

BEYOND TODAY

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“Fountain of Youth” drugs hold promise of a longer life

Predicted medical advances bring an interesting dilemma. Is a longer physical life desirable?

The idea of living forever fascinates human beings. An ongoing quest to find a chemical “fountain of youth” has led to progress in finding anti-ageing drugs. A recent account concerned the potential of the diabetes drug, Metformin, which scientists claim could slow ageing to the point where all humans could live to 120 years. Clinical trials are due to begin in the USA next winter (*The Daily Telegraph*, 26 March 2016).

Other ideas abound. One is keeping active (*Sunday Express*, 3 April 2016, “Scientists FINALLY discover fountain of youth – but it may not be the answer you wanted”). Many claims are spurious, and sorting the true from the optimistic or the pure fraudulent is not always easy.

From Rider Haggard’s novel *She* to modern day *Marvel* comic hero films and the currently popular zombie films which depict an horrendous concept of immortal life, extended or eternal life captivates our imaginations. The question arises, could a person sustain a long life mentally, emotionally and physically in a flesh and blood body?

Living forever: boring or a delight?

There are two broad spans of opinion. One is summed up by Truman Capote in his book *Portraits and Observations*: “There is such a thing as life-saturation: the point when everything is pure effort and total repetition” (page 378). This same thought was expressed in the movie, *Superman II* (1980), when Ursa told the very bored General Zod, “You are master of all you survey.” Zod mourned, “So I was yesterday. And the day before.”

From a human viewpoint, there is more than a grain of validity to this thinking. King Solomon wrote: “Remem-

ber now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’” (Ecclesiastes 12:1). Septuagenarians and octogenarians may have to use their God-given imaginations to make human life perpetually interesting. The most important thing is a daily relationship with our Creator. Remember the prayer of Moses: “Satisfy us early with Your mercy, that we may rejoice and *be glad all our days!*” (Psalm 90:14).

Another film, *Star Trek: Insurrection* (1998) proposes an alternative scenario. A race called the Ba’Ku had lived for more than 300 years in peace and harmony with perpetual

The Bible promises human beings an abundant, continually interesting and active life, but ultimately in a different dimension – *not* in physical flesh.

health and fitness. Preferring to ignore technology, instead they kneaded their bread by hand, spent years creating beautiful tapestries and grew crops using old-fashioned irrigation methods. This idyllic situation hid a darker side, however, as the younger members of their community preferred to depart, seeking a more thrilling, if rather shorter, existence elsewhere in the galaxy. Their return to attempt to regain their lost youth formed the basic storyline.

Been there, done that

Scripture tells us that a 1,000-year life span has already been tried. Men and women in the world before the Flood

of Noah's time often lived for 900 years and more. See the genealogy in Genesis chapter 5. What was the result?

The extra years only hardened the old world's addiction to evil. Human activity deteriorated as the decades rolled by (Genesis 6:5, 12). Their sin caused suffering and death with the ultimate result that all but eight persons perished in a global flood. After the Flood, God in His mercy gradually shortened the human life span to the 70 or 80 years spoken of in Psalm 90:10. Only in recent decades, have more people begun to live to 100 years of age and beyond.

We want a long life but we also want a healthy, productive and fulfilling life. The Bible promises human beings an abundant, continually interesting and active life, but ultimately in a different dimension – *not* in physical flesh. God promises us a new spirit body (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54). His Word plainly tells us that “flesh and blood *cannot* inherit the kingdom of God” (verse 50).

Both men and women were created in God's image so we could enjoy everlasting life with Him in His divine family (Genesis 1:26-27; 1 John 3:1-2). But *first* we have to both learn and live by His spiritual values.

Joy, not boredom

One thing is certain. God has never been bored! Disobe-

dience to His law remains the unrealised source of human boredom. Keeping God's commandments (defined as righteousness, see Psalm 119:172) produces the opposite effect.

The apostle Paul summed up God's overall assessment of King David's life in Acts 13:22: “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, *who will do all My will.*” What is the ultimate result of this way of life? David looked forward to eternal fellowship with God. He wrote: “In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11).

The fulfilment of this passage will happen at the time of the resurrection. “As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; *I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness*” (Psalm 17:15). Death is a sleep from which we awake when God resurrects us.

Some 3,000 years ago, a Middle Eastern patriarch asked this fundamental question: “If a man dies, shall he live again?” (Job 14:14). Is immortality really possible for human beings? Is everlastingly abundant, perpetually interesting, immortal life written into our destiny? God says it is! To more fully understand both how and why from the Bible, request in print or download our free booklets *What Is Your Destiny?* and *What Happens After Death?*

Queen Elizabeth II at 90

Numerous celebrations will take place throughout the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, as the Queen continues the longest reign of any British monarch.

Although the Queen reached her 90th birthday on 21 April 2016, her official birthday will be June 11 with a special thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral the day before. Aware that she has two birthday celebrations each year, the Queen remarked recently, “I have been warned that I may have ‘Happy Birthday’ sung to me more than once or twice.”

As Head of State and Supreme Governor of the Church of England, she is admired by millions in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth for carrying out her duties conscientiously in challenging times. Most countries round the world have an *elected* head of state. The monarchs in Britain reflect deep roots in the Bible among the ancient kings of Israel. Their right to rule was validated by being anointed with a specially prepared oil unlike any other, and which was only used at a coronation. This tradition of anointing the kings at their coronations is carried on in England and goes by the name of *chrism*, taken from the stem word Christ, which is Greek for Messiah. A monarch anointed at his or her coronation was seen as a representative of the heavenly King.



A queen consort is also anointed at the coronation but not with *chrism*. That special oil with its unique ingredients is reserved for the monarch only.

This anointing and seeking God's “stamp of approval” makes it problematic for kings or queens to retire, or abdicate. No monarch since Norman times has ever willingly abdicated. Some kings were removed by violent means, like Edward II, Richard II, Henry VI, with James II deposed and Charles I executed in Whitehall. Edward VIII was forced to abdicate.

In regard to Queen Elizabeth II, indications are that she would be reluctant to step down or abdicate. It's not part of her vocabulary. She sees herself as fulfilling her God-given responsibilities to the British people until the end of her life.

Almost 3000 years ago King Solomon was anointed by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, his people acclaiming him king of Israel with the following words, “Long life King Solomon!” (see 1 Kings 1:34, 39). A continued long life for the Queen is equally the wish of the British people.

G O Marx

Women as allies

What should be the status and function of women in secular and religious society? A study of two scriptures conveys interesting information concerning the role of Christian women, whether wives, mothers, widows or single.

In many cultures, over millennia, women have found themselves downtrodden, undervalued and even considered the property of men. Is this what our Creator intended when in Genesis 1:26 He declared, “Let Us make man in Our image according to Our likeness”?

The next verse provides the answer: “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (verse 27, see also Genesis 5:1-2).

These verses clearly state that both male and female were made in the image of God, and suggest that some of His characteristics were placed in the man and others in the woman. These traits complement each other and together, as in marriage, produce an enhanced representation of God’s nature.

The meaning of the word ‘helper’

God Himself describes the role for which He created the woman. He declared, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him” (Genesis 2:18).

In Hebrew, two words could be translated as “helper,” but with very different implications. One word is *obed*. It is the Hebrew word for “servant,” as in the name Obadiah, which means “servant of God.” *Obed* is not the word God inspired here and that is not the kind of helper God intended Eve to be to Adam, even though some husbands may disagree.

A woman’s role is vital and far more than that of a servant. As it says in this verse, her position is comparable, or equiv-

alent, to that of her husband, not inferior to it.

The Hebrew word translated “helper” in Genesis 2:18 is *ezer*, as in Ezra, which means “God is my help.” It has the sense of being an ally. An *ezer* helper is an ally-helper. To win major battles in times of war requires the support of a strong ally. This is what Adam needed to counter Satan’s attempts to destroy their relationship with God, with one another and with their future children.

It is interesting that God chose a rib from which to make the first woman. Ribs protect the vital organs contained in the thorax and are close to the heart. Both reinforce the concept of an ally-helper.

Satan would like to destroy the marriage relationship that

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God designed and instituted. To combat this threat, every husband needs a strong ally-helper wife to fight alongside him in their spiritual battles against their common enemy (Ephesians 6:10-13).

Seeing the enemy

The Hebrew word *ezer*, or ally-helper, contains three Hebrew letters: *Ayin – Zayin – Reysh*. In ancient times, these

Foreigners, servants and women

Throughout human history there have been particular groups who have been disadvantaged due to the prevailing culture. The Bible, a body of literature covering a broad sweep of that history, contains several comments regarding the roles of both men and women. It suggests that these roles are ‘God given’ and they concern leadership within the immediate family, wider society and the Church community.

For example, God gave certain laws to protect human life and to afford equal dignity to both men and women. The fifth and sixth commandments God gave to the Children of Israel instructed children to ‘honour your father and your mother’ and told all that they ‘shall not murder.’

These purposes were not always understood, and when the apostle Paul was writing, the status of women was little

better than that of a slave. He contrasted some traditional beliefs by declaring, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:28-29).

At that time it was not expected that foreigners, servants or women would inherit anything. Yet Paul claimed that in Christ they were all equal heirs – regardless of race, status or gender – with the patriarch Abraham, to whom God had made a profound promise of a great inheritance.

To study further the complementary purposes and spiritual implications of marriage and family, please request our booklet *Marriage & Family: The Missing Dimension*.

David Fenney

letters were also pictograms. In some cases these pictures can provide further insight into the meaning of the words they form, although caution is needed as they can be interpreted in many ways. In this case the pictograms match and enhance God's revelation of the biblical role of a woman and of a wife.

Ayin, the sixteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, was drawn as an eye, depicting "seeing" or "understanding."

Zayin, the seventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet portayed a weapon.

Reysh, the twentieth letter of the Hebrew alphabet pictured a man's head.

The ancient Hebrew word picture meaning of *ezer* is:

Ayin: "to see or to understand"

Zayin: "the weapon"

Reysh: "man"

A "weapon man" would be an enemy, so the meaning of *ezer* would be "to see the enemy" or "to understand the enemy."

Often a wife will warn her husband about something or someone, only for him to realise later that she had perceived something he had not.

Sometimes women seem to have a sixth sense. Maybe that is because God created them to be able to "see the enemy" in advance.

If a woman only sees herself as a servant-helper, she is unlikely to be a warrior ally in times of major spiritual battles. In those cases, Satan might well win a victory.

By extension, a woman can often fill this function for humanity in general. Her tending instincts lead to invaluable roles as a nurse, a teacher of children, a manager of people and households, a seamstress, a supplier of wholesome meals or a provider of wisdom and insight.

A powerful woman

A second passage, Proverbs 31 verses 10-31, mentions many of these same responsibilities. Some of the described tasks concern managing the family and household, others support the community. All these aspects fulfil a woman's purpose as an ally-helper to mankind.

The King James Bible uses the word *virtuous* to describe this woman (verse 10). Today *virtuous* means "moral excellence, righteousness and having strong character." In 1611 when the KJV was translated, it meant "strong, powerful, mighty, having valour and courage." The original Hebrew word *chayil* here translated as *virtuous*, has this same meaning of power and strength.

Who can find a wife or a woman who has a great deal of strength – strength of character, mind, purpose and

resolve? Who can find a wife or a woman who has tremendous spiritual strength? Who can find a woman who has a strong relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ? Who can find a wife who maintains a strong relationship with her husband? Her worth is far above rubies. Yet all genuine rubies contain flaws showing that no human being is perfect. All can achieve far more when they have a clear picture of their function in life and strive to follow God's purpose for them.

A powerful woman directs her life as a shepherd controls and guides the sheep. Instead of allowing life's challenges

to control her, she faces problems with confidence, courage and the conviction that comes from godly wisdom and spiritual strength.

A husband needs a strong ally-helper

Why might a husband not want a powerful wife? Firstly, as a leader in his family, church or business community, he may not see the need to have such a helper. Secondly, he may not understand her

role as an ally-helper and instead view her as a threat, or intimidating. However, even a strong and powerful woman needs a comparable man to turn to for support and comfort in times of deep distress.

During His ministry, Jesus Christ provided this masculine support for at least two widows. On one occasion, He resurrected the woman's deceased son, and later, as He hung on the cross, He provided a home for His own mother with the apostle John (Luke 7:12-15; John 19:25-27).

A powerful ally-helper should be highly valued, especially in our Christian warfare with Satan. It is extremely important for every woman to build and maintain her own strong personal relationship with God and to remain spiritually connected to God. In this way she can support the leadership role of her husband.

Satan understands the purpose God designed for women. The first thing he sought to do was to destroy Eve's relationship with her husband and to confuse her God-given identity. Satan has been successfully confusing and thwarting God's intended function for women in society ever since. Today, he has most husbands and wives pitted against one another. He also has men and women competing against one another, viewing each other as enemies instead of allies.

God created women to be ally-helpers to their menfolk and to society in general. With God's help, men and women can both achieve their designated purpose.

Adapted from a presentation by LeeAnn Luker



Lovers of selfies

The new self-absorption of taking photographs of oneself is leading to a rise in deaths and injuries as attention is drawn away from hazardous surroundings. Even more significant are the spiritual dangers.

Selfies. Imagine a time before this word. Before self-centredness and self-obsession had been sanitised into the trendy, diminutive “selfie”. Hiding behind this seemingly harmless little word is often a terrible emptiness that, for many, absorbs leisure time, work time, and in some cases, mealtimes. An addictive dependency on smartphones and electronic tablets enables an individual to produce an endless, yet aimless, narrative, recording every passing moment through self-images.

Many will have seen examples on Facebook and Instagram, and it seems absurdly extreme, but is it?

Deaths and addiction

A fondness for selfies seems to result in a distracted disposition and a lack of awareness. Selfie-related deaths worldwide apparently exceeded those from shark attacks in 2015, with careless falls as a leading cause of injury and loss of life (*The Week*, 23 September 2015).

After a rise in deaths among visitors to the Lake District, the chairman of a mountain rescue association reported that walkers “often had a selfie stick but not the right gear” and set off ill-prepared for accidents and changes in the weather (*Daily Telegraph*, 1 April 2016).

The first recognised case of selfie addiction in Britain was a 19-year-old young man who could not stop taking pictures of himself, several hundred a day. Doctors attending him diagnosed selfie addiction, technology addiction, obsessive compulsive disorder, and body dysmorphic disorder – not an unusual combination of complexes according to experts (Fiona Keating, “Selfies Linked to Narcissism, Addiction and Mental Illness, Say Scientists,” *International Business Times* at IBTimes.co.uk, 23 March 2014).

Surely this is just an anomaly that has affected a few unhappy people in the last decade or so as technology has advanced? Let’s travel deep into the distant past for a crash course on the problem of selfies. . .

The allure of the mirror

According to ancient Greek legend, Narcissus was a youth so fixated with his own appearance that he starved to death, staring at his reflected image in the waters of a stream. Self-destructive self-love, here imagined in an eloquent Greek narrative, has not changed much. Narcissus-like individuals lived ages ago in Greece (hence the inspiration for the story), and they live now, every day, all around us. Sadly, for modern-day acolytes of Narcissus, his end was not

a happy one, and the empty self-love and self-obsession is just as painful now as it was then.

So should we never take an occasional selfie or two with friends or while visiting an impressive building or mountain range? These are not wrong, but narcissism takes many forms.

Turning love towards others

This takes us to where the problem starts. Smartphones do not leap into hands of themselves. Pressure from peers and marketing can bear heavily on our sense of identity, but there is an individual responsibility to seek out a sense of purpose larger than “self” and to develop a strength of mind that is not buffeted by public opinion.

First, we have to recognise the problem around us.

The apostle Paul described “perilous times” at the end of the age. “For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God,



Self-destructive self-love can be seen all around us. It has reached a level previously unknown in human history affecting people from all demographic groups.

Shutterstock

disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred” (2 Timothy 3:1-2, New Living Translation).

It is difficult to imagine an era of history more suited to this description than the one in which we live. The crushing burden of collective narcissism that is set forth on social media, throughout the professional news media, via polit-

ical leaders, entertainers, celebrity lifestyle programmes, product marketing and in our daily interactions exposes a destructive landscape.

To change for the better, we must know what we need to do. We live in an age of empty self-love precisely because all that love has been focused on self. And therein lies the antidote, we must find someone and something else to put before ourselves in order to find meaning in life. Mind you, there are many people, religions and philosophies that will volunteer to be that object. The next part of the journey consists of sorting through that minefield.

Family, friends and those in various states of need are certainly worthy of our love, and love-in-action in terms of help or outgoing concern. Where does the mandate of a moral obligation to altruism and selflessness originate? Is there a source? Yes, there is. The Bible is such a source. Other religious books may claim supremacy in this regard, but consider looking into the book that has survived longer intact than virtually any other written document in human

history. To study the word of God as just another self-help book is self-defeating. To benefit from what the Bible offers, a humble attitude and an open mind are required. Humility, known also as self-effacement, is, in the end, where the pendulum of excess self-love has to swing in order to retrieve our human dignity.

To learn more about why the Bible is authoritative, how it can enrich your life and why reading its pages must generate a change in lifestyle, please request or download the free Bible study aid *How to Understand the Bible* from our mailing address or online at www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/how-to-understand-the-bible.

Narcissus, if such a person ever existed, is long gone and selfies are rapidly lost in the daily deluge of social media updates, but a sound mind and an outward focus will leave an uplifting and often vital impression on those around us that may last for a lifetime. Re-focus your gaze away from the camera lens and reap a greater reward.

Amanda Stiver

Live life with fewer regrets

So many actions and behaviours bring bad results and lasting regrets. Living life God's way reduces these unhappy experiences and provides new perspective to past regrets.

God created us to enjoy life. Like a good parent, He warns us away from behaviours that can cause us harm and is pleased when we delight in His ways. In a world full of distractions it is easy to feel we are missing out on what looks or sounds like “fun.” It might be recreational drugs, smoking, getting drunk, acquiring a tattoo, an inappropriate relationship, or something else entirely.

How many people coughing their way to their deaths wish they hadn't started smoking? How many have a name tattooed on their skin that in later life they wish to erase? How many life-scarring accidents result from drunkenness or drugs? How many lives are broken from addictions to gambling, shopping and other poor financial choices?

The moral is that we cannot truly enjoy life if what we do involves breaking God's laws. Sin always carries a penalty, the ultimate being death (Romans 6:23). But what about the other penalties, the here-and-now ones?

Imagine the grief a family goes through when one of their children dies in a crash as a result of drunk driving. Or consider the turmoil that occurs in a family as a result of a teen pregnancy. What about the shattered lives of those who took drugs only to end up brain damaged or addicted? Or the anguish of the parents and siblings who have to deal with the results?

Breaking God's law always ends in regret for someone. It is only when we reject sin that we can escape from its penalty and really enjoy life, with the knowledge that it will become an everlasting, loving relationship with our Heavenly Father in His Kingdom.

Usually we reap what we sow, but not always. The apostle John wrote, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8-9). When we truly repent of our sins, God promises to forgive us, not just of some unrighteousness, not just the little things, but of *all* unrighteousness.

When God forgives our sins, covers our sins with the blood of Jesus' sacrifice, they can never again be attributed to us. It is as though they were never there. This doesn't imply that we just totally forget what we have done. If we forget past mistakes then we will probably repeat them. Instead we need to learn from them and determine to avoid such behaviours in future.

Neither does it infer that we won't have any physical penalties or scars as a result. Some scars we could retain for the rest of our physical lives. And we may continue to live with sorrow for some things we did, maybe about the harm or distress we caused to others. An experience can never be “unexperienced.” But it can be repented of, forgiven and become a motive to change our lives.

Repentance and transforming your life with God's help will save you a lot of needless suffering. And you will have fewer regrets.

For further guidance please request our booklets *The Ten Commandments* and *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion*.

Carl Torcetti



Q My husband says we should not vote. I don't see why not. What is your view?
Reader from Scotland

A Whether or not to vote on national issues, or only on local matters, or not at all is a matter for the individual. Nevertheless, there are several observations that can be made regarding political processes.

Firstly, God's plan and purpose are fixed and will come about, no matter what mankind does.

Secondly, we need to consider whether human governments can save us? Can they change human nature? Can they change the world and somehow make things right? God alone can do that, not just physically but also spiritually.

To argue a strong political position can be divisive, and God hates division, especially in churches and families. In addition we may find ourselves voting for and giving approval to those who act contrary to God's commandments, or bring in legal processes that are contrary to God's law. This can harden our consciences against the Almighty's decrees if we are not very careful.

Thirdly, did Jesus ever spend any time, any energy, teaching us how we could change and reform the secular world or the human governments around us? No! Did the apostles ever call for a rally to overcome the Roman government? They never did! Was there any promoting of civil disobedience or protests against the Roman government? No! It never happened.

Let the Bible Answer...

What does the Bible teach about the treatment of refugees?

Principles are found in Exodus 22:21; 23; Leviticus 19:10, 33; Ezekiel 22:29, 31; Malachi 3:5; Romans 13:8-10.

Instead, they commanded us to preach the gospel. They commanded us to take care of those who would respond to that gospel. They gave clear evidence that through the word that Jesus Christ brought individual lives could be transformed. They could be changed. It wasn't on a governmental level. It was on an individual level.

We do have the responsibility to obey the laws that the government has made, unless they directly break God's laws. We are commanded to be good citizens (Romans 13:1-7). The calling that Christians have been given doesn't lie in politics or political activism. Our God-given mandate is to preach the word and to live by that word. Each one of us has that calling as God opens our minds to His truth.

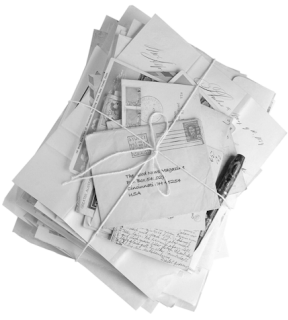
There is only one government that will save this world. It's the one that will be brought to earth by Jesus Christ. Christians are subject to that government now and will be part of its ruling body on earth (Revelation 20:4-6). The laws, procedures and judgments we should be learning now are those of this future government of Christ and our Heavenly Father. The politics of men are nothing in comparison.

Q In your view, is Britain going to leave the EU?
Reader from London

A Prime Minister David Cameron made a pledge of an in-out referendum on Britain's continued membership of the EU part of his party's 2015 general election campaign. It emerged as a political expedient intended to address perceived concerns that significant sections of the UK electorate were likely to transfer their support away from the long-established political parties to those with an anti-Europe stance. Ironically, Mr Cameron now finds himself supporting the "remain" viewpoint while significant opposition within his own party and elsewhere presents a challenge to his leadership by supporting "leave."

Britain's relationship with the EU and its predecessors has been fraught almost from the beginning. Support for and promotion of free trade has long been part of the predominant British worldview. Nevertheless, there is a fundamental difference of opinion as to whether Britain's best interests are served by standing and trading independently on the world stage or by being a member of a large regional trading bloc like the EU. In addition, the EU concept of "ever closer political union" seems unacceptable and a source of anxiety to many Britons who remember two World Wars that threatened basic freedoms and our self-determination.

Will the UK electorate vote to remain or to leave? We shall soon see. We pray that whichever way the referendum goes any resulting division within society will prove short-lived. Our responsibility to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God throughout the UK, Europe and the wider world will continue regardless of the outcome.



Letters From Our Readers

Beyond Today Television Programme

I watch *Beyond Today* on YouTube. I am a new follower of God and need to understand His Holy Day plan. If you have any spare copies of *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope For All Mankind*, I would like one.

Viewer in London

I saw your broadcast, *Beyond Today*, on the Word Network. I find it very informative. I am writing to request a free Bible prophecy study guide. Could you also possibly send me any other material about these last days.

Viewer in London

I disagree with your use of television to promote Jesus. The Bible states that we have made all these things (wood, metal, plastic, glass etc.) for a sin unto ourselves, and by them we shall be destroyed. It is obvious! The written word is so much more powerful.

Reader in Scotland

Editor's comment: There is no prohibition in scripture against using available technology to preach the gospel, whether written or spoken. Indeed, for those with sight problems the spoken word is better.

It would also be very difficult today to preach the gospel "in all the world" (Matthew 24:14), even using only the written word, if technologies such as computers and mass printing were not available to us.

Understanding the Bible

Thank you so very much for all the magazines. I am loving *You Can Understand Bible Prophecy*. It is giving me a far better understanding of the Bible. I am looking forward to receiving the other booklets I requested.

Reader from Dublin

I enjoy reading your magazine. It is uplifting, and shows where we are in Bible prophecy. Please keep sending me this lovely magazine.

Reader from London

Thank you for your free reading material. It helps me gain a deeper grasp of God's word and His plans for mankind. You seem more reliable than some who do the same thing.

Reader from Montrose

I really appreciate your booklets that answer specific things in the Bible that most of us have never fully understood.

Reader from Darlington

I have learned so much from your magazine. It has helped me understand.

Reader from Bushey

Comments from Bible Course students

Your *Bible Study Course* has really helped me to understand the Bible. I was one who rarely understood it

and felt embarrassed to discuss verses from it, as I felt I would get it wrong. Now I feel confident to quote the Bible. Thanks a lot.

Student from London

The *Bible Study Course* is excellent. I am learning so much. The magazine is good too. Excellent, fantastic teaching about the knowledge of the Bible. Do you have a booklet about faith?

Student from Leicester

Editor's comment: We certainly do have a booklet on faith. It's called You Can Have Living Faith and a copy has been posted to you.

Government a disgrace

Britain and its government have been a real disgrace to all our Western biblical teaching and the reality of our Lord's teaching of the gospel word. Maybe your literature of written word can reflect this more?

Reader on the Isle of Lewis

Editor's comment: The response to the first question on page 7 covers similar subject matter.

All our literature can be requested from the address at the bottom of the front page, or downloaded from www.ucg.org.

How our literature is funded

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