*The multi-faceted love God has already shown us is often unrecognised, overlooked and, as a result, unreciprocated.*

Our yearning for love creates strong emotions, forging bonds that should last a lifetime. Even animals demonstrate a rudimentary need for affection. Nevertheless, it is only humans who can begin to understand the multiple facets of love. This is because we were created in the image of God, who is love personified. Compared to God, however, our love is shallow, often unstable and akin to a vapour that can disappear. Too often what is mistakenly called 'love' in reality comprises various degrees of greed, lust and a desire to possess rather than a selfless, outgoing concern for others.

### The depth of God's love

God's nature is, was and always will be, love (1 John 4:8). His plan for mankind is based on that love. Humanity, for the most part, has chosen to ignore Him and follow their own way, even blaming Him for the disasters that inevitably result from this. Our Heavenly Father has already shown His deep affection for the physical creation and especially for mankind, "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).

Jesus Christ fully understood and expressed this love. He knew from the foundation of the world that He would have to die for sinful mankind (1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8). Described as the Father's agent of creation in Hebrews 1:2, He would have seen all the evil committed over the millennia before He came to earth in human form.

Although He had created all things that were created, Jesus willingly relinquished His glory and emptied Himself of His power to take on human form (John 1:1-3, 14). In that humble state, He permitted Himself to be sacrificed to cover the penalty for the sins of mankind (Philippians 2:5-8).

The Father truly gave His only begotten Son, yet the Son also loved the world's people enough to be willing to take all their sins on Himself and to die in their place.

A young lawyer once approached Him asking about the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:36). Christ's answer is worthy of careful consideration, since He maintained this to be the most important principle in the Bible. "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

### How can we ask for God's love if we never reciprocate or demonstrate any love for Him?

neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (verses 37-40).

### Demonstrating love for God

People may spend time in prayer asking for God to forgive them, to have mercy upon them, and to show them His love. But how can we ask this of God if we do not appreciate the love He has already shown us and never reciprocate or demonstrate any love for Him? As the proverb says, do unto others as you would have it done unto you. The same principle is found in Matthew 7:12.

To love God, we first must understand His "love language." The Almighty has not left us in ignorance in this regard. We can learn His way of love by studying the law of love, the Ten Commandments, which are found in the twentieth chapter of Exodus. The first four commandments explain how we should show love to God, by keeping Him at



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through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another . . . If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us” (1 John 4:7-12).

### Keeping God’s commandments expresses our love for Him

Towards the end of his letter, John tied it all together, explaining that obeying God’s commandments is putting into practice the love of God. “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3). Instead of being an encumbrance, the commandments of God light the path to godly love and liberty.

Observing God’s laws and striving, with His help, to keep Him first in our lives and in our minds demonstrates our love and respect for Him.

the centre of our lives (verses 1-11). This was the first principle Christ explained to the lawyer, as mentioned earlier.

The remaining six commandments present us with keys to promoting loving relationships with those made in God’s image – that is, everyone on earth with whom we might interact. This is the principle of loving one’s neighbour as oneself.

The apostle John compared the love of God to the love we should have for each other: “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” John continued, “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live

Beyond that, it displays our care and concern for those created in His image – our brothers and sisters in Christ and in the world at large. Conversely, deliberately continuing to sin – to break His commandments – reveals an attitude of disrespect and a lack of appreciation of Christ’s sacrifice.

God deeply desires to show us His love, which is awesome and, for the time being, largely incomprehensible to us while in this mortal form. But the time will come when those who strive to be faithful and love God in proportion to the love He has shown us will be born into His spiritual family. Life in eternity will deepen that loving relationship with the Father, His firstborn Son and all His redeemed sons and daughters.

*Stuart Hull*

## Law and Liberty

God does not give us the liberty to behave as we please. Though the Bible portrays God’s law as a law of liberty, it plainly defines liberty as freedom from sin and its devastating consequences – not freedom to fulfill our selfish desires.

Our sins inflict horrible penalties on us and others. Paul quoted the prophet Isaiah in writing, “Destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known” (Romans 3:16-17). He compared the effects of sin to slavery – the opposite of liberty: “When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!” (Romans 6:20-21, New International Version).

Sin, the transgression of God’s law, not only enslaves us but, if continued, makes it impossible for us to receive eternal life (see Matthew 19:17). That is why James tells us, “So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty” (James 2:12).

God’s commandments set the fundamental standard by which He will judge us. Only when we repent and cease to transgress God’s law can we be liberated from sin’s consequences through the atoning sacrifice of Christ, which alone can cleanse us from our sins (Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:7).

The apostle Paul explains that this true freedom from the bondage of sin is available only to those who sincerely obey God’s instruction: “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine [teaching] to which you were delivered” (Romans 6:17).

The Ten Commandments are the backbone of all the inspired words of God. Paul tells us, “Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing; but obeying the commandments of God is everything” (1 Corinthians 7:19, New Revised Standard Version).

To study this subject further, please request or download our booklet *The Ten Commandments*.

# Deeds that demonstrate love and concern for others

*Both Old and New Testaments instruct us to love others as ourselves. How can we do this in our day-to-day lives?*

Jesus Christ summed up the last six of the Ten Commandments as “You shall love your neighbour as yourself” (Mark 12:31, quoting from Leviticus 19:18). In a parable He identified a “neighbour” as anyone with whom we come into contact (Luke 10:29-37).

In the original Hebrew of Leviticus 19:18, “ahab” means “to love, to act as a friend.” The original Greek word for “love” found in Mark is “agapaō.” It means “to feel and exhibit esteem and goodwill to another” (Online Bible, Strong’s notes).

Both words indicate an active, outgoing concern for others, rather than a passive, sentimental feeling.

Beyond the basic instructions given within the Ten Commandments are various ways in which we might show practical love to “our neighbour.” The apostle Peter explained, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10, New International Version).

His contemporary the apostle Paul wrote “for he who loves another has fulfilled the law” (Romans 13:8). James, the Lord’s brother, explained that, “If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do



**Sometimes all a person craves is a little bit of time and company.**

not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?” (James 2:15-16). Clearly, it is a requirement to actively love others, not just a suggestion.

In its broadest sense serving can be addressing a need. What is missing in another’s life may not be obvious. Awareness enables us to identify what another human being lacks, so we can offer help.

Sometimes, all a person craves is a little bit of time and company. Many people cannot get out of the house much, or at all. They are not able to jump into the car and visit friends, or travel to the shops. Sparing an hour to visit people like this could be a real boost to them.

Whatever you decide to do to help others, be careful to maintain propriety, and your own safety and reputation. Never force help onto a potential recipient, as this could lead to embarrassment or upset. Seek to understand needs and make it known if you are able to assist in any way.

Do not be afraid to do something that is simple or unglamorous. All tasks need to be done by someone, so why not take this as an opportunity to help in a simple yet effective manner? But do ensure it is a task you can do adequately. Few appreciate help that makes a situation worse.

We are given the remit by God to love and care for one another. Why not start looking for opportunities to serve someone today?

*David Elliott*

## Some practical ways to express love

- Helping somebody to move house.
- Providing a sympathetic ear to a bereaved person or someone coping with a major difficulty.
- Inviting an elderly neighbour to your home for a meal.
- Meeting a lonely person for coffee or a snack.
- Offering to take a non-car-owner for an outing.
- Helping someone with heavy shopping bags.
- Offering help to a struggling work colleague.
- Including an individual, who may be too shy to join a conversation uninvited.
- Sending regular cards or letters to those who are elderly or sick, or are too far away to visit, even when they are not always well enough to respond.

# Mining the Bible's literary gems

*Writers and composers have long mined the Scriptures for ideas they could adapt for their writing or for poetic forms that could be set to music. Partly because of this, many biblical terms have made their way into contemporary English. But sadly, few are used as a basic code for living.*

England's greatest playwright bequeathed the English language a vast literary legacy. April 23 this year marks 400 years since William Shakespeare's death. Sayings ascribed to him include "winter of our discontent," "where eagles dare" and "casting off this mortal coil" – a mere handful of the dozens still in use today. Shakespeare not only wrote plays; his sonnets have also contributed to the wealth of English expressions. Among them are, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" and "the darling buds of May" from Sonnet 18.



William Shakespeare  
(Shutterstock)

## Borrowed from Scripture

The bard, it seems, drew heavily on the Bible for his ideas and symbolism, and to inspire his choice of expressions. William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament into English was extant in Shakespeare's day, as was the Geneva Bible, which some scholars suggest was Shakespeare's preferred version.

Scholars estimate that

the playwright's works contain more than a thousand biblical allusions and references, some obvious, some less so. Among the expressions, ideas and symbolism inspired by Scripture and utilised by Shakespeare we find:

Symbolically washing blood from one's hands, performed by Pontius Pilate in Matthew 27:24, and replicated by Lady Macbeth in Act 2, Scene 2 of *Macbeth*. This expression, "to wash one's hands of . . ." is still used today to try to distance oneself from a perceived evil action.

The dangers of complacency before disasters strike are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 10:12 and 1 Thessalonians 5:3. Also from *Macbeth* (Act 3, Scene 5), Hecate states: "And you all know security is mortals' chiefest enemy."

King David's descriptions of the best state of man in Psalm 8 and Psalm 139:14 seem mirrored by the Prince of Denmark's speech, 'What a piece of work is man,' in

*Hamlet*, Act 2, Scene 2.

An internet search will reveal many more examples. Shakespeare clearly knew his Bible very well and appreciated its ideas and expressions. However, he was not alone in his indebtedness to and knowledge of the Bible. Over the centuries, many musicians have composed beautiful music for the equally beautiful words of the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord Is My Shepherd." Other psalms became the great biblically based hymns of the past. Mendelssohn constructed his great oratorio around the exploits of the prophet Elijah, and Handel built another on the life of the Messiah. The words of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, ascribed to King Solomon, were adapted into a song entitled "Turn, Turn, Turn" by Pete Seeger in the 1950s. A cover version reached the popular music charts in the mid-sixties. Sections of other scriptures have been utilised in various musical formats.

## Other biblical gems

The Bible contains many other literary gems. When we go back some 2500 years in historic writings, the Holy Land provides the origin of some of the most superb literary expressions that have been enshrined in the literature, music and theology of many nations around the world. A few masterpieces from the prophet Isaiah contain deep spiritual

## Proverbs and parables

References from scriptural narratives, proverbs and parables which have passed into everyday English include:

*Good Samaritan* – someone willing to help those perceived as less important, or even as enemies (Luke 10:25-37).

*Prodigal son* – someone who leaves home to lead a profligate life, then returns (Luke 15:11-24).

*Job's Comforter* – a friend who indicts, rather than consoles (Job 16:1-2).

*Doubting Thomas* – someone who will not believe until he has actually seen the evidence, a sceptic (John 20:24-29).

*Forbidden fruit* – something that should not be partaken of (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:2-3).

Wet weather often elicits comments about Noah's ark or the Flood. "Armageddon" and "Apocalypse" (the Greek title for the book of Revelation) are used to describe potential doomsday scenarios. "Eden" and "paradise" evoke images of peace and rural beauty.

In addition there are numerous more mundane phrases with roots in the Bible, such as:

*The leopard cannot change his spots*

*Pride goes before a fall*

*Money is the [a] root of all evil*

*A fly in the ointment*

*The skin of my teeth*

*No peace for the wicked*

*My brother's keeper*

*Words of the wise*

significance, and are typical of similar expressions found in other parts of the Bible.

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined” (Isaiah 9:2), reflects the disintegrating fabric of a society without hope and which has lost touch with God, but will in the end see and comprehend the true light in Jesus Christ.

## We probably allude to the Bible every day of our lives.

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given” (Isaiah 9:6), is a message of hope of a future Deliverer appearing in the Holy Land to atone for the sins of all humanity, so beautifully put to music in Handel’s *Messiah*.

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow” (Isaiah 1:18), shows God’s attribute of mercy and love for His creation once we genuinely repent of our sins.

“Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city” (Isaiah 52:1), was the prophet’s firm hope, and God’s firm assurance, of a time when strife and conflict in the Holy Land would be replaced with peace.

“Oh, that You may rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at your presence” (Isaiah 64:1), is Isaiah’s plea to God, wishing above all else to see the prophecies of God’s intervention in human affairs come about during his lifetime.

In Richard G. Starr’s book *A History of the Ancient World*, page 152, the author makes this comment: “In the general

history of the ancient Middle East the people whom we call successively Hebrews . . . , Israelites . . . , and then from 500 [BC] Jews were an utterly insignificant group politically or artistically. Only in the field of religion and in the great literary monument which resulted thereof, the Old Testament, did they excel.”

See for yourself the beauty and the value in reading, studying and applying the wisdom found in “this great literary monument” – the Bible, the very Word of God.

## Applying these gems in our lives

Numerous expressions in the English language are attributed to Shakespeare. Scripture contributed many others – so many in fact that, unwittingly, we probably allude to the Bible every day of our lives.

Jesus Christ, paraphrasing Deuteronomy 8:3, stated, “Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

Although we draw on so much of the Bible in our modern day-to-day language, the significance of many of the original accounts has been forgotten. It is worth investigating where and how these phrases, ideas and references fit in Scripture. More importantly we should be considering how to incorporate their teaching into our lives, so we truly do live by every word of God.

The words and phrases discussed represent just part of a whole that has deep spiritual meaning, reveals the path to eternal life and explains how to develop a deep, loving relationship with our Creator.

This makes the Bible a book worth reading and worth living.

*Gerhard Marx and Barbara Fenney*

## How to read and study the Bible

The Bible is a big book. Beginner students may wonder where to begin, feel overwhelmed and discouraged, and perhaps give up altogether. What is important is to start with an interesting format and then continue with it.

Many books and articles offer helpful suggestions for Bible study formats, but you need not feel obligated to take a certain approach, follow a rigid structure, or stick with one approach when you would rather switch to a different one.

One method is to read the Bible all the way through in order to get an overview. It is good to do that eventually, but it is not necessary to start that way.

Another popular approach is to study all the scriptures on any one topic or a particular character. A topical index or concordance is useful for this method.

Trustworthy commentaries can explain Biblical customs. Such sources should be compared for accuracy against the Bible itself to ensure they properly represent its teachings (see Acts 17:11). Most of your study should be reading the Bible itself to become thoroughly familiar with the content and context of the Scriptures.

If you have difficulty reading, the Bible and many books are now available as audio recordings.

Don’t start out with preconceived doctrinal ideas, trying to find verses that appear to provide support and justification for those beliefs. Read the Bible with an open mind and see for yourself what it says. Have the attitude of Jesus Christ who said, “Not My will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42).

Above all, seek to know the mind of God and His plan for your life. Apply what you learn in your life. Be a doer of the Word and use the Bible as a spiritual mirror to see how you need to change (see James 1:22-25).

Our booklet *How to Understand the Bible* can get you started. We also offer an eye-opening 12-lesson *Bible Study Course* that gives a new student a very good foundation of understanding. These are yours free for the asking, or download from [www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/how-to-understand-the-bible](http://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/how-to-understand-the-bible) and [www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/bible-study-course](http://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/bible-study-course).

Read the Bible. Study the Bible. Live the Bible.

# Taming the tongue, fettering the fingers

*Interpersonal skills are waning, but whether we converse using the spoken word or the more impersonal texts or emails, our communications should be uplifting and carefully crafted to avoid them being hurtful or misconstrued.*

**H**uman beings are social creatures. When God created Adam, He said it was not good for him to be alone, so He gave Adam a suitable companion. Whenever two or more people get together, interpersonal relationships are developed. Sometimes these relationships are beneficial to those involved, but often today we see them become very destructive and hurtful!

## Technology versus face-to-face communication

Technological advances, so useful in the modern world, are causing interpersonal skills to diminish. It is rarer now for people to speak directly to each other, preferring instead to avail themselves of the greater accessibility of messaging



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or email on their phones, tablets, smart watches or Google glasses.

Children as young as two are being given phones or tablets, ostensibly to keep them quiet. As a consequence they may not learn interpersonal skills vital for later life.

A study conducted in 1971 by Albert Mehrabian concluded that when we communicate, only seven per cent of our message is con-

veyed by the words used, whereas 55 per cent is understood by a speaker's body language, and 38 per cent is understood by the tone and "music" of the voice – the intonation.

It is hardly surprising that so much conflict exists in our society today when we are missing 93 per cent of the messages passed between people. These incomplete communications spawn misunderstandings and generate greater conflict in a society that has rejected God, holds grudges and does not want to forgive.

## Unconsidered responses

Too often remarks are posted on social media that should never have been thought, never mind verbalised. Contributors comment on threads that they know nothing about

or type the first thing that comes into their heads. Do we indulge in mindless gossip that hurts others, or do we walk away from it as God instructs us to do as in Psalm 15:2-3?

The book of Proverbs is full of wisdom on this subject of communication. Take for example:

"The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing" (Proverbs 12:18, New International Version).

"Words can bring death or life! Talk too much, and you will eat everything you say" (Proverbs 18:21, Contemporary English Version).

"If you keep your mouth shut, you will stay out of trouble" (Proverbs 21:23, New Living Translation).

When we converse with others do we hurt or do we heal? Do we verbalise snide remarks and articulate put downs to make ourselves feel superior.

There is a saying: "Hurt people, hurt people!" Is that us? Do we hurt others because we have been hurt? Do we want to get back at those who hurt us, or do we forgive and move on?

## Wiser ways with words

God blesses us with His love, and we should pass that love on to others. Before we open our mouths and say anything, before our fingers type a single word, pause and ask: "Where is the love in my statement?" If we can see it – great, write or say it, but if it's not there let's just keep quiet.

Christ's half-brother James wrote, "If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body" (James 3:2). He continued, "The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body . . . For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so" (verses 6-10).

Today the same comment could also apply to fingers or thumbs used for typing or texting.

Our tongues were intended to speak kind words, even when used for correction or instruction. The same principle applies to all our interactions, whether verbal or "thumbed" or "fingered." We should not be insulting, belittling or hurting others with our interactions.

Applying God's wisdom to our style of communication will make us the brilliant lights our Father wants us to be!

*Barry Lavers*

*Beyond Today*



**Q** Why did God put the tree of good and evil into the garden, knowing that Adam and Eve would eat of the fruit?

*Reader from West Bromwich*

**A** The short answer is that God was testing our first human parents to see whether they would obey their Creator or not. God gave man free choice, to do right and to do wrong, although God tells us to follow the ways of righteousness (Deuteronomy 30:15-20). It's a question of character development. Character is developed by conquering evil with God's help. God's character attributes were perfectly exhibited by Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-3).

**Q** Are we in the Great Tribulation now?

*Reader from West Bromwich*

**A** Although there have been many terrible tribulations in the past, notably against the Jewish people during WWII, the biblical tribulation is yet to come. Jesus prophesied a time of "great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21). There can only ever be one time described in this way. This period of time will be followed by the Day of the Lord (verses 29-30). It is Satan who intro-

duces the Great Tribulation and Jesus Christ who introduces the Day of the Lord. These culminate in the gathering of armies at Armageddon and the final battle at Jerusalem.

**Q** Who causes earthquakes?

*Reader from London*

**A** The Bible doesn't say one way or the other. Geologists tell us that the earth is in constant movement, and this can produce earthquakes. Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24:7 that there would be more frequent and more intense earthquakes just prior to His return.

It is also interesting to note that the Greek word "seismos," translated earthquake, can also be used for tempests, as in Matthew 8:24.

**Q** Some have told me they have experienced personal visions from God. Do these really happen today?

*Reader from London*

**A** God can reveal things through dreams and visions at any time if He wishes. However, we need to ask why God would use this means today, since His will for us is already revealed in His Word, the Holy Scriptures. God used this method in past times because the Bible was not then a complete book of His revelations to mankind, for example at the time of Abraham, Joseph and the prophets.

Often those who claim to have seen visions just assume that what they have seen came from God. If God indeed were to speak to one of his servants in a vision or meaningful dream, He would make certain that the recipient would be in no doubt that it came from God, and it would have a clear and biblically compatible purpose.

**Q** What happened to Jesus when He was seen going up in the clouds? (Acts 1:9).

*Reader from West Bromwich*

**A** Jesus was returning to the Father's throne in the third heaven. At His resurrection Christ's divinity was restored. Then for the next 40 days He appeared visibly to the disciples and others, before ascending to Heaven again. There He intercedes for the truly repentant and helps those who strive to follow the way of life He exemplified. Our Saviour will remain in Heaven until His return to earth in glory (Acts 1:11-12, Zechariah 14:1, 3-9).

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have an opportunity to be changed into spirit at the resurrection of the just (at Christ's return). Mortal man must "put on immortality" in order to live forever. Man's present status and the change that will take place is described in 1 Corinthians 15. Readers may wish to study that whole chapter.

## Let the Bible Answer...

*What does the Bible teach about ambition?*

For encouraging the right ambitions, see 1 Kings 3:5-12; Mark 9:33-37; 10:35-45; Philippians 2:1-8.

For warnings about having the wrong ambitions, see Numbers 16:1-33 and the book of Esther.



## Letters From Our Readers

### Literature requests

I received *The Good News* magazine. It was a wonderful magazine, which was worth reading not only to learn about God but also His prophecies which explain current world affairs.

I am moving to the United Kingdom and wish to continue to receive the magazine with its new name *Beyond Today*. Please send to my new address.

*Reader now residing in London*

*Editor's comment: Thank you for your kind remarks. We have put you onto our British Isles subscriber list.*

I am requesting five booklets. These might provide me with answers to questions I have been wondering about for some time. I am enjoying your *Beyond Today* magazine.

Could you recommend a good Bible?  
*Reader from Tyneside*

*Editor's comment: We are pleased you are enjoying Beyond Today magazine and hope you find the answers to your questions in the booklets. If not, please let us know and we shall endeavour to provide the answers.*

*With regard to a Bible, the New King James Version is a fairly accurate word-for-word translation, which retains much of the beautiful language of the original King James (or Authorised) Version.*

*For information on other translations,*

*including thought-for-thought and paraphrased versions, we have sent you our free reprint articles "Which Bible Translation Should I Use?" and "Has the Bible Been Preserved Accurately?"*

### Beyond Today TV programme

Last December your *Beyond Today* television programme commented on 25 December not being the day Christ was born, even though that is what many Christians believe.

At the end of the programme the presenter mentioned two booklets which will help me understand this. Please send me *Jesus Christ: The Real Story* and *Holidays or Holy Days*.

*Viewer from West Midlands*

### Bible-based teachings

All booklets received so far have been Bible-based, which makes a pleasant change when there is so much false teaching around.

*Reader from Glasgow*

I have in recent months received your *Good News/Beyond Today* [magazines] and I can't express how grateful I am. Absolutely excellent and so easy to understand. On every count you give the truth. Please keep sending it.

*Reader from Belfast*

Although I am not a member of your Church I find so much of your teaching to be true. Your magazine is always

fascinating and thought-provoking.

*Reader from Glasgow*

Thank you for your magazines. They help me to understand some issues I found difficult in the past. I am looking forward to reading your article the "Implications of the Cross of Christ" [Supplement January/February 2016].

*Reader from Birmingham*

### Holy Day calendars

I look forward to reading *Beyond Today*. Thank you so much for your literature. May I have a Holy Day calendar please?

*Reader from Devon*

Thank you for *Beyond Today* magazine. The articles are amazing and an eye-opener to what is happening around us. Please send me a Holy Day calendar for 2016.

*Reader from Dundalk, Ireland*

*Editor's comment: We have posted pocket Holy Day calendars to you. Readers may also like to know that a Holy Day calendar can be found in the centre pages of our booklet God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind.*

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

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