



Time for Truth News!

(John & Donna's Newsletter)

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O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD. Jer 22:29

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

'Christian' Exhibition in Northampton

'Unbelievable!' *That is one word I would use to describe it!* I was invited by Cambridge University Press (CUP) to attend & I went mainly to purchase 'discounted' AV Bibles from their stand, but also to have a look around at the other Christian resources! While looking at Bibles on the CUP stand I met an American man who was also looking at the Bibles. He asked what I thought of the RSV; *here we go again I thought to myself!* So I told him! He then proceeded to ask me about the NASV; so I told him! Then he said that Hank Hanegraaff (the Bible Answer Man on the radio in the USA - & *that's a joke to say the least!*) said that all Christians who believed the AV was perfect were 'kooks!' He said Hank Hanegraaff & John Ankerberg had held a debate with the AV 'perfectionist' group & *'eaten them alive'* so to speak! I asked him if Ruckman was there & he said no; I then told him that if Ruckman wasn't there it wasn't worth having the debate! Ruckman is the number one leading authority on the AV in the world, *in my opinion!* I then asked what his 'hero' Hanegraaff's FINAL AUTHORITY was & what Bible DID God promise to preserve. He said that Hanegraaff said they were all much of a likeness!!! So I showed him a few verses that PROVE they are NOT all alike! By this time he was not a *happy chappy* to say the least! I asked where he was living & what his occupation was, just to be friendly, his reply was *'What's it to you?'* I said 'What sort of answer was that!' From then on he ignored me & went on buying his RSV's etc. *What a buffoon of the highest order!* About par for the course in today's 'Christian' world! I never started a 'fight', I only answered the questions he put to me. You see his hero Hanegraaff & him have one thing in common, they don't know where THE BOOK is that God promised to preserve – what a mess so many Christian's are in these days! The rest of the exhibition was also a sad joke – stands selling 'holy socks' & puppets (*Barney style!*) others trying to cancel 'third world debt' etc. I doubt if there was a sound Christian among them, *but I suppose I'm judging again!* It was just another **money making racket! Money, money, money!!!**

Outreach Evening

What a great evening! The Lord blessed us with 37 people turning up! There were testimonies, readings, music, a 'film' (*some amazing actors & actresses*) & the gospel message preached throughout the evening! We also had something to eat at the end! A number of non-saved people came & went away challenged! We had some great feedback & have been asked already if we would arrange another outreach evening! The Lord was so good to us; it was a real blessing! One young Roman Catholic guy who came said he was challenged & it gave him a lot to think about! He has since been to a couple of our Friday meeting's & even brought his girlfriend along! (See also FANTASTIC NEWS on page 7)

Read The Bible!

Another 'member' of the youth group has now completed reading the Bible i.e. from Genesis to Revelation! Have you read the whole Bible yet?

Reading Evening (April)

Thirteen of us met at Hope Chapel for our monthly reading evening; it starts at 6.00 pm & ends at 9.00 pm. We have sandwiches & drinks to start with & then at 6.30 pm we turn to the word of God! We read a chapter each & make very brief notes as we all read i.e. noting down a verse that stands out to us or one that is a challenge, a rebuke or an encouragement etc. We read 1 + 2 Thessalonians & finished up in Ephesians. We then went through the first 5 chapters of 1 Thessalonians & took note of what verses we all marked & why. It was a great evening! Some of these youngsters have a real love & hunger for the Scriptures; it really is wonderful to see. *(Joe said when he got home he carried on reading his Bible until 3.00 am; God is certainly working in these young peoples lives!)* Not one of these young people has ever complained or moaned about the AV as they all know it is THE WORD OF GOD, PERFECT & PRESERVED. Those 'Christians' who tell you to get a more 'modern' version of the Bible because it is easier to understand, read & remember are talking HOGWASH & SHEEP-DIP! I was never a good student academically at school, in fact I hated reading for many years & just concentrated on sport; the first book I ever read was 'Daisy the Cow!' *(as far as I can remember!)* & the 2nd book I read from cover to cover was THE BIBLE! If I can read, understand & remember the AV, SO CAN YOU! Don't be fooled by these idiots who tell you to get a more modern version of the Bible like the NIV, or NASV, or GNB etc. Stay with THE BOOK; THE AUTHORISED VERSION! *(I'd put our 'Student of the Year!' up against any NIV Christian when it comes to reading, remembering & understanding the Scriptures!)* Most NIV Christians I've met are very shallow when it comes to doctrine; I suppose it's because *half* their 'Bible' is missing! – see **Mat 17v21, Mat 18v11, Mat 23v14, Mark 7v16, Mark 9v44, Mark 9v46, Mark 11v26, Mark 15v28, Luke 23v17, John 5v4, Acts 8v37, Acts 15v34, Acts 24v7, Acts 28v29, Rom 16v24, 1 John 5v7 for starters!**

Holland Trip

Well twice a year I fly to Holland on business with my boss; it is a good time together & very profitable for the company. We stay in a hunting lodge just inside the border of Germany, which is very picturesque. It is located in a wood by some lakes. Again we were treated to a real fancy seven course meal & *again* I didn't like it, as I'm such a basic eater i.e. I could live on beans on toast! But something quite amazing happened while we were eating! This time I sat alongside my boss & a new representative for the company in Holland; during the night (mainly due to the alcoholic drinks I feel) both men started to 'open up' & the subject of life & death came up! Since joining the company I haven't

really had a chance to talk to the managing director about his soul; now came the opportunity I had been waiting for. I seized it & gave a very straight forward presentation of the gospel; I mentioned hell, sin, death, judgement & Christ alone as the ONLY mediator between God & men! I explained some differences about religion & Christianity also as both men are Roman Catholics. It really was an amazing time. I also felt the devil try to stop the conversation a few times as interruptions occurred but the Lord over-ruled & it continued for some time. Even after, when we went outside & stood by the fire, the guy from Holland wanted to continue our conversation. Please pray that these two men shall be saved!

Enquiries from Around the World!

Recently we have received an enquiry for our newsletter & evangelism literature from Nepal. I don't know how they heard about Tft! but we thank the Lord that many folks from all around the world have shown an interest in our ministry.

DEATH!

I really dislike being away from Donna especially when I am flying to another country as I recently did. I often have very deep thoughts about 'What if I didn't return?' etc. We both thought along these lines. Now if the plane had crashed & I died, for me it would be wonderful, I'd be with the Lord Jesus! But for Donna it would be terrible. It made me think also, quite soberly, 'Am I ready to go?' what have I really done for the Lord in the last 16 years? Who had I reached with the gospel? What effect would it have on those around me if I did go? All these things kept coming to mind; *I wonder if you ever think like that?* It was a real challenge to me & I want it to shake me up to really live for the Saviour WHILE I CAN! It certainly was a deep experience for me personally & I do believe it was profitable. Death is an enemy, it's horrible & it is terrible for those you leave behind; make every day count in living for the Lord Jesus, *do what you can for Him* & enjoy every day walking with Him. I really do thank the Lord that HE conquered DEATH – **Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. (1 Cor 15v12-26) Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor 15v51-58) What great words, what comforting words for the Christian! If you are NOT a Christian, you have no hope. Read these words carefully & get saved TODAY!**

PLEASE PRAY!

Nelson Mwaba who hasn't been well recently (I'm sure he would love to hear from YOU – **Maximum Security Prison, PO BOX 80915, Kabwe, Zambia, C. Africa**), Geoffrey Mwewa – (**PO BOX 39152, Lusaka, Zambia, Central Africa**) who is in prison & needs help with his family on the outside (*I think they need financial help also!*); Donna's friend Pam in Wales who needs a healing touch from God; Jack & Rhoda Lees; David Quilleash & Peters Yates (both for continued strength); Tim Furniss who has had many trials to go through of late!

What 'Kind' of Christian are YOU?

Many sinners who get saved do NOT become 'disciples' of the Lord; they get saved but they don't really live for the Lord or work for Him, they seem to be 'lukewarm' in their relationship with the Saviour. This is so sad! The Lord gave everything to save us & He wants us to walk close to Him throughout this life, yet many choose not to. What 'kind' of Christian are you? 1 John 3v16 **Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.** 1 Cor 10v31 **Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.** Col 3v17 **And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.** Col 3v23 **And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;**

How have you lived for the Lord over the last week?

Why Tongues are NOT for Today! (Have I emphasised NOT, enough Barney?)

Well I'm amazed; Barney came over & watched the video he promised to do! Unfortunately, even after watching & hearing the truth he will continue walking in & teaching this error! He of course came up with NO argument but once you're IN error it is very hard for you to admit you were wrong & come OUT of the error! Pride of course has a lot to do with it plus the fact that you would have to stand against your denomination & their tradition; that is very hard to do! I made up my mind a long time ago that I would try to follow the word of God & put the word of God above everything, including tradition, friends & Bible teachers who I respect & often read & listen to. With Barney's error over this issue, & a few of you who have written in asking why I believe 'tongues' are NOT for today, I thought it would be good to produce a taped study on this subject. I was saved in an A.O.G. church in Stourport-on-Severn & I was brought up in those early years believing that 'tongues' were for today, although I NEVER spoke in them myself (I wanted to at the time & even went to 'waiting' meetings & stood in line when the big-named evangelist 'preyed' over me; & all that kind of rubbish! *By the way I have spelt preyed correctly, for that is exactly what they do!*) I have NEVER spoken in tongues, yet I was always open to this gift & prayed to the Lord that I would receive it! After leaving the Stourport A.O.G. church, I then attended Barney's church (also A.O.G.) for eight years (approx) & again sat under the 'teaching' of this gift & saw it *supposedly* in 'operation' (*At times I thought the person 'exercising' the gift NEEDED an operation!*) After leaving Barney's church I went to a small evangelical railway mission where 'tongues' were not taught or exercised but believed by a few of the members. After a while I sent away for some books & a video on the subject of 'tongues' to see 'the other side' of the teaching; this 'triggered off' my own personal study on the subject, & without a doubt I am now convinced 100% SCRIPTURALLY that 'tongues' are NOT for today! For a FREE copy of my study on 'Tongues' please drop me a line (*Note - good Bible teachers I know, even friends of mine, will disagree with what I write, but I must obey the word of God rather than follow man, tradition or friends!*)

Scientific Fairy Tales

When you read in school text books or when any 'scientist' says these words '*Millions of years ago...*' think immediately these words... 'LONG AGO & FAR AWAY...' In other words a *fairy tale* is coming next! The earth is NOT Billions or millions of years old! For further reading purchase Kent Hovind or Ken Ham's books on Creation - they are excellent!

Begging 'Christians' – it ought NOT to be!

Ps 37v25 **I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.** Christians have been given a bad name/reputation when it comes to the subject of money! The false prosperity preachers are always begging for money etc. & therefore we are then tarnished with the same brush by the world! God KNOWS our needs & knows what is best for us, His timing is perfect! Many Christians 'indirectly' ASK for money by saying things like 'We run our ministry by faith & rely on goodwill offerings!' (That's asking for money!) Listen, God supplies our NEEDS not our WANTS! Phi 4v19 **But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.** Now I know that at times we are often tested when it comes to financial support & often times we fail the test &, even though we want to stay 'spiritual' & not ask for money, we 'indirectly' ask! If God calls us to a work HE shall supply our needs! As Christians we are to TRUST in Him & NOT beg! I write this because every week I have begging letters from Christian organisations! The Birmingham City Mission have just sent me their latest newsletter & written these words... *'If our present level of regular income does not increase, we will be forced to consider downsizing some of our operations. Will you please prayerfully consider whether you might be able to help BCM in one of the following ways...1) If you don't already give on a regular basis, consider setting up a standing order. 2) If you already give on a regular basis, consider reviewing your contribution. 3) If you pay tax, please check whether you have completed a gift aid form. 4) To help sustain the Mission's work in the next generation, make out a legacy on behalf of BCM.'* Now that is BEGGING! That is NOT trusting in the Lord for His provision but trying to tug on the old heart strings to get some more money in! Don't you think it would be better for some of these guys to go out & get JOBS & then financially support the work themselves? What happened to PRAYER? What 'organisations' are mentioned in the word of God? I believe God wants us to get jobs & pay our way & trust Him to bring in the extra money we need – am I wrong? Paul was a tent maker! Acts 18v1-3 **After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.** Paul worked & preached! If Christians don't work in the factories, shops & offices etc. who will reach these people with the gospel! Let us not be lazy & get out there & work, earn a living & GIVE to the Lord & His work! 1 Co 4:12 **And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:** Acts 20v33-35 - **I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.** 1Thes 2v9 - **For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.** 2 Thes 3v8 - **Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:** (Read also Romans 12) When Christians & Christian organisations start begging for money SOMETHING IS WRONG! Where in the Bible do you see Paul or Peter 'begging?'

DG Social!

We started off having breakfast in a riverside café in Bewdley & then drove to Ludlow to my works office where we had a couple of hours fun playing darts – needless to say, the boy's won!!! After Ludlow we drove to Newent in Gloucestershire to a Christian coffee/book shop where we all had a drink & then went for a walk round the village. After that we landed back at the 'ranch' at Hope Chapel. It was a great day!

Want a Blessing?

Write to the following Christians... (They would love to hear from you!)

- 1) **John Otoo - Bompeh Sec. Tech. School, PO BOX 0611, Takoradi, Ghana, W/A.** - A young man at school who is certainly committed to the Lord!
- 2) **Justice Mensah - PO BOX 289, Sekondi W/R, Ghana W/F** - An evangelist who is reaching the folks out there in villages in Ghana.
- 3) Don't forget our friends in the USA prisons! Addresses can be found in previous newsletters or write & request them!

The Two Primary Rules for Bible Study!

- 1) 1 Cor 2v12+13 **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**
- 2) 2 Tim 2v15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Now every false teaching & every spiritual misunderstanding in the world is the result of either of the above! In other words, when studying the Bible you must compare Scripture with Scripture & NOT take verses out of their context, & you MUST RIGHTLY DIVIDE the Scriptures; not every verse in the Bible is DOCTRINALLY directed towards the church! **Heresy is TRUTH MISPLACED!** (*Tongue speakers walk in heresy!*)

A Special Request!

I would really appreciate it if you could pray for Joe O'Brien, the guy who has recently become a Christian. He is looking for a job at present; it will be his first since leaving school. If anyone could help him find work in the Birmingham area please would you contact me? It is always tough finding work 'as a Christian' and especially when it's your first job! He is very keen to work & would be a great asset to any company. He is trustworthy, honest & reliable, I certainly would recommend him! He does not drive! The Lord wants His children to work!

Tft! Literature!

We continue to send many tracts & booklets out every month upon request. The tract card 'He Loves You!' is being left every week on buses, taxis & trains in Birmingham via the youth group at Hope Chapel. *What literature are you distributing?*

If Jesus Came TODAY!

If Jesus Christ returned TODAY, would you be ready? Would you be caught doing something you shouldn't be doing? Would you be happy with what you have achieved here on earth during your Christian walk? He COULD come TODAY!

The Trinity

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. (1 John 5v7) The Godhead is another description of the Trinity & guess how many times the word 'Godhead' appears in the Scriptures? THREE times! (*Quite amazing don't you think!*) See Acts 17v29, Rom 1v20 & Col 2v9.

Work!

The Lord is continuing to bless Donna & myself in our secular employment. Orders are up & business is very good; the boss was so happy that he went out & bought himself a BMW M3! We just pray that in all things, we shall be a good witness for the Lord. Thank you again to all those who pray for us in our work & travels.

FANTASTIC NEWS!

Amy (Who recently left Friday Club!) has become a Christian! **THANK YOU LORD JESUS!** The last message she heard from us at the Friday club was on Hell & we thought it would be the last time we would see her after telling us she was leaving! She then turned up at the outreach evening a few weeks later & shortly afterwards wrote me a letter with some questions! I sent her a letter back with a few tracts & couple of tapes on 'creation v evolution'. I'll let her tell the rest of her story in her own words! *'Before I became a Christian I guess you could say I was the kind of person that would lurk around in the shadows listening to Death Metal. I was into all sorts of the wrong thing, the occult, music, I guess you could go as far to say even the clothes I were wearing were wrong. Even though I knew about Christianity I carried on doing what I wanted to do. After a while I started to realise that maybe the occult was wrong & moved on looking for something else. I looked at virtually everything, apart from Islam...Didn't really like the idea of wearing a head scarf. I couldn't really find anything in other religions that really looked right. Until I started questioning Christianity again. I'd been learning about the Bible quite a lot from Friday club at Hope Chapel until I left. I carried on questioning through letters to John Davis. It took one reply & some tapes to realise that Christianity was right, John had sent me two tapes, one on evolution & the other which was named 'The Garden of Eden'. They both explained a lot to me & helped answer all of my questions & more. From then I prayed for my sins to be forgiven & became a Christian. I knew that becoming a Christian would mean making a lot of changes to my lifestyle. I've done this now but it meant getting rid of my music, a lot of the books I had on the occult & what I wear. I found doing this really difficult, its not all of a sudden I could stop liking the music I'm into. Ok getting rid of the books was easy I stopped reading them after I learnt everything I needed to know. I've now started to read the Bible, I'm finding it kind of difficult though, but I know that if I spend time working it all out I'll understand it better. Becoming a Christian is one of the best things I've ever done & has completely changed my view on life & helped me realise things that I would have before.'* Now you can imagine what a huge encouragement, Amy becoming a Christian, was to Donna & I & to all at Hope Chapel; THANK YOU LORD!!! She is doing great & we have invited her to join the Discipleship Group & she shall be coming with us on the DG holiday in August! Please pray for Amy in her Christian walk.

Reformation Watchwords!

Three Latin phrases have come to represent watchwords of Reformation teaching...

- 1) **Sola fide - FAITH ALONE!** This summarizes the Reformers conviction that the heart of the Gospel is justification by FAITH ALONE! See Rom 3v20-31, Rom 5v1, Eph 2v8+9
- 2) **Sola gratia - BY GRACE ALONE!** See Rom 3v24, Titus 2v11
- 3) **Sola Scriptura - SCRIPTURE ALONE!** The reformers view was that the Bible ALONE is the sourcebook for doctrine, thus eliminating tradition & the decisions & decrees of church councils & the doctrine of the infallibility of the Pope! See 2 Tim 3v16. (If only all Christians would place the Scriptures above church traditions etc.)

Donna's Health!

I really do thank the Lord that Donna's arthritis has so called 'stabilised' but I would love to see it disappear! She is still in pain every day especially her wrists & hands; please would you continue to pray that the Lord will take this disease away & she will be restored to full health.

I Like These!

1. Regarding 'gossip' - One tree can make a million matches; but one match can destroy a million trees!
2. Do right a thousand times, & you may not hear of it once; do wrong once, & you will hear of it a thousand times!
3. You will never learn faith in comfortable surroundings!
4. How you handle your problems by day determines how you sleep by night!
5. To be a manager, you have to start at the bottom - NO EXCEPTIONS!
6. If you can't convince them, confuse them! (*Barney's doctrine!*)

Some Great Sayings of Bob Jones SR

Somewhere down the line a small booklet entitled 'Chapel sayings of Dr Bob Jones SR' came into my possession. I would like to share a few of these sayings from this wise man...

- 1) Finish the job!
- 2) Go as far as you can on the RIGHT road!
- 3) You can borrow brain but you cannot borrow character!
- 4) For a Christian, life is not divided into the secular & the sacred. To him all ground is holy ground, every bush a burning bush, & every place a temple of worship.
- 5) You may acquire knowledge, but you have to get WISDOM direct from God!
- 6) It is a SIN to do LESS than your best!
- 7) God is the same person yesterday, today, & forever; but in the drama of the ages, He plays many parts! (*Do you understand that Barney?*)
- 8) What you love & what you hate reveal what you are!
- 9) Heaven & Hell are in opposite directions, & no man can go both ways at the same time!
- 10) Jesus never taught men how to make a living; He taught men HOW TO LIVE!
- 11) Pride is the stone over which many people stumble!
- 12) A man who has no enemies is no good. You cannot move without producing friction.
- 13) Your character is what God knows you to be; your reputation is what men think you are!
- 14) Dying men have said, "I am sorry I have been an atheist, an infidel, an agnostic, a sceptic, or a sinner"; but NO MAN EVER SAID with his last breath, "I am sorry I have lived a Christian life!"
- 15) The Devil did not tempt Adam & Eve to steal, to lie, to kill, to commit adultery; he tempted them to live independent of God!
- 16) The drunkard in the ditch has gone to the dogs. According to the Bible, the self-righteous man who thinks he doesn't need God HAS GONE TO THE DEVIL!
- 17) A preacher who preaches an old sermon because he is TOO LAZY to make a new sermon is not fit to be a preacher; but a preacher who should repeat a sermon because the people need to hear it again is a coward & a betrayer of Jesus Christ if he does not repeat the sermon!
- 18) When I was 14 years old, I knelt by my dying mother's bed. She smiled at me through the death shadow on her face & said she was going Home. She asked me to meet her in Heaven, & I gave her my promise. Her body sleeps in a lonely cemetery in the state of Alabama. As I have sat by her grave & listened to a funeral dirge played by the wind in the pine trees nearby, I have said, 'Mother, I will see you again someday.' Some people say I am dreaming. If I am, don't wake me. If this world were all, I would want my Christian faith. My faith hangs a rainbow of hope over the dust of my loved ones & kindles a smile on the brow of my bereavement. This world is not all. There is a God. There is a Heaven. There is a Hell. I am playing a safe game. If there were only one world, I have already won. Since there is an afterlife, I win for two worlds. You don't have to take any chances with your soul. DON'T TAKE ANY!

Preaching at Zion!

It was my privilege to speak at the morning service at Zion Church of the Nazarene in Handsworth. The church has a very mixed congregation including many saved Asians. It was a lovely time of fellowship together & many of our Tft! newsletters, "You Asked The Question!" booklets & tracts were taken at the end of the service; a great encouragement!

DG Notice Board!

Well the DG have produced a number of articles for the notice board & it has created a lot of interest within & *without* the church! So much so that Tim Macleod (*who left Hope Chapel a while back!*) has returned & been 'snooping' around it I'm told (*although he would hate to admit it! Yes little Timmy we caught you - when are you coming out to play?*) How about coming to the Friday club again? We're all missing you! By the way what issues have you got???

The Lord's Protection!

Donna & I dropped off LaToya & her sister Lamara after Friday club recently & while passing a pub someone threw a bottle at the car & dented it quite badly. What was amazing was the fact that the bottle hit just below & in between the front & rear passenger windows; LaToya was sitting in the front & Lamara in the back! It could have been very nasty had the bottle come through the window - THE LORD PROTECTED US ALL! What a world folks when drunken yobs just think its fun to throw glass bottles at cars! This sick world is in for the shock of its life when Jesus Christ comes & sorts IT ALL OUT! **...Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.** (Rev 22v20) **For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.** (Psa 91v11) **The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.** (Prov 21v31) We're in SAFE HANDS! **God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.** (Psa 46v1)

A Letter of Encouragement!

A lady has recently written to us... 'I have received all 12 studies on cassette. Thank you very much! I have enjoyed the one on 'women in the church' the most. I'm glad to say that God has worked on my heart in a way that now I can agree with what the Bible says. I could not go back to a church where women 'lead' nor are pastors. I'm now interested to hear your study on 'Tongues.' Thanks again for your ministry. It strengthens me, & convicts me very much.' - Now here is a woman who wants to please God rather than men! Here is a spiritual lady who is seeking to serve God & put His word above all else. I am sure the Lord will bless this lady for her honesty & commitment towards Him. Thank you for writing S____, I was very encouraged!

My Mum Has Died!

On the 19th April my sister's husband (*I didn't even know she was married!*) called me on my works mobile to tell me that my mum had died two weeks ago, the 5th April 2005. I hadn't seen my mum for over 10 years since she divorced my dad. Only a month ago I tried to make contact with her by calling up her best friend to try to find out where she was. I left my business card with my work's mobile on. Her best friend passed on my details to my mum, but she didn't call. Then 'out of the blue' this phone call came, to tell me of her death & that she had stated that she did not want me to attend her funeral. I have never suffered bereavement before especially someone so directly 'close' to me. I cannot explain fully, the feelings I am going through. I sent some Christian literature to her once after the divorce but her solicitor said I was not to send anymore as she wasn't interested. Only the Lord knows how she died & where she is now; it breaks my heart to think of the horrific consequences of rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ as her Saviour - *if she did? I wonder if I shall ever see her again.* If any of you who have read this have fallen out with ANYONE in your family, I URGE you to visit them & make up with them before it's too late. I have regrets which I will have to deal with, but the Lord will help me through I know. **Death is so final for the unbeliever.** I had a great childhood & upbringing but as soon as I became a Christian both my parents became very 'anti-Christian' & wanted nothing to do with the Lord or His word. *What rejection the Lord suffers!* To think that both my mum & my dad (and every one of us) shall stand before the Lord Jesus Christ on the day of judgement! **Death is NOT the end!**

When were the NT Books written? (AD)

Mat 52-56	1 Cor 57	1 Thes 52	Heb 64-68	3 John 90-98
Mark 50-55	2 Cor 57	2 Thes 53	Jam 44-49	Jude 65-68
Luke 56-60	Gal 58	1 Tim 65-67	1 Pet 62-64	Rev 91-96
John 90-100	Eph 62-63	2 Tim 67-68	2 Pet 64-68	
Acts 63	Phil 62-63	Titus 65-67	1 John 90-98	
Rom 58	Col 62-63	Phile 62-63	2 John 90-98	

Please let me know if you have any further information regarding the dating of the Books of the Bible! If anyone has a list of the dates of the OT Books I'd like to see it!

Biblical Election/Predestination by Peter Paul Ventura

Those who teach that in eternity past, God elected/predestinated individuals to heaven, or hell, teach a twisted false doctrine in light of 1 Tim 2v3+4 - **For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.** God would have all men saved! (John 3v16) For a good understanding of biblical election/predestination, we shall read 1 Pet 1v2 - **Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.** In this verse we find:-

- 1) The basis for election – God’s foreknowledge;
- 2) The means of election – through sanctification of the Spirit;
- 3) Time of election – obedience & sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

Comparing Scripture with Scripture (1 Cor 2v13), we find, the basis for election is God’s foreknowledge. A person is elected/predestinated to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, not heaven or hell (Rom 8v28+29). The means of election, is through sanctification of the Spirit (2 Thes 2v13+14). A person hears the gospel, believes, & is then sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Time of election – ‘unto obedience & sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ’ (1 Pet 1v2), when you get saved, God applies that Blood to you (Heb 9v16-22, Rev 1v5) **...and washed us from our sins in his own blood,** (Acts 20v28)) Election/Predestination occurs at salvation. A person is not predestinated to salvation. A person is elect/predestinated to be conformed unto the image of Jesus Christ (Rom 8v28-29, 1 John 3v2). God predestinated groups, not individuals. The only individual who is God’s elect, is Jesus Christ (Isa 42v1). Israel as a nation is elect (Isa 45v4). The Church which is the Body of Christ is elect Eph 1v4 - **According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...** ‘Us’ – corporate. When God said **“Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.”** (Rom 9v13), God was not speaking of individuals, but nations – ‘two nations’ (Gen 25v23) **“Jacob have I loved”,** not the individual, but the nation that would come forth from Jacob, Israel. The most simplistic way to understand election/predestination is God said in Isa 42v1 - **Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.** Jesus Christ is God’s Elect. Thus when I get saved, I am then in Christ Jesus. When did I get in Christ Jesus? When I was saved! Jesus is God’s elect, & the very moment I got saved I am in Christ & became elect/predestinated to be conformed into the image of Christ Jesus (Rom 8v28+29). God did not elect individuals to go to heaven or hell, in eternity past. Had God done so, humans would not have free will to choose eternity with God, or eternity separated from God. There could have been no freewill offering (Lev 22v18, Num 15v3, Ezra 8v28). Joshua said, **“Choose you this day whom ye will serve;”** (Josh 24v15) Have you chosen Jesus Christ, or will you spend eternity separated from God? Jesus said - **...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** (John 3v3).

(Please write to Peter Paul Ventura Jn # 83492-NB6, Cheshire Correctional Institute, 900 Milldale Road, Cheshire, Ct. 06410-1698, USA)

My apologies to Peter for not including this article in either of the last two newsletters as promised!

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

Psalm 27v10

A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land. (Psalm 68v5&6)

Recommended Reading!

The Chemistry of the Blood by M.R. DeHaan M.D. – Excellent! – Why is the virgin birth so important? Where is Christ’s Blood today? What type of Blood was/is it? *This book will be such a blessing to you!*

Dr R.A. Torrey's Story
(Taken from 'The Gospel Standard')

One of the mightiest soul winners I ever knew was Colonel Clarke of Chicago. He would work at his business six days every week that he might keep his mission open seven nights every week. And every night in the week, the year around, five or six hundred men would gather in that mission hall. It was a motley crowd; drunkards, thieves, pick-pockets, gamblers & everything that was hopeless. I used to go & hear Colonel Clarke talk & he seemed to me to be one of the dullest talkers I ever heard in my life. He would ramble along & yet these five or six hundred men would lean over & listen spellbound while Colonel Clarke talked in his prosy way. Some of the greatest preachers in Chicago used to go down to help Colonel Clarke but the men would not listen to them as they did to Colonel Clarke. When he was speaking, they would lean over & listen & be converted by the score. I could not understand it. I studied it & wondered what the secret of it was. Why did these men listen with such interest, & why were they so greatly moved by such prosy talking? I found the secret! It was because they knew Colonel Clarke loved them, & nothing conquers like love! The tears were very near the surface with Colonel Clarke! Once in the early days of the mission, when he had been weeping a great deal over these men, he got ashamed of his tears. He steeled his heart & tried to stop his crying, & succeeded, but he lost his power. He saw that his power was gone & he went to God & prayed, 'Oh God, give me back my tears,' & God gave him back his tears, & gave him wonderful power, miraculous power over those men! **He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.** (Ps 126v6)

Money & The Business World!

- 1) There are only two times in a man's life when he should not speculate; when he can afford it, & when he can't! – Mark Twain
- 2) I've been in trouble all my life; I've done the most unutterable rubbish, all because of money. I didn't need it...the lure of the zeros was simply too great! – Richard Burton
- 3) Make money & the whole world will conspire to call you a gentleman! – Mark Twain
- 4) Money is like manure. If you spread it around, it does a lot of good, but if you pile it up in one place, it stinks! (*Take a bath Barney!!!*)
- 5) **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?** Mark 8v36
- 6) **Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.** (Mat 6v19-21)
- 7) **Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death. He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.** Pro 11v4+28

The Election! Who will run our country?

I've never had so much junk mail! The Conservatives, Labour & Liberal Democrats bombarded us with literature telling us why we should elect them to run our country! When a guy stands up to put the AV back in our schools, along with prayer & Christian education, when a guy stands up & says that the Bible is against sodomy, prostitution, drugs & alcohol, when a guy stands up & says that we should run our country on Biblical principles, then he'll get my vote! Until then it seems the god of this world (2 Cor 4v4) is having a field day & the puppets in the government are falling right into his hands! My boss told me that he was fined once because he mentioned on the telephone about a woman sowing on a button, as if it was the woman's role. The woman he was speaking to took him to court & he was fined! With political correctness (which is satanic!) & all the other 'positive' junk we are being bombarded with by the rulers & the media I honestly believe that this country, this world, is shot & it is only a matter of time before horrific judgements from God start to fall! Beware & get your life right with the Lord Jesus Christ BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!

The Trinity!

As you all should know by now, the DG members are not Christians who just 'go to church', they are Christians who try to reach the lost souls of this dying world & they stand & contend for the faith everywhere they can! Jude 1v3 **Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.** Now recently Chris has been involved in a debate with Muslims, atheists, lecturers at his University & a Hebrew scholar from Cambridge University; & guess what subject they arrived at, the word of God – inspiration & preservation! Chris stood well & fought his corner. He also debated on the subject of 'eternal security!' LaToya (our other Team Leader!) has also been having a debate across the internet with a woman in the USA on the doctrine of the Trinity; so I thought I would include a few notes regarding *this doctrine* in this issue... It has been said that the doctrine of the Trinity is a Roman Catholic invention – which is just pure unadulterated 'sheep-dip!' Let us start by looking up some Scriptural EVIDENCE regarding the Trinity in the word of God, the Authorised Version (If you have an NIV I suggest you throw it away as it will do you no good at all in relation to this doctrine! I mean, why bother reading an NIV 'Bible' which was based upon the same set of manuscripts as the JW 'New World Translation?' I know of a few REBELLIOUS Christians who will not get rid of their NIV even though they know the truth regarding it! In fact Joe Hayden from the OAM got one of our DG members to read from it the other week – THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!!!) Before starting let me make it perfectly clear YET AGAIN; the Authorised Version of the Bible is the PERFECT & PRESERVED word of God & all other translations are satanic counterfeits i.e. NIV, GNB, RSV, RV, NASB, NKJV etc.

THE TRINITY – Look up the following verses....

	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Everlasting/Eternal	Rom 16v26, Deut 33v27 Ps 90v2	Micah 5v2, Rev 1v8	Heb 9v14,
Omnipresent	Jer 23v24	Mat 18v20, Mat 28v20 Eph 1v23	Ps 139v7-10
Omnipotent	Jer 32v17, 1 Chron 29v11+12	Mat 28v18, John 5v21-23	Rom 15v13+19, Luke 1v35
Omniscient	1 John 3v20 Job 42v2	John 21v17, John 16v30	1 Cor 2v10+11,
Called God	Gen 1v1	John 20v28	Acts 5v3+4
In Creation	Gen 1v1 Mal 2v10	Col 1v14-16, John 1v3+10	Job 26v13, Job 33v4 Ps 104v30
Raised Jesus	Gal 1v1, Rom 10v9, Col 2v12, Acts 2v24	John 2v19-21, John 10v17+18	Rom 8v11, 1 Pet 3v18
Lives in the believer	1 John 4v12	John 14v20	John 14v17

The Trinity – One God yet THREE separate persons... **Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:** (Deut 6v4) **Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.** (Isa 44v6) **Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.** (Isa 44v8) **I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:** (Isa 45v5)

The Father is God – 1 Cor 8v6, Eph 4v4-6

The Son is God – John 1v1-5 + 14, John 10v30-33, John 20v28, Heb 1v6-8, Phil2v9-11

The Holy Spirit is God – Acts 5v3-4, 2 Cor 3v17

More than 60 Bible passages mention the three Persons together – Mat 3v16+17, Mat 28v19, 2 Cor 13v14, Eph 4v4-6, Titus 3v4-6, John 3v34+35, John 14v26, John 15v26, John 16v13-15, Rom 14v17+18, Rom 15 v13-17, Rom 15v30, 1 Cor 6v11+17-19, 1 Cor 12v4-6, 2 Cor 1v21+22, 2 Cor 3v4-6, Gal 2v21- 3v2, Gal 4v6, Eph 2v18, Eph 3v11-17, Eph 5 v18-20, Col 1v6-8, 1 Thes 1v1-5, 1 Thes 4v2+8, 1 Thes 5v19+19, 2 Thes 3v5, Heb 9v14, 1 Pet 1v2, 1 John 3v23+24, 1 John 4v13+14, Jude 20v21. Again this is a huge subject & we can't do it justice in just a few words; but there is certainly enough Scripture quoted above to prove the doctrine of the Trinity!

Letter from Kathmandu!

We had a very encouraging letter recently from a missionary in Kathmandu; he writes...*Your newsletter is very bold & just exactly what we need in this age. I would love to receive every edition of it. In fact, I so much enjoyed the articles that I read the entire newsletter on the day I received it. Very good stand on the KJV issue, well done! Little bit about myself, just so that we can know each other better when we correspond. I was born in Nepal & at the age of 19, I went to England for further studies. I studied a year in London & went down South to Bournemouth University, where I studied for a year & a half. While I was at university, two men knocked on my door & invited me to the church, which at first I refused & later decided to go. To cut a long story short, after a while I got saved & realised my calling as a preacher. So, I quit university & trained under my pastor (Steve Dickens) for sometime & came back to Nepal as a missionary a year & half ago. (Did you hear that Chris O'Connor?) I am still studying, Lord willing, forever as there is just so much to learn. We still have a very small ministry & at times it's hard because of the government restrictions & Maoists problems outside the capital city. What a great letter! Please pray for brother Prakash!*

Why 1 John 5v7+8 Should Be In The Bible; also known as The 'Johannine Comma' PART ONE

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: and these three agree in one. 1John 5v7+8. Note in v6 - water, blood, Spirit; v7 Father, Word, Holy Ghost; v8 Spirit, water, blood - Observe the three *threes* in three verses! Just as God's word is TRUTH (John 17v17), so the Holy Spirit is TRUTH (v6). The total 'witnesses' to the deity & humanity of Christ are six; three 'upstairs' (v7) & three 'downstairs' (v8). The ones 'upstairs' will deal with the 'Son of God' & the ones 'downstairs' will deal with the 'Son of man.' Note Isa 9v6 **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:** Regarding the 'Johannine Comma', there are seven authoritative witnesses for the King James text before AD 500 & three of them are before the Council of Nicaea (AD 325) (For a condensed summary on the Johannine Comma get the book 1 John 5v7 (1980) from the **Bible Baptist Bookstore 1130 Jo Jo Road, Pensacola, FL 32514, USA**). 1 John 5v7, from a King James Bible will be found in Old Syriac versions (AD 150), Old Latin versions (AD 180), Cyprian's writings (AD 250), the writings of Priscillian & Pithanasius (AD 350), at the Council of Carthage (AD 415), Jerome's works (AD 450), Fulgentius' quotations (AD 510), four different Waldensian Bibles (AD 600 - AD 1400), a minuscule Greek manuscript (number 88), & manuscript 61 (AD 1519). The last Greek manuscript (61) has affinities with the Old Syriac of AD 150 - 180, but no Syriac version was known in Europe until AD 1552 (Moses Mardin). From WHAT did manuscript 61 come from? It has four chapters in Mark that have 'coincidences' with the Old Syriac of AD 180 & the Old Itala of the same date. Two other Greek manuscripts contain the verse: one in its text (Codex Wianburgensis); the other (Codex 88) has it in the marginal notes. The verse shows up in four anti-Catholic Bibles, but it will be found to have been removed from PRO-Catholic Bibles like the RV, ASV, NASV & yes you guessed it the NIV - New International Version! (Taken from the General Epistles by Ruckman - excellent!)

Reading Evening! (May)

Thirteen of us gathered at Hope Chapel recently on a Saturday to spend some 'quality time' just reading the Scriptures & then briefly talking about what stood out to us in what we read. We read the first 10 chapters of Mark. It really is a profitable & enjoyable time. It is open to all but we do emphasise that this meeting is for Christian's who really do LOVE the word of God; if you would like further details drop me a line. The reading evening is held once a month.

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Prov 18v24

Why 1 John 5v7+8 Should Be In The Bible; also known as The 'Johannine Comma'

PART TWO

The next set of 'extracts' are taken from the Trinitarian Bible Society's booklet 'Why 1 John 5v7+8 is in the Bible.' Manuscript 61 was the first Greek manuscript discovered which contained the passage. It is NOT the earliest manuscript containing the passage; it was the FIRST manuscript found which contained the passage. The oldest known citation of the Johannine Comma is in a 4th Century Latin treatise entitled 'Liber apologeticus'. Edward Hills says 'The first undisputed citations of the Johannine Comma occur in the writing of two 4th Century Spanish bishops...In the 5th Century the Johannine Comma was quoted by several orthodox African writers to defend the doctrine of the Trinity against the gainsaying of the Vandals, who... were fanatically attached to the Arian heresy.' (From Websters 1828 Dictionary - **A'RIAN**, a. Pertaining to Arius, a presbyter of the church of Alexandria, in the fourth century; or to his doctrines. - **A'RIAN**, n. One who adheres to the doctrines of Arius, who held Christ to be a created being, inferior to God the father in nature and dignity, though the first and noblest of all created beings; and also that the Holy Spirit is not God, but created by the power of the Son.) Evidence for the early existence of the Johannine Comma is found in the Latin versions & in the writings of The Latin Church Fathers. Among these is Cyprian (c 250) & Cassiodorus (480-570), as well as an Old Latin manuscript of the 5th or 6th Century, & in the Speculum, a treatise which contains an Old Latin text. It is also found in the great mass of the later Vulgate manuscripts & in the Clementine edition of the Vulgate. Erasmus omitted the Johannine Comma from the 1st edition (1516) of his printed Greek NT, but restored it in his 3rd edition (1522). According to Hills, Erasmus reinserted the passage 'on the basis of manuscript 61, which was later supported by the presence of the verse in Codex Ravianus, in the margin of 88, & in 629.' Edward Hills in his book 'The King James Version Defended' gives ample evidence that the passage was in use well before the 15th Century! He also writes... 'In the first place, how did the Johannine Comma originate if it be not genuine, & how did it come to be interpolated (IN'TERPOLATED, pp. Inserted or added to the original.) into the Latin NT text?' ***There is just so much more I could write but time & space does not allow! If you want to study this further I would suggest you get Edward F. Hills' book 'The King James Version Defended' & especially regarding the study on the Johannine Comma read pages 209-213***

A Blessing from Blackpool!

A lady from Blackpool has recently written to me & I thought I would include one of her paragraphs in our newsletter as I thought it was very apt for today... 'I find I am more & more troubled by many believers' lack of Bible knowledge in these perilous times. What is even more troubling is that some believers do not appear to 'want' to know the Scriptures or to be under its fundamental exposition, & for those who do there seems to be so few that are equipped to teach them. This is a completely unnecessary condition to be in for any believer, for no-one in this land of ours needs to be in the dark about the word of God. The ignorance of the word in the pew & especially the pulpit amazes me. One would think that someone would not dare to attempt to teach a subject he knows very little of. After all, if our child's biology teacher for instance, knew almost nothing about biology we would certainly have something to say about it! Yet I see that exact same problem in the church today. Men who apparently know so little of the word are allowed to be the 'pastors & teachers' of the flock. It is therefore no wonder that we have the total misrepresentation of Christ & the Scriptures in the 'love, love, love' mentality of a great number of professing Christians & their weak portrayal of the Saviour. Of course, the NIV etc. has helped enormously in promoting these errors, but **The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof? Jer 5v31'**

Pioneer Missionary Adoniram Judson – 1788-1850

Judson is known & respected in Myanmar as a devoted servant of God whose sacrifice & suffering paved the way for tremendous advances of the gospel. He spent 38 years in Myanmar! A Whole missionary movement followed him. In 1950, one hundred years after Judson's death, the church in Myanmar numbered some 200,000 Christians. Now, after 50 more years, there are about 4 million believers, or 9% of the total population. Born in Massachusetts, Judson became a brilliant student. As a young man he showed little interest in the gospel, but was convicted of his need for salvation when a young man in the room next to him died overnight. After studying at Andover Seminary, he felt a strong sense of call to become a missionary. Arriving in Calcutta a few years later, he & his wife were met by English missionary William Carey, but were forbidden by the British authorities to remain, as they feared unrest among the local people. The Judson's finally arrived in Rangoon (Yangon) in 1813, a dingy, squalid shanty town which suffered from frequent epidemics of cholera & other tropical diseases; Rangoon was dominated by Buddhist worship. It was **six years** before Judson won his **first convert**. He tried to get approval from the king for his work, but official religious toleration was never forthcoming. Rather, the Christians had to face opposition. The British were at this time making inroads into Burma, steadily colonizing the country. In 1824 Judson was thrown into prison on suspicion of being a British spy, because, in the absence of banks, his financial support from America was found to have been transmitted through the English Baptist Mission in Calcutta. Without the persistence & love of his first wife, Ann, Judson may not have survived the terrible prison torture. As a young missionary enduring many privations, Judson exclaimed, 'I will not leave Burma, until the cross is planted here forever!' By taking up his own cross, Judson succeeded in planting the gospel in Myanmar. His son, Edward, later said of him, 'Suffering & success go together. If you are succeeding without suffering, it is because others before you have suffered; if you are suffering without succeeding, it is that others after you may succeed. Judson survived incredible odds, outliving two of his three wives & five children. He carried on despite all his suffering in order to lay the foundation for others to build upon.' *Ever thought about becoming a missionary?*

Many bodies of the saints which slept arose...

Read Matthew 27v51-53... **And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.**

QUESTIONS...

- 1) Verse 52 says 'many' bodies of the saints which slept arose! What happened to the rest of the saints? Or did ALL of them arise?
- 2) Is Abraham's bosom empty?

ANSWER...

This is without doubt one of the hardest passages to explain!

Among those who have tried to explain these verses, the following explanations have been produced...

- 1) The bodies came up & lived a while & then died again (as Lazarus)
- 2) The bodies came up & then after a few hours were caught up to heaven (like Moses, who was taken up *after* being buried)
- 3) The bodies were not literal but only spiritual, & went on up with the Lord Jesus at His ascension (Eph 4v8-11)
- 4) The bodies were literal, but returned to the grave to come up later with Jesus at the resurrection.
- 5) The bodies did not come up UNTIL the resurrection of Christ & then went up to heaven with Him.

All of the suggested answers have their problems!

In the first case, what is the point of a dozen repetitions of Lazarus, & why did not ALL of the OT saints come up, & why did they just go into Jerusalem? (Some of them – Adam, Noah, Shem & others, died more than 200 miles from Jerusalem!)

In the second case why were only a FEW bodies caught up? If ALL were not caught up,

why not, & when will they go up?

In the third case, the bodies have to be literal, for it is said that they SLEPT, & nowhere in the Bible are 'spirits' or 'souls' ever spoken of as 'SLEEPING'. *The body is what 'sleeps'* (Acts 7v59-60 / 1 Thes 5v9-10).

In the fourth case, the interpretation is nonsensical for we are told that the bodies did not come out until 'after his resurrection' (Mat 27v53). Why would they die again between Matthew 28 & Acts 1? There would be no purpose in them appearing in the first place.

In the fifth case, we have the most logical explanation; but it leaves two problems still starkly standing – why did not ALL the bodies come up, & since all did not, *then when do the rest of them come up?*

Reviewing what the Holy Spirit has revealed about the first resurrection, several things are clear even if all the details of Matthew 27v50-54 are not clear.

One – the first resurrection comes in THREE instalments...

- 1) OT saints (Mat 27v53), typified by the Feast of the First-Fruits (1 Cor 15v21-23, Deut 16v16)
- 2) NT saints (1 Thes 4, 1 Cor 15v50-63), typified by the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost – Deut 16v16, 1 Cor 15v21-23)
- 3) Tribulation saints (Mat 24, Rev 11), typified by the Feast of Tabernacles (Deut 16v16, 1 Cor 15v21-23)

It is certainly improbable that OT saints will go up in the Rapture of the Body of Christ (Dispensational – i.e. the differences between the Body & the Kingdom, Israel & the Church, the Christian & the Jew)

This would make OT saints come up at the post-tribulation Rapture & Resurrection of Isaiah 26v18-21, Ezekiel 37v 1-17, Mat 24v29-31, & Psalms 50v1-6.

If they come up at the Rapture of the church, then a very peculiar situation will arise, for they will be resurrected as Lazarus, to go into the Tribulation on earth in Palestine. *No OT saint was 'born-again'* & none were given glorified bodies, & none are said to be 'like Christ' in the resurrection; contrary to the promises of the Christian (Phil 3v20-21, 1 John 3v1-3), the OT saints retain their male & female distinctions & their separate identity, in the resurrection.

The remaining OT saints, therefore (that did NOT come up at Christ's resurrection), have three future opportunities...

- 1) At the Rapture of the church
- 2) At the post-tribulation Rapture
- 3) At the last Judgement (White Throne Judgement – Rev 20)

Choice two is the most likely, but it cannot be proved from the Scripture. If it is chosen, another more knotty problem arises than this one. It is, 'when do the saved from Adam to Moses come up?' Moses to Christ can be the reference to saints who went 'into the holy city,' as Jerusalem is Mosaic & connected with the occupation of Palestine, by Israel, under the Mosaic law; but, *where is Adam & when does he come up?*

No one knows, but the Scripture, & no one has been in the word enough to come up with the answer!

'Many bodies of the saints' indicates that there are more to come up. WHEN, is the question. Of the many that came up, there is no way to tell whether they represent the dispensations between Abraham & Moses, or between Moses & Calvary, or BOTH.

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