

Woody Woodpecker – Did He Really Evolve?

*Many will remember the famous cartoon character,
but how did the original version come to exist?*

Once common in Britain's deciduous and mixed woodlands, the woodpecker has become rarer in the British Isles with the decline in its natural habitat. Its characteristic loud tapping sound occurs when the bird hammers its beak against a tree trunk searching for insects under the bark or making a hole in which to build a nest. It must be like the proverbial 'banging your head against a brick wall', except that woodpeckers never appear to suffer from headaches. So, did someone engineer it that way, or did this specialisation evolve by random chance?

Engineered – or evolved?

The woodpecker is an extremely specialised bird, designed to live not just on and around trees, but in them. Its skull is much thicker than that of other birds, with muscles able to move the beak up to 100 times a minute as it drills its way into tree trunks. Spongy connective tissue between the beak and the skull acts as a built-in shock absorber, preventing the damage that the constant impact between its beak and the tree bark would otherwise cause.

Woodpeckers also have acute hearing, which enables them to pinpoint nests of insects living inside the trees. Once they have drilled their way in, their long snakelike tongues are used to capture and eat their prey. Two of their toes are arranged so they are 'back to front', enabling them to grip the bark more firmly.

In addition, their tail feathers are unusually strong, so they can prop themselves up, as if with a tripod, while pecking away at the tree. These essential tail feathers do not fall out in the moulting season until the other feathers are strong enough to take the weight.

This bird is utterly unique – but did it evolve, or was it created?

Evolution theorizes that creatures evolved from earlier, simpler life forms to creatures that were more complex and better adapted. Although termed 'natural selection', most changes supposedly occurred by chance or genetic mutation, with competition eliminating less efficient life forms. According to most evolutionary classifications, birds evolved from

four-footed amphibians called tetrapods. In the words of the *McMillan Encyclopaedia*, these heavy four-footed animals that lived in and around water somehow, by 'spontaneous genetic mutations', began to walk upright, and grew feathers instead of scales on their

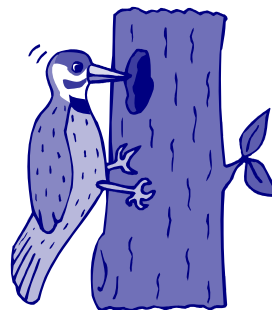
two front legs. In addition their dense heavy bones began to become light and porous and eventually allowed the 'bird' to fly.

Random choice?

Let us suppose that the woodpecker had already evolved to the stage

where it at least looked like a bird. What happened next? Perhaps the first proto-woodpecker decided it was tired of searching for insects on the forest floor and instead headed up into the tree.

The first question is, how did the bird know that there were insects under the tree bark? Moreover, if there was a shortage of insects elsewhere, why did it not die out in the time it took to discover that there *were* insects under the bark? Besides which, its claws had not yet



evolved so two faced backwards, so it would have had trouble gripping the tree, and its tail feathers would not yet have been strong enough to support it. The first time proto-woodpecker hit his beak against the tree trunk he would have most likely dislocated his neck and died. Since he did not survive, he was unable to pass on to his offspring his crazy idea about looking for food inside trees, and woodpeckers would not exist today. But they do.

In the natural world, *all* the life forms are perfectly ‘adapted’ – to use the evolutionists’ term – to their ecological environments. The intricate manner in which the world and its flora and fauna have been put together cannot be the result of random chance and multiple millions of accidents. With any specialised creature, like the woodpecker, all the supposed changes must have appeared simultaneously and instantaneously or the creature would not have survived. This points to creation, not evolution.

Evolution doesn’t work

Some school science textbooks claim that giraffes originally had short necks, until a genetic mutation appeared with a long neck. This long-necked giraffe was able to take food from higher up the trees than its short-necked relations, and consequently survived when food on the lower branches ran out. This sounds feasible almost – except for the fact that the long-necked giraffe still needed water.

When it put its head down to drink, it would get a rush of blood to the brain, if it had not also

genetically mutated a special valve to prevent this. In addition, it needed to mutate a heart strong enough to pump blood to a height of about eight feet to reach its brain and a lung capacity able to obtain oxygen from an atmosphere also eight feet away. If any of these changes failed to occur at the same time, the giraffe would not have survived. As with the wood-pecker, the likelihood of these changes all happening spontaneously and simultaneously by random chance is practically zero.



Symbiont relationships also cause problems for evolution. A species of giant clam living in nutrient-poor waters on the Great Barrier Reef relies on algae in its blood to photosynthesise food. How the algae got into the blood stream without the clam digesting them en route remains a mystery. From Gordon Rattray Taylor’s book *The Great Evolution Mystery*, quoting

Professor Sir Maurice Yonge: ‘The invading algae “must have been fully adapted for life within animal tissues” before they ever got into the clams.’ But why would the algae have adapted to something that had not yet happened?

Consider the complexity of the human eye, the brain, the ear, or the mobility of the human hand which cyberneticists only now have the technology to imitate. Could every part of the body have evolved gradually or by genetic mutation? How did one part liaise with others to bring about a unified whole and not something that was deformed, or simply did not work? As King David remarked in Psalm 139:14: ‘I am fearfully and wonderfully made.’

The biblical perspective

Where, in the whole realm of nature, is the creature or plant that is only partly adapted?

It is evident that God designed the world and all that is in it. Like the woodpecker, it was created perfect and complete, as indicated by the Hebrew word for ‘create’, *bara*. This word is used often in Genesis chapter 1 when speaking of the creation of earth’s flora and fauna. However, the natural human mind resists God. The apostle Paul states in Romans 8:7, ‘The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.’

Human beings too often choose to reject God and try to find some other explanation for the creation around them. Paul addressed this problem in Romans 1:20: ‘For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.’

The physical perfection of every plant and animal within the natural world clearly reveals the hand of the great Creator God.

Barbara Fenney

Special Creation or Evolution – Which Is It?

If there were no God, and we simply evolved from a lesser life form, it might not matter so much how we conduct ourselves. But people with an open mind can certainly prove to themselves that God exists. To pursue this subject in greater depth, please write for our free booklets *Life’s Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?* and *Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?*

What Is a Real Christian?

The following is abridged from The World Tomorrow programme, the 15-minute radio broadcast produced and presented by David McDermott.

When you think of England, what do you think of? John Betjeman, perhaps, with his wonderful poems about England and English society with all its idiosyncrasies? Maybe suburbia? Or perhaps you think of cricket, village greens, pubs and bell-ringers in the parish church? Or you may think of vicars, vicarages, afternoon tea, matins on a Sunday morning, or evensong towards nightfall.

If you walk through an English village, you may become aware of some discrepancies, as you pass *other* churches along your way, most without bell-ringers and vicars. Each denomination has its own congregation, singing hymns from their particular hymn book, listening to sermons from their particular minister in line with the doctrine of their particular church.

You may well wonder, 'Why so many churches?' Most will have some doctrines in common. They will probably all agree that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. They will generally all agree to observe certain special days in the year. However, there will be differences of opinion on other doctrines. In some cases some quite major differences. But all those who attend these various churches will be regarded as good Christians – pillars of the community.

Different denominations

Arriving home, you may well be stimulated to think more about this conundrum. You may check the local paper for details of churches and find there is a multiplicity of them. Then perhaps you go on to the Internet to check out just how many different denominations there are in England. There are handbooks published which list them. The last count I am aware of lists around

look at all the various churches and denominations and all the different beliefs they have.

Real Christians?

So the question then is, 'What is a real Christian?' You may well feel that all these people attending these various churches are all real Christians. But is that true? They may well be very nice people, honest, upstanding citizens, pillars

of the community. They may help their neighbours whenever help is needed.

But niceness, helping, and having a sense of service to others is not always an indication as to whether or not someone is a Christian. We have all these different denominations and churches all saying they are Christian, yet the Bible says, 'There is one way' – not a variety of different doctrinal beliefs. So what makes the difference?

There is, in the Bible, a very clear definition of what a real Christian is. The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8:9, 'If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.'

True Christians then are people who have the Holy Spirit of God, a reflection of His mind, within them. Now we must ask the question: How does one receive the Holy Spirit?

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250 different professing Christian denominations in England alone.

You may well be aware of the verse in the New Testament which says, 'There is one way, one hope, one baptism.' There are not a vast number of variations on the theme. The Bible also says, speaking of God, that He is not the author of confusion. Yet confusion is what we have, when we stand back and

Repentance and baptism

The Bible shows that a person receives the Holy Spirit of God after repentance and water baptism. The various professing Christian churches have various ideas on baptism. They will damp the foreheads of babies, or splash, or pour some water onto the baby's head. Then there are those who will only baptise adults, and they may or may not do this by immersion. But the word 'baptism' means immersion. And baptism follows repentance. What then is repentance?

Repentance is coming to see that one's way of life is contrary to the law of God, only bringing unhappiness and frustration. That way of life, even for professing Christians, often ends up in misery, broken homes, divorce, and single

parent families, when there should be both a mother *and* a father to bring up the children. It is a way of life that has no understanding of what life is all about, what death is, and if there is a future for mankind.

So repentance is coming to see that there is a God, and that there is a way of life that He shows us we should follow – a way of life that does bring happiness. Repentance is coming to see this and then accepting the death of Jesus Christ to remove the barrier that our way of life has created – a barrier that stands between the Father and us.

With repentance we then realise that our sins have to be washed away – that we need to accept Christ's sacrifice and that we want it to apply to us personally. Then we will receive the Holy Spirit of God by the laying on of hands.

With that spirit there comes a different attitude, a different way of thinking.

Jesus Christ, in the book of Matthew, said that broad is the way that leads to destruction and there are many that go that way. He also said the way that leads to life is narrow and difficult and there are few that find it.

So where do you stand? Confused about all the different religious denominations? You do not need to be. Let the Bible be your guide. You can become a real Christian according to the biblical definition. If you feel you would like a little help, then please write for the free booklets, *The Road to Eternal Life* and *Transforming Your Life*.

Original script by John Jewell

Repentance – An Ongoing Process

The book of Hebrews tells all believers to aspire to thoroughly understand the first principles of Christ, and then to progress to a fuller Christian maturity (Hebrews 6:1-3).

The first of these foundational principles is 'repentance from dead works'.

Repentance is a major event in a person's life, a crucial turning point that changes both direction and motivation from then on. We should never forget that God grants repentance as His gift because, left to our own devices, we simply could not see ourselves for what we really are.

Following the beginning of the first-century Church, a crowd gathered in Jerusalem and heard the apostle Peter's indictment. Each one of them had a part in Christ's death (as we also do), but they were brought to their senses through Peter's preaching. They asked, 'What shall we do?'

Peter then said, 'Repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.' But is repentance a once-in-a-lifetime event or is there more to it? When we come up out of the waters of baptism and catch our breath,

is that the end of our repentance?

Or is more expected of us? Is not repentance an ongoing process? Having tasted the gift, are we not expected to carry it forward in the renewal of every aspect of our lives? God's Word is clear and emphatic that it is indeed a process.

We know from practical experience that just saying sorry is not good enough. Actions speak louder than words and must lead to a changed way of living.

King David of Israel asked God to reveal his secret sins, to create in him a clean heart (Psalms 19:12; 51:10). He had an exemplary ongoing attitude of repentance.

Christians should show God that they are sincerely repentant, and that it is not just an emotional one-off event in their lives (2 Corinthians 7:9-11).

If a Christian really means business about God's way of life, then a gradual process of change will take place in personal character. This is only possible because of the grace of God, who leads us to see our faults and to desire to change them.

Will McLoughlin

How Important Is the Long Run?

Short-sightedness is one of our greatest human problems.

Developing a long-term outlook is essential to our spiritual well-being.

‘Myopia is now one of the world’s biggest epidemics. Tens of millions of people suffer from short sight, and it has been predicted that *half the world’s population will soon be myopic.*

‘In Britain one of three people is short-sighted, and in parts of the Far East more than 90 per cent of university graduates are sufferers’ (The Future Is Blurred, *The Independent*, 20 May 1999, emphasis added).

Myopia is a synonym for physical short-sightedness. Spiritual myopia is far worse than the physical variety – and it affects far greater numbers of people. Eyeglasses can mostly, or at least partially, mitigate the effects of physical myopia. But the effects of spiritual short-sightedness can cause devastation in our lives.

Serious consequences

Spiritual myopia produces some very serious consequences in the lives of nations as well as individuals. Take ancient Israel. The Song of Moses laments: ‘For they are a nation void of counsel, nor is there any understanding in them. Oh that they were wise, that they understood this. *That they would consider their latter end!*’ (Deuteronomy 32:28-29).

Nations are composed of individuals, so the above principle applies in a personal sense. The apostle Peter wrote in the New Testament: ‘For he who lacks these things [essential spiritual qualities] is *short-sighted*, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins’ (2 Peter 1:9).

King Solomon makes the same point in a different way, saying: ‘Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

Many people do not appreciate the serious long-term consequences of moral misbehaviour.

Their eyes are clouded to the point of spiritual blindness. They do not grasp the simple principle of cause and effect. They fail to comprehend the latter end of their behaviour.

A broader perspective

Let’s consider some scriptures that will help us develop a broader perspective of life – a framework of reference that bespeaks the long view.

King Solomon reminds young people to take stock of their lives while they are still youthful. ‘Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come’ (Ecclesiastes 12:1). But in principle Solomon is asking everyone to consider the long run – to take a long-range view of life.

Ultimate discernment comes directly from God, and we can learn to view things from an eternal horizon by consulting His Word. Psalm 90 has been attributed to Moses. In it he addresses God with a good understanding of His eternal nature. ‘You have been our dwelling place in all generations . . . From everlasting to everlasting You are God’ (verses 1-2).

Then Moses asks God to educate mankind, whose lifespan is in many cases 70 or 80 years, from the

standpoint of His own eternal nature. ‘So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom’ (verse 12).

The example of Moses

Like all of us, Moses made his mistakes, some serious ones, but the overall effect of his life was very positive. Notice his discernment in the realm of future consequences for his actions. ‘By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin’ (Hebrews 11:24).

As human beings we have the God-given capacity to deny fleeting pleasures of the moment for the greater joys of the future.

Attaining the Kingdom of God requires us to forsake short-term pleasures of sin in the light of eternity. The apostle Paul puts it this way: ‘For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us’ (Romans 8:18).

Paul also wrote scriptural passages that reflect the ultimate in long-term thinking, truly seeing things within the perspective of eternity. ‘For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal’ (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). *John Ross Schroeder*

Sexual Relationships

A Biblical Understanding

One of our Scottish readers mentioned that ‘the subject of homosexuality came up for discussion’ and it could be ‘difficult to get the Christian point of view across on this subject without offending anyone.’ He further said that he would greatly appreciate it if we could send him any literature on the subject.

Since we have not previously published anything specific on the subject, a biblical overview follows.

Standards of behaviour

Christians should be striving to live in accordance with the biblical lifestyles God designed for human beings. There is only one form of sexual relationship sanctioned in Scripture. Jesus Christ said: ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?’ This is speaking of a heterosexual marriage relationship. Sexual activity outside its bounds God calls sin.

Society on the other hand has its own ideas on the purpose of marriage. It now accepts progressive monogamy, where divorce is followed by remarriage to a different partner, which is often followed by another divorce and so on. Also accepted is cohabitation (an ongoing sexual relationship before marriage), which used to be called ‘living in sin’. And just recently approved in Germany and now legalised in Holland, we have same-sex ‘marriages’.

Recently the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, was

asked on BBC television if the Church could accept gay marriages. Dr Carey replied: ‘No, I would say very firmly. Because marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman’ (*The Daily Telegraph*, 9 April, 2001).

The biblical view

On the specific issue of homosexuality, biblical teaching is quite clear. Perhaps the best known account is that of Sodom and Gomorrah. God sent two of His angels in the guise of young men to visit Sodom.

Abraham’s nephew, Lot, who lived in the city, offered them shelter (Genesis 19:1-3). Then as night drew on, the men of the city ‘both old and young’ arrived at Lot’s door. They were demanding that the men be sent out to them, so they could ‘know’ them – a King James Version euphemism for the sexual act (verse 5). Lot unwisely offered his two unmarried daughters instead (verse 8). But the women were rejected. Then in order to protect Lot and his family the angels blinded the crowd, who were so filled with lust for the two young men that they still continued to try to find the door to Lot’s house (verse 11).

Wycliffe’s Bible Commentary states that the angels, who had come ‘under divine orders to discover the extent of human depravity there, needed no further disclosure.’ The following day both Sodom and its neighbour Gomorrah were blotted out of existence. The New Testament indicates that the destruction of Sodom serves as an eternal example of how God views homosexuality as a lifestyle (Jude 7).

The gift of repentance

However, the scriptures also reveal God’s wonderful gift of repentance and the subsequent forgiveness of all sin – including sexual sins. The apostle Paul stated that some Christians in Corinth had been guilty of sexual sins before they repented and started following God’s way.

He wrote: ‘Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. *And such were some of you.* But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God’ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, emphasis ours).

Intimate same-sex relationships, adultery and pre-marital sex are all incompatible with Scripture.

However, with God’s help it is possible to change one’s life. Even in Corinth, which like Sodom, was renowned for its sexual depravity, some people did just that. It cannot have been easy for them, but neither is changing any long-term bad habit or sin.

If those first-century Christians in Corinth could, with God’s help, change their lifestyles, then it is also possible today.

* * *

Further understanding
about human relationships is
available in our free brochure
Making Life Work.

Questions & Answers

Q *What is the Bible view on divorce and remarriage? Jesus had a view that no one should divorce except for adultery or fornication by the guilty party. Jesus' message was to the Jewish people who should have known better. But what about people who are brought up in a pagan society, or who have never heard the biblical teaching on the matter? Can this law and Jesus' teaching apply to them? There must have been many people who were married and divorced and remarried in the apostle Paul's time who became Christians after they were remarried.*

What can an ordinary citizen do to stop our governments passing laws that promote homosexuality? Laws are being passed in Europe that allow homosexuals to marry legally. If things progress I can see a time when it will be illegal to speak out against this sin. Then what?

W S, Carrickfergus
Northern Ireland

A Jesus Christ's teachings are for all ages and all mankind, not just the Jewish people of His day. The basic commission to the Church is found in Matthew 28:19-20: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;* and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*'

That said, you are certainly correct in your judgement about marital conditions in a godless society, a difficult situation that the apostle Paul had to deal with. To boil the basic biblical teaching down to its bare essentials, we

quote from the United Church of God's *Statement of Beliefs* regarding divorce prior to conversion.

'An additional concern that must be addressed deals with individuals who were married and divorced prior to their calling and conversion. Paul confirms that repentance, forgiveness and baptism provides new converts with a fresh start, and they are not bound to past sins in marriage any more than they are to other sins (Romans 6:1-7). Paul states it very clearly when he says, "*For he who has died has been freed from sin.*" So if the person who is single because of divorce chooses to remarry, then he has broken no law.

'Since baptism marks a new beginning, past sins are forgiven. Therefore, a newly converted person is accepted in his current status – possibly a subsequent marriage, or possibly single as a result of divorce' (*Divorce and Remarriage Statement of Belief*, p. 9).

We hasten to add that this does not mean that God's laws about marriage are done away. The biblical overview tells us that God places great value on holy matrimony and regards any violation of the marriage covenant very seriously (Mark 10:1-12; Malachi 2:13-16; 1 Corinthians 7:39; Romans 7:1-3; etc.). However, our understanding Creator also provides a way for the new convert to Christianity to make a brand-new start.

Regarding homosexuality, Christians must do all that they can to uphold God's laws – setting a right and godly example for others in their personal lives. However, we must be very circumspect in terms of Christian citizens

influencing secular governments to prevent legislation favourable to homosexuality.

Both the apostle Paul and the apostle John spoke of 'this present evil world', stating that in this age of man the nations of the world are clearly under the sway of satanic influence and deception (Galatians 1:4; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9). On the other hand, in the world tomorrow the knowledge of God will cover the earth like the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9). At that future time sinful practices like homosexuality will be banished from the earth. Christians can look forward to this coming world ruled by the Kingdom of God.

However, in viewing the serious societal problems of this present evil world, the primary responsibility of every true Christian is to help preach and publish the gospel (good news) of the coming Kingdom of God (Matthew 28:18-20).

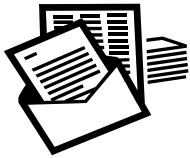
This is a much better way forward than lobbying or overly direct involvement in the political process. To understand more about the background to this approach in dealing with a difficult dilemma, please request our free booklet *The Gospel of the Kingdom*.

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Letters From Our Readers

The human condition

The horrors of this world never cease to amaze me and the fight for power disgusts me. We were all born with the freedom of life and it is up to every one of us to ensure that the world is made richer and more peaceful for our children. History has repeated itself too many times, where mankind refuses to sit down and talk, causing tragedy and bloodshed. The right way to live is to ‘do unto others as you want done to yourself’ – reaching out to our fellow men and listening to their cries for help. The wrong way is to become blind and deaf to all the suffering and bloodshed time and time again. *Mrs J D C, Cumbria*

- *Many people down through time have expressed similar feelings about this world. The real answer lies in the sovereignty of God and His plan and purpose for mankind. In due time all the wrongs of this age of man will be righted. This is explained in the free booklets What Is Your Destiny? and The Gospel of the Kingdom.*

Thirst for spiritual knowledge

I am writing to thank you for *The Good News* magazine. As I was reading through its pages I noticed many booklets that can be requested and I want all that were mentioned in the last magazine. I am 23, Catholic and have had ME (chronic fatigue syndrome) for the last three years and I’m pretty housebound. The Bible has been a good companion during the worst times and it’s now great to read your magazine. *R C, Tyne & Wear*

Very many thanks for my first copy of *The Good News* magazine. I am a lost soul at the moment and am seeking all the knowledge that I may be able to obtain. I see that you have lots of booklets on various aspects of the Christian teachings. Because I have this thirst for knowledge, would you think that I am greedy if I asked for everything? I can assure you that they will be put to good use.

G C B, Colchester

Could you please send me the following free literature? . . . I know this is a long list, but I have wasted my life as a Christian and would like to learn as much as I can before Jesus Christ comes back.

M D, London

- *We are more than happy to send our free literature to all who are sincerely interested and want to read about the true gospel. All we would ask is that it be carefully read and thoughtfully considered.*

The Ten Commandments

I saw this advert in Monday’s *Daily Telegraph* and am writing to ask you for the free booklet *The Ten Commandments*. We are believing evangelical Christians who are daily Bible readers. We fully endorse the need to return to taking to heart the Ten Commandments for our day.

D C S, Wantage

I am most interested in the Ten Commandments, which appear to be so totally overlooked by most of the present and previous generations. I find that even the majority of head teachers are not including religious studies in their education and cultural programmes. In my view the Ten Commandments are the basis for good and godly

living. If not taught at home, they are essential at primary and secondary school levels.

G G E, Suffolk

Bible Study Course

Just to thank you very much for the *Bible Study Course* I’ve been receiving over the past months. It has been very helpful.

J P, Tunbridge Wells

Having read *Holidays or Holy Days?* I would be grateful if you could now send me *God’s Holy Day Plan* and *Sunset to Sunset: God’s Sabbath Rest*. It has amazed me how your booklets, along with your *Bible Study Course*, have altered my perception of the world.

N J, London

Thank you for all the material you have sent me throughout this Bible course. It has helped me immensely and made me more aware of God’s purpose and plan in my life. *D S, Northern Ireland*

Important outreach

Just a token donation towards postage for the requested booklets which we are pleased to find so informative and scripturally based – some confirming what we already knew and some broadening our understanding. *M P, Herne Bay*

Kindly send me information on your Church and its activities and magazines. *T C A, Germany*

- *Several items of explanatory literature have been mailed, including The Good News magazine.*

* * *

Note for students of the Bible Study Course: A few students have not received their copy of Lesson 12. If this applies to you, please let us know, and we will post it to you.