

The Coming Economic Earthquake *Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy?*

If you have ever experienced an earthquake, you know what a frightening experience it is. When what you thought was so solid under your feet begins to shake, you suddenly come to realise, in a matter of moments, just how vulnerable your existence really is to the dynamic forces of nature.

In a similar vein, we are feeling the warning tremors of what voices in the world of finance describe as an *economic* earthquake of monumental proportions.

Disturbing official reports

Recently the Royal Bank of Scotland issued a warning: Be prepared for a nasty period. It is issuing a global stock and credit crash alert to its members.

The report presented by the bank's credit strategists stated, 'Our macro economic road map is playing out slow growth for longer, deep into 2009, with the pain

spreading globally, gradually' ('Royal Bank of Scotland Expects Major Fall In Stock and Credit Markets', 2008 RealTimeTraders.com, 18 June).

Events over recent months have created a dire situation among the nations of the world and in the world of international finance. Natural disasters adversely affect the economy. For instance, Britain is facing its worst harvest for at least 40 years as thirty per

cent of the country's grain lies in waterlogged or sodden ground (*The Times*, 10 September). The United States has witnessed massive outbreaks in tornado and hurricane activity, causing death and destruction even as drought conditions still grip portions of that country, as well as Australia.

In other areas of America, floods and fires take their toll upon a nation reeling from one disaster after another. Hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike are the latest ones at this writing. Damage assessments are in the billions of dollars, but they do not take into consideration the long-term cost to the economy, which will be considerable.

Many other nations of the world are no better off experiencing cyclones, earthquakes, flooding and warfare. The one item that has touched everyone has been the general rise in the price of oil. Add to that the reduction in food supplies, along with the consequent skyrocketing price of food among the nations of the world, and you can see why we have a possible economic catastrophe in the making.

Advance prophetic news

The financial strain among nations is partly responsible for setting the stage for world-shaking events that were long ago prophesied in the Holy Bible. A careful study of its pages shows how God is going to react to our increasingly



lawless behaviour and conduct.

The prophet Jeremiah addresses this in chapter 25:30-31: Prophesy against them all these words, and say to them:

The LORD will roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread [the grapes], against all the inhabitants of the earth . . . For the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh.”

You owe it to yourself to learn what Jesus Christ meant when referring to ‘the beginning of sorrows’ (Matthew 24:8). In addition, He spoke of a time when the nations of this world would be in a state of incredible anguish: ‘There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations . . . men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken (Luke 21:25-26).

The coming economic earthquake will rearrange the global community as we know it. Desperate measures will be taken to keep the world’s economies from total collapse.

What are we to do in the meantime? Get out of debt as fast as prudence allows. And more importantly, follow Jesus’ instruction to *Watch 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).

Ken Martin,

Pastor serving in southeastern U.S.

Recommended Reading

Several free booklets may be of help to readers. They are: *Managing Your Finances, Are We Living in the Time of the End?* and *Transforming Your Life*. Please request them in print or download them from our web site at www.ucg.org/booklets.

Mending a Broken Society

On 7 July, two weeks before the 24 July by-election in Glasgow East, Conservative party leader David Cameron spoke in Glasgow on behalf of his party’s candidate there.

What he actually said about morality makes a lot of good sense. He stated: Bad. Good. Right. Wrong. These are words that our political system and our public sector scarcely use anymore . . . Refusing to use these words right and wrong means a denial of personal responsibility and the concept of moral choice . . .

There is a danger of becoming quite literally a de-moralized society, where nobody will tell the truth anymore about what is good and bad, right and wrong.

That is why children are growing up without boundaries, thinking they can do as they please, and why no adult will intervene to stop them including, often, their parents. The values we need to repair our broken society and to build a strong society are values that should be taught in the home, in the family. I want a mandate for restoring responsibility to our society. A mandate to call time on the twisted values that have eaten away at our social fabric’ (excerpts from text of East Glasgow speech).

During his speech Mr Cameron said nothing directly about God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, the Christian religion or any other religion for that matter. But his actual words about morality were generally based on the Judaeo-Christian ethic. They ring true, not just applying to the United Kingdom, but the entire Western world, and especially the English-speaking peoples around the globe.

Afterwards David Cameron suffered some caustic verbal punishment from elements of the liberal press and the intelligentsia behind it. His words did not fit in with their pragmatic, amoral stance on basic issues governing morality. But regardless of whether his political party can or would successfully carry out a programme designed to fix British society if and when it ever becomes the ruling government again, what he said in Glasgow remains fundamentally true.

We have seen a decades-long erosion of responsibility, of social virtue, of self-discipline, respect for others . . . Instead we prefer moral neutrality, a refusal to make judgments about what is good and bad behaviour.

Mr Cameron also stated in that same speech: Imagine if there was a government that understood, really understood, that encouraging personal and social responsibility must be the cornerstone of everything it did and that every move it took reinforced that view.

The Bible tells us that just such a divine government (a strong hand from somewhere as *U.S. News and World Report* once put it many years ago) is coming to this earth. Its basic policies will be based on the Ten Commandments and the true gospel.

If you would like to know more, please request in print or download our free booklets *The Ten Commandments, Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension* and *The Gospel of the Kingdom*.

These publications will give you an incisive overview of where our Western societies are headed.

An Often-Overlooked Attribute of Leadership

Is humility a valid quality of godly leadership?

A decisive battle took place at Agincourt on 25 October, 1415 between the English under King Henry V and the French. The chances of an English victory were very slim, seeing that Henry's men were outnumbered three to one. The inexperienced king had been on the throne barely two years, and he was unsure of himself, uncertain of the outcome and greatly apprehensive. There were sound reasons for his fears.

A repentant king of England

His father Henry IV was a usurper who had killed an anointed king, Richard II, and during his father's reign Henry V had lived a riotous life rather than conducting himself properly as Prince of Wales. Would the Power on High regard him as rightful king in spite of his father's grave sin? This haunting question had never left the new king since his coronation in Westminster Abbey, especially so after a most terrible natural upheaval occurred the day the crown of England was placed on his head. At his coronation a terrible blizzard covered the land burying men, beasts and houses deep in snow. Sages searched the Scriptures to interpret this omen of a new reign . . . ' (Peter Earl, *Henry V*, p. 90).

Now two short years later the king and his 10,000 men were facing 30,000 French fighters. Finding himself in a seemingly helpless situation, in the words of William Shakespeare, he offered the following prayer: 'O God of battles . . . think not upon the fault my

father made in compassing [usurping] the Crown. Richard's body have I interred anew and on it have bestowed more contrite tears than from it issued forced drops of blood. Five hundred poor I have in yearly pay who twice a day their withered hands hold up toward heaven to pardon blood; and I have built two chantries where the sad and solemn priests sing still for Richard's soul.

There is little doubt that Henry in real life actually acknowledged his own shortcomings and the grave sin of his father. In Francis Bond's book *Westminster Abbey*, the historian states: 'In Shakespeare's day the father's guilt and the son's deep contrition were of common belief.

This attribute of true leadership that Shakespeare refers to is highlighted in another literary source, the Hebrew Scriptures, and reaffirmed by Jesus

Christ in the New Testament. Humility in both leader and led is a divine character attribute at the time of Shakespeare as today.

Although the New Testament Church does not sanction warfare by true Christians, in the eyes of England's most famous playwright, the quality of humility paid

dividends for Henry V. He humbled himself before God and was rewarded for his contrition when he won the decisive battle at Agincourt. In the Bible a humble attitude in a leader is demonstrated by seeking advice. 'In the multitude of counsellors there is safety,' we read in Proverbs 11:14. Tragically,

humility in leadership doesn't seem to match up in today's moral climate, where consideration for those governed is too often wholly ignored.

Governed by biblical law

The benefits of humility in rulers and ruled alike was first enunciated in the Pentateuch. Just like the English monarchs anointed and crowned in Westminster Abbey, the kings in ancient Israel and Judah were also anointed at their coronations. The biblical kings were commanded to read and re-read the instruction on how to rule from the same source from which the monarchs in England received their instruction when crowned (and still do). Both King David and Queen Elizabeth II were reminded of how to govern from the same instruction manual. First notice the instruction to the kings of Israel.

It shall be that when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests and Levites. *And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life*, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandments to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel (Deuteronomy 17:18-20, emphasis added throughout).

The king was to regularly read a copy of the Book of the Law. It is the very same source on which Queen Elizabeth II was asked to reflect during



King Henry V

her reign. This is what the Archbishop of Canterbury said as he handed a Bible to the Queen at her coronation: Our gracious Queen, to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the Law and the Gospel of God as the Rule of the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Then the following words were addressed to the Queen: Here is Wisdom. This is the royal Law. These are the lively Oracles of God' (*The Form and Order in the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth*, Cambridge University Press, 1953).

Humility required in kingship

As in the case of the kings of Israel and Judah, so also in the case of the English monarchs, they were to abide

He shall write himself a copy of this law . . . and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law . . . that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren.

by the Law of God in ruling God's people. The monarch was not to be lifted above his brethren in self-importance. In God's eyes the king is no better than the commoner. The people the king rules are as important to the Almighty as is the king himself. Only in the realm of authority is a ruler greater than the people he governs, but that authority must not lead to an absolute power base. We have tragic examples of abuses of authority among the ancient Israelite kings as well as later medieval monarchs.

The Bible shows us that in the long history of the kings of Israel and Judah, very few followed the biblical advice given to the monarchs of Israel (as was also the case with medieval kings). All too often pride, self-glorification, arrogance and self-will took centre stage in their oppressive rule.

A prime example of this is found in the book of Daniel, where King Nebuchadnezzar failed to realise the purpose of leadership letting arrogance cloud his judgement.

This Babylonian king related this tragic episode later in his life after he had learned an important lesson in humility. At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honour of my majesty?"' (Daniel 4:29-30).

Because of his refusal to rule with humility, Nebuchadnezzar had to pay the penalty for his self-aggrandisement when his authority was taken from him for a period of years *until you know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men* (verse 32). The king learned his lesson that it was God who gave him his kingdom, and that boasting and humility can't live side by side, that self-glory and the love of power are

anathema to the biblical approach of rulership, as Jesus Christ emphasised it to His disciples (Matthew 20:25-27).

Lessons for today

But how do we ourselves fit into this scenario? Is there a lesson for us individually?

The Hebrew prophet Isaiah was inspired to write, reflecting God's thoughts on the need for humility. The Almighty God shows us the greatness of His creation of the seemingly never-ending universe and the indescribable beauty in nature. Notice Isaiah 66:1-2: Heaven is my throne and earth is my footstool . . . for all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist, says the LORD. But on this one will I look; on him who is poor and of a

contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

The contrast is phenomenal! God with His unlimited power and unfathomable knowledge looks with favour on those who are of a humble frame of mind and have great respect for His Word. Jesus Christ exemplified the divine quality of humility best of all by sacrificing His life for us, thus opening the door of salvation. Notice the apostle Paul's insightful declaration concerning Jesus Christ: Let this mind be in you that was also in Jesus Christ, who being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but *made Himself of no reputation*, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, *He humbled Himself* and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:5-8). The Son of God (the Word) clothed Himself with humility in becoming the Son of Man.

Questions we should ask

We all need to ask: Do we live our lives according to our own definition of what is right and wrong, allowing man-made traditions and non-biblical teachings to have the final say? (See Mark 7:6-13.) Or do we allow God's Word to direct our lives? Do we seek to worship God on the wrong day of the week because we feel it doesn't matter to the One who established a specific weekly day of rest? (See our free booklet *Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest?*)

Do we allow our own opinions to stand in the way of worshipping God in spirit and in truth? (See John 4:24.) Does pride or humility take centre-stage in our lives when it comes to deciding how we worship God? Jesus Christ admonished all of us to live by every word of God' (Matthew 4:4). That means approaching God in a humble, contrite attitude in every aspect of our Christian lives.

Gerhard Marx

Young People in Moral Freefall

*The United Church of God offers a viable solution
by teaching its youth God's way.*

A prominent feature article in *Time* magazine described how an epidemic of violent crime, teen pregnancy, heavy drinking and drug abuse fuels fears that British youth is in crisis' (7 April, international edition). These young Britons are depicted as unhappy, unloved and out of control.

Unacceptable statistics

A number of statistical charts show that the United Kingdom leads all other European nations in drunkenness, cannabis use, participation in early sex and other forms of unacceptable conduct. British youngsters drink their continental European counterparts under the table . . . They are more likely to try drugs or start smoking young. English girls are the most sexually active in Europe . . . Britain has high rates of both teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases . . . A 2007 UNICEF study of child well-being in 21 industrialized countries placed Britain firmly at the bottom of the table' (excerpts, *ibid*).

A big part of the problem is a lack of genuine contact and meaningful engage-

ment with the world of adults, who must accept much of the responsibility for this sad state of affairs. The roots of the crisis reach back to the failure of previous generations (parents and grandparents) to instil traditional models of ethical behaviour, time-tested by the past and firmly based on biblical principles. Much of mainstream Christianity is equally to blame for watering down many biblical standards of right living during the past 50 years and more.

Preparing our young people

Late last year Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, set forth a 10-year plan to make England the best country in the world for children. But British society has a long way to go. The only way this will happen is if the whole nation changes its attitude to God and turns to obeying His spiritual laws summed up by the Ten Commandments and further summarised by Christ's two great commandments (Matthew 22:37-39). Biblical standards have to be restored on a national basis.

The future of any country lies in

educating those who are to take the place of its current leaders. We need to train our young people to resist the downward pulls of today's society and to encourage them to follow a more constructive path. But how?

Although few in number, the United Church of God in the British Isles has a solid group of obedient, respectful, law-abiding and patriotic young people who are a credit to their parents and their nation.

Many of them are the product of parents who have taught them the Ten Commandments from early childhood, and a Church that teaches God's way of life, and emphasises special summer (and occasionally winter) camp programmes for both teens and younger children. (See the accompanying pictures) The empowerment and development of youth is an integral part of the Church's educational activities. The biblical principles that the Church's adults use to guide their children are encapsulated in our free booklet *Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension*.

John Ross Schroeder

Positive Peer Pressure

Editor's Note: The camp director's wife, Barbara Fenney, provided the following report based on her experiences at camp this summer.

More often than not peer pressure' has negative connotations, especially in respect of teen culture, where it is seen as a major cause of such things as truancy, disaffection with education, youth gangs, drug-taking, and the current alarming rise in teen pregnancies. But can peer pressure be positive as well?

The 2008 United Church of God Youth Camp in the British Isles took place in a Field Centre near the spa town of Buxton, Derbyshire. Living in close proximity with 20-plus children,

teens and young adults for nine days is a challenging task, especially when the campers come from several different countries and there is a wide spread of ages. But staff rose to the occasion, providing full days of age-appropriate activities, interesting discussions and mind-stretching problem solving, punc-



uated by healthy meals, and ensuring a safe and secure environment at night.

Everyone enjoyed a good mix of activities: visits to local attractions, arts and crafts, sports and games, together with team and individual problem-solving exercises. Working and playing together brings out each person's

strengths and weaknesses providing opportunities for improvement with help from staff and peers.

The Bible refers to this as iron sharpening iron. An indoor climbing wall, where campers worked in pairs, alternately one climbing and one belaying, gave an opportunity for them to learn to take responsibility for another's well-being and to learn to trust someone else with their welfare.

Mottos and maxims

We held regular forums where the young people raised issues of a personal, moral and religious nature. Above all there was an understanding that it is to God we look for all things. As one person put it, God is always the bottom line. To illustrate that this is a foundational idea, it was written across the lowest edge of the whiteboard. At the top of the board was the Golden Rule as given by Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount.

Mottos became quite a part of this year's Camp and were written up on the whiteboard as they came to mind, like No man is an island. They indicated



that staff expected campers to operate as a team, considering others while learning about themselves. Another maxim warned that Words once spoken are out there and cannot be taken back.

Campers had the skills and the willingness to address inevitable frictions, tensions and misunderstandings (often with the help of a supportive adult), before they escalated into something more divisive. Staff gently but firmly dealt with these problems as they arose. Away from a society where lying is often the norm and problems may be resolved by violence, honesty and integrity were stressed, the Golden Rule applied and apologies made and accepted where there had been difficulties.



Positive peer pressure manifested itself in many areas. There were valued examples of leadership from older teens and former campers. A young man from Switzerland took the lead in a group trying to fashion a square from a length of rope, while blindfolded. Several young ladies from the Sheffield congregation who are members of the Karen community from Burma, demonstrated some

of their traditional dancing to the younger girls.

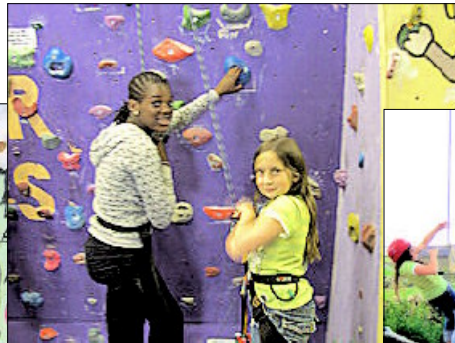
Skill in public speaking is of great value in many aspects of life, and it proved to be a useful exercise for the campers, with the bonus that



everyone learned a little about each other. In spite of nerves, almost everyone stood up and gave a brief speech about themselves. Most moving of all was one of the Karen young ladies speaking about some of the problems in their home country of Burma which had forced their families from their own land into refugee camps. They spoke of how their faith in God had sustained them.

Teamwork pays off

The major team effort of the nine days was the final dinner. If campers wanted the dining room decorated they



mostly had to make their own decorations, which meant someone had to come up with ideas and someone had to coordinate the whole effort. Balloons, paper napkins and table cloths were provided. Everything else like paper chains, stars, banners and the like were made by the campers, organised and led this year by two sisters from Derby. Rose-bay willowherb and white daisies made attractive flower arrangements for each of the tables and painted glass candle holders completed the scene. After the meal various items



of entertainment were presented by staff and campers.

Working together in this way forges friendships so that even when the campers return home, they are sustained and supported through difficult situations through texting, email or telephone calls as they seek to follow God's way.

Just over a week is an insufficient time for the Church to counter all the negative influences that will confront its young people. But the campers have the solid support of parents and local congregations when they return home.



Staff members were able to offer teenagers in the Church of God some valuable techniques to resist negative peer pressures, and to show that God's way of life can be productive, constructive and fun. Those teens, like a shining city set on a hill, can then set their own examples of positive peer pressure in their own surroundings. Many are already providing a beneficial influence on other young people who are not so fortunate.

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If you are 13-22 years of age, you may wish to request our free youth magazine entitled *Vertical Thought*.

Questions & Answers

Q Is smoking a sin?

B P, Carlisle

A Smoking and tobacco use aren't mentioned in the Bible for the simple reason that tobacco was unknown in biblical lands until explorers brought it to Europe from North America centuries later. So can we be sure that God disapproves of smoking and regards it as a transgression of His spiritual law? (See 1 John 3:4.) Let's look at the biblical evidence.

The apostle John wrote: My dear friend, I pray that everything may go well with you and that *you may be in good health* as I know you are well in spirit' (3 John 2, Today's English Version, emphasis added throughout). Many of our Creator's laws recorded in the Old Testament are safeguards to health, with instructions covering safety, sanitation, hygiene, diet, rest, anxiety and more.

Since He created us, God has jurisdiction over our physical bodies. The earth is the LORD's and the fullness (Psalm 24:1). This ownership concept is also expressed in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit . . . and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit [mind and attitude], which are God's.

The Ten Commandments show us how to love God and each other. For this is the love of God that we keep His

commandments' (1 John 5:3). The Sixth Commandment says: You shall not murder' (Exodus 20:13) – and that includes ourselves as well as anyone else. Medical evidence has proven that smokers are little by little poisoning themselves and perhaps others who may breathe secondhand cigarette or cigar smoke. Most nonsmokers deplore the smell of tobacco smoke.

God says: You shall not covet (verse 17). Coveting primarily means to desire anything that belongs to someone else. Other references to coveting amplify the meaning of this commandment to include any lust for what is evil or wrong (see Romans 7:7-8; James 1:14-15; 4:1-2; Ephesians 2:3).

God disallows self-destructive uses of anything. If, once we understand this, we continue to crave this forbidden fruit, we are in effect coveting. Coveting is a self-centred desire, the way of getting. God's love is outgoing in concern for others, the way of giving. If you're tempted to pollute the air that your neighbours must breathe, notice this: Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law' (Romans 13:10).

Furthermore, in Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:5 Paul equates covetousness with idolatry. This means that if something we desire is wrong, it is also idolatry to continue letting it take priority over God's revealed will.

Jesus said: You shall worship the LORD your God, and *Him only you shall*

serve (Matthew 4:10, emphasis added throughout). Yet Paul explained: Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey?' (Romans 6:16).

If you have a smoking addiction, you are enslaved to tobacco. Addiction is a powerful force. God says you must break free. While He is loving, patient and understanding, He expects us to take action to overcome the addiction with His help. Quitting smoking can be difficult but God wants to help. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you' (James 4:8). Remember that He wants you to succeed.

For further help, request our free booklet *Making Life Work*.

Jesus Christ, during His earthly ministry, regularly demonstrated His love, mercy and concern for others by healing the sick. He taught that God always wants to help us, but we must first ask for help. *Ask, and it will be given to you*, He says (Matthew 7:7). Although stopping smoking may seem impossible in some cases, He tells us that the things which are impossible with men are possible with God' (Luke 18:27).

The awesome purpose of our lives is to receive God's Holy Spirit to transform our minds and make them like His. Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins to rescue us from eternal death. Taking care of our health to the best of our ability is one way to express our gratitude to God.

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: United Church of God, PO Box 705, WATFORD WD19 6FZ, United Kingdom, or donated online at www.ucg.org.uk/donate.html through Paypal or Charity Choice.



Letters From Our Readers

Preaching the Gospel More Effectively

I thought that Clyde Kilough's letter [and Supplement lead article] was both good and comprehensive. I agree that everything possible must be done to develop the United Church of God's presence on the Internet. I shall continue to pray for the success of these endeavours.

P P, Isle of Man

The Good News

I wish to become a subscriber to your *Good News* publication, which is a blessing to many thousands of people worldwide. I was introduced by a friend to your wonderful ministry, which is saving thousands of souls and want to be a part of your ministry. Please kindly send me some of your magazines and enrol me in your *Bible Study Course*.

A O, Hull

Thank you for sending me *The Good News* magazine. I love the British & European Supplement as well. I also watch CNN to get a world view of news affairs. What an awesome privilege to understand God's Word of truth now when many can't.

C B, Bradford

Thank you for your many good and sound articles, however knowing that no church or denomination has full and complete knowledge of God. Now we see through a glass darkly, but when that which is perfect comes then we shall see clearly and know God as we are known by God.

S M, Dumbarton

You may wish to request our free

booklet The Church Jesus Built.

I thank God for *The Good News* which you are sending to various people free. It is so important to have the real truth, especially when there is so much deception telling different stories about God's will over our lives and how we should live and think. God bless the United Church of God to carry on the work of saving lost lives through the power of God.

I H, Cranbrook

I have read many books and the best book of all is the Bible. God the Creator has not only given inspiration to the writers of the Bible, but also has inspired everyone who has their input into this ministry. I know God has raised you up to proclaim the truth so that someone like me could obtain this knowledge.

A B-C, Smethwick

During a recent spell of ill health, *The Good News* magazine has really helped me to be positive and I look forward to each new issue.

Miss M H, Manchester

Bible Study Course

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for all the wonderful lessons. I have learned enormously and can now find my way through the Bible, confidently locating the books which I wasn't able to do before. Thank you for all your time and patience as you read and mark my test responses.

A G, Thornton Heath

I really enjoyed the *Bible Study Course* that I have just completed with

this last lesson. Lesson 12 was much more challenging than all the others, but I found it very interesting to read about the biblical festivals. I will have to read it on many occasions to understand it.

L S K, Belfast

• *The annual biblical festivals may be relatively unfamiliar to many of our readers. They may wish to request our free booklet God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind.*

Becoming a co-worker

Thank you for *The Good News*, which is very edifying and illuminating, explaining deep doctrines from the Bible. I would like to be a co-worker with you and continue receiving a bi-monthly subscription to *The Good News*. Enclosed is a donation.

S O, London

• *When a reader continues to donate, he or she will automatically be regarded as a co-worker. We deeply appreciate reader contributions because they enable the Church to preach and publish the gospel more effectively.*

World News & Prophecy

The articles all help me to stay close to God in this cruel, hypocritical, false society we live in. You tell us how it is, reminding us to keep in constant contact with God and keep His commandments, Sabbath and Holy Days. Please accept and acknowledge my donation.

Mrs I C, Leeds

• *Readers may want to request a free subscription to World News & Prophecy, or download it from our website at www.wnponline.org. Almost every article is related to Bible prophecy.*