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FIRST

Seek First the Kingdom of God!

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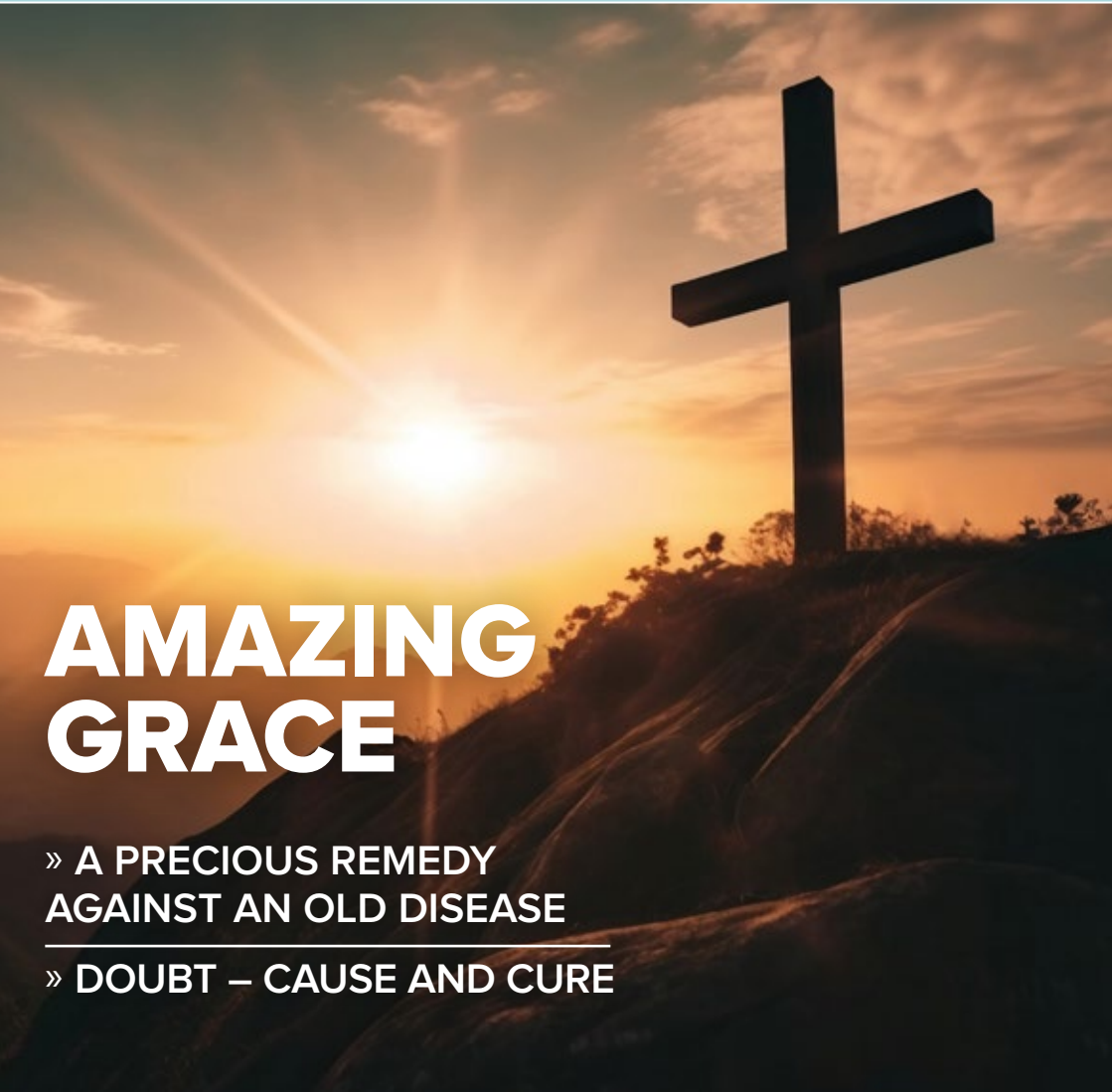
OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE FAITH MISSION



AMAZING GRACE

» A PRECIOUS REMEDY AGAINST AN OLD DISEASE

» DOUBT – CAUSE AND CURE

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FAITH MISSION'S DIRECTOR FOR ENGLAND

In the parable of the sower and the seed (Matthew 13), we are reminded that, regardless of where the seed lands, the seed of the Word of God is always good. The variable that determines a good or a poor harvest is the condition of the soil. As the summer season has ended, we give thanks to God for His faithfulness as the seed of His Word has been scattered in many different contexts. Please pray with us that it would bring about a great harvest of new believers.

CONVENTIONS

There has been real blessing at Bandon, Edinburgh and Durrow Conventions with many people being encouraged and deeply challenged. An enormous amount of hard work goes into organising such events and we are grateful to those who make this happen and the speakers who give themselves without reserve.

CAMPS

At the time of writing, our centres are buzzing with activity as camps are in full swing. This year we will have had sixteen weeks of camp throughout the UK and Ireland and hundreds of children under the instruction of God's Word. Camp is such a precious time and a real privilege as we challenge children and young people with the timeless truths of scripture in an increasingly hostile world. We pray that as we go through the winter months and reconnect with these young people at camp reunions that we will discover what God has been doing.

PEOPLE

It is always a privilege to welcome new people! Reuben Hutchinson and Deborah Bailey graduated from the Bible College in June. They are getting married in November and then join as members of The Mission and will be coming to Suffolk. Primarily, they will be working and gaining experience with James and Katie Brown in Ipswich, as they labour on the Gainsborough Estate.

We also have two new members of staff. Elise Allen has taken up the role as the new Bible College administrator and John McCartney (previous member) has taken up the position as Finance Assistant at General Headquarters. We are so indebted to those who work in these practical, supportive roles. Please pray with us that each person may settle quickly into their new roles.

BIBLE COLLEGE

We are delighted that six students are returning for a second year but the student intake for the next academic year is low. This is an ongoing concern and therefore a point for focused prayer. Please continue to pray for our members and staff as they serve the Lord in Bible training ministry.

REVIEW

At their meeting in March, the Faith Mission Board directed that an in-depth review should be undertaken of each of the three main departments of the Mission's ministry. The purpose of the review is to ensure that our Evangelistic, Training and Literature ministries continue to be relevant, effective, and wisely stewarded. At the time of writing the first stage of this review is nearing completion and we expect soon to be able to announce some outcomes. Please continue to pray for the Lord's clear wisdom and help as we progress through this important process.

Thank you for picking up this edition of 'First', we trust the following articles will be a real blessing. •

Stephen Walker,
Director for England.

BY JOHN MAGEE

A Precious Remedy against an Old Disease

JOHN 14:1

The church has long recognised a peculiar beauty about chapters 14-17 in John's Gospel, often referred to as the Upper Room Discourse. The public ministry of Christ is at an end. Within just a few hours He will make His way to Gethsemane where He will be betrayed, arrested, brought before the high priest and Pilate to be scourged, humiliated and finally crucified.

Here in the Upper Room, He shares with His disciples, truth which is of the most intimate nature:



- He instructs them as to His imminent departure
- He encourages them concerning the work of the Kingdom
- He warns them of the persecution they would face
- He informs them of the One who would take His place, the Holy Spirit—another Comforter, Teacher, Helper

These chapters, perhaps more than any other, take us into the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Notice the words at the beginning of John 14, where on the eve of His departure Jesus made a promise to His disciples, *'And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also'* (Verse 3). Although these words have been a blessing to many in times of bereavement their application is much wider. Jesus begins His teaching with the words, *'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me'* (Verse 1).

Bishop J C Ryle describes these words as, '*A Precious Remedy against an Old Disease*'. The disease he says, is trouble of heart and the remedy is faith. To appreciate the significance of these words we must keep in mind the situation in which they were spoken.

The word 'troubled' when translated conveys the idea of being 'agitated'. It might be used of a boat being tossed about on a stormy sea. The disciples' hearts were troubled and agitated by some of the comments Jesus had made in recent days. They had believed that Jesus was the Messiah. Their understanding of all that involved may have been imperfect but nevertheless, they had believed. And yet there were things that Jesus had said to them that disturbed them:

- Christ had spoken to them of His forthcoming death. He told them that Mary had anointed Him against His burial (See Mark 14:8)
- He had told Peter that he would deny Him three times (See John 13:38)
- He told them that He *'...would not drink of the fruit of the vine again until that day when I drink it in the new kingdom of God'* (Mark 14:25)
- He told them that one of them would betray Him (See Mark 14:18)

All in all, the events of the past few days had left them in a state of perplexity. What was going to happen? What did these words mean? What would become of Him, and what would become of them? In many ways they were facing the unknown. They were unsure what was going to happen, and uncertainty always breeds anxiety.

Those gathered in the Upper Room had followed the Lord Jesus. For three years they had listened to His teaching and had witnessed the many miracles He performed. As a result, they had believed on Him. Soon they would witness His departure back to the Father, and would then have responsibility for the carrying on of the work that Christ had begun.

In a very important sense, the words spoken in these chapters belong exclusively to the apostles. No other group of people would ever occupy this unique position. Christ had been with them and was now leaving them. However, He was not abandoning them for in His place He was going to send the Holy Spirit.

> *"Circumstances differ but the disease is the same. Are there not times when our hearts are also troubled by unbelief?"*

Although much of what Jesus said to them is uniquely applicable to those in the Upper Room, there is also much that is applicable to all who follow Him. For instance, the principles of fruit-bearing in John 15 are the same for all of us. The presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts is the same for all of us. And I believe this great biblical remedy for troubled hearts is another.

The circumstances we find ourselves in today are obviously different to those to whom these words were originally spoken and the things which trouble our hearts differ from the unique blend of events which disturbed the disciples. The circumstances differ but the disease is the same. Are there not times when our hearts are also troubled by unbelief? Are there not times when we are greatly perplexed and agitated by all that is going on around us, and instead of being glad we are sad. Instead of being filled with triumphant hope and victory we despair.

Jesus knew exactly how the disciples were feeling at this moment. He recognised the disease. It was trouble of heart. And the remedy that He prescribes is just as applicable to us as it was to them. He says, *'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me'* (John 14:1).

The commentator John Brown makes an interesting observation on this verse, "When Jesus calmed the storm in the boat, He simply spoke the word. He commanded that the storm should cease. When however, He would calm the storm in the disciples' hearts He didn't perform a miracle, He presented them with Truth. He applied to their diseased hearts the very truth they needed at that moment."

In other words, if you would have the storm in your heart calmed then this is the medicine you require. You must have faith in God and in Jesus Christ, His Son.

The cure for the disease that had gripped their hearts at this time was that they should believe all that God the Father had said about Christ in the Old Testament Scriptures, and they were to believe all that Jesus Himself had said to them while He had been with them (c.f. *'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep'* (John 10:11). *'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give unto them eternal life; and they will never perish...'* (10:27-28).
If you will believe in a person

> *"Believe in God. Believe also in Jesus. Count what He says to be true and rely on Him.*

then you believe the words that that person speaks, and you put your trust in them. How much more when the person who has spoken these things is none other than God. The One who can never fail, who can never lie, who can never forget. The One who is all-knowing and infinitely wise, the One who has demonstrated His love for us by sending His Son to the Cross. If He has spoken, then surely we are able to trust Him.

How applicable these words are to our own hearts. Jesus says to us today, *'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me'* (John 14:1).

Christ's words are indeed *'A Precious Remedy for an Old Disease'.* The disease is **trouble of heart**, and the **remedy is faith**. Believe in God. Believe also in Jesus. Count what He says to be true and rely on Him. Put your trust in Him and in doing so find the storm in your heart to be calmed. •



***John** is a retired Pastor and Faith Mission Bible College Lecturer. He is married to Pauline, they have three grown children and nine grandchildren.*



Doubt

Cause and Cure

BY BARRY CUNNINGHAM

What is doubt? In the Bible, the English word `doubt` translates into a New Testament Greek word which means: 'going two ways or shifting position'. It's the condition of wavering between two options.

For the Christian, doubt happens when we take our eyes off Jesus. We see this illustrated in Peter when he walked on the water, *'Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, cried out, Lord save me'* (Matthew 14:29-30). The reply of the Lord Jesus is significant. Having lifted Peter out of danger He says, *'O you of little faith why did you doubt?'* (verse 31).

Peter had stopped looking at Jesus and turned his eyes to the winds and waves. He panicked and began to sink. Peter's experience shows that we must not waver in our trust in the Lord Jesus. By coming to Peter's rescue, it shows us that Jesus wants to help us in our times of doubt. He knows our weakness and is always willing to come and help us in our time of need. All we need to do is to cry out, "Lord save me!" Peter did this and immediately Jesus reached out His hand and lifted him up.

Doubt is not unbelief, it is little faith. In that moment of doubt and despair, Jesus reached out to Peter. Doubt does not suggest that you are not a true believer. Fellowship continues between you and the Lord so talk to Him about your doubts. On our part it is a weakness and is not commendable when you recall that God has called us to a life of faith. There is no need to waver between God's promises and your own perplexing circumstances. For the believer doubt is actually a sign that you have spiritual life. The Lord wants you to trust Him even in the darkest circumstances. He wants you to say with Paul, *'I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day'* (2 Timothy 1:12). We can have that same confidence in the Lord.

What causes doubt? Doubt becomes a problem when we stop reading the Bible. The greater your grasp of scripture the stronger your faith will become, *'Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ'* (Romans 10:17).

We can be like the couple who went on a world cruise. The captain noticed they didn't turn up for their meals and when he went to their cabin to see what was wrong, he found them eating cheese and crackers and drinking water. They hadn't read their booking conditions carefully and didn't realise they had three five course meals a day! *'...my people are destroyed through lack of knowledge'* (Hosea 4:6).

There is no debate that doubt can be destructive to our spiritual vitality. Be students of the Bible, read it carefully and study key words that have to do with your salvation. Look at what God promises to those who believe and let them sink deep into your heart, bringing them to mind when you are sinking in life`s storms. Peter was going under but when he cried to the Lord he was lifted above the stormy sea. The Lord can do the same for you when you feel you`re going under because of your difficult circumstances. Meditate on the Word of God and let its truths deeply affect you heart and mind. This will help to overcome doubt.

Unconfessed sin can cause doubt because it brings guilt and a lack of the sense of God's presence, robbing you of your joy. David asked God for forgiveness for his sin and prayed, *'Restore to me the joy of your salvation'* (Psalm 51:12). Confess your sins and forsake them. God will forgive you and you will experience His closeness in a new way. Your joy will be restored with doubt being replaced by assurance, *'If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins'* (1John 1:9).

Sometimes being inactive in Christian service can cause doubt. John the Baptist was alone in prison, not by choice but having been forcibly arrested and imprisoned. He sent his disciples to ask Jesus a question, *'Are you the one who was to come or should we expect someone else?'* (Matthew 11:3). John`s depressing circumstances led him to doubt the Lord that He was the promised Messiah. We can sympathise with John because of his very trying circumstances but he should have never let them foster doubt.

We can easily slip into doubt if we are not careful especially when our circumstances are difficult. We can be tempted to doubt God`s love for us and if He is really with us. We can see in John the Baptist the psychological impact of isolation and discomfort. John was being persecuted for righteousness sake.

When at times we feel forsaken and all alone we can doubt God's character and purpose. Always remember the words of the Lord, *'I will never leave you nor forsake you'* (Hebrews

13:5). At times doubt can lead to backsliding. You become less active in your service for Christ resulting in less time spent serving God. It is possible to begin to dry up spiritually. Be active in serving the Lord, look for ways where you can serve Him in the community and in the church, the very place where you can get real help in your struggles with doubt and despair. Do not miss out on having fellowship with other Christians.

Misleading theology can produce doubt. Perhaps you were told when you first became a Christian that all your problems would disappear, have health and wealth if you follow Jesus. When trials come and the promise of health and wealth doesn`t materialise, you doubt whether you are saved or that the gospel is really the answer to your life's emptiness. The truth is you've been misinformed. Someone once said, "Some people feel that God is nowhere if they don't feel goose bumps an inch high!!" 'When you come to know Jesus, it is the beginning of a relationship, a journey with Him with all its trials and joys. *'In this world you will have trouble...'* (John 16:33).

Doubt can arise when you face distressing circumstances in life. Have you faced bereavement, been made redundant, or gone through a time of illness? You begin to doubt God's love for you. In Romans 8:28 Paul writes, *'...all things God works for the good of those who love him'.* He writes this after saying in verse 18, *'...the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us'.* He refers to the groaning of creation and of believers as we wait for the future adoption as sons. Although this is a struggle he reminds us how we should live, *'...we wait for it patiently...'* (verse 25).

Rather than doubt because of the struggles and groaning's of life in a fallen world, we should develop patience as we wait for the Lord's coming. You may have had disappointments relating to prayer and doubt that God has heard. God always answers prayer. Sometimes it is a direct yes, other times it is no or the answer may be delayed or, there is a different answer than the one you expected. You may feel frustrated, but God has heard your prayer and He will answer in His time and way. *'Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear'* (Isaiah 65:24). Wait in patience knowing that God is good all the time.

> *"There is no debate that doubt can be destructive to our spiritual vitality. Be students of the Bible, read it carefully and study key words that have to do with your salvation. Look at what God promises to those who believe and let them sink deep into your heart."*

The greatest antidote to doubt is a thankful heart. It keeps you focused on God's faithfulness. We are exhorted in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to *'...give thanks in all circumstances'.* Give thanks in every situation, even those difficult and perplexing experiences of life. We can be thankful because we know God is our kind heavenly Father who is doing all things well and working for our eternal good. So the Lord Jesus asks us with the same searching question He asked Peter, *'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'* (Matthew 14:31). •



***Barry** is a retired Pastor having served the Lord for forty-one years in Evangelical churches in Cheshire and Manchester. He is married to Kathy; they have four grown children and seven grandchildren.*



The Repairer of the Breach

BY SANDY ROGER

'Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.'

Isaiah 58:12 ESV

This is the very business that our God is involved in and the reason Christ came into the world, and why the Holy Spirit is ceaselessly at work in human lives. The words are recorded by Isaiah, but the speaker in this chapter is God Himself. Here in Isaiah 58, is a sorry tale of past failure and a hope that things can be put right and mended. To understand what God is promising through His mouthpiece Isaiah, there are several things needed to get the big picture.

The Background

After King Solomon's wonderful reign, the power fell into the hands of his wayward son Rehoboam. He was unlike his father in so many ways. He thought nothing of looking after the rich and exploiting the poor with increased taxes. He had little respect for women and was very cutting with his tongue. He ended up polarising the nation until there was a major split among the Twelve Tribes. There were ten tribes in the North (still known as Israel) who were eventually overridden by the Assyrians and two tribes in the South (becoming known as Judah), who were overcome by the Babylonians and eventually taken into exile. They sang about it in the words, *'How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign, strange land?'* (Psalm 137:4).

In all this political and religious upheaval, the people had questions and looked to the prophet Isaiah for answers. They wanted him to

repair things and bring about some kind of restoration.

The Process

The Repair Shop programme shown on the TV can be quite mesmerizing. The team doesn't just make a beeline for the broken object and start restoring it; they take time to look at it in detail and usually to dismantle it. Then, with all the pieces spread out before them, they seem to think their way into the heart of what needs to be done. It's the same approach taken by Isaiah in relation to mending the nation. The people had assumed that all they needed to do was increase their religious observances and rituals; throwing in a bit of fasting for good measure (58:2, 3). But it has to be bluntly pointed out that they are going about things wrong and with the wrong attitude (58:4, 13). The repair work has to go much deeper (58:6-10). Much more than a superficial lick of paint will be needed to put things right – but it can happen, *'Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily...and you shall be like a watered garden whose waters do not fail'* (58:8-12).

The Outcome

When things are done properly in line with how God wants, then success can be guaranteed and the wonderful promise comes into its own, *'And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in'* (Isaiah 58:12).These are the very things we long to see in our society and world today:

- Ruined things rebuilt
- Foundations laid for generations to come
- Breaches where the enemy gains access filled in
- Streets that are livable in once more

It is an enormous task God is asking of the people, but like all such endeavours it begins at the personal level. Jesus recognised this at the start of His preaching ministry when He announced that He had been sent *'...to heal the brokenhearted...'* (Luke 4:18). When it first dawns on us that Jesus not only understands the broken-hearted but can heal them, it touches us at a deeper level. Every believer can know that they are ransomed, healed, restored and forgiven. It's amazing what God can do with broken homes, broken health, broken hopes and broken hearts.

John Masefield, the English Poet and writer, has a poem about a man found guilty against the state; and to make matters worse, against his own mother. But, as usual in Masefield verse, there is hope:

God who gave His mercies
takes His mercies,
And God who gives
beginnings gives the end;
I dread my death, but 'tis the
end of curses,
A rest for broken things,
things too broken to mend.

When Jesus left the carpenter's shop, where He had been making things all His working life, He opened a 'repair shop' where lives can be restored. Very deliberately, I think, He chose a passage from the prophet Isaiah for His first sermon, *'The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor, He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...they shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations, they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many nations'* (Isaiah 61:1-4). That repair shop has never been out of business! *'We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus"* (Ephesians 2:10). •

***Sandy** is a retired minister and now a lecturer at our Bible College in Edinburgh.*

BY ELINOR MAGOWAN

Amazing Grace

'For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

Titus 2:11-14

Sometimes help comes unexpectedly and **just at the right time and in the right way.** From as simple as someone opening a jar for you when the lid is on too tightly, to friends assisting you with moving house or with a garden project that you can't complete on your own. When we are overwhelmed, we need help from outside of ourselves. Titus 2:11-14 teaches us about God's amazing grace that is necessary, vital and undeserved and which has already appeared in Jesus! Jesus is our help in just the way we need.

God's amazing grace proves you are precious

Perhaps your like me and forget that God's grace has already appeared, that help is already at hand? Christ came to earth at great cost to meet my deepest, most intractable need. He left the glory and comfort of heaven and came to live in this sin-sick world, full of brokenness, sorrow and heartache. He set His love upon me and was willing to endure the cross, bearing my guilt and punishment for my sin. As I respond to this wonderful grace, I am helped because God's grace provides forgiveness of sin, new life, adoption into God's family, access to God the Father in prayer and the knowledge of the purposes of God. Not just for me, but for God's church and for people across the world, experiencing God's daily love and provision, the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives and strength for each day.

This is a grace that we don't deserve: *'We are redeemed from all wickedness...'* (verse14). Left to our own devices we would always choose wrong; always going against God's righteous law. Is this your story?

God's amazing grace is proof that you and I are precious to Him. We should gasp at such love. We are His dearly loved children – loved so much that He gave up His Son, even to death on the cross so that we might be His precious possession; *'...a people (belonging to Him) that are his very own...'* (verse 14).Think of an 80 year old, showered with love from friends and family on their milestone birthday, responding with a beaming smile! God has showed you that you are loved. He has proved that you are precious to Him in the person and work of Jesus. The awareness of such amazing grace, being loved by Jesus Himself changes a grey day into one full of sunshine and joy.

When you are struggling with life, with its sorrows and suffering, remember that God loves you and that His grace in Jesus has appeared to bring salvation, to redeem you. God's grace is a refuge for you, a haven to retreat to and a treasure store to draw upon. Don't neglect the help at hand; don't overlook your Saviour; delight that you are precious to God.

God's amazing grace works to purify you

Verse 12 teaches us that, *'... the grace of God has appeared teaching* (training) *us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age'.* God's grace is purposeful! The more you experience God's amazing grace the more you will say "no" to impurity and say "yes" to living a pure life in a society and culture that does not honour God.

On the days when you feel far from pure, and know that your heart, mind, will and actions are displeasing to a holy God; when you give in to temptation, lie, or are impatient or angry; when you are self-centered, worldly, critical or short-tempered; when you gossip, covet, or are irritable and selfish - be encouraged that the grace of God, expressed in Christ Himself, through the Holy Spirit and His Word is training and teaching you to live in a way which is pleasing to God. God's grace impacts us and brings change in our lives, which will bless others and glorify God. In what ways does God want to purify you?

God's amazing grace makes you productive

What are you zealous, eager or passionate about? Is it family time, your children's education, hobbies, exercise, the desire to be stress free? We are to be, *'... eager to do what is good'* (verse 14). Paul wrote earlier in the letter about older men, older women, younger men and younger women doing good. Good works start at home but are to be extended outside the home too – within the church, your community, amongst your friends and wider family.

In response to God's grace, ask yourself am I eager to do what is good'?

- Is my home a place of joy and peace and where others feel God's grace extended to them?
- Am I careful to serve church members in need?
- Do I respond with mercy and love to those hurting and without Christ?
- Do I seize opportunities to speak about Jesus and share Him with others?
- Do I pray with commitment for others?

Our motivation can flag, but our horizon is Jesus' second coming. Notice that verse13 teaches us to live, *'...while we wait for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ'.* Let this spur us on – we will see His glory, the glory of the One who is full of grace and truth! •



***Elinor** is a Director of Women's Ministry at FIEC (Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches). Elinor lives in Reading and serves alongside her husband who is a pastor at Carey Baptist Church, they are seeing God at work in a new congregation plant "Carey Woodley", to the east of Reading.*



A GLORIOUS THRONE

BY RICHARD MYERSCOUGH

In his inaugural vision Ezekiel saw this throne. His sight had been taken up with the mysterious living creatures in heaven and was then raised up further:

Above the vault over their heads was what looked like a throne of lapis lazuli, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him' (Ezekiel 1 26-28).

The One on the throne is beyond proper

description, all attempts to contain within language such matchless glory finds itself futile, beauty beyond all expression - such an Occupant for such a glorious throne.

For the beleaguered captives in Babylon to whom Ezekiel's visions were given, this was breathtaking and just the news they needed. The cosmic, heavenly throne had not been vacated, the One whose seat it was remained upon it. As Isaiah's sight of the LORD — *'...high and exalted and seated on a throne...'* (Isaiah 6:1), had given much needed perspective in a time of national upheaval, so too, would Ezekiel's. The greatest power belonged to heaven's King, not the pretenders of earth.

In days of crippling insecurity and instability, these are visions of a throne that are thrilling and compelling for us. Where does real power reside? Whose is it and how will it be wielded? It belongs to the One whose throne is glorious and who's every step pulses with righteousness.

But Jeremiah's statement offers us still more, *'A glorious throne, exalted from the beginning, is our place of sanctuary'* (17:12). The throne of power and majesty and ineffable glory is also for us, a place of refuge and safety and our truest home. Amid the storms that engulf us, we have peace and a place with the God who reigns over all.

And we can come to this exalted throne with genuine confidence, despite our wretched, broken and sin-swarmed hearts, for it is *'...the throne of grace...'* (Hebrews 4:16). Grace reigns! Sin proliferates, not only others' but ours too, yet everywhere the grace of God multiplies and overwhelms. Through the obedience and death of Jesus there is an, *'...abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness'* (Romans 5:17).

There is no power greater and no authority superior than that which belongs to the One upon this glorious throne. And so we, imperfect and soiled though we may continue to be, stumbling in the darkness and conscious of the damage we have done, can yet draw near to God with solid assurance. We can ask for the cleansing, healing mercy of our Saviour and find it. We can plead for grace for a world lost in sin, for those we know and love whose lives remain shrouded in darkness.

We can ask and we can be assured, quieted by His love as we are held in His grace, because *'...a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain (is) standing at the centre of the throne...'* (Revelation 5:6).The glory witnessed by Ezekiel is at its brightest and most radiant in the face of our blessed Saviour, whose throne of grace is our place of sanctuary.

Done is the work that saves,
Once and for ever done;
Finished the righteousness
That clothes the unrighteous one.
The love that blesses us below
Is flowing freely to us now.

The sacrifice is o'er,
The veil is rent in twain,
The mercy-seat is red
With blood of Victim slain;
Why stand we then without, in fear?
The blood divine invites us near.

The gate is open wide;
The new and living way
Is clear and free and bright
With love and peace and day.
Into the holiest now we come,
Our present and our endless home.
(Horatius Bonar, 1808-89) •

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Waiting on God Quietly

"In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."
Isaiah 30:15

Such words reveal to us the close connection between quietness and faith. They show us what a deep need there is of quietness, as an element of true waiting upon God. If we are to have our whole heart turned toward God, we must have it turned away from man, from all that occupies and interests, whether of joy or sorrow.

God is a being of such infinite greatness and glory, and our nature has become so estranged from Him, that it requires our whole heart and desires set upon Him, even in some little measure, to know and receive Him. Everything that is not of God, that excites our fears or stirs our efforts, or awakens our hopes or makes us glad, hinders us in our perfect waiting on Him. The message is one of deep meaning: *'In quietness... shall be your strength.'* We should quietly wait.

Scripture abundantly testifies how the very thought of God in His majesty and holiness should silence us: *'The LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him'* (Habakkuk 2:20). *"Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD'* (Zephaniah 1:7).

As long as the waiting on God is chiefly regarded as an end toward more effectual prayer, and the obtaining of our petitions, this spirit of perfect quietness will not be obtained. But when it is seen that waiting on God is itself an unspeakable blessedness, one of the highest forms of fellowship with the Holy One, the adoration of Him in His glory will of necessity humble the soul into a holy stillness, making way for God to speak and reveal Himself. Then, it comes to the fulfilment of the precious promise, that all of self and self-effort will be humbled.

Let everyone who wants to learn the art of waiting on God remember the lesson, *'Take heed, and be quiet'* (Isaiah 7:4). Take time to be separate from all friends and all duties, all cares and all joys; time to be still and quiet before God. Take time not only to secure stillness from man and the world, but from self and its energy. Let the Word and prayer be very precious. But remember, even these may hinder the quiet waiting. The activity of the mind in studying the Word or giving expression to its thoughts in prayer, the activities of the heart, with its desires and hopes and fears, may so engage us that we do not come to the quiet waiting on the all glorious One; our whole being is prostrate in silence before Him.

Waiting on God is itself an unspeakable blessedness.

Though at first it may appear difficult to know how thus quietly to wait, with the activities of mind and heart, for a time subdued, every effort after it will be rewarded. We will discover that it grows upon us, and the little season of silent worship will bring a peace and a rest that give a blessing not only in prayer but all day.

The quietness is the confession of our meekness. It will not be done with all our willing and running, with all our thinking and praying. We must receive it from God. It is the confession of our trust that our God will, in His time, come to our help – the quiet resting in Him alone.

It is the confession of our desire to sink into our nothingness and to let Him work and reveal Himself. Do let us wait quietly. In daily life, let there be, in the soul that is waiting for the great God to do His wondrous work, a quiet reverence, an abiding watching against too deep engrossment with the world. Then, the whole character will come to bear the beautiful stamp – quietly waiting for the salvation of God. *'My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from him'* (Psalm 62:1). •

Taken from ***'Waiting on God'*** *by Andrew Murray, published by CLC 2007.*

I am restless, but with you there is peace;
In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience;
I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me;
Father in heaven praise and thanks to you.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a prayer written in Tegel prison, Berlin 1943-1945

World War II

National Days of Prayer

BY THE EDITOR

It is 80 years since D Day on 6 June, 1944 when the largest invasion in history was launched to free Europe from the tyranny of Nazism. In the spring before this the whole nation, along with its Allies were called to prayer by King George VI.



Crowds gathering to pray at Westminister Abbey

Of course, this was not the first time the nation was called to prayer. The radio was listened to endlessly and it was obvious that the situation was getting desperate and so on 29 May 1940 a national day of prayer was called, not by the church but by the King. British troops were marooned at Dunkirk. The King urged his people to turn back to God in a spirit of repentance and ask for Divine help: "At this fateful hour, we turn, as our fathers before us in all times of trial, to God most High".

Answered prayer was evident in the events that are now referred to as the 'Miracle of Dunkirk'. A rough storm arose over Dunkirk and the soldiers were grounded on the beach hemmed in by the Luftwaffe. A call was given to join in the evacuation of our men who were in treacherous danger. Private vessels along with the Navy sailed across calm seas that just a few days ago were very rough. The whole nation held their breath, silently waiting and praying for a miracle. Churchill and his advisers had predicted a rescue of perhaps 40,000 but over 335,000 soldiers were rescued by the very brave skippers in their small boats. On June 9 there was a Day of Thanksgiving in recognition of a divine intervention.

Because of the fierceness of the battle there were further calls for prayer in August 1940 when the Battle of Britain began. During the six years of war there were seven national days of prayer with three being in the first year.

In the spring of 1944, immediately before the D Day landings, King George VI gave an open and honest

plea to the British Empire and other Allies in a worldwide radio address to once more, seek God in prayer for His help. He appealed to the listeners to stop what they were doing and urgently pray:

> "Once more a supreme test has to be faced. This time the challenge is not to fight to survive, but to fight to win the final victory for the good... I desire solemnly to call my people to prayer and dedication. We are not unmindful of our own shortcomings, past and present. We shall ask not that God may do our will, but that we may be enabled to do the will of God; and we dare to believe that God has used our nation and Empire as an instrument for fulfilling His high purpose. I hope that throughout the present crisis of the liberation of Europe there may be offered up earnest, continuous and widespread prayer. If from every place of worship, from home and factory, from men and women of all ages and many races and occupations, our intercessions rise, then, please God, both now and in the future, not remote, the predictions of an ancient psalm may be fulfilled – 'The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will give His people the blessing of peace."

British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery encouraged the troops to: '...pray that the Lord, mighty in battle, will give us victory." As the forces approached Normandy U.S. President, Franklin Roosevelt also gave the call to prayer.

The British nation along with her Allies responded to such a call. The very long queue at Westminster Abbey was replicated in every church in the land, with many feeling the need to pray. Many lives were lost on the beaches of Normandy before and after the D Day landings and to them we owe our freedom. General Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied forces spoke afterwards: "I had to decide to postpone by at least twenty-four hours the most formidable array of fighting ships and of fighting man that was ever launched across the sea against a hostile shore. ... If there were nothing else in my life to prove the existence of an Almighty and merciful God, the events of the next twenty-four hours did it ... The greatest break in a terrible outlay of weather occurred the next day and allowed that great invasion to proceed, with losses far below those we had anticipated ..."
Winston Churchill stated: "I sometimes have a feeling of interference. I have a feeling sometimes that some Guiding Hand has interfered. I have a feeling that we have a Guardian because we have a great cause and we shall have that Guardian so long as we serve that cause faithfully."

On 3 September, 1944 three to four thousand people gathered in Princess Street Gardens, Edinburgh for an open air service. It is reported that over the vast crowd there was a reverent spirit in keeping with the Day of Prayer, there was a whisper, "Today we beheld the beauty of the Lord."[1]

We now know from history, God did answer the prayers of a praying nation. At the victorious conclusion of the war, Churchill asked the House of Commons to: "Give humble and reverent thanks to Almighty God for our deliverance."

'Restore us again, God our Saviour...Will you not revive us again that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, LORD, and grant us your salvation'
(Psalm 85:4-7). •

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BY CATHIE ABERDOUR

THE APURINA OF THE AMAZON

But I failed my higher German – I reminded the Lord - as if He needed reminding! How could the Lord be leading me into Bible translation for languages much more complicated than German? But the Lord had to remind me that it is not ability that matters with the Lord but availability. Maybe the Lord doesn't necessarily want us to be good at something, so that He gets the glory when that particular task is being done?

And so it was that the Lord led an American girl, Judy King and me into translating the Bible into the very complicated language of the Apurina people of the Amazon rain forest. They can say in one word what would need half a dozen words to say in English because of affixes which convey these meanings.

For the first few months while living with the Apurina I had a notebook glued to my left hand and a pen in the other, writing down all the words and phrases that I could get. It was a slow process because there was no dictionary. I had to begin compiling my own! But there was no use having the Scriptures if no one was able to read them. So we began literacy classes as well. And there is no use if people are sick, so we had to treat malaria and other health problems too.

At the end of a literacy class we would read some of the recently translated Scriptures to check for understanding. After a few months of this, Chico who was one of our tough Apurina guys came along the trail to our hut and with a big smile on his face said, "I believe now, and my wife does too." What a joy! They were the first ones in that village to come to the Lord. He then told us that we should gather everyone together to hear the good news of salvation. That was

the beginning of a church at the Monkey River village. Unfortunately, we were due to go home on home assignment, two weeks after Chico had told us that he had believed. All the arrangements had been made and they could not be changed.

Nine months later we returned landing by float plane on the lake near the village. Many Apurina were coming to meet us in their canoes. And there was Chico! As he came closer to the float plane I yelled out to him, "Do you still believe?" A question was yelled back to me, "Do you know any baptizers?" I was puzzled. He went on to explain that there were ten who now believed and they had been reading the translated Scriptures that Jesus had been baptized, so they also wanted to be baptized. My first thought was, "But we weren't there with them. How could this happen?" I quickly realised that it was the Lord's work and not ours; even though we had left, the Lord had not left them.

Chico became one of our main helpers to translate the Scriptures. As I was trying to translate 2 Corinthians and finding it far too difficult at that stage, I decided to translate Genesis instead. As well as it being foundational to the whole of Scripture it was narrative which is so much easier to translate. One day Chico told me his story. As a boy his granny had sent him down to the river to collect water. As he was filling the pot he saw the reflection of the sun on the water and thought, "I wonder who made the sun?" Then he thought further, "I wonder who made the jungle and who made us." He went back to see his granny and asked her. "I don't know" she said. "But now I know," said Chico with a triumphant grin. Could it be that the Lord had heard Chico's questions when he was only a boy and so sent Judy and me to give him the answer?

In 2005, with great celebration, the completed New Testament was duly handed to the Apurina. Before Judy and I left the Apurina in 2012, Genesis, Exodus, Jonah and fifty of the Psalms had also been translated into Apurina and in the hands of the people. Now there were a core of believers, a church in at least two villages and at least three Apurina missionaries in neighbouring villages.

So, who am I? - Just someone whom the Lord called to go to the Apurina people to tell them the message of salvation. The Lord awakened me to my need of salvation, when as a child of ten I heard my mother reading from the newspaper about a twelve year old boy who had been walking down the street when he suddenly dropped dead. That disturbed me all day, until that evening as I was looking out of the window over the famous Easter Road in Edinburgh. I just knew what I had to do; I had to ask Jesus to be my personal Saviour.

As I got older the Lord began to put a real desire within me to spread the news of salvation. It was while I was a counsellor at a gospel crusade in Edinburgh that the Lord challenged me about the extreme importance of His Word and that there are many people in the world today who have still not heard the message of salvation. That led me into becoming a Bible translator with the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

We do not need to go to the Amazon rain forest to find people who have not heard the good news of salvation. Just look around you, so many people are going to a lost eternity. Does that bother you? Ask the Lord to use us as His witnesses and one day we will hear our Lord say, *'Well done, good and faithful servant!'* (Matthew 25:23). •

***Cathie** now lives in East Lothian, Scotland and Judy lives in USA.*

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE WORKPLACE: TEACHER

BY ANDREW FORREST



I have just finished my ninth year of teaching in an inner-city secondary school. If you had asked me after the first year if I would still be in the same school I would have most definitely said, "No chance". The challenges are many yet God's grace and His tender care have been so evident towards me, lesson after lesson, and term after term.

Christ's light before men

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, *'You are the light of the world...in the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven'* (Matthew 5:14-16). As believers in Christ, we can so often feel the light of the gospel does not shine from us as brightly as it should before those around us and in particular within the work place where we are working with the same colleagues each day. However, there have been brief opportunities to share the hope and salvation we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. In one instance, some Year 10 boys were willing to share their Christian faith within the classroom and boldly acknowledge that Jesus is the only Saviour available for humanity. Pray for these boys, that they will grow in the knowledge and

"It is important to remind myself that each person is created by God and they are made in God's image, regardless of ethnicity or religion."

grace of Christ Jesus and they would seek to *'...pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace'* (2 Timothy 2:22) in their daily lives by building upon God's precious Word.

Contemporary pressures

The pressure to advocate or support a particular contemporary issue, such as the LGBT agenda continues to permeate within the daily life of school. Speaking openly and graciously about the truths of God's Word found in Genesis has resulted in challenging circumstances arising within the school environment. But I have taken great encouragement from the examples of Joseph and Daniel in the Old Testament, who worked honourably and obediently before their secular rulers and yet remained steadfast to the truths of God's Word. When we acknowledge our frailties, and our constant dependence upon the Lord, He does and will sustain us through the challenges of secular work. For me, it has been important to remember, *'The Lord was with Joseph...His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands'* (Genesis 39:2-3). Like Joseph, God has given me wisdom and discernment in many situations when it could have been easy to join in with the social norms being promoted.

Compassion for the lost

In the hustle and bustle of school life, it can be very easy to lack genuine compassion for the lost students and staff around me. It is important to remind myself that each person is created by God and they are made in God's image, regardless of ethnicity or religion. We can often become frustrated or downcast when we fail to share our faith if a possible opportunity arises. I am grateful that such feelings arise because it is a reminder to us about the eternal destiny of the souls of men and women we work alongside day by day. As the great missionary Hudson Taylor said, "The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed." I need, you need His grace and strength to reach out to those who we work with and share the glorious light of the gospel.

Like any employment there are opportunities and challenges, but it is wonderful to know that I have the God of heaven watching over me and leading me through each lesson, each staff meeting throughout each term.

I have drawn great strength and encouragement from the Psalms and in particular, *'Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us'* (Psalm 62:8). My prayer is that the people I work with will come to know this sure foundation in Christ Jesus alone. If you know any Christian teachers please pray for them to be a good witness which can sometimes be in challenging circumstances. •

IDENTIFIED IN CHRIST

BY RUTH FOY



By a way of introduction - I am a mother, a wife, a daughter, a sister, an aunt, hopefully a good friend. I am also a cleaner, a cook, a hopeless gardener, and a doctor – all of these identities are mine dependent on where I am and who I am with. However, the one identity I have that is changeless, guaranteed and so precious to me is - my identity in Christ.

I was born in 1980 and have an older brother and three younger sisters. My dad was a minister so my identity was often 'the minister's daughter', and that had an impact. In Sunday school the teacher would ask the class individually if they were Christians, but I was never asked. My dad being a minister, did not make me a Christian and yet people assumed I was. The fear of proving people wrong compelled me to let them believe I was a Christian.

However, at a young age during a service in our church, I realised I needed to personally ask Jesus into my heart. For me, life was simple and happy, God was good and it was easy to believe this. Having godly parents and godly teachers at the Christian School I attended, I was protected from the world and I also had a solid foundation in the Bible.

At the age of ten, my youngest sister Naomi took unwell; I immediately thought God would heal her. In my mind it was that simple. God was good and so was my sister, she was one of the kindest people I had ever known so she wouldn't die. Naomi spent many months in hospital.

At the age of eleven I realised that death was a reality when

God took my sister home to Heaven. Grief was all consuming as I watched my parents grapple with what God had permitted to happen. There had been much prayer for Naomi across the world and it felt as though God had not heard our prayers. I now know that God had indeed healed Naomi when He took her home to Heaven and He had a plan for Naomi's short life. She shone to those around her and I know she had asked Jesus into her heart before she became ill.

When life does not make sense to us, isn't it wonderful that as God's children we have His promise, *'And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose'* (Romans 8:28).

Time does lessen the pain of grief and I witnessed this first hand with my parents. Smiling and happiness did come back into our house. My experience of hospitals, watching how the nurses and doctors had so tirelessly cared for my sister, their devotion and care, helping to ease Naomi's suffering inspired me to pursue a career in medicine.

I completed five years of medical school and God provided for me during that time. I met amazing Christian friends, had a faithful church to attend and as always I knew I had the prayerful support of my parents.

I graduated, started my first job as a doctor in Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry, Northern Ireland and lived for that initial year with my grandfather. Again, I knew God was in all my plans. To know my grandfather was to experience laughter and love. He was a godly man and his testimony and witness encouraged me as I encountered suffering, illness and death as a doctor.

We are not promised a life without pain or struggles. My older brother James is what every big brother should be – he has always been there for me. In 2019 when James went for tests which confirmed cancer and as I watched him struggle to come to terms with the diagnosis and treatment plan, I was also able to witness how God's grace was sufficient as He had promised. Thankfully, James is now in remission.

There have also been personal trials and tribulations but I can truly testify that God has been faithful. In circumstances that were particularly trying. God's grace was sufficient and remained sufficient.

As a teenager I loved helping out at Bible Clubs in my local church, particularly during the summer and I believed this was now my new mission field. Life then started to get busier, and after getting married God blessed us with three amazing children. There was still a desire to serve God in children's work and I approached our church to volunteer as a Sunday school teacher. God closed that door and I questioned if I had been wrong to feel led to children's work.

It was only a few months later that another door was opened in God's perfect timing, and I was asked would I help out at a children's Bible Club on a Monday evening. This has been such a blessing and encouragement. I have learned so much from Heather Wilson (Faith Mission member), and the Harris family as we reach out to the mission field in my local area.

God has promised to, *'...supply all your needs according to his riches in glory'* (Philippians 4:19). As I look back over my life I can testify that God has been faithful to me and I know I can fully rely on His promises for the days ahead. If you do not already know, you can also have the assurance that your identity can be in Christ. •

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

As part of the curriculum at The Faith Mission Bible College, our students take part in a summer placement where they join those out on the field doing evangelism. We know you will enjoy reading their reports below.

Tent Mission
in the North of England:

It was great to have students Reuben Hutchinson, Debs Bailey, Yuliia Stetsyk and Ryan Malone for their placement in the North of England. They all worked incredibly hard!

We spent the first week preparing for a mission near Kirkby Lonsdale, visiting the local towns and villages by doing door to door visitation. This is not an easy work, but the students got stuck in and between them they must have knocked hundreds of doors, sharing the gospel and giving tracts and invitations out for the mission. We also did some street cafe evangelism where I and Debs had a great opportunity with a man who came to the mission. I am still currently meeting up with him for Bible studies.

The following week involved practical work in setting the tent up. During the mission 'life stories' were told, we interviewed a Christian and then had a gospel message afterwards. As well as continuing with door to door visitation during the morning, the students helped with the mission at night. We also had a coffee morning where Rueben shared a gospel talk. They were long days for everyone involved in the mission but that did not deter the students. We were encouraged by the growing attendance each evening and the non-Christians coming into the tent, hearing stories about how God had changed lives. On one of the evenings we heard Yuliia's story (Yuliia is from Ukraine) on how God had forgiven her and in doing so enabled her to forgive others, even the Russian soldiers who have invaded her home country.



After the evening meeting we were able to talk with people, particularly the non-Christians who had come to the mission, there was one man with whom Ryan had a great conversation. It was an encouraging and blessed fortnight for the students as they got involved in the work of being an evangelist. •

***Wes Brewer,** Faith Mission member in Cumbria.*

Ryan Malon
reports from Devon:



Street Outreach in Devon

My two weeks with Faith Mission members Nigel and Ruth Wilson in the South West of England were eye-opening. We were doing street evangelism which is close to my heart, because a street preacher led me to Christ in Belfast. We were also doing door to door evangelism. In conversations, we encountered many from different religions and backgrounds. People were unreceptive and hardened to the gospel at times, but I discovered, that in general people are hurting and broken at heart. Some who were hardened to the gospel broke down in tears with us on their doorstep or on the streets as they opened up about something troubling them presently or from their past. Only God can soften their hearts, and show them their need of the Saviour.

Some specific examples of people we encountered over the fortnight were: a lady who had cancer three times asked for another visit, a 94 year old scientist who was set against God and believed in evolution but we had the great opportunity to discuss flaws in this theory, explaining creation and the gospel, pointing him specifically to his need and to prepare to meet his God.

At the annual Torbay Air Show we distributed 1,200 gospel tracts and 300 New Testaments with many people hearing the gospel on a one to one basis.

On reflection, it was great to be able to apply what I had learned in lectures throughout my first year at Bible College, especially regarding different doctrines, defending the gospel and in the evangelism class. Please pray for the people who heard the gospel and for the literature that was distributed. •





Ryan in open-air

Reuben Hutchinson, Debs Bailey, Yuliia Stetsyk and Ryan Malone

(Ryan for the first week only) report from South East England:



Debs at childrens club Barking

Our placement was spent with the Faith Mission members in the South East of England. In our first week we took part in a soccer camp organised in partnership with 'Sports Reach'. Each day we had 50-57 children at the camp, where they were able to improve their football skills and attend Bible classes. All of us were able to be team coaches and lead the Bible sessions with the children. It was encouraging to see so many asking questions about Jesus Christ and one boy gave his life to Christ during the camp. We finished up with an awards ceremony, BBQ and a message from the Bible when a lot of parents attended.

During our second week at Barking Chapel in Essex, we worked on the Good News Project. We gave out copies of Mark's Gospel with an A5 card that had a C.S. Lewis quote and a challenge to follow a twenty one day reading plan. This included a QR code that would take them to a YouTube channel where there was a talk on the Gospel of Mark. We ran a coffee morning, with one of our team giving a talk and we were also able to do an interactive school assembly for primary school children on the resurrection of Lazarus. At the end of our week we hosted a fun day with bouncy castles and a BBQ, where we had a few good conversations with local people and finished our week at Barking by taking the Sunday morning service. It was an encouraging week of outreach.

During our last week, in association with Counties Evangelists we conducted 'Bible Expo - The Life Exhibition' which is a multi-media experience designed for primary school children that teaches them about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. For this we had eight schools come to Earl Stonham Centre. The children really enjoyed learning more about Jesus in an interactive way resulting in questions being asked. •



Yuliia taking a school assembly

Jonathan Gould and Matthew Williamson

report from the Highlands of Scotland:





For our first year student placement we were sent to the scenic Scottish Highlands to work alongside Jeff Townend who heads up the Faith Mission work in that district. We were involved in doing missions, one on the Isle of Tiree and then a tent mission on the Isle of Harris. These missions required door to door visitation, inviting unbelievers to hear the gospel. We also encouraged believers to invite their unsaved family members and friends. In the meetings we had the opportunity to preach and share our testimony.

On the Isle of Tiree we had the privilege of meeting two women who came to Christ while Mary Peckham (nee Morrison) conducted a mission there with other pilgrims. It was heart breaking to see so little remnant of such an impactful revival. Today the people of Tiree have little or no interest in the gospel but it was good to see a few unsaved in for the last few meetings. We continue to pray that the message preached and spoken to individuals will reach into people's hearts,

During the tent mission on the Isle of Harris we ran an after-school club where we both shared the teaching. The mission started rather slow but picked up in the second week when an average of 60 attended. Several non-Christians came in night after night

A highlight for us was the godly people we met along the way, people who showed us incredible hospitality and made us feel so welcome - a demonstration of Christ's love that will stay in our minds forever. As full-time students at FMBC and living with other students from different backgrounds and denominations, we learn to respect others. We are workers together in Christ sharing the joy Jesus has given us. •





Dani Scott and Rachel Combe

report from North and South of Ireland:

We thank God for our student placement, which was spent all over Northern and Southern Ireland, from working with the Gospel Truck to being involved in street ministry in West Wicklow. It both challenged us and shaped us, but God gave us constant openings to share the gospel with the people we met.

At the Balmoral Show near Lisburn, through conversations, literature, the Bear shows for children and salvation bracelets, many people were lovingly told they need God in their lives.

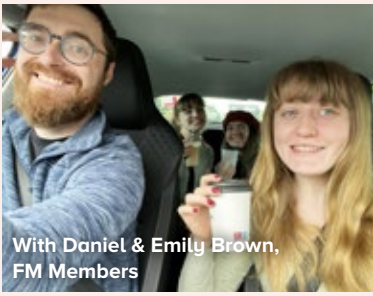
We were very encouraged whilst attending the Bandon convention in County Cork and able to fill ourselves up spiritually after giving out so much to others. We had the opportunity to share our own stories of how God has been working in our lives. We learned again of the value of our own quiet time to sit and know who God is. While teaching RE classes to teenagers, we also learned how much preparation and prayer goes into ministry.

Being a student at FMBC helped to equip us as it gave us the understanding of the Old and New Testament, which proved helpful while teaching many classes. Our regular street evangelism from the Bible College on a Thursday afternoon helped to build our confidence and enabled us to make known the love of Christ on the streets in Baltinglass, County Wicklow.

While on our placement God really showed us how much of a need is really out there, with people being either super religious or knowing nothing about Jesus at all. Even in today's age, people don't know what Jesus has done for them. This saddened us both and the incredible need spurs us on to keep on wanting to share our faith with others, so that they also may hear the good news. Our prayer is that the people we met on placement will trust in Jesus and for more Christian people to answer God's call to go out and boldly declare the gospel. •







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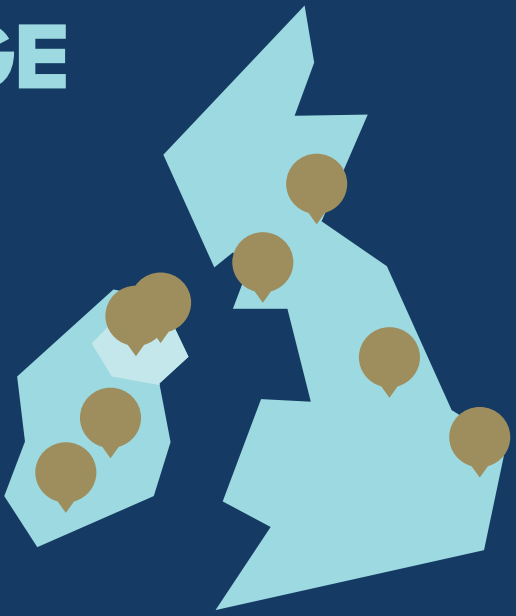

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