

## The Changing Face of Christianity in Britain

***There are now more Catholics attending church in Britain than Anglicans. Meanwhile non-traditional Christian groups are growing in numbers and influence. But are all these various brands within Christendom truly based on the teachings of the Judaeo/Christian Bible?***

In the 16th century, King Henry VIII broke away from the Roman Catholic church over divorcing Katherine of Aragon, and his subsequent marriage to Anne Boleyn. The Church of England began shortly afterwards, and it grew in numbers for a very long time. Fast forward to 2007! In mid February of last year came the astonishing prediction that 'Roman Catholicism is set to become the dominant religion in Britain for the first time since the [Protestant] Reformation because of massive migration from Catholic countries across the world' (*The Times*, 15 Feb, 2007). Then in late December we saw the headline 'Britain: a Catholic country' (*The Sunday Telegraph*, 23 Dec, 2007). Former Prime Minister Tony Blair is among the more recent converts.

Yet attendance figures of both these Christian faiths continue to drop (the Anglican by a greater degree) as they have for several decades. Another *Sunday Telegraph* feature article stated that 'attendances are falling at traditional churches' (23 Dec) The numbers of Christian clergy in most denominations has also declined rather sharply in recent times.

But in spite of the aggressive campaigns of militant atheists like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, 'the percentage of people identifying themselves as atheists remains low at around eight per cent' (*Britain in*

*2008*). Another ten percent consider themselves as agnostics. Others merely say that they are not religious. Nonetheless, about 72 percent of the British population still identifies itself as Christian.

### A 'fuzzy fidelity'

Yet what we are apparently seeing is a sort of 'fuzzy fidelity' among the 'fuzzy faithful'. These are the terms used by Professor David Voas of the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research in Manchester. He talks about a 'fuzzy fidelity, an attitude of uncommitted but real interest in God and spiritual matters. *Its adherents include half the population of Britain and similar proportions in other European countries*' (emphasis added throughout).

'This group has only a vaguely defined notion of a "divine entity," and says it makes little difference to their lives' (*Britain in 2008*). According to Professor Voas, 'Many continue to pray but have relinquished specific Christian beliefs such as Jesus being the Son of God. They go to church only for the main festivals or for life's rites of passage' (*ibid*).

Individuals in these non-traditional groups express their beliefs and practices in various ways.

- I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a higher power of some sort.
- I find myself believing in God some of

the time, but not at others.

- I can't remember the last time I went to church.
- I have **Shelalism**, just my own little voice.

Somewhere in the process of time the relevancy of God has been lost to these people. Our Creator has been marginalised along with His great office and power.

At some point in the past, either these individuals or their parents (or perhaps a previous generation) probably attended church services regularly and subscribed to a more traditional version of Christianity. But was even that truly based on the teachings of the Bible?

## Enter the New Testament Church

What about first-century apostolic Christianity? What ever happened to the Church that Jesus built? Do the churches and various non-traditional groups of today really reflect the beliefs and practices of the early New Testament Church?

Some who have diligently studied church history have discovered that most Christian denominations have absorbed many pagan and secular traditions – philosophical, cultural and religious – into their basic belief systems. (To understand more, request our free booklet *This Is the United Church of God*. The sidebar on page 20, 'What Did the Early Church Believe and Practice?' shows what the Bible says about the Church's original teachings. We challenge you to contrast these biblical truths with what is generally believed and taught today.)

Over the centuries there has been a virtual explosion of contradictory practices and conflicting factions in the Christian world. Over time a counterfeit Christianity has arisen. In the first century Jesus Christ and the apostles predicted that false ministers and false brethren would emerge, and indeed had already begun to appear in the apostles' time. After about 400 years, by the time of the Emperor Constantine, much of Christ's original gospel was hardly recognisable.



The Emperor Constantine

## The warnings of Christ and His apostles

Consider the very words of Christ Himself: 'Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name . . . and will deceive many' (Matthew 24:4-5; compare 2 Peter 2:1-2). These deceivers would claim the name of Christ and His authority, but teach an altogether different brand of Christianity – based not on God's Word, but human traditions instead.

Even in Jesus' day He told the Scribes and the Pharisees that their religious practices were 'making the Word of God of none effect through your traditions which you have handed down' (Mark 7:13). These same practices continue right down to our day.

The apostle Paul warned us all not to accept human traditions in place of the true teachings of Christ. 'Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, and not according to Christ' (Colossians 2:8).

The New Testament speaks of both a false and a true Christianity. What about the true one?

## The Church Christ built

Jesus Christ spoke of the little flock that would enter the Kingdom of God (Luke 12:32). He clearly stated that He would build His Church (Matthew 16:18). Later during

that first century, the apostle Paul described the genuine Church of God. 'You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ'.

Peter continues the description: 'You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light' (1 Peter 2:5, 9-10).

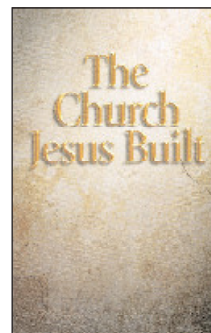
The apostle Paul adds: 'Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone' (Ephesians 2:19-20).

So the true Church is built upon the apostles (representing the New Testament) and the prophets (representing the Old Testament), joined together by Jesus Christ. 'In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord' (verse 21). Peter also urges his readers to 'be mindful of the words which were spoken by the holy prophets [the Old Testament], and of the commandments of us, the apostles of the Lord and Saviour [the New Testament]' (2 Peter 3:2).

## The pillar and ground of the truth

Paul called it 'the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth' (1 Timothy 3:15). You need to know more about *The Church Jesus Built*. Please request or download our free 68-page booklet by that title, in which we explain about a spiritually transformed people, describing their mission as well as their responsibility to God the Father and Christ the Son.

John Ross Schroeder



# From Obscurity to Greatness

*People from humble backgrounds have often become superb leaders, statesmen, artists, athletes and inventors. During the last 2,000 years such people have also formed the backbone of Jesus Christ's Church. We do not need a human pedigree or genius IQ to produce the results God is looking for, but we must be good learners – or disciples.*

**S**ir Isaac Newton, at the young age of 33, wrote that if he had seen further than other men in his scientific endeavours, it was because he 'stood on the shoulders of giants'. Isaac Newton was not particularly brilliant in school or university. Many others brighter than he could, perhaps, have developed the same formulae and theories. But other famous thinkers had gone before him and laid the foundation for his own significant discoveries in physics and mathematics. For many decades they were known as Newtonian physics.

## Examples to strengthen us

We are living at the 'end of an age' (1 Corinthians 10:11) and will soon see the beginning of a new one. Jesus Christ predicted that it will be a turbulent transformation (Matthew 24:7-8, 12, 21-22). We will need to have the vision that comes from standing on the shoulders of people of great faith and courage.

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is replete with examples of those who have gone before us, showing what ordinary people can do with God's help and backing. As shown in Hebrews 12:1-2, they are witnesses that we too can weather stormy trials and the dramatic events that will yet occur in our lives.

Our message will help many at that time to turn to God for His help and protection during global chaos.

Yet God does not call many 'great'

of this society to be His spokesmen (1 Corinthians 1:26) – most are ordinary people with no famous deeds to their name. In working through us to accomplish His work the glory is obviously God's (verses 27-29).

## Transmitting God's words

The understanding we have of God's Word, the Bible, including the purpose for human life, is also because you and I can stand on the shoulders of people who became spiritual giants.

Genesis recounts the personal interaction between a few individuals and God. Little was recorded of the detail. But after Moses had written down the first five books of the Bible (the Law) under God's direction, we see in later times a progression of inspired Scripture that enlarges more and more on God's purpose in working with humanity.

The Hebrew prophets also faithfully recorded

God's words for future generations, often under the threat of death – Jeremiah being just one example.

Ezra the scribe appears to have been the last of God's servants to compile the manuscripts that were known as 'the Holy Scriptures' at the time of Jesus Christ and the apostle Paul (2 Timothy

3:15). Three sections – the Law, the Prophets and the Writings – comprised the existing Scriptures, as Jesus Himself shows in Luke 24:44-45.

## Good news for mankind

Paul remarks: 'God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds' (Hebrews 1:1, NIV).

So Jesus brought a message from the Father (Acts 10:36-37), and while on earth trained His disciples for three-and-a-half years to proclaim that same message (Matthew 28:19-20). Shortly afterwards Christ returned to the Father to supervise the development of the Church from heaven.

Through the indwelling of His presence by the Holy Spirit, the apostles guided the Church to be living examples of 'the way' (way

of life), as well as to proclaim the gospel (good news) of God's coming Kingdom and how those called by God at this time may enter into it.

What we know as the 'New Testament' was only completed a few decades after all but one of the original apostles had been killed. John was the



Sir Isaac Newton



one who survived to seal up the final documents we hold sacred.

The apostles wrote about the life and message of Jesus Christ in the Gospels, Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation (2 Peter 3:1-2). The true Church has continued preaching that message of hope down through the ages as Jesus commanded. In the final age of man's rule, worldwide preaching of the true Gospel will be a sign of the imminence of Christ's coming (Matthew 24:14).

### Disciples learn and teach

The duty of God's faithful Church has not changed – it is not an option but a great responsibility to publish the Gospel! (1 Corinthians 9:16).

At any time, Paul could have decided to give up on his responsibility. He was beaten with 39 stripes five times, nearly killed by stoning, three times beaten with rods, shipwrecked three times, in many perils, and imprisoned for his faithfulness to God (2 Corinthians 11:24-27).

The same could be said of many of the faithful of God. Through the ages they have been ordinary people called to an extraordinary commission.

A disciple is a person who has learned from a teacher, practices a way of life, and becomes a teacher of that way by example and communication to newer students.

Not all of those who followed Jesus Christ remained disciples – many turned aside when they found that being a disciple became too tough or troublesome (John 6:66, 1 Timothy 1:6; 5:15).

But there is a great reward waiting for those who remain faithful to biblical truth and supporting the Work of God. 'Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of

Christ has both the Father and the Son' (2 John 1:8-9).

### God will glorify us

Only God can call people into His service (John 6:44, 65). Those who respond come to repentance, are baptised and then, through the power of God's Spirit align their lives with Jesus Christ's example. Their service to Christ and their own personal responsibility is the same as it has always been.

Like Isaac Newton did, we also 'stand on the shoulders of giants' – people who became spiritual giants. The vision given to us leads us to participate in a Work that is God's.

The work done by the Church today is based to a large degree on the efforts

***God does not call many 'great' of this society to be His spokesmen. Most are ordinary people with no famous deeds to their name. (1 Corinthians 1:26)***

of Herbert and Loma Armstrong in the 20th century. As they submitted themselves to God in the late 1920s and 1930's, they and their family soon began to experience poverty which lasted for 28 years.

Then Christ empowered His Church to preach His gospel in what has been perhaps the greatest modern effort to date. As a result of radio and TV broadcasts and a worldwide distribution of its flagship magazine, there was a significant influx of people who 'believed the Gospel'.

### Prove it from the Bible

Tens of thousands followed the admonition, 'Don't believe me because I say so, but because you prove it for yourself in the Bible.'

The final letter from the apostle Peter focuses us on staying faithful to

what has been delivered to us. He encourages us to conquer the temptation to fit in with the society round about us. Though we are drawn by God from varied and often unspectacular backgrounds, we can become encouraging examples to those in the world to come by overcoming Satan and his society now.

'Be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Saviour, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"' The apostle Peter warns his readers in 2 Peter 3:2-4:

'You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ'" (verses 17-18).

'Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years' (Revelation 20:6).

### Preaching the true gospel

Today we preach and publish the gospel of the Kingdom of God brought by Jesus Christ from the Father. It is good news for all people, whether called now or after Jesus returns to this earth. Later we rule with Christ during the 1,000-year period (Revelation 5:10; 20:4) and teach the nations on earth God's way of life.

Read more about what you too may become by reading in print or online our free booklets *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion* and *The Gospel of the Kingdom*.

Peter Hawkins

# Why Bible Prophecy?

*Some say that the biblical images of beasts, horsemen and great empires rising and falling has little or nothing to do with the practical side of life, so it's not important. But learning the real purpose of biblical prophecy will show us how important it really is.*

**T**he Bible is full of prophecy. In fact, between a quarter and a third of the Word of God is prophetic. And students of the Bible know that Jesus Christ plays a prominent role in many of these prophecies – especially those set in the end time.

So why prophecy? What does it have to do with practical matters of Christian living? And why should you take any interest in the subject?

## Prophecy proves who God is

Through Scripture we learn that God can accurately foretell the future. The prophet Isaiah recorded His words: 'Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done' (Isaiah 46:9-10). The true God accurately and faithfully tells His people about the future, what's yet to come, and the hope beyond the coming time of trouble.

God also asks: 'Who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, let them show these to them . . . Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are my witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one' (Isaiah 44:7-8).

These passages tell us there is no other god who can tell the end of the story as well as the beginning.

In the prophecies of Isaiah, we find references to the birth of a great Persian

king named Cyrus. King Cyrus was used by God to bring down the powerful Babylonian empire and let the Jews go free from captivity and return to Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4).

These were momentous events in the history of the Jewish people back then. But the most amazing thing is that Isaiah prophesied in the late 700s BC, long before Cyrus was even born. In fact, Cyrus didn't conquer Babylon and free the Jews until 539 BC, more than a century and a half after Isaiah prophesied of him by name (see Isaiah 45:1), as well as revealing his role in God's plan. So awesome is our God that He made this known long before the fulfillment of the event!

## Prophecy impacts the lives of God's people

Just as the Jews were impacted by the Babylonian captivity and the fall of Babylon some 70 years later, so people will yet be impacted by the tragic events foretold in Scripture. Wars will take place; freedom to worship God in peace

## *God accurately and faithfully tells His people about the future.*

will be taken away; persecution, and even martyrdom, will come upon Christians.

Before Jesus Christ returns to rule the earth, the Bible speaks of a time of trouble called the 'great tribulation' (Matthew 24:21). It will be a time of

suffering for all the world, but especially for many of the descendants of ancient Israel living in the United States, the British Isles, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, etc.

To learn more about God's perspective on prophecy and what He says will happen to these countries, request or download our free booklets *You Can Understand Bible Prophecy* and *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*.

Most readers have never lived in a world at war. The last world war ended in 1945, well before most of us were born.

Yes, there have been other wars since: Korea, Vietnam, various wars in the Middle East, and more recently two wars in Iraq, not to mention the conflicts in Pakistan and Kenya. Yet these wars and conflicts have had less impact on our lives than the future wars described in the Bible or the two great wars of the 20th century. For most of us in the Western world, life has provided uninterrupted safety and prosperity. We've never had to go hungry and never had to run to a bomb shelter for cover.

Yet the Bible tells us such bad times will come to our world, and with greater force and power than ever before! Hard as it is to imagine, the world will have to suffer much more before the second coming of Jesus Christ than at any other time in history. And Christians – God's own people – are not going to escape without feeling the impact of some of these events.

For those who have never experi-

enced the pain and suffering of world war, it's a good idea to learn a little about what it meant to live through the horrors of the late 1930s and the 1940s. Study the history, visit some of the war museums and read some of the biographies and autobiographies of those who went through it. As you do, remember that it will be God who will bring an end to the wars that are yet to come at the return of Jesus Christ.

### Prophecy prompts us to grow spiritually

In the face of hard times to come, the New Testament contains many admonitions about the attitude and actions God's people should adopt.

Notice Jesus Christ's warning: 'Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man' (Luke 21:36). In other words, these prophetic warnings aren't there just for fascination, but to prompt us to righteous living. We have to do something with the knowledge of prophecy!

The apostle Peter ties it in: 'Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?' (2 Peter 3:11). Prophecy is a prompting to live God's way, to follow the ways described as holy conduct and godliness.

I recall a conversation I once had with a young man who had come to study at a Bible college as a result of his interest in end-time prophecy. His fascination with prophecy didn't immediately carry over into Christian living. He told me he came to study prophecy, but later discovered, 'Now I have to do all that other stuff, too!'

That's right, we have to do all the 'other stuff' too. It isn't all mysteries about beasts and speculations about dates. If we understand prophecy, we must live according to the laws and instructions of the Bible. And really,

that's much more of a challenge than coming up with lots of details about prophetic scenarios.

### Prophecy provides hope

When we think of biblical prophecy, especially end-time prophecy, we most often focus on the horrors to come at the end of this age. Yet the most certain event in all biblical prophecy is the one that's most hopeful – the second coming of Jesus Christ. Many prophecies stress that God determined long ago that Christ will come again, establish the Kingdom of God and save humanity from itself. That's about the best news any of us could possibly hear.

The time of suffering will be relatively short. The Bible tells us the worst of it will last only 3 1/2 years (Daniel 7:25; 12:7; Revelation 11:2-3; 12:14;

***Remember that it will be God who will bring an end to the wars that are yet to come at the return of Jesus Christ.***

note, 'a time and times and half a time' refers to a year, years and half a year). Afterwards, these terrible days will disappear like a bad dream, as the saints of God begin to reign with Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God (Daniel 7:27). A much, much better time awaits us and all humanity.

Prophecy ultimately points us to some very, very good news: that Jesus Christ will return. That He will set up a glorious Kingdom, which will provide the world with a far better life than it ever experienced under any human government. And that God Himself will offer life and happiness to all, through the righteous reign of His Son Jesus Christ.

Isn't that good news?

*Dr Ralph Levy*

*Dr Levy is a native of the British Isles and presently an instructor at Ambassador Bible Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.*

## Questions

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stances, there are actions most could take which might help alleviate the situation to some extent.

- Talk to charities that advise people in debt and help reorganise debts. In the UK there are the Consumer Credit Counselling Service, National Debt-Line and the local Citizens Advice Bureau. Some may be able to help negotiate payment plans with creditors, which can reduce some of the stress caused by trying to juggle funds.
- Try to avoid taking out additional loans to pay off outstanding debts. It may be possible to repackage the debt into one single loan, but take advice on this, and not just from the finance company offering the loan.
- Work out a budget and stick to it. A simple budget would first list income from all sources, and would then identify how the household is going to spend that money, prioritising items so that outstanding debts can be repaid, and ensuring that a reasonable level of nutrition and warmth is maintained before any luxuries are purchased.
- If you have family, involve them in the budget planning.
- Avoid using credit and store cards, which charge high rates of interest.

The United Church of God publishes literature which may be of help. Please request, free of charge, the booklets *Making Life Work* and *Managing Your Finances*.

Jesus Christ did not promise Christians an easy path when they turn to God. He said the path would sometimes be narrow and difficult (Matthew 7:14). Sometimes our circumstances have made that path more difficult. But with God's help and a willingness to overcome all these obstacles we can walk with God – and have faith in Him that all things will indeed work for good to those that love Him. Don't forget fervent prayer.



# Questions & Answers

**Q** How can someone plagued by debt trust the Bible and rely on God's promise, and why does God allow other people to disrupt the lives of those who are seeking Him? How can one develop faith under those circumstances and how can one defeat the doubts?

*Reader from Southeast England*

**A** We are sorry to learn of your problem with debt and that these difficulties are hindering your faith. It is sometimes a misconception that those trying to live by every word of God will experience lives free from trials. The big difference is that, for the Christian, God can and will use those trials to develop positive qualities that He values, such as patience and faith. Although this may not make the trial seem any easier as we go through it, God will use it for our ultimate benefit (Romans 8:28).

True faith in God can take time to fully develop and deepen into an unshakeable confidence in Him. Faith is an important subject in its own right and the United Church of God has published a booklet called *You Can Have Living Faith*. Please request a free copy.

Anyone combating a personal trial or sin may find it difficult to concentrate on the Bible and on the promises of God. So we need God's help in facing up to the difficulties of everyday life and battling our carnal natures.

The true followers of Jesus Christ can be encouraged that their approach to

life is in many respects much different from that of those people in the world. They are told to acquire the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5) in their daily lives. By contrast, the vast majority of humanity has no real interest in serving God, or it wants to worship Him in its own way. This is often the root cause of our troubles from others.

As the apostle Paul makes clear in Romans 8:7, 'The carnal [natural] mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.' **A naturally minded person takes no real interest in spiritual things.** We read in 1 Corinthians 2:14: 'The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.'

In Romans 8:17 Paul continues this theme of suffering for righteousness sake. Trials are part of the process of inheriting everlasting life. (Please request our free booklet *Why Does God Allow Suffering?*)

To help us reach this goal, God the Father sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for us, so that on genuine repentance our sins could be forgiven. God then resurrected Him, and Christ is now living His life again in the lives of true Christians (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27). Besides working with us through the Holy Spirit, the risen Christ has other duties. He is Head of His Body – the Church (Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 1:18). He is also our Advocate and our Mediator with the Father (1 John 2:1;

1 Timothy 2:5), and He serves as our High Priest, interceding with God the Father on our behalf (Hebrews 4:14-15). Christ is the Captain of our salvation.

On the subject of money in general and on debt specifically the Bible gives some very helpful principles.

- It warns against covetousness, which can be a cause of spending beyond one's means (Luke 12:15). The tenth commandment also forbids coveting.
- It states that 'He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house' (Proverbs 15:27).
- It cautions against borrowing (Proverbs 22:7).

Money worries can cause all kinds of stress-related illnesses and can lead to family breakdown. Being deep in debt has been known to drive people to turn to drink, theft, drugs, or worse.

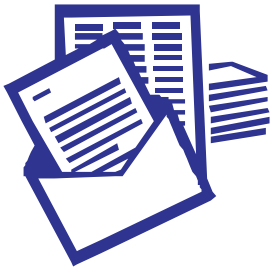
It is not easy in contemporary society to avoid borrowing money. *The Daily Telegraph* of 26 November 2007 reported that the average adult in Britain is £33,000 in debt. This figure includes 'mortgages, credit cards and personal loans'. **A large number of British university graduates gain their degree at the expense of thousands of pounds worth of debt from student loans.** It is very hard to avoid debt even with reasonably well paid employment.

God expects that, where we can, we should endeavour to overcome obstacles like being in debt. He does promise to help those who rely on Him, but depending on the severity of the circum-

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## *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, United Kingdom, or donated online at [www.charity-choice.co.uk](http://www.charity-choice.co.uk) by selecting 'search' and entering 'United Church of God'.



# Letters From Our Readers

## Readers renew *The Good News*

Please keep sending your magazines. I look forward to receiving and reading them. They are always full of delightful articles and thought-provoking issues, particularly about our relationship with God — which is both personal and corporate. It is sad that not enough is done to allow for study of the Word of God within the churches. Perhaps this is one main reason for the decline in many churches. This is due not only to a lack of study of God's Word in church, but also the famine of the true preaching of the Bible.

*P A, Southampton*

- Please see the lead article on page one of this issue, 'The Changing Face of Christianity in Britain.' It addresses this national problem.

I think your *Good News* magazine is good reading with plenty of food for thought. I am of modest means, but I try to support the Church of England. Although I do not attend now, I would hate to see the village church close down. If after all this, you decide to send me your excellent magazine, I will from time to time send a donation so that you can reach other people who need answers to today's many problems. It pains me that I am not able to keep company with like-minded people that keep Saturday as the true Sabbath.

*Mr A B, Boston*

- We will gladly continue your subscription as it doesn't depend on donations — only on a reader's willingness to read the magazine. You may find our free booklets *The Church Jesus Built* and *Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest to be helpful as well.*

*The Good News* is the bread and butter of my daily reading to empower me to know the Lord Jesus and events as foretold in the Bible. Do not stop sending it to me.

*P A, London*

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to share *The Good News* with family and friends. It's been of great benefit. Keep the flag flying. May God bless your entire organisation in helping you reach the lost sheep.

*K I, Dundalk, Ireland*

## Thanks to *Good News* staff members

Here is a small donation to your work. Thank you to Peter Hawkins [coordinating pastor of the United Church of God: British Isles] for taking the time to talk and listen to me. I really appreciate that. It's lovely to have someone on the same wavelength.

*M B, Bradford*

Congratulations to Mario Seigle on his article 'Myths of Evolution.' And may I add that one of his articles in a previous issue was the best argument against evolution I have ever read and his explanation was so simple. Also John Ross Schroeder's article, 'Does God Exist?' was very good.

*Mr C D, Somerset*

## Wrestling with the spirit world

I feel that Satan is infusing the nations with evil phenomena that play on the angst of human weaknesses — which is [ultimately] responsible for all the wars and iniquities that are afoot in the world's communities. Our only defence is God's Holy Word which the teachings of *The Good News* help to make clear in their brief but pungent outline of scriptural truths.

*Mr I W, London*

- The Scriptures say that 'we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness' (Ephesians 6:12). You may wish to request our free booklet *Is There Really a Devil?*

## Thanks for booklets

Thank you for your very interesting and knowledgeable publications. Things in this world are too wonderful for it to be an accident. There must be some form of intelligence behind it all.

*K G H, Plymouth*

- The apostle Paul came to a similar conclusion in *Romans 1:20*. You may wish to request or download our free booklet *Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?*

I wish to thank you for the excellent copy of *Why Does God Allow Suffering?* I found it a great inspiration and full of answers to questions I had. Please keep up the good work in the Lord's name.

*R S, Newtownards, Northern Ireland*

## Bible Study Course

I have sent in the first test paper and am currently working on the second one. I really enjoy the studies. They are well written and I have already learnt a lot. I am looking forward to continuing with each new study lesson.

*Mrs E W, Glasgow*

I am truly blessed by the particular lesson on 'The Transforming Power of God's Spirit.' My understanding of the Holy Spirit is now widely broadened.

*K A G, Longford*