

Children of War: War Creates Refugees

This was the theme for a Refugee Week in the United Kingdom in 2004 – a week which celebrated the enormous contribution of refugees to the UK and promoted understanding of the reasons people seek sanctuary.

The Hebrew Bible is packed with accounts of wars between nations. Then in Matthew 24, Jesus Christ also talks about increased warfare being one of the signs of the end of the age. There are over 20 wars being fought throughout the world today. Yet most of us could only name a very few. When we consider these facts, one could well ask: Are we living in the end time?

The consequences of war on the world at large and the individual are enormous. Aside from the economic costs, the breakdown of society and its values is devastating. In my job as an EAL (English as an Additional Language) teacher, I am involved with many students who are by definition refugees. These students have been forced to leave their homes, their way of life and their countries because of circumstances beyond their control – and in many cases because of the damaging effects of war.

Some of the students I teach arrive in the classroom needing a lot more than just support with learning the English language. Upon arrival some have little concept of truth and fail to see that telling lies is a problem. Some arrive knowing no other way to solve prob-

lems than by fighting. Others will steal. There is at times a clear lack of respect for other people.

to help children affected by war. War Child has developed programmes to reintegrate these children into society. Some were abducted from their families, drugged, and even forced to fight and kill just in order to remain alive themselves. These children, some

as young as five, know no other life. In their minds they are doing what they have to do to survive. A report published in *The Independent* newspaper (Tim Judah, 23 October 2004) talked of child soldiers, sex slaves and cannibalism in Uganda. 'Children told of how they had been forced by the rebels at gunpoint to abduct and murder other children'. The article goes on to describe the murder of a 14-

year-old girl who had been killed by other child captives. One of the girl captives was asked why she had participated and she responded: 'I was frightened, but we were told that if we did not kill they would kill us. So you had to pretend to be brave.'

As part of his job, Norman Sheehan



Louise (third from left) with students from Brazil, Philippines, Somalia, and Sudan.

lems than by fighting. Others will steal. There is at times a clear lack of respect for other people.

I spoke with Norman Sheehan, CEO of War Child, a network of independent organisations working across the world

spent a year in Sierra Leone working with children of war. I asked him where one can start to educate these young people? He gave me four basic principles that prompted me to think about what I do in my role as a teacher today, and what true Christians will all do as teachers in Christ's millennial reign. I like to think of this as the S-T-E-P programme.



Students from Afghanistan, Algeria, Brazil, Iran, Iraq, Lithuania, and Somalia.

Safety

After meeting their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, the most important thing you can do is to make these 'children of war' feel safe. Without the feeling of safety, fear envelops them, and this leads to the behaviours that fear produces. They

Trust is developed through involvement with the kids, with their activities and their lives.

Sharing time with them and finding opportunities to build upon this relationship are crucial.

need to sense that they can walk around their village and their city without fear – without fear of being shot, without fear of being abducted, without fear of abuse. The same *Independent* article explained how a local hospital in Gulu, in Uganda, 'gives shelter to "night commuters"', some of the 45,000 children who, because of their fear of abduction, stream into Gulu, Kitgum and other towns every evening to sleep in the safety of the hospitals'.

In the biblically promised world tomorrow the ruling saints will need to create an environment of safety and reassure people they are safe. Have we considered the trauma that people will have experienced during the coming time of worldwide upheavals? It will be vital that we establish a deep sense of safety for them.

Trust

Secondly, a relationship of trust needs to be established between the child and the teacher. Mr Sheehan went on to explain that this is highly impor-

tant if a teacher is to make any progress. Trust is not something that can be bought, and it is not something that comes overnight. It is developed through your involvement with the children, with their activities and their lives. Sharing your time with them and finding opportunities to build upon this relationship are crucial.

As future teachers we will likewise need to establish a relationship of trust with traumatised people. Christians have the advantage of learning and practicing God's way now. Throughout the Bible we are exhorted to trust in God. We will have to first gain people's trust before we can teach them.

Example

Mr Sheehan also mentioned how vital the teacher's example is. The chil-

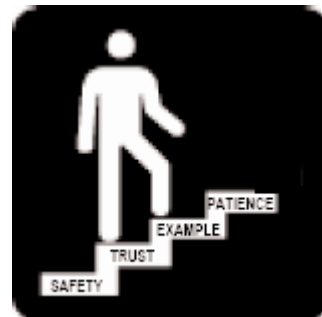
dren he worked with did not know the right way to do basic things such as washing their hands before eating, let alone how to conduct their lives in an orderly and peaceful way. His example was important for them to learn from.

The reigning saints' example in the world tomorrow will be equally significant. We will be a light to

the world. Indeed we are told in Matthew 5:16 to 'let your light so shine . . . that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.' People will be watching us! In due course they will want to know how to live and have a happy and peaceful life, how to have a relationship with God and interact with each other. We will also have the opportunity to help them with their decisions. Isaiah 30:21 tells us, 'Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk you in it."'

Patience

Patience is crucial for effective teaching. The thinking patterns of many



We need to create an environment of Safety, develop a relationship of Trust, set an Example that can be followed, and practise Patience on a daily basis.

Continued on page 6

Addressing World Hunger:

‘Waste Not Want Not’



The problem of feeding today's third world communities is almost inconceivable. What does this have to do with you and me? We have a responsibility on our national shoulders to use wisely the resources that our God has given us.

When I was a youngster my dad was insistent that we finish all the food on our plates. He said there were starving children who would love to have my uneaten vegetables. At a young and tender age I would have gladly packaged the broccoli or cabbage and sent it off to them!

Like many others Dad had come through World War II with some terrible memories. While in Burma he and many soldiers had eaten rodents to stay alive along with other things normally considered inedible. For him to see his children wasting food was troubling.

Sacrifices of previous generations

On the 15th of August, commemorative events across Europe marked the 60th anniversary of VJ Day, when World War II ended after Japan's surrender in 1945.

In Britain the Royal British Legion called on young people to take part. So many young people are unaware of the sacrifices made by previous generations! Only two percent of 11- to 18-year-olds could correctly identify the date of the VJ Day anniversary! Since the end of World War II the Western world has experienced an almost unprecedented period of prosperity, but it is shocking what we waste. We have forgotten what rationing was like. And in most European and North American nations even the poverty-stricken have various organisations they can turn to in times of need.

The problem of feeding third-world communities is almost inconceivable.

The numbers who need improved nutrition are vast! And the problem is tied inextricably to local politics, deep-seated cultural beliefs and selfish tribal ways of life, including the benign acceptance of believing 'might is right'.

Severe weather conditions and changing rainfall patterns have done little to help increase crop production.

Using our resources wisely

What does this have to do with you and me? The responsibility falls on our national shoulders to use wisely the resources given by God. Somehow we believe our own prowess and ability has led to the prosperity and luxury so many of us in the Western world enjoy. In Deuteronomy 8:18 we read; 'Remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your forefathers, as it is today' (New International Version throughout). God also shows in Deuteronomy 32:15: 'Jeshurun [name for Israel] grew fat and kicked; filled with food, he became heavy and sleek. He abandoned the God who made him and rejected the Rock his Saviour.'

Does it not seem strange that the people of the United Kingdom and the United States have spread the Hebrew Scriptures around the world, yet have been taken in by the deceptive theory of evolution – a theory that teaches a creation without a creator, life without a lifegiver, design without a designer, and seemingly an existence without purpose?

As we drive by the mountains of

waste, the landfills with seagulls circling overhead, we should consider what we are doing to ourselves.

Comfort without care?

We are devoted to providing every comfort and entertaining experience, while burying our heads as to the real state of the world. We pour poisons into our rivers, which flow into the oceans killing the marine life. There is little thought for the future. We allow industrial and domestic gases to flow into the atmosphere – then some question the evidence that we are changing the global climate. Tell that to the Inuit who are unable to step out onto their once-thick Alaskan ice for fear of it breaking off as the oceans warm.

Our full-colour booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* tells the story of how we became so wealthy, but it also shows what God expects of those 'to whom much is given'. Make sure you request your own free copy or download it from our website at www.ucg.org/booklets.

If we as a nation would really follow the sentiment of 'waste not, want not', our blessings would flow over into many other nations who would then respect the true God and our Judaeo-Christian way of life. Deuteronomy 4:6 says of any nation that would 'observe them [His laws] carefully . . . This will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."'

Peter Hawkins, Co-ordinator of United Church of God – British Isles

A Bright Future: **Guaranteed by Bible Prophecy**

A central theme of biblical prophecy is Christ's coming millennial rule on earth and the Kingdom of God. This feature article focuses on our futuristic dwelling place in that glorious Kingdom to come.

Just over a decade ago, noted British news broadcaster Martyn Lewis startled the UK media world by strongly suggesting that daily news output should include a substantial dose of really good news.

The reaction was electric and immediate. So addicted to our daily diet of bad news were his peers in the broadcast media that they shouted him down in word and print. For a time his career was almost put on hold.

We are so attuned to news of natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes, extreme criminal behaviour, unconscionable terrorist bombings, roller-coaster stock markets, petrol price increases, and the incredible antics of certain actors and pop stars in their upside-down personal lives, that there seems to be an unconscious human craving for an overflowing continuance of bad news.

The fact that God inspired many prophecies about geopolitics and debilitating social trends certainly requires that we watch world news and even lament the horrendous happenings of our present age (Luke 21:34-36; Ezekiel 9:4).

Our publications exist in large measure to fulfill those necessary purposes.

But sooner or later an exclusive diet of bad news will prove detrimental to our spiritual health. Christians should supplement negative information with regular good news from the pages of the Bible.

The world tomorrow

While Luke in his Gospel account

highlighted the many Old Testament prophecies regarding the days of vengeance (Luke 21:22), he later underlined the many positive restoration prophecies of the Old Testament in his New Testament history book (Acts 3:19-21). The apostle Peter referred to this wonderful peaceful period yet ahead as ‘times of refreshing’ and ‘the times of restoration’.

During the prophesied 1,000-year reign of Christ, the millennial prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Micah will find their ultimate fulfilment. The government of God will be restored to this earth as foretold by Isaiah and Micah. Swords will be beaten into plowshares, the need for military academies will cease, the lame and the blind will be healed, abundant harvests will become the norm and the deserts of this earth will bloom as roses.

However, there is an even better time on beyond Christ’s 1,000-year reign and the Great White Throne Judgement period. At the conclusion of God’s plan for mankind, physical human life on this earth will cease and be replaced by the everlasting spirit life granted to the overcoming sons and daughters of God (Revelation chapters 21 and 22).

The fullness of the Kingdom of God is the primary focus of this article.

Not easy to grasp

Humanly we do not naturally have the required spiritual focus to truly understand the wonders of the next age. The apostle Paul makes this clear in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10: ‘But as it is writ-

ten [in the Old Testament]: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us [Christians] through His [Holy] Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.’

Unless we are truly converted (or at least on the road to conversion), the nature of the Kingdom of God remains a mystery to us. To ‘taste’ or experience what it will be like is simply beyond our five senses without the Holy Spirit. Humanly, we can only envision the physical benefits and not the wonders that are beyond this physical life.

Yet we are told over and over again to focus our minds on spiritual matters, rather than the mundane concerns of this life. For instance, the apostle Paul tells us to ‘seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father. *Set your mind on things above*, not on things on the earth. For you died [in the waters of baptism] . . . When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory’ (Colossians 3:1-4, emphasis added throughout).

Verse 4 speaks of the second coming of Christ when we join our Saviour in resurrected glory, changed to everlasting spirit life as 1 Corinthians 15 explains. But focusing on the spiritual is not an easy task when we have to pay the rent and put bread on the table. Yet Christ tells us God will gladly add the necessities of this physical life if we will only put His Kingdom first in our lives (Matthew 6:33).

Throughout his writings, Paul continues to insist on the need to understand the things of God. Ephesians 1:16-18 is a case in point: '[I] do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.'

Our prayers to God should be that He would grant us much greater spiritual insight, leading us to more understanding of the very points that Paul mentions here in the first chapter of Ephesians.

The true city of God

Our readers may or may not be familiar with Augustine's book *The City of God* (AD 354- 430) Whatever the merits of this ancient theological work, the contents remain rather far from the description of God's true city revealed in the Bible.

The faith chapter in the book of Hebrews gives us an important biblical insight into the nature of this, our future dwelling place. 'By faith Abraham obeyed [obedience and faith go together] when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance . . . By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country . . . for he waited for the city which has foundations, *whose builder and maker is God*' (Hebrews 11:8-10). This passage describes a glorious heavenly city. In contrast, the troubled cities of this age of man were and are constructed by human hands.

The physical Promised Land of the Old Testament is a physical type of the spirit city to come mentioned in verse 10. Ultimately these promises will be fulfilled by everlasting spirit life in a majestic environment beyond human description and comprehension.

None of these men and women of great visionary faith received the ultimate promises in their lifetimes. 'These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth' (verse 13).

Today's Christians are no different. We wait patiently for these same ultimate promises given to the faithful men and women of old. Notice what Paul wrote in Philippians 3:20-21: 'For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ who will transform our lowly body *that it may be con-*

The crucial question that few seem to ask is: 'Where will Christ be after He returns?' He will be ruling with His saints on this earth.

formed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.'

Hebrews 11 goes on to tell us: 'For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland' (verse 14). This scriptural passage is speaking of that futuristic city whose builder and maker is God – a city in which our personal security will never again be threatened.

Verse 16 reads: 'But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.' Then in the two concluding verses of the faith chapter, the writer reiterates an important point: 'And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect [in the first resurrection] apart from us' (verses 39-40).

At this critical juncture in human history, true Christians will join the men and women of past ages in the Kingdom

of God. (For further understanding, please request our free booklet *What Happens After Death?*)

Dwelling with Christ

Not long before His death by crucifixion, Jesus made a wonderful promise to His disciples which also applies to Christians today. 'Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again [to this earth] and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also' (John 14:1-3).

'Mansions' is a poor translation in terms of today's contemporary English. The Revised English Bible renders the expression as 'dwelling places'; the New International Version uses 'rooms'.

This passage has been almost universally misapplied by mainstream Christianity to say that the saved go to heaven when they die. But verse 3 plainly indicates that Christ will return to this earth and the disciples will then be with Him.

The crucial question that few seem to ask is: 'Where will Christ be after He returns?' The clear answer is that He will be ruling with His saints on this earth.

The apostle John clarified these verses in his Gospel in another book. Remember that the Bible interprets the Bible, a long-neglected principle of sound scriptural studies. Revelation 5:10 says that true Christians will be 'kings and priests' and they will 'reign on the earth.' Revelation 20:4 tells us that they will rule with Christ for a thousand years.

The entire context of events in Revelation chapters 19 and 20 places them on planet earth. Zechariah 14:1-4 in the Old Testament confirms that these events take place on this earth – not in heaven.

Furthermore, the beginning verses of Revelation 21 tell us that the city of God, the New Jerusalem, will come to this earth. This truth of the Bible may be shocking to those who have long believed that the saved immediately go to heaven at death. (For an in-depth examination of all of the important issues on this topic, please request our free booklet *Heaven and Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach?*)

Please don't let the wonderful truths of the Bible be obscured by doctrinal misinformation. Deceptive false teaching is one of the methods by which the devil hopes to keep people overlooking the real meaning and intent of disputed biblical passages like John 14:1-3 (see Revelation 12:9).

The city of God arrives on earth

The explanatory knowledge revealed in Revelation 21:1-4 is almost beyond our human comprehension. Yet the apostle Paul has written that we can begin to grasp it with God's help through His Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

The apostle John tells us what he witnessed in vision: 'Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea' (Revelation 21:1-4). Physical human

beings need the oceans to survive, so we must be looking at a kingdom of spirit beings – no longer flesh and blood but transformed into forever-new, eternal spirit bodies. Christ told us in the gospel accounts that those that were accounted worthy to attain that world could not die any more.

Continue in Revelation 21: 'Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God [the Father] is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.'" We should frequently take the time to meditate on this our glorious future in the Kingdom of our Creator. Verses 22 and 23 tell us that the Lamb, Jesus Christ, is also clearly present in this wondrous city.

'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; *there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying*. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away,' permanently. All of our human problems will have faded into the distant past.

Obedience Necessary

One of the greatest deceptions ever foisted by Satan the devil on gullible men and women is that obedience to

God is unnecessary in the salvation process. But notice one of the requirements for entry into this precious city of God. '*Blessed are those who do His commandments*, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city' (Revelation 22:14). Stubbornly unrepentant and disobedient persons are excluded (verse 15).

Finally we read the promise of Jesus Christ (who died for our sins) to faithful, forgiven and obedient Christians. 'Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"' (Matthew 25:34).

John Ross Schroeder

Meeting in Douglas, Isle of Man 3 December 2005

The Isle of Man congregation of the United Church of God extends an invitation to readers of the *Supplement* on the island to a Sabbath meeting on Saturday 3rd December 2005 in the Wedgewood Suite at the Castle Mona Hotel, Central Promenade, Douglas. The meeting will start at 1:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Children of War

Continued from page 2

of the children in Sierra Leone have been destroyed. They need to be rebuilt gradually, and it is a very long road to changing their behaviour. I once heard a behaviour-support teacher say that changing bad behaviour is like breaking a bad habit. It takes time and patience for a new pattern of conduct to be learnt.

One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22 is patience.

In our role as teachers in the future, we will certainly need a lot of patience. People will not change overnight, nor

even in a week or month! We sorely need to develop the fruit of patience now.

These four basic principles of the S-T-E-P programme can be diplomatically developed and practised today when dealing with people in our workplace and within our families and with friends. We need to establish a feeling of Safety, a relationship of Trust, set an Example that can be followed; and practise Patience on a daily basis.

Our future is pictured by the annual Feast of Tabernacles; a time of wonderful peace, joy and harmony, when people will learn to live God's way of life. This is a time when Satan will be 'cast

into the bottomless pit and shut up . . . that he should deceive the nations no more' (Revelation 20:3). This will be a time when the knowledge of God pervades the earth. It is also a time, as mentioned in Isaiah 2:4, when 'they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: [when] nation shall not lift up sword against nation, [and] neither shall they learn war any more.'

When there is no more war, there will be no more children of war!

May God hasten that day!

*Louise Kleinbergs
(Louise is an EAL teacher in an inner-city London secondary school.)*

Questions & Answers

Q What is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit which won't be forgiven? (Matthew 12:31).

P W B, Sheffield

A By way of necessary biblical background, the Holy Scriptures teach that once a person has really repented of his or her sins and has been baptised (fully immersed in water), that individual will then receive God's Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands of the ministry (Acts 2:37-39; 8:14-17; 19:1-6).

Once these important steps are taken, the Holy Spirit leads our minds to become like Christ. For truly converted Christians, the human body is the temple of God's Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). Jesus Christ said: 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him and We will come to him and make Our home with him' (John 14:23). God the Father and Jesus Christ reside in a converted individual by means of the Holy Spirit, which gives him or her spiritual conviction and sound understanding (verse 26).

A truly converted Christian, therefore, is fully equipped to use God's Word to gradually overcome the negative aspects of his or her human nature. If that person then deliberately, or through a long period of neglect

of prayer and Bible study, disregards Christ's supreme sacrifice and turns back to the former ways of practicing sin, rejecting the guidance of God's Holy Spirit – then that person is in danger of committing the unpardonable or unforgiveable sin.

The apostle Paul enlarges on Christ's statement in Matthew 12:31: 'For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the power of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God and put Him to an open shame' (Hebrews 6:4-6). These are sobering words indeed, but it is very important for us not to confuse difficult human weaknesses with the unforgiveable sin.

In practice, the greater danger is developing a bitter attitude. It can build up over a considerable period of time rather than through a single act of sin.

God forgives those who are sincerely struggling to overcome stubborn long-term habits (1 John 1:7-9; 2:1-2). The biblical proverb says that a righteous man falls down seven times and seven times he gets up again. As long as we have an atti-

tude of repentance, God will always forgive us. It is a persistent refusal to repent that puts sin in danger of becoming unpardonable.

King David said to God in prayer: 'For I said in my haste, "I am cut off before Your eyes", nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications when I cried out to you' (Psalm 31:22). God is very merciful and willing to forgive us.

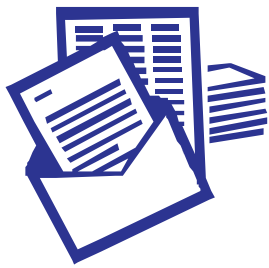
A strong sense of guilt may lead us to draw the wrong conclusion. Most people who feel very guilty and are deeply worried about having committed the unpardonable sin *have not*. Some of our deeply entrenched sinful habits are a real struggle to overcome.

Christians don't always succeed in their spiritual battles against the sins that seem to so easily ensnare us. Even so great a Christian as the apostle Paul didn't (see Romans 7:18-25). Yet God promises to help us succeed, and we will with Christ's help if we just endure, keep on trying and don't give up.

If anyone thinks they have committed the unforgiveable sin, please seek competent spiritual counsel from a true minister of God. And to understand much more about the mercy of our Creator, please request our free booklet *Who Is God?* Pages 66 and 67 show how Christ, as a merciful High Priest, helps us to surmount sin.

How our literature is funded

The United Church of God – British Isles is registered as a charity in England and Wales (number 1079192). 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: The United Church of God, PO Box 705, WATFORD WD19 6FZ.



Letters From Our Readers

The Good News and the Supplement

Thank you for continuing to send your two magazines (*The Good News* and the Supplement). They are much appreciated. I do not attend any of your congregations, but do greatly value your in-depth appreciation of the Bible freed from the thick, distorting overlay which disempowers most of what is called 'the church' in the West. That is not to say that I am convinced that you are right about everything. Who is? Key questions that I am still working through are the nature of the Holy Spirit, your notion of some people being offered salvation after their physical death and the ten tribes of Israel as progenitors of modern societies.

R H, Chessington

• *The following free booklets may help you in your quest for biblical truth: Who Is God?, What Happens After Death? and The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy.*

I always love to read *The Good News*, but am sad that there are some readers that do not believe. I am even more convicted in your doctrines and beliefs.

P C A, Belgium

Reader from Zimbabwe

I write to thank you extra much for the vast range of booklets you send me. They have helped me make a radical change in my life, and not only mine but also as I give them to neighbours and friends. The results are just splendid! I wonder how I could have managed before without your wonderful ministry. Sir, I would like to hear more about God's word, please. May God

abundantly bless all your efforts.

K M, Zimbabwe

Holidays or Holy Days?

Recently you sent me a copy of *Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Really Matter Which Days You Observe?* I found it to be the most revealing booklet I have ever read about these issues of Christmas and Easter. They have been brought up to the Bible study group and you would never believe the reaction. The leadership has put up a brick wall and it is not allowed in the Bible study to bring up Easter, Christmas and Israel.

E O H, Haverfordwest, Wales

Divine healing

I am glad to see that you believe in divine healing. So many Christians these days don't.

J R, Liverpool

Finding the right Church

Thank you so much for *The Good News* magazines. It's wonderful to receive them as at the moment I'm finding it hard to find a Church that I can commit to. I have some fellowship with a small community group, but don't find that I fit in. So you can see how much I look forward to your magazines coming through the post.

Mrs S L, Staffordshire

• *You may find our free booklet The Church Jesus Built helpful in your search.*

Financing the gospel

Thank you so much for your ministry and thank you for providing publications freely. I have my name down on most Christian organisations' mailing lists and they then bombard me with

requests and demands for money.

L H, Shrewsbury

Please find enclosed a cheque to help with postage, packing and ongoing distribution of books and booklets. I welcome your booklets for they are rich in content and fulfil a need for all.

Mr C C, Newcastle upon Tyne

Understanding the Bible

I am writing to request a copy of the booklet *How to Understand the Bible*. I am also thanking you, and would like to let you know how much I appreciate the opportunity to learn and understand the Bible, and also accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and personal Saviour, building a relationship with God.

C F, Feltham, Middlesex

Becoming a Christian

I am totally housebound so I don't see any other Christians. I am on my own so I keep wondering if it is possible for me to be a Christian on my own. Does God hear my prayers? I can't have visitors so I have to rely on writing to Christians. I haven't been baptised as an adult, so does God hear me when I pray and can I be a Christian?

Mrs D T, Eastbourne

• *God has a special concern for those who have such difficulties. Yes, He does hear your prayers and you can become a Christian. Some things may appear impossible to men, but as Jesus said, 'All things are possible with God.' We are praying that our Creator will provide a way for you to fellowship with other Christians. Please request our free booklets The Road to Eternal Life, and Transforming Your Life. They address the subject of water baptism.*