

## Europe at the Crossroads What Does It Mean?

*The introduction of the eurocurrency virtually coincides with the joint declaration of the EU nations at the recent summit in Laeken, Belgium. These benchmark events will affect your life, long term, in ways you may not have envisioned.*

**W**here is Europe headed now? The leaders of the European Union (EU) recently declared that *'the Union stands at a crossroads, a defining moment in its existence'* (text, Laeken Summit, emphasis added). They see the decisions taken in Belgium as a far-reaching declaration for the future of Europe – heralding a new era in its long existence as a civilisation. Coinciding with the EU's secular mission statement is the emergence of the euro as a real in-pocket currency. Said Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, 'We will become a greater Europe with the euro. We shall become stronger, wealthier' (Associated Press).

### The euro's impact

A biblical proverb tells us that 'money answers all things'. This is the real reason for a lot of things that may initially puzzle us. Clearly the euro may go a long way towards unifying Europe further. Even the three EU countries which have not yet subscribed to the single

currency will find themselves being irresistibly pulled towards the centre of Europe.

Many familiar British retail chains like Virgin and John Lewis have already decided to accept euro notes and coins in some of their shops. Undoubtedly many others will soon follow. So as time goes by, Britons may face the prospect of having to cope with an extra currency in their own country. Some seasoned observers feel that 15 million annual visitors from the European continent with euros in

*'The euro will be in use in Britain within weeks and will soon be as readily accepted in the high street as sterling, according to Neil Kinnock, Britain's most senior official in Brussels.'* (The Sunday Times)

their pockets, plus the inevitable effect of tourists from the British Isles visiting Europe, may help assure the eventual demise of the pound. (For a more complete account of the euro, please see the first item in the regular feature titled 'World News and Trends' in the main magazine.)

### Envisioning the European future

But the stated intentions of the Laeken summit leaders could turn out to be far more significant than even the euro.

People with a sound understanding of both biblical prophecy and European history have very good reason to be seriously concerned about the recent joint declaration of the EU heads of government.

For example, one crucial portion of the final Laeken declaration

states: 'Fifty years on, however, the union stands at a crossroads, a defining moment in its existence, *the unification of Europe is near.*

The union is about to expand to bring in more than ten new member states, predominantly Central and Eastern European, thereby finally closing one of the darkest chapters

in European history: the Second World War and the ensuing artificial division of Europe.

'At long last Europe is on its way to *becoming one big family*, without bloodshed, a real transformation clearly calling for a different approach from fifty years ago, when six countries took

were not right. Their Creator had explicitly told them to spread out, but they wanted to stay together in one place. They sought unity for the wrong reasons.

Another case in point is the historic division of ancient Israel, divinely imposed as a penalty for their national sins. God saw to it

Also on the agenda is the selection of a President of the European Commission, who will be directly elected by the citizens of Europe. Potentially this is an office of vast powers, which could emerge in just a very few years, with authority over perhaps as many as 25 nations.

If the EU leaders really understood human nature as the Bible views it, they might have paused to consider where the course of events laid out at Laeken will lead us. But most leaders of secular Europe today pay little, if any, attention to the wisdom of the Bible. If they did, they would understand with the prophet Jeremiah that 'the way of man is not in himself. It is not in man to direct His steps' (Jeremiah 10:23). Mankind desperately needs divine guidance (see verse 24).

But you can begin to understand where these key events in Europe may be taking us. Please request our free brochure *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*. This final book of the Bible is particularly pertinent to current trends on the European scene. The booklet will not only show you where world trends are leading mankind, but also reveal what steps you can take to cope with these coming events in your personal life.

*John Ross Schroeder*

***'In view of the enormous economic clout behind the euro, it will very quickly become either a parallel currency or . . . the only real accepted currency' [in those countries that have not yet joined].***

Herr Eichel, the German Finance Minister (The Times)

the lead' (text quoted in *The Daily Telegraph*, 18 Dec. 2001, emphasis added).

Concepts like 'the near unification of Europe' and 'becoming one big family' may sound innocuous on the surface, but when viewed from a biblical standpoint, the eventual outcome of these trends takes on a more sinister note.

From God's point of view, unity among the nations of this world is not always a good thing. World leaders do not generally promote the positive approach of looking to God for unity, but as much as possible, each is seeking his own benefit and believing that his own way is the right path to a unified outlook and an absence of conflict. But the Hebrew prophet Isaiah wrote, 'The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways . . . Whoever takes that way shall not know peace' (Isaiah 59:8).

Remember the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9). 'And the LORD said, Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose [imagine, KJV] to do will be withheld from them' (verse 6).

Whether they fully grasped it or not, the motives of these ancients

that the nation was divided in two, and He later prevented an attempt by King Rehoboam to reunify the two separate countries (1 Kings 11:9-13; 12:23-24).

### **Planning a European constitution**

The European Council at Laeken convened a special constitutional convention in the interest of further steps towards unity. It has appointed former President of France V. Giscard d'Estaing as chairman of this convention. This proposed constitution would most probably redefine the four treaties which undergird the EU.

## **A President of Europe**

One of the major legacies of Laeken may turn out to be the proposal for a directly elected President of Europe. This post would be a vivid symbol of additional European integration. As Francis Elliott, Deputy Political Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, expressed it: 'The European Union last night set a clear course to create a directly elected president in a significant step *towards a European superstate*' (16 Dec. 2001, emphasis added).

As it was conceived at the Laeken summit, this proposed post – although theoretically the same office as the presidency of the European Commission, a position now occupied by Romano Prodi – would eventually carry much greater authority. The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, conceded at a press conference that the creation of a superstate was back on the agenda. In reality it was never off.

# Jesus Christ's Olivet Prophecy

## Where Are We Headed?

*In the Olivet prophecy, Jesus Christ highlighted several major trends that would increase and intensify before His return. Most prominent were religious deception, wars, famines, disease epidemics and earthquakes.*

In response to His disciples' inquiry about the signs which would precede His return, Christ clearly stated, 'Take heed that no one deceives you, for many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows' (Matthew 24:4-8).

Are any of these predicted signs being fulfilled today? In this brief article we will deal with the first two: religious deception and war.

### Religious deception and confusion

Real Christianity is on the wane in Europe. Despite the fact that three quarters of the population identified themselves as Christian in a recent poll, headlines in Britain speak of increasing numbers of churchgoers who approve of 'living in sin'. The poll also found that there are many people who don't believe in God but still believe in the church. As the Archbishop of Canterbury recently observed, many Britons 'have no room in their lives for Christ'. These trends are indicative of Europe as a whole and the Western world in general.

Some two billion people claim to be Christian. Yet they are divided among countless churches and denominations, all claiming to follow Christ, even while they hold to a bewildering variety of contradicting beliefs and practices. Is this the Christianity of the Bible, or is it part of the religious deception and confusion Christ predicted?

Jesus Christ warned of such religious deceit in His Olivet prophecy. And even in the early

days of the Church, Paul warned of 'false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ . . . For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness' (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

Other apostles also warned of a great religious conspiracy masquerading as true Christianity. Peter spoke of 'false teachers . . . who will secretly bring in destructive heresies' (2 Peter 2:1). John wrote that even in his day 'many false prophets have gone out into the world' (1 John 4:1). He also reveals the power behind this great deception: 'Satan, who deceives the whole world' (Revelation 12:9).

(For further important knowledge, be sure to request your free copy of our booklet *The Church Jesus Built*.)

### Wars and rumours of wars

Presently the United States, with the help and support of Britain and a number of other nations, is engaged in what may very well turn out to be a long, protracted war against international terrorism. Following the tragic death of several thousand in the terrorist strikes of September 11, 2001, many additional lives have subsequently been lost in Afghanistan as a result of retaliatory actions.

After it took eight million lives, World War I was supposed to be the war to end all wars. A generation later World War II claimed almost 10 times as many.

But what about other wars? Hundreds of thousands more have died since in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Iran, Bosnia, Rwanda, Somalia and other countries. Although most rarely appeared in the news, 20 to 30 wars raged around the world at any given time in the 1990s.

### *The World Tomorrow*

#### MANX RADIO

1368 KHz AM, and  
89.2, 97.2, 103.7 FM  
Tuesday at 9.44 pm, repeated  
Thursday night (late) 1.02 am

#### RADIO CAROLINE

Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
at 5:30 pm  
ASTRA 1G channel  
(Transponder 35) analogue

Also on our web site at  
[www.worldtomorrow.org](http://www.worldtomorrow.org)

days of the Church, Paul warned of 'false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ . . . For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness' (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

Other apostles also warned of a great religious conspiracy masquer-

According to some estimates, in the 20th century alone wars killed more people than all earlier wars combined. When the Japanese city of Hiroshima was destroyed by an atomic bomb on August 6, 1945, the commander of the B-29 that carried the deadly payload wielded the power to destroy a medium-sized city.

Today the commander of a single nuclear submarine oversees enough destructive power to vaporise more than 150 large cities – quite enough to bring several countries to their knees.

A number of such submarines bristling with nuclear weapons prowl the oceans, and that doesn't begin to include the nuclear warheads that can be rained down

from other warships, aircraft, artillery and silo- or trailer-launched missiles.

Jesus said the circumstances at the time of the end would be so menacing that 'no flesh would be saved' unless He returned (Matthew 24:21-22). Only within recent decades has mankind held the enormous destructive capability to literally exterminate all human life many times over.

What will the future bring? According to Jesus Christ's revelation to John, well over one billion people will be slaughtered (Revelation 6:8; 9:13-18). With terrifying arsenals of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, such staggering casualties are a sobering possibility.

## Waiting for a better world

Remember that Jesus said, 'All these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet . . . All these are the beginning of sorrows' (Matthew 24:6). The many tragedies we see around us are chilling reminders of Christ's words and a foretaste of even greater catastrophes yet to come. He told us to watch and pray always that we may be accounted worthy to escape all these things and stand before the Son of Man (Luke 21:34-36).

Will we be humble enough to repent and accept our Creator's promise of a bright future in the world beyond our time? Only at that time will the age-old prophecies of a utopian world of peace and plenty find their fulfillment.

# ***This Suffering World – Gaining a Biblical Perspective***

*'We live in a world of inequality and diversity. This world is divided roughly into three kinds of nations: those that spend lots of money to keep their weight down, those whose people eat to live; and those whose people don't know where the next meal is coming from.'*  
(David Landes, *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations*)

**A**s a reader of *The Good News* magazine and its *British and European Supplement*, you are probably well aware that the articles discuss the many problems facing the world today. But where we differ from other publications is that we go beyond just reporting today's tragic headline news to also focus on the future, highlighting a much better world tomorrow. This is done from a biblical point of view and a scriptural perspective.

The basis of our hope for a brighter future for all mankind is shown by the fact that our literature conveys the basic message of the Bible, proven to be God's inspired Word. In the Holy Scriptures, we are assured that a better world is coming, an age of justice, equity and prosperity for all.

This future millennial period will be quite a contrast from the day-by-day suffering we see around us today. The world tomorrow will put an end to man's unjust rule, ensuring that no member of the human family will miss out on the opportunity to experience peace and prosperity. And most important of all, everyone will begin to realise the vast potential for which man was created.

## **The wealth and poverty of nations**

In today's suffering world, not all that many nations can claim to live prosperously (and even they possess large pockets of poverty), while most people live in countries that have never experienced the physical blessings available in the more affluent parts of the world. Just think

how unfair it would be if the purpose for our existence were merely pleasurable enjoyment and economic affluence – with no ultimate, more significant purpose for life? Just look at the map of the world. Some regions prosper far more than others. Some people suffer more than others.

The apostle Paul tells his readers that they would be ‘of all men the most pitiable’, if indeed their lives consisted merely of living out a physical existence of the proverbial threescore and ten (1 Corinthians 15:19). Fortunately, we are assured by the highest authority in existence, the Creator God, that the time will come when every human being has the opportunity to fulfil the purpose for which we were all born.

In this *The Good News*, with its British Supplement, is unique. It doesn’t teach abstract and confusing traditions that have no real bearing on why God as Creator went to such lengths to create a proper environment for us as physical human beings. Our literature focuses on man’s final destiny, highlighting a bright future for humanity. The creation of the first man and the first woman described in the book of Genesis was only the first stage in an ultimate spiritual creation that is almost incomprehensible.

No wonder the apostle Paul declared, ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him’ (1 Corinthians 2:9). To the Romans this apostle wrote, ‘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).

*The Good News* magazine, and this Supplement designed for the British Isles and English-speaking Europe, focus on the wonders of this final destiny. But there is more. There are booklets, freely available to our readers, that cover many additional topics concerning the purpose for our existence. Some deal with man’s obligation to his Creator. Others deal with biblical prophecy and its past, present, and especially, future significance. Still others cover human relationships from a biblical perspective.

We have publications that explain key biblical doctrines, using Scripture as a spiritual textbook, and others that explain the character attributes of God that we should express in our own personal lives. God is very much interested in His whole creation. You’ll find a number of booklets offered in each issue of the magazine.

## ***Bible Study Course***

In addition to the bi-monthly *Good News* magazine and various brochures and booklets, we have also produced a new, up-to-date *Bible Study Course* of 12 lessons. Topics include a special lesson on the subject of suffering. (Please see the accompanying box for a list of subjects.)

This systematic study will give you a better understanding of what the Bible really says, rather than what people assume Scripture teaches. Don’t believe us. Believe the Bible! Make sure your beliefs are grounded on God’s Word rather than on the traditions of men. This wise policy comes from Christ himself (see Matthew 15:6-9). Our *Bible Study Course* serves as a guide to open the pages of the Bible and reveal scriptural truths that have been hidden and obscured by the ‘traditions of men’ for far too long.

The Hebrew prophet Isaiah passes on to posterity a timeless message from the Almighty. It reads, ‘So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall

not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it’ (Isaiah 55:11). Why not find out what God’s will is on the important issues we all face in life, and understand much more fully God’s great plan for His creation?

What better way than to enrol in our free *Bible Study Course* and find out for yourself the purpose for which you were born?

*Gerhard Marx*

### ***Bible Study Course***

If you would like to study the major themes and teachings of the Bible in greater depth, we are pleased to offer you our free *Bible Study Course*. This systematic study of the Scriptures covers, among other subjects, the following topics:

- Is the Bible Relevant Today?
- Why the Bible Is the Foundation of Knowledge
- Why Did God Create Mankind?
- Why Does God Allow Human Suffering?
- Is There Hope for Human Survival?
- What Is the True Gospel?
- How God Relates to Man
- Building Your Relationship With God
- Conversion: A Newness of Life
- Developing Spiritual Maturity
- What Is God’s Church?
- Prophecy: A Message of Hope

# How to be an Ambassador for Christ

*God the Father is reconciling the world unto Himself through Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul tells us that we can have a vital part in this miraculous process as ambassadors for Christ.*

**G**od has given us an important role in the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-20). Christians have a serious responsibility before God the Father to reflect the way His Son Jesus Christ lived His life in the flesh. The apostle Paul tells us that if we call ourselves Christians, then we automatically become ‘ambassadors for Christ’ (verse 20).

Very often our actions speak far louder than mere words. Take a worldly example: The loud-talking tourist demanding instant service in a hotel or restaurant makes his home country look very bad in the eyes of the locals.

So how should we go about becoming the right kind of ambassadors to represent our Saviour Jesus Christ? In what way should God’s divine nature appear in our lives?

We are to become Christ-like, to act like Him and to think like Him. When people look at us, they should see the characteristics and qualities of God the Father and Jesus Christ. Simply said: ‘Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus’ (Philippians 2:5). This is the mind that knows how to interact with others.

Remember what Christ said in the Sermon on the Mount: ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.’ Peacemaking requires a great deal of diplomatic skill. Did not Jesus Himself tell us to ‘Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves’?

## Ten crucial requirements of effective diplomacy

An earthly ambassador is defined as ‘An official envoy, especially a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign as the resident representative of his own government’. Also ‘an authorised representative or messenger’. The importance of such an ambassador conducting himself or herself in an appropriate manner is axiomatic.

There are certain aspects of the diplomacy of this world which may also apply to our roles as ambassadors for Christ. Here are ten key principles highlighting the constant need to be cautiously diplomatic in our dealings with others, whether on a public or an individual scale.

- *An ambassador must obey the laws of both his home and host countries.* Two key biblical passages illustrate this principle. Solomon said that ‘One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination’ (Proverbs 28:9). Then in 2 Timothy 2:5 we are told that ‘if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules’. The same principle applies to us as ambassadors for Christ.
- *He or she must set a good example.* Philippians 2:15 talks of this ‘crooked and perverse generation, among whom you [as Christians] shine as lights in the

world’. And you are probably already conversant with the Sermon on the Mount which says ‘You are the light of the world . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven’ (Matthew 5:14-16).

- *An ambassador must faithfully deliver his own country’s message.* Although the gospel is largely published by a collective effort through media outlets like radio, television and the printing press, we all have our individual *supporting* parts to play as well. King Solomon tells us that ‘A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a faithful ambassador brings health’ (Proverbs 13:17). Then in the New Testament, the apostle Paul tells us that he had faithfully delivered the true gospel to his hearers (Acts 20:18-27).

- *An ambassador must be a good diplomat – choosing his words and directing his actions carefully and wisely – exercising much discretion.* Again a biblical proverb instructs: ‘A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back’ (Proverbs 29:11).

A person may declare, ‘I always say exactly what’s on my mind’. But that approach can get you into a whole lot of trouble very quickly. Another wise saying instructs: ‘A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished’ (Proverbs 22:3).

Much later Paul tells Christians, 'If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men' (Romans 12:18). He also advises us 'to pursue peace with all people' (Hebrews 12:14).

- *We must listen carefully as well as talk.* We have been given two ears, but only one mouth, so that might be a good indication of a wise ratio between hearing and talking. The Bible emphasises, 'The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both' (Proverbs 20:12). Learning to exercise our God-given senses in a spiritual manner is a life-long effort. The Hebrew prophet Ezekiel was told, 'Son of man, look with your eyes, and hear with your ears, and *fix your mind* on everything I show you' (Ezekiel 40:4). How many times did Jesus Christ say, 'He that has ears, let him hear'?

- *Ambassadors must always be prepared to give wise and diplomatic answers.* We must be ready to speak the truth in a courteous manner. Proverbs 15:1 advises us that 'a soft answer turns away anger', and two other wise sayings tell us that we are to think carefully *before* answering a matter (Proverbs 15:28; 18:13). Then in the New Testament the apostle Peter advises us to always be ready to give an answer for the Christian hope that lies within us (1 Peter 3:15). Paul takes up the same theme by telling us to consider carefully how we answer each person (Colossians 4:6).

- *An ambassador must know and understand his own country's fundamental laws and practices, and be able to apply them with wisdom and discretion.* As citizens of God's heavenly kingdom (Philippians 3:20), ours are in the Holy Bible. Paul told the young

evangelist Timothy that the Holy Scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15-17), and that we are to use them in order to rightly understand and correctly comprehend the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). You might want to request our free brochures titled *Is the Bible True?* and *How to Understand the Bible*.

- *We must not inflict material on our audiences that they won't be able to handle.* We should first take their level of knowledge and understanding into consideration and deal with people as they

### ***How our literature is funded***

The United Church of God *British Isles* is a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1079192). The publication of this Supplement and other literature is funded by the generous donations of members, co-workers and our readers. Following Jesus Christ's instruction (Matthew 10:8), it is supplied free of charge so that it can be made available to all who may desire it.

currently are – not as we would like them to be. Paul explained to the Corinthian Christians that he had fed them with milk and not with meat, because they were unskilful in handling God's Word (1 Corinthians 3:1-2). He said similar things to the Jewish Christians (Hebrews 5:12-14). Not every person has the same level of understanding. Every human being is unique in the sight of God.

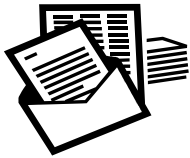
- *An ambassador must be conscious of the times in which we*

*are living.* Jesus Christ firmly told the Pharisees that although they correctly understood weather signs in the sky, they didn't comprehend the things of real spiritual import that were taking place before their very eyes (Matthew 16:1-3). Anciently the biblical chronicler said that the sons of Issachar 'had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do' (1 Chronicles 12:32). We need to comprehend what is happening in the world around us. (Read the 'World News and Trends' feature in the main magazine and subscribe to our free supplementary publication, *World News & Prophecy*.)

- *We must not take offence easily.* Psalm 119:165 remains the classic biblical passage in this regard. 'Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them' (KJV). King Solomon strongly advises us 'not to take to heart everything people say, lest you hear your servant curse you. For many times, also, your own heart has known that even you have cursed others' (Ecclesiastes 7:21-22). In the vernacular, give your fellow human beings a break and cut them some slack.

Summing up our calling to become effective ambassadors for Christ, we can do no better than to quote the central passage in 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 that undergirds this article.

*'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation . . . And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors' (NIV).* (This article was condensed from a recent sermon given in a United Church of God Sabbath service.)



# Letters from Our Readers

*This edition includes a sampling of reader reaction to our recent semi-annual letter mailed to all subscribers.*

## Readers appreciate our literature

Your church indeed is the good news for all those who seek the truth and answers to today's world problems. I especially believe your answers are what all mankind should listen to. Your *Good News* magazine is terrific, a vehicle of truth and hope in this sad and darkened world. I am glad I answered your advert in the newspaper. I am currently taking your *Bible Study Course* which is excellent. Also I have the booklets that you sent me at my request. I'm very grateful and learning day by day.

*J D, Northamptonshire*

Thank you so much. You have clearly explained matters that I could only find vague answers to before. Your words are so clear and direct and I have learned so much.

*Mrs J C, Wiltshire*

I am a Christian and believe that Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins. While I disagree with a great deal of what you say, I've always found the magazines and booklets of great help. Thanks also for the audiotapes. I wish I could send you a few pounds, but I'm on benefit.

*D K, St Albans*

Your magazine adds information which other Christian periodicals do not cover. Even if I don't always agree, I'm thankful for the added information.

*A F J, Sweden*

• *We deeply appreciate the interest of our readership, and we certainly expect a measure of disagreement. Clearly, if we weren't able to*

*challenge present thinking, what good would the magazine be? All we ask is that our readers follow the example of the Bereans by 'searching the scriptures daily' in order to find out whether or not our teachings are true (Acts 17:11). Please read the next letter.*

I look forward to receiving *The Good News*, the *Bible Study Course* and your booklets. What a blessing they have been. I'm a Sabbatarian Christian and I can't endorse all your doctrines, but like the Berean Christians, I like to examine everything and compare it with the Scriptures.

*S J R, Croatia*

## Readers question previous beliefs

I think your magazine is very clear. On some occasions I have read articles that deal with the subjects in a different way from any magazine in my experience. It is taking me, a Methodist, some time to come around to some of your beliefs, including not keeping Christmas. But for years before I heard of *The Good News* I was doing less and less for it. I am getting there.

*J M, Somerset*

Thank you for your ministry through *The Good News* magazines. I am deaf and get very little from the teaching in church. In fact I have stopped going. I rely on the written word to be fed and your magazine helps me to understand world events in the light of biblical wisdom.

*R A, Southampton*

My understanding is very much like your own. I just pray that the Church of Scotland I attend will

come to the same understanding. I leave copies of your magazine there to be picked up. God willing they will be.

*Mrs C A M, Inverness*

I find *The Good News* very interesting and enlightening – and a real change from being accosted on my doorstep, by the bus stand and in the streets by overenthusiastic 'Bible bashers'. I prefer to be able to choose for myself what I believe, not to be verbally (if, oh, so nicely) accosted by complete strangers.

*Mrs Y R, Surrey*

## Reader of another faith

I find *The Good News* very enlightening and very interesting. I am not a true Christian, but a Bahá'í who believes in the same God, the manifestation of God's Son Jesus. But we observe and obey the writings of the founders of the Bahá'í faith.

*J V, Stratford upon Avon*

### Please send your letters to:

*The Good News*  
PO Box 705  
WATFORD WD19 6FZ  
United Kingdom

Tel: 020 8386 8467  
Fax: 01257 453978

### or if you live in Sweden:

*The Good News*  
Mailbox 144  
111 73 Stockholm  
Sweden

www.goodnews.org.uk  
Email: info@goodnews.org.uk

**If you have moved,  
please let us know.**