

## Binge Drinking Is It Really 'Fun'?

*Six million binge drinkers cost Britain millions of pounds each year.*

Louise says, 'It's a way of life for many of my workmates. After work during the week it's a regular social activity.' Claire adds, 'Somehow "having a good time" has become equated to drinking.'

Eight of us sit around discussing what has become known as 'binge drinking'. Although we all drink in moderation, each of us believes that overindulgence is a character problem that can threaten our own lives and others' through its effects. One definition of a binge drinker is one who drinks more than twice the daily *safe* limit of alcohol twice per week. Tom Rawstone in the *Daily Mail* of 12 July states that six million people in Britain can be classed as binge drinkers.

It seems that we are all aware that binge drinking goes on frequently around us, and its effects are felt in many ways. Brian observes that it's fashionable to go to the pub and watch the televised football games – almost like a religious activity to support your team. Heavy drinking is a part of the culture.

Gareth points out that alcohol is affecting our work too. 'People even boast about the hangover they woke up with, as if it was some kind of trophy from a great battle. Signing off sick is not uncommon after binge drinking the night before. Lunch with a client often means that the afternoon is written off because of the amount of alcohol consumed.'

### Where is society going?

Why have we come to the point where 12 to 14-year-olds need treatment for liver disorders from drinking too much? Why is it that having 'had enough to drink' means you have reached the point of vomiting? Why is it that many women today, instead of restraining their male companions from drinking too much, try to equal or drink more than them?

*The Daily Telegraph* (5 June) reports that taxes from alcohol sales amount to £20 billion per year in Britain. Has anyone estimated the cost to society for:

- 125,000 serious facial wounds

per year from alcohol-related violence or drunken falls. The NHS estimates £200 million annually in direct costs for surgery alone.

Additional effects from personal disfigurement may include mental 'flashbacks', inability to get a job, others' perceptions of you being violent or a troublemaker, and inability to attract a future spouse.

- Alcohol-related crime. *Alcohol Concern*, the national agency on alcohol misuse, says it costs the UK £7.3 billion per annum in terms of policing, prevention services,

### Drinker's Safe Limit?

Men: 3-4 units per day  
Women: 2-3 units per day

#### 1 Unit:

Half-pint of beer  
Pub measure of spirits  
Small glass of wine

#### Practically:

Std glass of wine (175 ml) – 2 units  
Lrg glass of wine (250 ml) – 3 units  
Pint of standard lager – 2.3 units  
Pint of premium lager – 2.8 units  
Pint of strong cider – 7 units

*Source: Royal Automobile Club*

processing offenders through the criminal justice system and human costs incurred by the victims of crime.

- 560 deaths and more than 20,000 casualties per year from drink-drive accidents. Appreciate the loss to families of a parent, partner or child, loss of a breadwinner, the loss of training and experience to their profession, etc.
- The lost work hours and reduced level of productivity from headaches, calling in sick with a hangover, liver disorders, and so on.
- The trauma and counselling after rape resulting from binge drinking. One survey suggests 81% of sex-attack victims were drunk, and one in three had taken illegal drugs.
- The care of babies with crippling diseases, including brain damage, deafness and heart problems, resulting from mothers drinking excessively during pregnancy.
- The effects on children growing up in families where alcohol is misused and they are maltreated, abused or neglected. Experience shows this is likely to carry on to the next generation as well.

Police are concerned about the proliferation of licensed establishments in city centres using two-for-the-price-of-one offers to attract drinkers. They are often designed to accommodate 'vertical drinkers' (standing room only), and are usually packed with young people.

Steve Green, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, mentions that the drinks industry targets young people. While they have a larger-than-ever disposable income they may also be the least able to deal with the consequences of overindulgence.

Of course some control of the problem can come through limiting drink promotions and being more

cautious with issuing licenses. There is now a possible move to 24-hour bars and other drinking outlets. To control the problem, however, it is more important to curb the demand. But how?

### Where is the real problem?

Without a biblical understanding of why man exists, we flounder in a world of seemingly unrelated events.

There are growing threats of terrorism, violence, and even worldwide extermination through various means – nuclear and biological warfare, environmental disasters, uncontrollable plagues, asteroid collisions, etc. – many of which have provided subjects for Hollywood spectacles.

Is it any surprise that so many seek solace by blotting out the pressures of the day, troubled family life, and failed relationships by binge drinking? Yes, the commercial concerns take advantage of the weakened resolve of many. And many of us have lost the knowledge and ability to amuse ourselves with pastimes or hobbies that are actually constructive.

Even more significant is that we have also lost touch with any higher meaning to life.

The theory of evolution does not provide its adherents with any hope for the future. Nor does it hold up to the factual, material and mathematical evidence around us. Yet it is taught as authoritative in most European and British educational institutions. (Write for our free publication, *Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?*)

Once we prove that the world was created by an intelligent Being, we can find out from His handbook what life is really all about. *Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?* and *What Is Your Destiny?*

are two other free booklets that will help you investigate biblical truth for yourself.

### Balanced biblical instruction

Many Christians are aware that there are benefits to enjoying wine or stronger drink in moderation. 'Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has already accepted your works . . .' (Ecclesiastes 9:7-9).

God created the fermentation process and called all that He made 'very good' (Genesis 1:31). Jesus Christ said He will enjoy wine with us once the Kingdom of God is established (Luke 22:17-18). And Paul said that wine can be helpful for stomach ailments (1 Timothy 5:23).

There are, however, biblical examples of the tragic results of overindulgence: Canaan's sin against Noah (Genesis 9:20-25); Lot's two daughters committing incest (Genesis 19:30-38); King David making Uriah drunk to try to hide his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1-13). Clearly getting drunk is unchristian behaviour and must be overcome to enter into the Kingdom of God (Matthew 24:49; 1 Corinthians 6:10).

### Back to our conversation

The group asks, 'What could we suggest to anyone who may be taking part in binge drinking?'

In our discussion, Claire says, 'Don't do it, you are hurting yourself.' Gareth points out that it is often 'based on boredom. It is also costly, some people spending £100 on one night of binge drinking. And you shorten your life.'

Louise warns, 'You'll feel sick the whole day, so think of tomorrow.' Brian says, 'Your health is very important. What's the point of waking up tomorrow in

(Continued on page 6)

# Enthusiasm

## A Gift of God's Spirit

*Is enthusiasm a characteristic of God, even though the word 'enthusiasm' is not found in traditional versions of the Bible?*

Enthusiasts and their enthusiasm can attract both good and bad comments. Misguided enthusiasm can be dangerous, and misguided enthusiasts can threaten our peace and well-being. Witness the activities of a few of the animal-rights activists. So is enthusiasm a good thing? Let's explore the subject in some detail.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, a 19th-century American essayist and poet declared; *'Nothing great was ever*

*Enthusiasts are people who are committed to the task, who help create the right team spirit and who infect others with their own enthusiasm.*

*achieved without enthusiasm.'* Enthusiasm is a common characteristic that unites all great achievers in life.

*The Concise Oxford Dictionary* defines enthusiasm as 'ardent zeal' for, or about, 'a person, purpose, cause'. It is derived from a Greek word meaning 'to be inspired or possessed by [a] God.'

From that last thought, the question arises as to whether enthusiasm is a fruit of God's

Spirit. It would be a fruit of the Spirit if it is a characteristic of God Himself – and if it is something that God wants His people to have.

### A need for enthusiasm

Despite the negative aspects of some misguided enthusiasts, most would agree that every organisation is best served by those who are enthusiastic about the cause. For example, the Church is best served by those who are enthusiastic about

their calling, and by their involvement in spreading the gospel and other Church activities.

Some positive aspects about enthusiasm include:

- It is having an interest in something and actively supporting it.
- It is not age or gender-dependent; it can be a characteristic of young and old, male and female.
- It leads to greater success, and that success can inspire enthusiasm in others.

John Adair, a management consultant, stated in his book *Effective Leadership*, 'Some qualities are especially important . . . enthusiasm is an excellent example. Some enthusiasts are not leaders, but if you have the gift of enthusiasm,

you almost always will spark it off in other people. It produces greater commitment to the task, creates team spirit and enthuses the individual.'

This is a most significant quotation, highlighting further basic aspects of enthusiasm:

- Enthusiasm is a gift.
- One person's enthusiasm will almost certainly rub off on others.
- Enthusiasts are people who are committed to the task, who help create the right team spirit and who infect others with their own enthusiasm.

### Enthusiasm in the Bible

The word *enthusiasm* does not appear in the more traditional translations of the Bible. So examples cannot be found using a traditional concordance. There are, however, many verses containing synonyms for 'enthusiasm' – words such as ardour, devotion, earnestness, passion, vehemence, warmth, and zeal.

Any study of the subject will ultimately lead us to the question: Is God enthusiastic?

There are a number of ways this question could be answered. Even a brief glance at the natural world would convince most people that any Being who could create all we see around us – the beauty of nature and the potential of its dominant occupants, the human

race – has to be an enthusiast.

Another answer comes from scripture itself. Isaiah 9:6-7 speaks of the time when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, will reign over the earth.

Here is the ultimate enthusiasm of God for His people, when He provides for them a government bringing unending peace. There will be justice and righteousness forever. God's enthusiasm – His zeal – will accomplish these things!

### The enthusiasm of Christ

Now, let us turn to Jesus Christ. In John 2:13-17 is an example of enthusiasm that stirred Christ

to action. Jesus was enthusiastic for the right cause. He was aware of what was going on in the Temple and He became involved. Enthusiasm, or 'zeal', for His Father's house stirred Him and expressed itself in action. In righteous indignation He overturned the tables and drove out the sheep and oxen. The *New International Version* conveys the last part of verse 16 this way: 'How dare you turn my Father's house into a market?'

Jesus Christ had extraordinary concern for the Temple of God. This was genuine enthusiasm.

But how do we know that God wants His people to be enthusiastic?

In Isaiah 9 we read that the Child, the Son, Jesus Christ, will reign on a throne – but He won't be alone. Revelation 3:21 shows that those who overcome will also sit on that throne with Christ.

Will Christ share His throne with apathetic individuals? No! They will be real enthusiasts, team players, committed to the cause – just as He is.

Isaiah 66:2 explains that God's

hands have made the heavens and the earth. The creation shows an enthusiastic God. Then this God says He will look at and have regard to those who tremble at His Word. The *Soncino Commentary* on this passage says, '*Displaying devotion and eagerness to fulfil God's commandments.*' In other words, people who display enthusiasm for God and His instructions.

### Growing in enthusiasm

The apostle Paul commended Epaphras, a Church member who showed enthusiasm in his concern about the Church as a body and about the individual

*Any Being who could create the beauty of nature and the potential of its dominant occupants, the human race – has to be an enthusiast.*

members. He was zealous – or enthusiastic – and worked hard for others in his prayers for them (Colossians 4:12-13). His enthusiasm encouraged Paul, who then used this example to inspire others.

Two of Christ's parables stress the need for His followers to be enthusiastic. Both the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) and the parable of the pounds (Luke 19:11-26) showed that those entrusted with the master's goods were expected to be enthusiastic about their appointed tasks.

Those who exercised this characteristic were richly rewarded for their diligence. But the servants who were disinterested, lazy or apathetic lost their reward.

### Expressing genuine enthusiasm

There are many ways in which enthusiasm may be expressed. Here are just a few taken from various

passages in the Bible.

- Ecclesiastes 9:10: 'Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.' We should be enthusiastic about even mundane tasks.

- Romans 12:11: 'Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.' We should keep our spiritual fervour and not lack enthusiasm.

- Galatians 4:18: It is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.' Enthusiasm shouldn't be just for show – to impress

someone – and then turned off when that person is not present. This could apply to the way we approach our work ethic.

We should also support and encourage each

other's enthusiasm. While enthusiasm may need to be tempered with wisdom, we should take care not to dampen the enthusiasm when, for example, someone comes up with an idea with potential.

Remember what John Adair wrote: '*Enthusiasm produces greater commitment to the task, creates team spirit and enthuses the individual.*'

He noted that enthusiasm is a gift. As Christians we observe that it is a characteristic of God Himself and a gift of His Spirit. He will give us this characteristic if we ask Him.

One final thought: Why not pray that the enthusiasts for God and all His ways and plans, will let their enthusiasm rub off on others?

*David Fenney, Pastor  
of the United Church of God  
congregations in Birmingham and  
Ramsay, Isle of Man*

# The Seventh-Day Sabbath in Wales

*‘There is sufficient evidence to conclude that the Saturday Sabbath was well established in the Welsh Marches south of Leominster and in neighbouring parts of Wales from the mid-seventeenth century, if not earlier, and that it persisted in that region well into the eighteenth century. The evidence pertains primarily to the counties of Monmouthshire and Herefordshire, and to the district around Hay-on-Wye.’*

*Bryan W Ball,  
The Seventh-Day Men*

**H**ay-on-Wye is a mecca for second-hand-book lovers. People come to Britain from all over the world to browse for and buy books on every conceivable topic. I have been an enthusiastic visitor to this Welsh border town many times during the last 28 years.

Imagine my astonishment when I read in Bryan W Ball’s fairly recent book that ‘a small seventh-day group appears to have survived at Hay until the 1730s’ (*The Seventh-Day Men*). The existence of other historic Sabbath-keeping congregations has been confirmed in Wales – and also in England.

Though direct documentation in Wales is pretty much restricted to the south-east corner, new historical evidence is beginning to emerge proving that the biblical Sabbath was kept far more broadly in Britain than previously thought.

## **Celtic church history**

In addition noted Celtic historian Peter Beresford Ellis makes a wide-ranging statement in his book, *Celt and Saxon*. ‘The Celtic Sabbath (“day of repose”) was celebrated on a Saturday, the last day of the week and Jewish holy day’ (p. 120). Mr Ellis is a historian, not a theologian with an axe to grind.

*The Seventh-Day Men* by Bryan W Ball is a comprehensive historical work and a compendium of recent research on the seventh-day Sabbath in England and Wales.

Wales is a Celtic principality where many early Celtic congregations emphasised the Hebrew Scriptures, commonly known as the Old Testament. As churchman Leslie Hardinge carefully explained: ‘The rules of the Old Testament which shaped the theocracy of Israel were followed by the Celts as a

natural consequence of their view of biblical authority . . . The laws defining clean and unclean animals which might or might not be used as food . . . as well as the payment of tithes . . . all were thought necessary’ (*The Celtic Church in Britain*, p. 202).

Great respect was accorded to the Hebrew part of the Judaeo/Christian Bible, as Mr. Hardinge further explained. ‘While grace was held to be vital to salvation, man also had his part to play in obeying God’s Commandments, so that the Atonement procured by Christ might become effective in the Christian’s personal experience. *The observance of the Sabbath of the Old Testament was a natural outgrowth of this tenet.*

‘The seventh day was kept from sunset Friday until sunset on Saturday . . . there was no Sabbitizing on Sunday during the Celtic period’ (p. 202, emphasis added).

## **Keeping the Sabbath today**

The United Church of God traces its recent history through seventh-day groups in the United States, and in earlier centuries back to Great Britain and Europe. It is a Church that has traditionally kept the seventh-day Sabbath (Friday evening to Saturday evening), as did the early apostolic Church.

Some of our readers may wonder why relatively small groups of Christians throughout the world insist on keeping the Saturday Sabbath. What is its attraction? Why should these people go against the grain and swim upstream when the vast majority are apparently content to observe Sunday – a day of rest that was not officially sanctioned until the time of Constantine the Great in the fourth century?

But the bottom line is: What does the Bible actually reveal about *the*

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Binge Drinking

(Continued from page 2)

prison or hospital, and you don't remember what you did to be there?'

Stan considers the tragedy of people getting away with murder. They drink, drive and kill, but their sentence is often commuted to a couple of years. Debbie says, 'Binge drinking is wasting your life; it's a dead-end street. What are you trying to prove by it?'

Marie recalls someone who thanked her for 'being the first person

who ever told me I drink too much'.

Are we willing to let people go on about life aimlessly and in a stupor? Will we be a restraining influence against binge drinking or just go along meekly with the party crowd? Will our *carefully chosen* words of warning help avoid a violent end for one of our friends, or sexual abuse at the hands of a predator?

What kind of an example are we setting our own children? Parents can have such a great influence on children, but the nature of broken relationships (often aggravated by alcohol abuse) destroys the

lessons that can be passed from one generation to another.

Anyone not yet in the addicted stage (see accompanying box) needs to understand binge drinking as a character issue. We can have life happen to us and be swayed by commercial and social pressures, or we can begin to take charge of our lives and appeal to our Maker for His help and learn about His purpose for our existence. We would like to offer you our help in accomplishing God's purpose for your life.

Peter Hawkins, Coordinator,  
United Church of God – British Isles

## Four Phases Towards Alcoholism

There is a progression from binge drinking to alcoholism that many people in Britain are already following. These four stages are:

1. *Social Drinking* – Social drinking suggests drinking for stress relief, which results in mood change. It may begin as a result of peer pressure, to go along with the crowd or to alleviate boredom or stress.
2. *Seeking the Mood Change* – This is drinking for the purpose of achieving mood change. Drinking habits begin to fall into personal patterns (certain times of the day, in private, etc.) and psychological manifestations. Chief among these is the denial of any dependence in order to protect developing behavioural patterns.
3. *Constantly Seeking the Mood Change* – This phase involves a regular pattern of drinking for the desired effects. This may take the form of regular, ongoing daily drinking or sporadic episodes of drunkenness followed by periods of abstinence (often labeled as 'periodic drinking').  
Obsessive and compulsive drinking leads to violations of one's fundamental ethics, values and moral standards. The drinker resorts to entrenched denial defences to justify this conduct in response to the objections of family members and other interested persons.

4. *Addiction* – The cells of the body have adapted to the increasing ingestion of alcohol, resulting in a higher level of 'tolerance'. This means the person is able to consume more alcohol without obvious physical effects or showing signs of impaired behaviour. Regardless of the appearance of continued ability to hold a job, keep the family intact, etc, the increased intake of alcohol causes cellular damage that will eventually exact its toll on the body, even causing organ failure.

Increased tolerance also demands that the person must drink more to achieve the effects sought in stage one. The nervous system adapts to the escalating level of alcohol, resulting in physical dependence. Drinking beyond tolerance levels results in drunkenness. Suddenly abstaining or drinking less than the tolerance level throws the cells of the body into acute distress, which produces varying withdrawal symptoms including 'delirium tremens' (commonly referred to as 'DTs'). The syndrome of physical dependence or addiction is now in full swing.

**If you are an alcoholic,  
please seek help by phoning  
Alcoholics Anonymous at 0845 769 7555  
or visit their web site:  
<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/>**

# Questions & Answers

**Q** Thank you for sending me your booklet entitled *Fundamental Beliefs*. I was intrigued by the statement on page four where you write, 'The Holy Spirit of God is not identified as the third person of the Trinity, but is consistently described as the power of God.' What am I to infer from this statement?

A C, Cornwall

**A** The truth is that the New Testament does *not* teach the Trinity. Even liberal Bible scholars with no particular axe to grind have a strong inkling of this truth. Take *The Oxford Companion to the Bible* (1993), edited by Bruce Metzger and Michael Coogan. Its opening words under the entry 'Trinity' (pages 782-783) are very telling.

'Because the Trinity is such an important part of *later Christian doctrine*, it is striking that the term does not appear in the New Testament. Likewise, the developed concept of three coequal partners in the Godhead found in *later creedal formulations* cannot be clearly detected within the confines of the [New Testament] canon' (Oxford University Press, London & New York, 1993, emphasis added).

Some Bible translators of past ages distorted the text to try to prove the Trinity true. A case in point is 1 John 5:7-8. It now reads in the King James or Authorised Version (KJV or AV): 'For there are three that bear record in heaven, *the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit and the water, and the blood.*' The words in italics are simply not a part of the original New Testament manuscripts.

Nearly all Bible commentaries tell us that this is a spurious addition or gloss to the biblical text. Consider the words of *The New Bible Commentary Revised*: 'Notice that AV includes additional material at this point. But the words are clearly a gloss and are rightly excluded by RSV [Revised Standard Version] even from its margins' (Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1970, p. 1269). The Revised Standard Version correctly renders verse 7: 'And the Spirit is the witness because the Spirit is the truth.'

The Holy Spirit is spoken of in many ways that demonstrate that it is not a divine person. For example, it is referred to as a gift (Acts 2:38; 1 Timothy 4:14). We are told that the Holy Spirit can be quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19), that it can be poured out (Acts 2:17), and that we are baptised with it (Matthew 3:11). The Holy Spirit must be stirred up within us (2 Timothy 1:6), and it also renews us (Titus 3:5). These are certainly *not* attributes of a person.

If God were a Trinity, surely the apostle Paul, who recorded many of the theological underpinnings of the early Church, would have comprehended and taught this understanding. Yet we find no such concept in His writings.

Paul's standard greeting in his letters to the churches, as well as to individuals, is, 'Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ'. There is no mention of the Holy Spirit.

This same greeting, with only minor variations, appears in every epistle that bears Paul's name. The Holy Spirit is *always* left out of these greetings – an unbelievable omission if it were indeed a person

coequal with God and Christ.

Paul clearly states: 'There is one God, the Father . . . *and* one Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Corinthians 8:6). He makes no mention of the Holy Spirit as a divine person.

Jesus Christ spoke in numerous passages only of the relationship between Himself and God the Father (Matthew 26:39; Mark 13:32; 15:34; John 5:18, 22, etc).

The Holy Spirit is the divine power and pervasive influence of God – and according to the Bible, *not* part of a Trinity.

For further knowledge about the Godhead, please request our free booklet *Who Is God?* It includes two chapters on the Holy Spirit.

---

## *The Seventh-Day Sabbath in Wales*

(Continued from page 5)

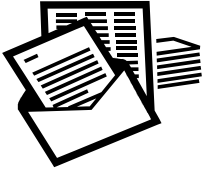
proper day of rest? Clearly the Fourth Commandment to work six days and rest on the Sabbath is still one of the Ten Commandments. The question is, Which day is holy to God – Saturday or Sunday?

The United Church of God has published a 64-page booklet that answers the most common questions about the seventh-day Sabbath and its observance.

Entitled *Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest*, this free publication covers the important subject of the biblical Sabbath from Genesis to Revelation.

It explains how you can successfully observe the biblical day of rest in this busy modern age. Please request your personal copy.

John Ross Schroeder



# Letters from Our Readers

## The Good News

I thank God and the organisation that produces this magazine because studying its pages helps me to grow both in faith and in wisdom.

*E V, Torino, Italy*

## Bible Study Course

I would like to add a word of thanks for a clever, concise easy to read and digest first lesson. I am dyslexic and have attention-deficit syndrome. The small bite-size pieces make for much easier reading and concentration.

*J G, Bradford*

## A serious Christian

I am a serious Christian and have found some of your work quite interesting. So please this time around send your booklets and anything else you think I might be interested in.

*E C, Birmingham*

- *Several items of basic Christian literature are in the post.*

## Readers from eastern Europe

Your magazine is a great blessing. Keep up the good work. I would be very happy if you would also send me the youth magazine *Vertical Thought*.

*G D, Bulgaria*

Thank you very much for sending me *The Good News* and the British

and European Supplement. For me, tomorrow never comes. I cannot contribute.

*G M B, Moldova*

- *You are very welcome. All our literature is offered free of charge thanks to the generosity of those who are able to help us. The essence of our message is the good news of a coming age when all things will be put right. For now, our free brochure Making Life Work may also be of interest.*

## Building bridges to others

Thank you for answering the questions that I had. I appreciated your doing so. I really enjoy *The Good News* and all the booklets too. They are first class reading. *World News & Prophecy* and *United News* are excellent. The way the United Church of God is building bridges with other Sabbatarian groups around the world is an excellent example – from Angola to the Ukraine.

*R A, Kilmarnock, Scotland*

## United fellowship groups

Thank you for your publications! It means so much to me to have biblical perspective on the events occurring in this world and on the issues facing me in my life. I live in central London. Are there any fellowship groups planned here?

*K S, West Hampstead, London*

Thank you for not forgetting me. Your message reinforces my own inner feelings that time grows short for this present world order, but that there are better times ahead. I would like to come to one of your meetings and hear your message personally.

*P A, Truro*

- *There is a fellowship group in central London and also one that meets near Taunton in the West Country. For those interested, we have a list of available meeting places.*

## Semi-annual letter

Thank you for the free offer of *Jesus Christ: The True Story*. At present I don't have an income, but as soon as I can I will send a contribution.

*L H, Warrington*

- *Thank you for responding to our subscriber letter mailed out several months ago. The booklet has been posted to you. Most readers will have received the current letter mailed in early November. Even if you already have the booklet offered – The Ten Commandments – we would very much appreciate your comments on our publications. A return envelope is included with this magazine.*

## How our literature is funded

The United Church of God *British Isles* is registered as a charity in England and Wales (number 1079192). The publication of this Supplement and other literature is funded by the generosity of members of the Church, co-workers and our readers. Following Jesus Christ's instruction (Matthew 10:8), it is supplied free of charge so that His message can be made available to all. We are grateful to those who assist financially in the work done by *The Good News*. Donations may be sent to: *The United Church of God, PO Box 705, WATFORD WD19 6FZ*. Euro donations can be transmitted to our Euro bank account using the IBAN: GN63 NWBK 6072 1027 0225 87. IBAN BIC: NWBK GB 2L.