

Tower of London Prepares for Bird Flu

*We take great care of the welfare of our birds and animals.
But what about our children?*

The British have a great love of birds, and animals in general. Recently this concern for our feathered friends has been mixed with worry over a long-held tradition that speaks of impending doom.

The Tower of London has decided to keep its famous ravens indoors to protect them from bird flu. Yeoman Warder 'Ravenmaster' Derrick Coyle has been forced to quarantine his six royal charges in specially built aviaries within one of the towers of the Norman fortress on the River Thames.

Legend has it the Tower of London will collapse and the kingdom will fall when none of the birds are left. At one point during the bombing blitz on London in World War II all but one of the ravens died.

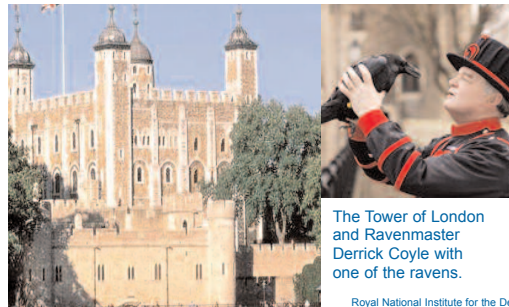
The Tower ravens – named Branwen, Hugine, Munin, Gwyllum, Thor and Baldrick – are said to be getting used to their new surroundings. Derrick Coyle said, 'Although we don't like having to bring the Tower ravens inside, we believe it is the safest thing to do for their own protection, given the speed that the virus is moving across Europe.'

Contrast with protecting our people

While we try to protect the ravens in

the Tower of London, like many other Western nations we seem unwilling to tackle what is far more likely to bring down our nation – the destruction of the family and ignorance of God's moral code.

The Government plans to finance thousands of do-it-yourself kits to test for sexually transmitted diseases. The kits are to be given to young people in the United Kingdom. Chlamydia now



The Tower of London and Ravenmaster Derrick Coyle with one of the ravens.

Royal National Institute for the Deaf

affects one in 10 people between 16 and 25 years old. Syphilis cases in England have risen by 1,421 percent in the last 10 years.

A government minister said that new technology should be used to help remove the 'taboo' of testing for STDs. But Valerie Riches of *Family and Youth Concern* said: 'The focus should be on preventing infections in the first place

by encouraging chastity. The Government's approach is the wrong way round.'

Long ago the God who gave us the lands we inhabit declared, 'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you . . . seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children' (Hosea 4:6).

Many of our children are without doubt suffering because their parents prefer a libertine society that has said 'anything goes', excused by saying, 'as long as it does not hurt anyone else.'

Earlier Hosea wrote: 'The LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land' (Hosea 4:1). Scripture tells us that God does not change (Malachi 3:6). He has the same controversy with us today.

Our publication *Marriage & Family: The Missing Dimension* was written to help parents gain the moral strength and direction to protect themselves and their children. Please request your free copy.

Peter Hawkins

Do We Appreciate the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ?

How well do we understand the meaning behind Christ's sufferings and death?

Why did Christ come to earth? Jesus entered our world for more than one reason, but perhaps His chief purpose was to save us from our sins, reconciling us to God the Father.

Most believers comprehend something of Christ's sacrifice. But often real depth of understanding is missing. We can be thankful that the biblical writers help us to fill this gap.

How well do we grasp the nature of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins? Do we deeply comprehend the suffering and the agony He endured for our sake? Jesus wants every Christian to fully appreciate what He went through for our sins to be forgiven.

To help us grasp the supreme importance of His sacrifice, let us accompany Jesus on His journey to Jerusalem, not strictly in a geographical or chronological sense, but mentally and emotionally, as He approached the time when He would complete the fulfillment of the basic purpose of His humanity.

Subject to the human condition

The biblical record shows that temptations, frustrations and obstacles punctuated Christ's ministry.

One of the most destructive first-century errors was the false teaching that Jesus 'did not come in the flesh' (1 John 4:1-3). Many adopted the belief that Christ was not really a human being in the fullest sense, that He didn't suffer the temptations to sin that we all experience, that He was not really one of us.

Although the apostle John condemned

this heresy in the strongest of terms and the biblical record repudiates it, sadly it persists to this day.

While unequivocally affirming His divine identity, the Gospels also present a very human Jesus. Time and time again Christ asked people whom He had healed not to say anything that would focus attention on Himself. The Bible shows that in most instances their excitement and enthusiasm got the better of those who were healed and, against His wishes, they quickly spread the news of what had happened.

At times Jesus needed periods alone

Jesus faced near-total rejection from the religious establishment of His nation.

or with His closest disciples, but the crowds usually managed to find Him. Jesus did not use the miracle-working power His Father gave Him to manipulate people and events for His own purposes, however important they were. He always responded to the needs of the people. He did not seek to please Himself (Romans 15:3).

A strong sense of mission

From early in His ministry Jesus had a strong sense of mission (Luke 2:49-52). By age 12 He was speaking of God as His Father and showing a strong conviction to occupy Himself with His Father's will. He knew He had a great purpose.

Some 20 years later, when He was with His 12 disciples, Mark recorded that 'He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things,

and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again' (Mark 8:31).

Christ soon discovered that the 12 were not fully able to grasp this knowledge as they were not yet converted. They apparently still looked to Him as one who, as the Messiah, would immediately deliver the nation from Roman rule. In any event, Jesus had to rebuke Peter for letting himself be used by Satan to try to divert the true Anointed One from His ultimate purpose (verses 32-33).

Jesus faced near-total rejection from the religious establishment of His nation, Judah. 'He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him' (John 1:11). Humanly, He undoubtedly would have liked to receive some empathetic encouragement from those closest to Him.

Jesus repeated the prophecy of His approaching death in Mark 9:31. 'But they [the disciples] did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him' (verse 32).

The last journey to Jerusalem

'Now it came to pass that when the [general] time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem' (Luke 9:51). Jesus was determined to carry out His mission. Nothing and no one would deflect Him from His purpose.

Satan had already tried and failed before (Matthew 4:1-11), but now he continued to increase the pressure. It would be in this city that Christ would allow Himself to be put to death for *our* many sins, making it possible for us to

be reconciled to God the Father.

Jesus' final date with destiny as a human being had been much on His mind throughout His ministry. Yet this Gospel account tells us that no one up to that time had been successful in arresting or harming Him 'for His hour had not yet come' (John 8:20). But Jesus knew full well that when the appointed time *did* arrive He would experience a violent, premature death – yet a death that was profoundly significant for the future of all mankind. Because of His acute understanding of the purpose of His last visit to Jerusalem, He had to make that final journey to His beloved city without much support from His disciples.

A fate foretold

Humanly, Jesus was no different from the rest of us. He didn't want to die (Matthew 26:39). But, unlike most of us, He knew well in advance the time and circumstances that would surround His death.

He also knew the exact mode of execution – one of the most cruel and painful methods ever devised by men, the Roman crucifixion (John 12:32-33). In His travels He had no doubt seen the gruesome spectacle of men dying in this way. Such public executions were intended to be a deterrent to challenging Roman authority.

Psychologically, this advance knowledge was no comfort to Jesus. In fact, it had the opposite effect. As His fate drew near He lamented: 'Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say, "Father, save Me from this hour"? But for this purpose I came to this hour' (verse 27).

Do we, 2,000 years later, truly grasp the depth of Christ's sufferings for our sake? Do we realise what our sins, collectively and individually, did to this sinless and vibrant young man, our Saviour, in the prime of His human life?

Not only the humiliation, the terrible beatings and the crucifixion itself, but the mental anguish He also suffered must have been agonising. This was to be no ordinary death. Jesus knew He

had to take the sins of the whole world – past, present and future – on Himself. He did for us what we could never do for ourselves.

Christ's agony at Gethsemane

Arriving at the Garden of Gethsemane and taking Peter, James and John with Him, Jesus asked the disciples to wait while He prayed. 'Then He said to them: "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch."

'He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will,

Humanly, Jesus was no different from the rest of us. He didn't want to die. But unlike most of us He knew in advance the time and circumstances that would surround His death.

but what You will'" (Mark 14:34-36).

At the time of His greatest agony, His most trusted friends could not even stay awake. But the Father strengthened Him by sending an angel (Luke 22:43). Then, with fixed determination and renewed resolve, He said to the disciples, 'Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer [Judas Iscariot] is at hand' (Mark 14:42). His suffering continued with the humiliation and scourging that soon followed.

Later, in the last few moments of His human life, 'Jesus cried out with a loud voice . . . , "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"' (Matthew 27:46). Though sinless, Jesus at His death took on Himself all the sin of all humanity for all time (Hebrews 10:12). The awful penalty had to be paid. In the end of this great trial, Christ had to bear the weight of our sins absolutely alone.

Christ's sacrifice was an act of supreme selflessness under the most difficult of circumstances. He willingly chose to give His life for us. This was

heroism in the highest degree possible. That is why Christians must never take His sacrifice for granted. We must not forget the ultimate price Jesus paid to blot out our sins. Our appreciation for His sacrifice must endure forever.

Annual reminder of Christ's sacrifice

The Scriptures tell us that God has worked out a marvelous plan to remind us year by year of this most important act in all history. The explicit instructions Jesus Himself gave, along with those of the apostle Paul, show that the annual Passover should be one of the most significant dates on the calendar of every Christian. When we observe it, as Paul wrote, we 'proclaim the Lord's death till He comes' (1 Corinthians 1:26).

In a figurative and spiritual sense, Christians have to walk the path to Jerusalem with Jesus every year. We are reminded of the part our own sins have played in His crucifixion. Paul tells us that before we participate in this annual reminder, we must examine ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28; 2 Corinthians 13:5).

Following Christ's example and instructions, in this ceremony Christians partake of a small piece of unleavened bread followed by a sip of wine, the symbols Christ gave to remind us of His sacrificed body and shed blood (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

The annual Passover observance is also a reminder of our sacred covenant with God made at baptism – the promise that, as He willingly gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for our sins (John 3:16-17), so we have willingly surrendered our lives to Him to obey His will (Romans 6:6-13).

The reminder of and acceptance of Christ's sacrifice, marked by the annual Passover, will always be the crucial first step in God's plan.

John Ross Schroeder

Spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom

We thought you would like to know some of the details of the work of the United Church of God – British Isles during this past year.

We are encouraged and almost overawed by developments in this part of the world. Many new people have begun reading the message of hope, and many of them are telling us how much they appreciate it and wish to learn more about living God's way. Just short of 5,700 additional readers of *The Good News* started receiving it during 2005. The majority of these have come from Internet advertising attracting viewers to the Church's websites. So they already have had an opportunity to view articles in advance and to know more about the truth. Perhaps you are one of those readers.

What becomes obvious is that as a team working together to fulfil the responsibilities given to all Christians, we can accomplish much more than we can as individuals.

We are grateful for the prayerful support of so many readers. Too often we diminish the power of prayer, but the prayers of righteous people bring dramatic results (James 5:16).

After giving thanks, Jesus Christ fed perhaps more than 20,000 people at one time ('5,000 men besides women and children', Matthew 14:21) with five loaves and two fishes. The Captain of our salvation, Jesus Christ, can multiply the results of our relatively small income to feed hundreds of thousands in the UK and Europe with *spiritual food*.

Battling with problems

While the dark clouds of war seem to be increasing in the Middle East, even more immediate concerns in people's lives are the often distressing situa-

tions they face from day to day. Some battle financial troubles or severe health problems. A good many feel life has become meaningless. Their faith has been undermined by the theory of evolution and the denial of the authority of God's Word by many clerics.

Our nation's leaders need to re-establish respect for God and Jesus Christ. Many suffer because they live in ignorance of God's way of life. Young people, who potentially have wonderful lives ahead of them, may grow up bitter

As a team working together to fulfil the responsibilities given to all Christians, we can accomplish much more than we can as individuals.

and distraught – often in broken homes without the love of dedicated parents. Youth more than ever before have become the target of Satan as he further destabilises society around us ('children of disobedience', Ephesians 2:2; 5:6).

Fishers of men

In Mark 1:14-17 a fishing net is used by Jesus to illustrate how His disciples would draw people to His message: 'Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Now as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"'

(emphasis added). So today we have a rather different 'net' to draw people to Christ's message to 'repent and believe the Gospel' – the Internet.

This is the continuing opportunity that we are blessed with today: to spread Christ's gospel to others in desperate need of His power to heal their lives. His message is explained in more detail in our free booklet *The Gospel of the Kingdom*.

A regular renewal programme

We keep the *Good News* mailing list 'fresh' by sending regular renewals to encourage those who appreciate the message to respond and continue to receive the magazine. Last year we posted 4,400 renewal letters and received 35%, over a third, wanting to continue on the mailing list. This is a very good response considering the high number of first-time readers.

During the renewal process we offer the *Bible Study Course* along with the booklet *Managing Your Finances*. The *Bible Study Course* is where people who are serious about following 'The Way' discover what the Bible really says – true doctrine and living in a godly manner become clear when the Word of God is studied in an orderly manner.

As a result, nearly 1,300 new students started the *Bible Study Course* in 2005!

During the process of study a significant number produce fruits of a changing life. From the 530 who started the course in 2004, nearly a third completed all 12 lessons. We sincerely hope that

(Continued on page 7)

What Is the Church?

Jesus Christ said, 'I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.' What was the church to which Christ was referring?

The scripture quoted above is found in Matthew 16:18 where, we repeat, Jesus Christ said, 'I will build My church, and the gates of Hades [the grave] shall not prevail against it.'

Notice in particular these two points:

1) Jesus Christ is a builder. To build something means to construct, to make, put together, or assemble. But what is He building?

2) He is building His Church. What is His Church? And of whom is it composed?

When you build something you use certain materials. So what are the materials Christ is using to build His Church? Let's look for a moment at the word 'church' itself. *Church* is an English translation from the Greek word *ekklesia*.

'Ek' means 'out of'. 'Klesia' or 'klesis' means 'a calling'; and 'kaleo' (the verb) means 'to call'.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of the Old and New Testaments says that *ekklesia* can mean the 'whole company of the redeemed throughout the present era'; or a 'company consisting of professed believers'; or simply 'a congregation'.

The Church is the group, or body of people who have been called out by God to be a part of the assembly of believers.

These 'called out' ones are the building materials by which Christ is constructing His Church.

The gates of Hades

In Matthew 16:18, Christ said: 'I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.'

In other words, Christ is saying that 'death' – the ultimate enemy of all phys-

ical life – will not be able to overcome the Church which Christ is building. It will never be destroyed, it will never decay, it will last forever.

The physical creation is temporary. Our physical lives are but for a time. We are born, we live for a time, and then we die (Hebrews 9:26-27). And the next generation comes along and follows the same course. All physical living things eventually die. Even the inanimate universe is running down (see Hebrews 1:10-11).

God the Father and the resurrected Jesus Christ remain eternal, but the

The 'called out ones' – those who comprise the Church that Christ is building – will be given positions of responsibility and service when Christ returns to earth.

physical creation exists for a time only. It will eventually perish. But the true Church which Jesus is building will last forever.

Working with the building materials

In the construction of any building, the builder works with the materials in order to fit each piece into its rightful place. A building is designed to have a foundation, a framework, a roof, and interior walls. The builder doesn't place the interior walls on the roof, or the frames in the foundation. Each has its place in the building.

Notice John 14:1-3. Here Jesus was speaking to His disciples and to us today. 'Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions [rooms]; 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 and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.'

Christ was telling His disciples not to worry about what was going to happen to them. Just as they trusted in the Father, He said they must also trust in Him. Jesus explained to His disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them in His Father's house. But more than that, He was going to come back and gather them together to be with Him. But even before that He would send the Holy Spirit to be in them. Those who do not have the Holy Spirit are not Christ's (Romans 8:9).

Other Scriptures show that the 'called out ones' – those who comprise the Church that Christ is building – will not only have a place in the Father's house for eternity, but they will also be given positions of responsibility and service when Christ returns to earth (see Revelation 2:26; 3:21).

And when He comes back, Christ will be right here on earth, with His people – with the *ekklesia* – the Church – as many Scriptures show.

For example, Revelation 20:6 and Revelation 5:9-10 show specifically that those comprising the Church will be made kings and priests and will reign with Christ for a thousand years on earth. They do not reign in heaven. (Please request our free booklet, *Heaven and Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach?*)

On-the-job training

But how can members of God's Church reign with Christ unless they have been properly educated for the job? How can they take on these responsibilities that Christ has prepared

unless they are first trained in what needs to be done?

Christ is not only preparing a place in the Father's house, but He is also teaching, educating, and giving on-the-job training to fill the position He has prepared for each member.

Jesus Christ is building His Church just as a builder works with the materials. He measures, he cuts, he trims, he shapes each piece to fit correctly into the building. God's people are the building materials Christ is working with today. Trials, tests and blessings help shape our spiritual qualities.

Now the Scriptures also liken the Church that Christ is building to a temple – a certain type of building used for religious purposes. 'Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are' (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

The Church, made up of individual members, is likened to a spiritual temple which Christ is building. In this analogy, it is likened to a building that is under construction – not yet completed. It is also a building that will last forever.

Instruction in Ephesians

In his letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul writes about the reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles through Jesus Christ. 'Now, therefore, you [Gentiles]

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 prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord' (Ephesians 2:19-22).

In this analogy we see Christians being likened to:

1) A whole building – not just a part of a building. This building, in the analogy, is called a holy temple.

2) Christians are joined together in this building.

3) They are growing up into a holy temple in the Lord (it is being built).

4) This holy temple is built on a foundation – the apostles and prophets.

5) In this holy temple, Christ is the Chief Cornerstone.

The Chief Cornerstone and Head of the Church

Jesus Christ is the Head of God's Church (Ephesians 1:22-23). He is the Chief Cornerstone. He is in the process of building His Church – a holy temple – composed of those called out by God. Yes, the ones called out – the *ekklesia* – the ones chosen by God (John 6:44) and in whom dwells His Spirit – are the building blocks by which the construction of the 'holy temple' will be completed.

Part of the building of the Church has already been completed. The foundation composed of the apostles and the prophets has been laid, and Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone.

In ancient times it was an accepted practice to begin a building by laying a cornerstone which was oriented in such a way that the foundation and all the walls took their position and alignment from it. It was the principal stone in the construction. Jesus Christ is the principal person in the construction of the Church. The whole building takes its orientation from Jesus Christ. He sets the example. He has the chief position in the building. He is the One against whom we measure and align ourselves.

Notice in particular 1 Peter 2:6: 'Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."'

Christ has the most prominent position in the Church. 'He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence' (Colossians 1:18).

Those who are Christ's are 'living stones' as the next instalment will carefully explain.

*Reg Wright, elder
United Church of God, Australia
(To be continued)*

Saturday Sabbath Services

We regularly receive enquiries about attending services of the United Church of God, held according to God's commandment on the seventh-day Sabbath. (Please see our free booklet *Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest*, available on request.)

You can write for a list of the times and general details of our meetings. When visiting for the first time it is advisable to confirm the time, date, and venue by telephoning the listed contact person, as the halls we use for our services are not always available. The dress code is smart, and we recommend bringing a Bible and notebook.

Meetings usually last about 1½ hours and consist of a few hymns, an opening prayer, a short message (10 minutes), announcements, a sermon (¾ hour) and a closing

prayer. We enjoy fellowship afterwards, often with refreshments provided by members of the congregation.

For those too far away to attend, sermons are available on audiocassette or DVD by request from our UK office. For those with broadband Internet connection, live services from the US and a number of recorded sermons may be viewed or downloaded at www.ucg.org/multimedia. Local UK sermons are available in audio format at www.ucg.org.uk/multimedia.

As interest develops we will be seeking to add more meeting times and places. We look forward to meeting you. If you are interested, please don't forget to write or call for the list of where and when the services are held.

Questions & Answers

Q How often and when should Christians partake of ‘the Lord’s Supper’ as directed by Jesus to remember His death on the cross for the sins of the world?

W S, Northern Ireland

A The expression ‘Lord’s Supper’ is used only once in the New Testament, in 1 Corinthians 11:20, where it appears as an alternative term for the Passover. Jesus Christ Himself specifically referred to this observance as the Passover (Luke 22:8, 11, 15, etc). He kept the Passover, with the new symbols of bread and wine, on the date specified in Leviticus 23 for this annual observance, namely the 14th of Nisan (also known as Abib) on the Hebrew calendar in the spring.

The Passover is a memorial to Christ’s death (1 Corinthians 5:7; 11:20-27), and memorial ceremonies are observed once a year. This is certainly the custom of observances described in the Bible as well as most secular memorials. As a youth Christ kept the Passover annually at the specified time (Luke 2:41), and He continued this practice with His disciples (Luke 22:7-15). The New Testament shows that Christians continued to observe the annual festivals (listed in Leviticus 23) at the times commanded by God.

After His death and resurrection, the early Church continued to observe the other biblical Holy Days at their speci-

fied times. For example, Luke records that Jesus’ followers met to observe the Feast of Pentecost: ‘When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place’ (Acts 2:1).

Scripture gives no hint of the early Church adding to or changing the dates God ordained for His festivals. The phrase in 1 Corinthians 11:26 – ‘for as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup’ – simply points out that by observing the New Testament Passover each year on the appropriate day, members were ‘proclaim[ing] the Lord’s death till He comes.’

The Bible specifies the yearly observance of the Passover, and history records its annual celebration as the practice of the early Church. The New Testament Passover, as a memorial of Jesus’ death, is to be observed annually rather than whenever or however often one chooses, just as all of the other annual festivals are to be kept once a year. Neither Jesus Christ nor the apostles indicated that we should change when or how often we observe any of God’s festivals.

Following the original disciples’ example, we should observe the Passover shortly after sunset at the beginning of the evening of the 14th day of the first month (Abib or Nisan) according to the Hebrew calendar. (Please see the dates given on pages 32-33 of our free booklet *God’s Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind*.)

Keeping the Passover each year

reminds us that God grants us eternal life in His Kingdom through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7-8). This observance is a memorial of our Saviour’s continuing role in humanity’s salvation.

For further understanding, please request the booklets *God’s Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind*, *The Road to Eternal Life* and *Transforming Your Life*.

All are free of charge from our British office shown on the last line at the very bottom of this page. Or you can freely access them from our website at www.gnmagazine.org.

Spreading the Gospel

(Continued from page 4)

their relationship with the Father and Jesus Christ will grow to the point of committing their lives to God through repentance and water baptism. Certainly we are seeing an upturn in the number asking to attend a congregation near to them.

A message of hope

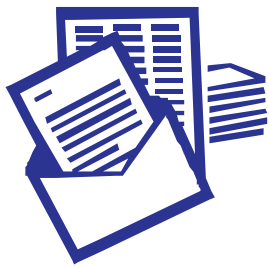
Finally, considering the financial support to accomplish our mission we were blessed with an increase of 16 per cent in the number of donations during the year, many of them from people who had never donated before.

Can there be any greater satisfaction than spreading a message of hope in this part of the world?

Peter Hawkins, Co-ordinating Pastor

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.



Letters From Our Readers

The Good News

Like so many other Christian readers, we look forward to *The Good News*, the update comments and the biblical views comparing historical to modern times. Reading your messages, we really hope that our reply will reach you in time to renew our free subscription.

M F, Redhill

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to receive further *Good News* magazines. I would like to continue receiving them as I would the other publications. Conditions are going downhill fast in the world. Most crime seems to go unpunished. Churches get razed to the ground and children butchered in Nigeria because of cartoons published in faraway Denmark. Please find enclosed a small donation to the work.

S R E, Stafford

You have published some very interesting articles. In this part of Europe it is very hard to find much information about other countries and other cultures.

N S, Serbia

Thank you for *The Good News*. It is compelling reading and makes me really think about my life and how I should live it.

Mrs M M, Wiltshire

Your ministry is a blessing to me, and I have seen the 'raw' truth of the Word of God as it is undiluted. The literature you sent to me has opened my spiritual understanding and I believe that the messages contained in *The Good News* will find fertile soil in my

soul. I wish to sow a seed for this ministry (euros enclosed herewith). I have made mistakes in the past. As a result I am facing bitter consequences. But I believe that the Lord will forgive me and show me His mercy and grace in my life and my household. I believe that God will resolve every issue and turn around for good every circumstance and situation.

Mrs D N M, Waterford, Ireland

The Great Commission

I wish to say a huge thank you for reaching out to me and others with the word of God and how it applies to the real world. This is fulfilling 'The Great Commission'.

Reader from Ireland

Bible Study Course

It is with a sincere heart that I wish to express my gratitude for the unique opportunity to participate and complete the *Bible Study Course*. It has not only drawn me closer to God, but also has given me concise answers to many baffling questions in my search for a true way of serving God. May God continue to bless and enrich you all as you work in His vineyard.

C N, London

Helpful advice

I would like to thank you for your helpful letter. Your advice was excellent: keep taking the medication, don't expose yourself to negative images, etc. It gave me real hope. People with mental illness sometimes do things that are hurtful, but forgiveness is for everyone. Once again, thank you and please pray

for all who are troubled and tormented.
Reader from the Midlands

• *Readers with a special interest in this subject may want to request our free reprint articles 'Depression: Ways to Win the Battle' and 'The Bible's Keys to Mental Health'.*

Church services and alternatives

Thank you for sending me your free literature on a regular basis. I set aside time each evening to study the Bible – with a selected topic from one of your booklets or magazines. I have learnt much more while studying with yourselves, but feel I can't meet with like-minded people on a regular basis because there isn't a church in my neighbourhood that preaches the Bible as accurately and closely as yourselves. Believe me, I've attended many different services over the years. Because I do not drive (at present), I would love to watch a service or two of yours on DVD. I have borrowed a sermon in the past and I wonder if you have any others available to lend.

Miss F L W, Doncaster

• *We do! And please see the sidebar entitled 'Saturday Sabbath Services' on page 6.*

Thank you for your letter to members, co-workers and friends. It's nice to know that there is a great interest in learning about our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray the interest will continue. I thank you for arranging for me to receive the tapes regularly. I look forward to them and I do pray for you all in the Church of God each day.

D H, Basingstoke