

The Promise of Marriage *Hope for Our Future*

Successful marriages can positively influence society right now – and point forward to an awesome future beyond our wildest dreams.

The radiant bride moved down the aisle towards me with her proud father. The smartly dressed groom stepped forward to meet his wife-to-be. Then my part in the marriage ceremony began.

As a pastor, it pleases me greatly to see a man and woman in love pledge to each other their lifelong loyalty. But somehow marriage is now perceived by many as a burden.

Marriage's declining popularity

Here in Britain, many young people see no need to marry, especially those who have barely survived the warfare between their parents. The current trend is for couples to live together in casual partnerships.

In 2007 the number of official marriages in England and Wales (231,450) was the lowest since 1895 – less than half of the 480,300 recorded in 1972. Also – beginning in 1992 – more couples who do marry now formalise their union with civil rather than religious ceremonies. By 2007 civil unions topped 65 per cent of all marriages in England and Wales.

As a whole, the British people no longer have a strong belief in eternal

values. Statistics show that half of all marriages end within a few years. 'Til divorce do us part' is a more likely end to the marital bond than death.

Divorce is especially hard on children. In 2006 the 132,000 couples who divorced in this nation affected more than 90,000 children under one year old.



Gary and Marian's wedding day



Photos: David King, Roger Waite

The cost of leaving God out of marriage

Strong family bonds stabilise society and prepare the next generation for lead-

ership. Children who grow to maturity in that type of loving environment are much more likely to be stable and feel secure.

But that degree of fidelity and commitment is rapidly diminishing. Much of today's society has grown frighteningly unstable in regard to solid and lasting

relationships. This disturbing trend is greatly affecting marriages and married couples' commitment to maintain enduring, stable families.

The apostle Paul predicted this breakdown of society in our modern world. 'People will be lovers of themselves . . . disobedient to their parents . . . without love, unfor-giving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good' (2 Timothy 3:2-5, NIV, excerpts).

But marriage was intended to be a wonderful blessing to humanity. It was our Creator who instituted marriage, saying: 'It is not good [sufficient, satisfactory] that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper meet [suitable, adapted, complementary] for him' (Genesis 2:18, The Amplified Bible).

However, the partnership that God desires for husbands and wives requires a firm commitment to each other, based on His Word.

The eternal quality marriages should exhibit

Marriage was created to be both enjoyable and lasting. But modern society has lost sight of the divine purpose for this important relationship.

When marriage was given to mankind God had an eternal future in mind for the human race. The apostle Peter tells husbands and wives that they should regard each other as ‘heirs together of the grace of life, that [their] prayers may not be hindered’ (1 Peter 3:7). And Paul urged all husbands to ‘love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church’ (Ephesians 5:25), and wives are instructed to ‘respect their husbands’ (verse 33).

Also, through their children, parents are privileged to share our Heavenly

Father’s experience of personally guiding others to maturity by their teaching and example. Just as we share His likeness (Genesis 1:26), our children can share our likeness – both physically and in the attitudes and character they develop.

The joyous marriage supper

When Jesus Christ returns to this earth, one of the first events will be His marriage to the Church of God.

“‘Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints’ (Revelation 19:7-8).

This relationship of bride and bridegroom will be vital to the salvation of mankind. We find that Christ and the glorified Church lead mankind to eternal life. ‘And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears

say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely’ (Revelation 22:17).

Humanity will enjoy marriage and the blessing of having children during Christ’s 1000-year reign (Revelation 20:4-6). But now, marriage, and the hope that it holds for a happy family should be guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ – just as He taught some 2000 years ago (see Mark 10:1-12). Then during His millennial rule He will help mankind as a whole to understand the responsibilities and wonderful blessing of marriage.

But you don’t have to wait until that time to know and apply the Father’s teaching.

To better understand God’s marvelous gift of marriage, we suggest that you download, read online or request in print our helpful and informative free booklet: *Marriage & Family: The Missing Dimension*.

Peter Hawkins

A Foretaste of the Family of God

The desire for a happy, lasting marriage blessed with children who grow up to be successful, morally responsible adults is ideally the universal dream. We come by this dream quite naturally. As part of God’s creation, we are reflecting the very plan God Himself is fulfilling as He builds His own family.

After Jesus Christ came to earth and lived as God in the flesh, one of His followers, John, wrote a book to prove to his contemporaries and humanity today that Jesus was indeed God.

John says of Jesus: ‘He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name*’ (John 1:10-12, emphasis added throughout).

The phrase ‘children of God’ tells us that God is creating His own family. Additional passages reveal this same astounding truth. In Hebrews 2:10 we find that Jesus was and continues to be involved in God’s plan and purpose of ‘bringing many sons to glory’.

Paul, another first-century writer of the New Testament, noted that human beings are indeed ‘the offspring of God’ (Acts 17:28-29). He also wrote of ‘the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named’ (Ephesians 3:14-15).

God created us to become part of His family

Paul also encouraged God’s people at Corinth with His specific promise: ‘Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and

daughters, says the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).

Just as human families have children born to them who are part of their families, God created Adam and Eve and their progeny – all of us – to become part of His family. Physical families are thus a type of God’s own spiritual family.

Continuing this theme, Revelation 21:7 adds: ‘He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.’ These scriptures and others tell us that God’s plan from the beginning was to first create people as temporary flesh and blood to learn eternal values. He gives us the opportunity to live forever as spirit beings in His eternal family. If we will respond to God in love and obedience, God offers us this great promise.

To understand much more, ask for our free booklet *What Is Your Destiny?*

United Youth Camp:

Fun, Friendship and Growth

Teenagers at UYC camp time together in discussion and character-building activities.

The Summer Camp of the United Church of God in the British Isles took place between 24 July and 2 August, 2009 in the Derbyshire Peak District. There were 29 campers from 6 different countries and around 14 adult and young-adult staff members in attendance, plus visitors, particularly on the two Sabbath days. Campers enjoyed various physical activities, such as swimming, climbing, traversing, 'weaselling' (crawling under, over and between rocks) and hiking, plus craft activities, cookery, visits to local places of interest, and sports and games.

Probably the most physically challenging activity for many was the Tyrolean Traverse, which was designed to be demanding but not overtly dangerous. This procedure involved launching oneself from the top of a small valley, attached to a rope, and hauling oneself to the other side. Then there was the choice of completing the return journey in the same manner, or calling to fellow campers for a pull back.

With shouts of encouragement, most of the youngsters made it across and a couple made it all the way back again. One or two aimed for halfway across as being their best effort.

Purpose of the camp

There are a number of purposes for a Church-organised activity for teenagers and younger children under the supervision of adults. The young people will see it as an opportunity for fun with their friends while away from

their parents. And friendships built at camp can often last a lifetime. The adult staff members will perhaps see it more in terms of planning, preparation, organisation and risk assessments.

A major purpose is getting to know more about God, each other and oneself. This can lead to building or enhancing trust in God, and the right kind of confidence in self and others (Philippians 2:3). It is also an opportunity for the campers to see that God's way of life is one of fun and enjoyment within the rules He has laid down. One recurring theme was the almost infinite variety of applications of the Golden Rule: 'Do to others what you would have them do to

spreading into the wider community.

Looking for spiritual answers

Besides offering an opportunity for activities and companionship, the camp also enabled the group to discuss biblical matters of interest to them in a daily forum. It is often surprising what information young people have retained, but also what they have missed or misunderstood about Scripture and doctrinal issues. Camp staff quickly learned it is not a good idea to assume that they have the same knowledge as adults.

Mandy, a dorm leader, commented: 'Campers had the opportunity to come up with their own questions to pose to a circle forum for discussion. This

approach increased participation because the content matched their level of knowledge and understanding, proving more



The first Sabbath – before German group arrives; 'Made it!' David from Germany weaseling.

you" (Matthew 7:12 NIV).

The campers saw sobering implications of the Golden Rule in action in the history of Eyam, a small village in the vicinity which in the 17th century was accidentally infected by bubonic plague. The young people learned how the villagers had voluntarily quarantined themselves to prevent the plague



meaningful to them. Children and young people could relate to topics and bring their personal experiences to share with others. Questions or subjects tackled were surprisingly deep, often challenging, and definitely thought provoking.’

Forums addressed answers to questions such as: ‘Is the devil red?’; ‘Is science a religion?’; ‘What is the trinity and why do we not accept the traditional view of it?’; ‘Is God the Father the same person as Jesus Christ?’ and ‘How can God hear



Left to right: Dorm leaders Hannah, Sarah, and Mandy; young camper tries traversing; final dinner at camp.

manage the day-to-day running of the camp.’

Developing together as a team

It was rewarding to see the young people developing and learning as they acquired new skills, forged new friendships and challenged themselves physically and spiritually over the nine days.

Young Benjamin scales the rocks; Ellise and Sophia practice for Sabbath hymns.



However, camp proved a learning experience for everyone present, including the adults. They had to learn to accommodate views different from their own and to work as a united team. In addition, each person learned patience while working with the teens.

Most gratifying was seeing the adults who had been campers from previous years beginning to take over the

reins, so that they can run the event in the future, and in their turn teach the next generation. Hannah, who was the dorm leader for the older girls, remarked, ‘I found it a very rewarding week. By the last weekend, the atmosphere was very international.’

Mandy’s final comment was, ‘On

reflection, I appreciate that Summer Camp 2009 was a real team effort and everyone had a part to play in making it a success!’

With that, preparations begin for next year’s camp. Evaluations of this year’s events are invaluable – what went well, what went less well, what can be changed or added to. Another location, but hopefully much the same group of people growing closer to each other and closer to God our Father and to our Lord Jesus Christ.

David and Barbara Fenney

everyone’s prayers all at once?’ One surprise to the adult leaders was that some of the young people seemed unaware that they could pray to God at any time of need and did not always have to go and formally kneel down somewhere to pray.

That they could discuss such topics and put forward their own ideas and experiences of Christian living seemed helpful to them. The Bible refers to this process as ‘iron sharpening iron’ (Proverbs 27:17).

Personal character development

As adult leaders, we are always looking for potential staff to assume the running of this event when we can no longer keep up with the campers. This year’s arrangement gave the dorm leaders a taste of what is involved in the organisation of camp, so it was not just the teenagers who felt they had learned something from their experiences.

Mandy mentioned: ‘This was my first year as a member of staff. My last memory of camp was as a young camper in sunny South Africa. I really enjoyed the

Our Responsibility in Health and Healing

We have all experienced health issues in our lives – as have many we know and love. But what is our role in the healing process?

Here is just a small sample of the prayer requests we may receive in the Church on a monthly, weekly, or even daily basis in some instances.

- ‘Thank you for your prayers for 19-year-old Sarah. Since being struck by a car, she has been through three surgeries. The healing process is going well, and Sarah thanks you very much for your prayers. It is always very encouraging to see God’s intervention.’
- ‘Your prayers are requested for Elsie. After some testing, Elsie was informed that she has cancer. Elsie is 80 years of age and has asked for prayers on her behalf that God’s will in her life be done.’
- ‘Prayers are requested for Betty. After much medical testing, Betty’s doctor recently informed her that she has Alzheimer’s. Please pray that God’s will be done in this situation.’

Perhaps you are ill, recovering from surgery, having tests performed to find out what is wrong, or dealing with chronic pain and discomforts. Some ailments may seem small, such as tinnitus or some other annoyance; others may be more severe, with chronic pain or life-threatening disease. Cancer treatment recovery, and even the pain of a severe sprain can go on for a long time. Enduring physical ailments seems the norm in the 21st century. Everyone wants to be healed. Everyone wants his or her pain removed. Everyone wants to be restored to his or her once-vibrant young body.

Our responsibilities

Do we know what our responsibilities are in the healing process? There are things we need to do. What expectations should we have of ourselves and God when it comes to divine healing?

We must first recognise that when we are sick we need help – we cannot do it alone. We too often try to push through the pain alone, but healing comes through God. We need His help. With chronic or severe illness, we need God more than ever! God is the source of our healing. He created our bodies and knows how they work.

*Thanks to Christ’s sacrifice,
we can have access to
the ultimate healing, a relationship
with our Heavenly Father.*

Doctors can be of enormous help, but they do not claim to heal and they also admit that they don’t fully know what all the parts of our bodies do. But our Creator does. While it is appropriate to seek medical help, we need to understand that physicians are only helpers – not healers in the ultimate sense.

King David records an insightful concept regarding God as our ultimate healer. ‘Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases’ (Psalm 103:1-3).

God not only has the power to heal us physically; more importantly, He can

forgive our spiritual shortfalls – our transgressions of His law (1 John 3:4). Thanks to Christ’s sacrifice, we can have access to this ultimate healing through a relationship with our heavenly Father.

After you recognise that you need help, then what?

It’s humbling to realise we need help, but once we recognise and acknowledge the need for God to be foremost in our life, we should call upon the elders of the Church for anointing when we become ill or are injured. That is the scriptural instruction. James asks:

‘Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord’ (James 5:14). He further instructs the elders to

use oil when anointing the sick, as a symbol of God’s Holy Spirit, the means by which Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20). Asking to be anointed is a demonstration of our faith in God.

But what if it is geographically impractical for an elder to personally anoint you? What if a minister who believes in divine healing is unavailable anywhere near you? The answer is that God has provided a way by which you may be divinely healed.

Luke gives us the biblical example in his history of the early Church. ‘Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body, and the diseases left them and

the evil spirits went out of them” (Acts 19:11-12).

After personal prayer for the afflicted individual, an elder will anoint a small cloth with a drop of oil and then post it to that person. The cloth itself has no power to heal, but God does. After receiving the anointed cloth and placing it on the forehead (or if preferred the afflicted part of the body), the cloth should be disposed of. It is only a symbol of God’s healing power.

Healing occurs in God’s time

• ‘Mr. Smalley died the morning of November 1. He rallied a bit on Friday, and it appeared that he might survive this recent heart attack. But instead he got much worse, and God has given him rest from his many physical ailments. Mr. Smalley had stated that his health issues for the past several years helped him to focus on the Kingdom of God.’

It is important to remember that divine healing will occur in God’s time. If He chooses not to heal us in this life, then we will be made whole at the resurrection. There is no need to ask for anointing repeatedly for the same ailment – implying that maybe God didn’t hear the first prayer. However, if conditions change or there is another attack of the illness, or if a great deal of time has elapsed, sometimes it is appropriate to ask for anointing again.

God’s timing is perfect – which is difficult for us humans to comprehend. We sometimes feel that we need to be healed *now* so we can keep on serving our brethren – certainly a worthy reason. But at one time in the apostle Paul’s ministry God chose not to heal him for his own spiritual good (2 Corinthians 12:7-9). God’s will was best served in the condition that Paul was in. This is a hard, but necessary realisation to come to. God will heal you – but according to His will and in His perfect timing, not ours. Remember that Paul was divinely healed much earlier when he was being converted (Acts 9:12, 18).

God can choose to heal us immediately. Or the healing can occur later. Paul no doubt anointed one of the disciples, Trophimus (whom he referred to as sick in 2 Timothy 4:20), but ended up having to leave him behind because of this disease. Paul was an incredibly righteous man and one whom God used miraculously to do His work, yet his friend was left ill, at least at that time.

Everyone’s personal responsibility

• ‘Mrs. Schultz has recently undergone treatments for intestinal cancer. The Schultz family appreciates the

God will heal you – but according to His will and in His perfect timing, not ours.

many kind expressions of support they have received. It has been very encouraging for them to know that they are not alone in this trial.’

We should not be alone in our trials. We are in this Christian life together. In Ephesians 6:18 we read that we should be ‘praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.’ Everyone has a responsibility to show concern for others. In the case of sickness, praying for others is the responsibility of all of us (see James 5:16).

The gospel of John mentions a certain healing pool existing during the time of Christ. Occasionally the water in this pool would in some way be disturbed. God evidently had given power to an angel to stir the water of this pool. The first person to step into the pool after the stirring of the water would be completely healed. We read in John 5:7 the response that a particular man gave to Jesus when he was asked if he wanted to be healed. ‘The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming another steps down before me.”’ No one was there to help him into the pool.

Think how frustrated this man would have been! The water was stirred, but due to the nature of his condition, he was never quick enough to be the first in the water. This man needed help, and Jesus Christ gave him that help by healing him personally.

Another example is in Mark, chapter two, which begins with Jesus preaching inside a house. The house was so packed with people that no one could even get near the door. The determination of a certain paralytic and his four friends should encourage us to remember that we all have a part to play in the healing process. Mark writes in verse 4:

‘And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the par-

alytic was lying.’ His friends did not literally tear down the roof. Some houses had tile roofs, so they may have merely removed some tiles temporarily.

This paralytic could not have gained the presence and healing of Jesus Christ without the faith of his friends. We, too, can help the sick. Pray for others and do what you can to help them (Matthew 25:34-40).

The most important healing

Keep in mind the most important healing: the healing of the mind and the turning away from our ‘old nature’ – looking to God as our source of life. Our Creator is primarily interested in our recognising the sin in our life, and the effort we put forth to overcome those sins. This conversion is a miraculous healing that is occurring today on a daily basis!

For further understanding about the major points of this article, ask for our free booklets *You Can Have Living Faith, Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion*, and *Why Does God Allow Suffering?*

Ed Dowd

Editor’s note: This article has been adapted from the current issue of *Virtual Christian Magazine* (vcmagazine.org).

Questions & Answers

Q Is tithing part of New Testament teaching?

A F. Feltham

A Jesus Himself clearly upheld the practice of tithing. ‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes 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 other things [tithing] undone*’ (Matthew 23:23, emphasis added throughout).

Here, only days before His death, Christ plainly confirmed that tithing should indeed be practiced, along with sincere adherence to the ‘weightier’ spiritual matters the scribes and Pharisees were obviously neglecting.

In the Old Testament, God had instructed that the Israelites were to support the tribe of Levi for its service at the temple by giving the Levites God’s tithes. They, in turn, tithed to Aaron’s family, the priesthood. This support provided the means for Israel to worship God and be taught according to His will. After the destruction of the Temple, for all practical purposes God’s message of salvation was no longer preached by the Levitical priesthood. This responsibility now fell to the New Testament Church. The followers of the gospel message gave monetary and other types of 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 princi-

ples 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.

The book of Hebrews does describe a change in administration. The New Testament Church – the spiritual Temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:19-22) – replaced the physical Temple in importance, and as its representatives, the New Testament apostles became the recipients of the tithes of God’s people (see Acts 4:35-37).

When we explore the New Testament and the experience of the early Church, we should consider the fact that the emergence of the Church did not herald a radical departure from the religious practices of the nation of Israel. Not until several decades after the founding of the New Testament Church does the book of Hebrews clarify the impact the new spiritual administration of Christ had on the Church and the existing priesthood. Most of the laws relating to Israel were not annulled, but they were sometimes different in their application, especially after the destruction of the Temple.

For decades the Church was regarded by the gentiles as merely another sect of the Jews, but one that believed in the divinity of Jesus Christ. The Church is the spiritual equivalent of physical Israel, and is even called ‘the Israel of God’ (Galatians 6:16). Because of lack of obedience, the opportunity for salvation for that time was extended beyond the nation of Israel and offered to others – those who would be called into the Church from all nations (Matthew

21:43; 1 Peter 2:9-10). This new spiritual nation would provide the obedience God desired, through a converted heart.

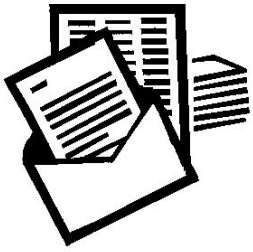
No sharp break in application of laws and principles from the Old Testament is indicated. The New Testament had not yet been written, but the Church was ‘built on the foundation of the apostles *and prophets*, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone’ (Ephesians 2:20).

The teachings and specific examples from the Old Testament were written for the benefit of the New Testament Church (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11). Therefore we should pay close attention to them. In a prophecy of the time setting of Christ’s second coming, we are admonished to ‘remember the law of Moses, My servant’ (Malachi 4:4). It was God Himself who gave His law for Israel through Moses. That law (and the proper application of its principles) has continuing relevance for today. To understand the true relationship between God’s law and New Testament teaching, request our free booklet *The New Covenant: Does it Abolish God’s Law?*

Supporting the work of God’s Church is very important today. Not only is it proclaiming a message of hope that Christ will bring world peace in His Kingdom, but it is also preparing those who will assist Christ in bringing righteousness to the earth. (For a more in-depth explanation, request our free booklet *What Does the Bible Teach About Tithing?* Indeed the answer in this column was excerpted from this booklet.)

How our literature is funded

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Letters From Our Readers

Readers appreciate basic booklets

Thank you for the booklets *Is the Bible True?* and *Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?* I fail to see how anyone could doubt the answers to these questions. These two booklets should be read and studied in all schools, especially by the teachers of our children. I have two grandchildren who attend university. Their mother (my daughter) and their father are both very devout Christians. The children were taken to church and came to know the Lord, but since falling into the clutches of intellectuals are now disbelievers. Would you please pray for them, and if possible could you send me copies of the two booklets previously mentioned. I will send them on to my grandchildren.

R T, Pontypool, Wales

- *We are praying for your grandchildren and also posting the two booklets requested – adding Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?*

Regarding creation and evolution, if one has mixed feelings about certain matters, your booklets help to put it all into perspective.

J M, Wigton

Many thanks for your recently sent booklets. I take great joy in reading and inwardly digesting them. I specifically refer to the booklet *Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?* Why on earth do we segregate these two words, when in fact they mean the same thing? Surely evolution and creation are both part of the wonder and mystery of life on earth and in the universe. There must be intelligent thought and creativity behind evolution for it to

happen. When I hear some disbelievers say, 'Oh, its evolution', surely it is just another word for being a believer in the Heavenly Father. They just use another name.

K C H, Plymouth

- *Please read and study our Good News article 'Can You Believe Both the Bible and Evolution?' (July/August 2006 issue). It is freely available online in the archives section of our web site. If any readers don't have access to the Internet, we can post a free copy upon request.*

The Good News

I used to get copies of *The Good News* sent to me, but they stopped arriving about three or four years ago. I don't know why. Could you please start sending them to me again as I found them an interesting read and have been re-reading my old copies? I have meant to get in touch many times about this matter, but life's struggles and problems have made time go by too quickly.

M G, Stonehouse

- *We have renewed your subscription and posted some back copies. We require readers to renew periodically, just to be sure the magazine is really wanted. But we gladly continue to post The Good News after readers renew.*

I really enjoyed reading the article about 'The New World Disorder'. It was very interesting.

Mrs S C, Salford

I am very grateful for the publication of this enlightening magazine during these hard times. I will ask some questions later, but suffice it to say that I am beginning to understand why I am here

and what the future holds for us if we pray sincerely and faithfully. Please accept the enclosed donation.

D Z M, Bracknell

Please renew *The Good News* and *Gute Nachrichten* (the German edition). Please keep a sense of balance. The UK and US are not God's only dispensation on earth. The Bible in English is only a translation, not the direct Word of God.

D M S, Republic of Ireland

- *Although the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek, the Bible in other languages does reflect the genius of gifted translators through whom God has mediated His truths.*

Bible Study Course

I've enjoyed your *Bible Study Course*. It has inspired me to read my Bible more. The course also helps me to see the bigger picture of the Bible teachings of God's great plan for humankind.

J C, London

A young Christian

As a young Christian, I would like to offer my humble thanks for all your hard work. I thirst for the Lord's word and what it has to say on all aspects of our lives in the 21st century.

G C, Grimsby

Do we accept postal orders?

Thank you for sending *The Good News* and the booklets. I am learning such a lot. Please could you tell me if you accept postal orders as I wish to resume donations, but don't have a cheque book? I really appreciate all your correspondence.

S C, Lancaster

- *Yes we do.*