

The Road to Jerusalem



John Wright

Introduction by Dr Ralph Townsend
Headmaster of Winchester College

THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

Jesus speaks of His coming death and resurrection.

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed while those who followed were afraid. Then he took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him. ‘Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.

Mark 10: 32-34.

The cover illustration is a watercolour of
The Road to Jerusalem by David Roberts RA 1796-1864
in the collection of the author.

THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

*Fifty stories of encounters with our
Wonderful God who is full of wonders*

‘For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to win obedience from the Gentiles, by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and as far round as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the Good News of Christ.’

Romans 15:18-19

by

John Wright

The Feast of Pentecost 2009

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I dedicate this little book to three Bishops.

*To my Bishop, Graham James,
Bishop of Norwich, who has supported me with wise counsel,
sympathetic encouragement and unwavering loyalty. His total
lack of prejudice in approving anything which will advance the
Kingdom of Heaven on Earth has been astonishing as it has
been exemplary!*

*To Ambrose Griffiths OSB, Bishop Emeritus of Hexham
and Newcastle and a former Abbot of Ampleforth, who has
demonstrated true oecumenicity (that we are all one in Christ)
by taking this Protestant business man under his wing. With
a remarkable generosity of spirit he has also acted as an
Ambassador for the ministry of
The Full Gospel Business Men to the Catholic Church.*

*To Richard Hare, former Bishop of Pontefract, who has been a
good friend and perceptive shepherd over thirty years.*

Introduction

What we have here is a collection of direct and simple testimonies from men and women who trust in God and who live their lives in the presence of the Lord Jesus. Such people leave themselves open to all manner of misunderstanding, suspicion and rejection by ‘the world’; yet they know also the abundant joys which come from living as children of God. Theirs is a way of looking, seeing and hearing which finds the work and presence of God in all things, not least in the hopes and aspirations, suffering and trials of ordinary people and ordinary experience. The Holy Spirit transforms such ordinariness into the extraordinariness of living human potential to the full.

Anyone who knows John Wright, the compiler of this little book, has met a man who has known the depths and heights of human experience and who radiates a childlike exuberance in the wonders and mysteries of God’s ways. He converts not by argument but by the infectious sharing of his own story – his foolishness, his faith, his delight in and love of all kinds of people, from trainee preachers to providential railway companions. The meditation on ‘Brokenness’ (p 26) set beside the encounter he records in ‘The Boy Friend’ (p 31) captures the range of his insight and the warmth of his faith, and the presentation of these testimonies accords with Cardinal Newman’s observation that *‘the heart is commonly reached, not through the reason, but through the imagination, by means of direct impressions, by the testimony of facts and events, by history, by description. Persons influence us, voices melt us, looks subdue us, deeds inflame us.’*

May this little book lead those who read it and respond to it with faith nearer to the Living God.

Dr Ralph Townsend
Headmaster of Winchester College

Foreword

A Time Of Trouble

Jesus told us to recognise the season of His return, just as red sky in the morning warns of bad weather and the fig tree in bud heralds the coming of summer. But so often discussion about the return of Jesus tends to be cut off by the attitude, ‘St Paul expected it, everyone since then has expected it, they have all been wrong and anyway Jesus did not know the date of His return so why should we?’

This sounds plausible until one realises that Daniel was told to ‘shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the end.’ Jesus, as a man, did not know because it was not the time. In the Encyclopaedia of Biblical Prophecy there are 610 prophecies that have to happen before Jesus returns. 600 of these have already happened. We also know that God does nothing without telling His servants the Prophets. John 16:13

Jesus described how the landscape would look ‘as it was in the days of Noah.’ I have gone into the details of this landscape in greater detail in Story 46. The present world situation, especially the preparation of the stage in Jerusalem for the final drama of history, fits perfectly into this scenario.

In *The Road to Damascus* I reported what I believed to be a word from the Lord that 2008 would be the first of seven ‘thin’ years that would eat up the wealth of the seven ‘fat’ years that had preceded it. This has happened with astonishing speed. Many houses built on sand have crashed! When God moves it is usually sudden, unexpected and devastating – as when the Iron Curtain came down and when the veil over Parliamentary expenses came up!

So what must we do? Jesus said, ‘Watch and pray.’ We are called to be at peace ‘*Eirene*’, untroubled by increasing world chaos; spotless ‘*Aspilos*’ and blameless. 2 Peter 3:14. My hope is that this little book will help prepare people for what I believe may shortly and suddenly to come to pass.

‘But you, beloved, are not in darkness for that day to surprise you like a thief.’

1 Thessalonians 5:4

John Wright

The Feast of Pentecost 2009

THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

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1. THE ARROW THAT FLIES BY DAY

**‘Thou shall not be afraid of the terror by night
Nor of the arrow that flies by day’. Psalm 91:5**

The testimony of Major Mark Goodwin-Hudson

In the summer of 2007 I was commanding a squadron of the Blues and Royals posted to Iraq. One evening at Basra, while boarding a transport plane with sixty-eight others, the Holy Spirit punched me almost physically in the stomach with the urgent command, ‘PRAY!’ So I walked up the length of the fuselage to a seat at the far end, praying loudly in tongues with the authority of Almighty God to annihilate whatever the powers of darkness had planned for us.

Some time later, as we touched down at a remote northern desert strip, there was a series of very loud bangs and the plane veered off sharply to the left. A wing of the plane had been torn off and the side of the fuselage was on fire. We had been ambushed! The immediate threat was that we would meet a storm of machine gun fire and that the fuel tanks would explode. Inexplicably there was no machine gun fire, the plane did not blow up, and we all escaped without casualties.

One of the worst crimes a soldier can commit in the battlefield is to lose his weapon. One of my men came to report that he had lost his 9mm pistol. I told him that God knew where it was and that I would ask God to help him. He scowled back at me in unbelief. I sent him off with a land rover and driver to look for it, but it was like looking for a needle in a haystack. Three days later we were on the move. The desert was littered with camel dung and other debris. Suddenly a Fijian trooper called Guan Ebeci, a believer, called out to his driver to stop. He had seen something. He got out and picked up the missing pistol. Throughout the Bible there are over thirty instances of deliverance coming on the third day. This was another one!

Shortly afterwards my squadron had to drive through a town known to be a hotbed of insurgents. The Australian commander of that section told me that they did not dare enter the town because of the casualties they had sustained. The enemy were well armed and could be expected to attack us

with mines, sniper fire, rockets and anti-tank weapons. For our protection we had only un-armoured, soft bottomed land rovers with a helicopter gun ship on either side. But, more important, fervent prayer to the God who is our shield!

As we approached, six police cars erupted from the city gate tearing towards us like demonic hornets as if to scare us off. We drove four kilometres through the town. It was eerie. Not a soul on the streets. Not a dog barked. Not a shot fired. We came through unscathed. A staff officer at Divisional HQ told me later that he could not get out of bed the next morning because he dreaded hearing the news of the massacre that must have taken place. The commander of the insurgents was, we heard, summarily sacked. The Lord had put fear into the hearts of the enemy just as He did to win battles in Old Testament times.

To God be the Glory!

2. RAISED FROM THE DEAD

The story of Raiya as told to Jemimah Wright in Hawaii

Raiya was brought up with five sisters and three brothers in Tajikistan. They were taught to pray to Allah five times a day. From an early age she had a desire to know God but she just didn't know where to find Him. Life was hard in communist Tajikistan - the family were starving. Raiya and her sister would often be out on the streets trying to find food for the family. One day, as she searched for food, in desperation, she cried out to God, 'If You are really there, would You help me?' At that moment people started shooting. The bullets missed Raiya by inches.

Girls were in danger of being raped and killed at that time, so Raiya's father put her into Tao Kwondo lessons so she could learn self defence (she is now a black belt!). The instructor was a Korean Christian. He told his students about a God of love, and showed them a children's Bible. Raiya's heart was captivated. Never before had she heard of a God of love, only of judgement. Reading the Bible she fell in love with Jesus, and would tell everyone she knew about His love. She joined the Korean church and was baptised. This brought shame to her Muslim family. Her brothers said they would kill her if she ever went back to church. She had to renounce Jesus.

'Jesus has never renounced me, He is my Lord and saviour. I will die for Him,' she said boldly.

So they tried to strangle her and she passed out. They locked her in a room, telling her she would be beaten to death if she went to church. Despite the threats she went to church! She was then so badly beaten that when she went to see her pastor he didn't recognise her - her face was so swollen.

'We have to pray, this is a spiritual battle,' her pastor said.

They prayed and felt Raiya needed to fast for 7 days. This was a big thing, she was only 14 years old. At the end of the fast there was a breakthrough in her family, and the pressure on her eased off. Two of her sisters and one brother are now believers.

Unknown to Raiya, some Muslim terrorists had been coming to her church, pretending to be Christians. Actually they were spying out the building (the church was on the 3rd floor with over 1,000 members) to see where to plant bombs.

The next Sunday the bombs exploded. The first bomb left a huge hole in the middle of the meeting room. There was carnage. As Raiya ran from the building the full force of a second bomb, hidden in a fire extinguisher box, hit her.

Raiya had never felt such terrible pain - but as her body flew across the room from the explosion she cried out 'Jesus help me, Jesus save me.'

When she opened her eyes she was in heaven. She saw Jesus. He was standing in front of her, arms wide open.

'Welcome home, Raiya,' He said.

She felt his love, like the warmth of the sun, sinking into her body - then such deep joy. Jesus told her she had a choice to stay or go back. She knew she had lived her life selfishly, so she decided to make up for it, to go back to give her whole life to serving Him.

'Let me go back and live for You,' she asked.

She woke up in the hospital, having been dead. She had 3rd degree burns over much of her body, and had lost her eye-sight. Her hair was all gone and her brain exposed. She had lost much of the skin on her face and body. The doctors didn't think she could live. Her parents nearly passed out when they saw her.

But over the next year God completely healed her - He gave her NEW SKIN *and* her eye-sight back - both impossible. To see her now you would NEVER know she had been burnt at all - no scars and perfect skin with beautiful long dark hair.

Recently, Jesus has appeared twice to Raiya in dreams. Each time He told her He was coming back very soon. *Very soon!*

3. TOO MUCH POWER!

For a number of years ‘Psychic Fairs’ for Body, Mind and Spirit have been held over a weekend at a Norwich High School. They attract a wide range of exhibits from New Age to Essential Oil Massage, Tarot Card readings, Crystal Ball mediums and Palmistry, etc.

Local Christian Churches of the Evangelical/Charismatic persuasion saw this as a great opportunity to present the Gospel. They made friends with the organisers, offered help in setting up and taking down the stands , and established a caravan as a prayer centre in the car park.

They also manned two stands and prayed for the Lord to bring people to them. They offered prophetic insights by the Holy Spirit into people’s lives and gave away tracts from ‘Life Words’ – the former Scripture Gift Mission.

They also had a number of people walking round praying in tongues to neutralise any demonic power that might be present. (See story no 53 ‘Martial Arts’ in ‘The Desert Road South of Jerusalem’ for a good example of how effective praying in tongues can be against demonic powers in the vicinity.)

This unity of Christians from several Churches working together attracted God’s blessing as He promises in Psalm 133. But they were too successful! The organisers sent for them and said:

‘We cannot have you Christians at our Fairs any more. There is too much power coming from your stand. With you around, nothing else works!’

The Christian outreach to Psychic Fairs can be contacted at:
www.divine-exchange.co.uk

4. SIGNS AND WONDERS

The testimony of James Petersen, 25th October 2008

We were in Churchill Square in Brighton on Saturday morning, doing street evangelism. I met Eric, in his sixties, sitting on a wall, waiting for his wife. I asked him if he had ever thought about what happens when we die. He said he believed that death was final.

I asked him if I could go through what the Bible says. He agreed, so I took him through the scriptures, explaining that there is an afterlife. I then asked if I could pray with him to be saved. ‘No thanks,’ he said, ‘I don’t believe in God!’

I had a real compassion for him, and tried again explaining the importance of having our sins forgiven through Jesus. Again he responded that he had enough faith that there is no God, and was not concerned about what happens when he died. He then asked if he could try to convince me that there is no God. Realising this was going nowhere and that his wife had just arrived, I thanked him for his time and got up to go.

As I began to walk away, I noticed that he was struggling to get up from sitting on the wall. Realising I had nothing to lose, I went back and said, ‘I have seen God heal people, and I believe that God will heal you to show you that He is real and that He loves you! Is there anything you need healing?’ He said “Yes, my knee. . .” He had a walking stick in his hand and motioned to his leg. I asked if I could pray for him there and then. He looked at his wife, then back at me and reluctantly agreed. I placed my hands on his knee, asking God to heal him as a sign that He loved him.

I finished praying and asked him how it was. He was standing there smiling not saying a word. I thought he was smirking because of my praying publicly for him. I asked him again how his knee was, and he didn’t answer, he was still smiling. The third time I asked him almost impatiently, ‘How is your knee?!’ ‘Its better!’ he said.

I was filled with joy and asked him if he wanted to receive Jesus. He and his wife agreed, and I led them both in a prayer of salvation. I was so moved by this afterwards that I wept at God’s mercy and grace. God says that signs and wonders accompany those who believe. Praise God for His faithfulness to His Word!

5. THE MISSING SCAR

Fred Smith was a CID Sergeant with Oxford Police when God called him out and gave him the most remarkable healing ministry.

Fred told me that the faith and expectancy was so low in most churches in England that he always had to tell stories of recent healings he had witnessed so that the spirit of unbelief could be cast out and faith implanted in people's hearts. He reminded me that even Jesus could do no mighty work in Nazareth because of their unbelief.

One Sunday evening Fred came to Stoke Holy Cross Church, near Norwich, to take a healing service. As usual he started telling stories. Then I heard him say,

‘Only last week I was in Suffolk where there was a young man with cancer all over his body – in his stomach, in his lungs, in his bones. They had opened up his stomach to try to operate but the cancer was so far gone that they just sowed him up again, leaving a big scar. Well, the Lord graciously healed him and when he had a bath that evening he found that the operation scar on his stomach had disappeared.’

I groaned. How could Fred be so stupid. No one would believe that and so they would not believe anything else either. He had totally ruined everything. But at that moment a little old lady I did not recognise walked up the aisle and said,

‘Mr Smith, may I say something? I am the mother of the young man you have been talking about. I heard you were speaking this evening, so I thought I would come up to say “Thank you.” I just want everyone to know that everything you have said about my son is true, and there really is no longer any scar on his stomach’

Everyone burst into applause, faith shot up, and we saw some remarkable miracles that night.

6. ANGELS WITH PARACHUTES

The testimony of General Charles Duke, Lunar Module Pilot of Apollo 16

Several years before my father died, I began to witness to him about Jesus as he was not saved. One day, trying to increase his faith, I told him about some friends who always pray before they fly that God would surround the airplane with His Angels.

I told him that one day as they were flying along, God let them see an Angel sitting on the wing of the airplane. Well, my Dad had a good laugh. 'If I ever see an Angel, he had better have on a parachute in case he falls off the wing'

Two years later, my Dad was in the hospital. My brother led him to the Lord and a wonderful peace came over my Dad. All his fear had departed.

As Dad's departure approached I asked a good friend, who had a ministry of intercession, to pray for him.

Then came the day that Dad died. A couple of hours later I got a call from my friend.

He said, "*Charlie, I was praying for your Dad this afternoon. It was about 5pm that God showed me a vision of two Angels who were coming for your Dad to carry him to Heaven. I understood that he would die very soon*".

"He died just a few minutes after 5pm", I replied, rejoicing that my Dad was in Heaven.

Then my friend said, "*Charlie, those Angels were a bit strange. They were both wearing parachutes. I have never seen an Angel wearing a parachute.*"

I was puzzled, too, until I remembered my Dad's words, "If I ever see an Angel, he'd better have on a parachute!"

This is a marvellous insight into the humour and love of our wonderful God. One senses from the Gospels that Jesus was such fun to be with. He does not change!

7. THE GINA FRATTINI DRESS

A Christian couple were in a financial desert! Unemployed after their business was wiped out, owing the bank more than they could imagine ever re-paying, with five children living in a rented house. Yet over two years all their needs were met.

In the middle of the desert generous friends near Glasgow invited them to come and stay as their guests for a Gala Performance of an Opera to raise money for a Charity. The wife had nothing to wear. They really could not afford the petrol. But in the end they decided they *had* to go.

It was a brilliant evening. Gorgeous singing, gorgeous music, gorgeous food. The desert had suddenly become an oasis. Then a pretty girl approached them to buy a £10 raffle ticket. They smiled politely, but it was out of the question.

Then they were hit hard by the thought that they had been given such a marvellous evening and the least they could do was to make a small contribution even if it meant no coffee on the way home. The Lord will provide, they thought. So they bought one ticket.

Then the draw took place for various prizes. The first prize was a £500 Gina Frattini dress. Their single ticket won the prize. When they went to Gina Frattini's shop in London a few weeks later they were having a half price sale so they ended up with £1,000 worth of beautiful clothes.

God does indeed set a table in the wilderness. A year later, the bank was repaid in full.

8. LEWES and back by RAIL

A Traveller's Testimony

1. The girl at the Coffee Bar AND the girl with the tea trolley on the 2pm train from Norwich to London were BOTH called Deborah! (Always ask people their names). Told them about Deborah in the Bible and then told them the story of the Mafia Boss from Newcastle on Tyne. Jesus appeared to him as he was about to jump out of a window. He is now a Vicar! Gave them his picture and story in a newspaper I had with me. Lots of laughter. Seeds sown.
2. On the London Underground Frank, a retired stonemason, came and sat beside me. Asked him if he was voting for Boris in the London election – he was! Very open to the Gospel. Gave him Voice, a Christian Testimony magazine. In front of us was an advertisement saying, 'Jesus did not come to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be save.' I had a Helper!
3. Spoke to a young Policeman at Victoria called Chris. Introduced myself as the Founder and President of the Stop a Copper Society whose members thank Police and Parking Attendants for the good work they do. Asked him if he knew what his name meant. (The bearer of Christ). He did! Wasn't sure if he believed. He also went off with Voice.
4. Sat next to ten-year-old Olivia and her French au pair minder called Aimeline on the train to Lewes. Aimeline's parents were Protestant believers but their daughter, I suspect, not quite surrendered. Had great fun giving my testimony in French. Gave her my book 'The Jericho Road'.
5. At the White Hart in Lewes two middle aged ladies were having tea. Felt the Holy Spirit say that one of them was an Antique Dealer. She was! Despite this miracle they went off apparently untouched. Even if someone rises from the dead, people will not believe!
6. Had excellent service from Marilyn in Reception who found a street map for me. Also from Danielle and Alex who got me tea and toast in record time. So I sent for the Duty Manager, Dave, assembled my three benefactors, and said 'Well done!' in front of their Boss. Explained that the Duke of Wellington's only regret was that he had not said 'Well Done' more often. Then asked them if they had 'heard the news' about the Mafia Boss? This question is always a good conversation starter!

7. Walking round Lewes at 5.30 pm I saw a teenage girl taking a photo of an older lady and a young man in the Castle Gardens. This is a classic opportunity. Offered to take the photo of all three. The older lady was Teresa, the younger Marcella and Manuel – all from Peru. Gave them my testimony with lots of laughter and Voice magazine.
8. Pausing at the Constitution Club I saw four dark suited men approaching with brief cases. Recognised them as Freemasons. ‘On your way to the Lodge?’ I said. They stopped and nodded. ‘Did you know that when you get to the 32nd degree you will meet Lucifer?’ They smiled weakly. In all I spoke to twelve Freemasons in the next few minutes, giving my testimony. Some seemed to be interested. Some not.
9. Walking to the Men’s Breakfast the next morning, I passed a paper boy called Jordan! Not a believer. Gave him my testimony and Voice.
10. On the train back to London I joined a black girl called Persis who was a backslidden Anglican. Then a middle - aged grey haired lady appeared. I had the impression she was a Catholic teacher. I asked her. She was! Her name was Angela so I sang, ‘You may not be an Angel...’ to her and explained it came from Jesus. She loved it! Gave them my books The Jericho Road and The Damascus Road to read with stories of what happens if you talk to strangers on trains. Then Caroline, a Methodist from Newhaven, sat next to me. This was followed by a good talk to her Accountant husband who took away ‘No Easy Ride’, my testimony of how God told me to start a bank with no money.
11. In a London taxi told John, the driver, that he was a chosen cab driver as God had told me 30 years earlier to speak to every cab driver and He would chose the drivers. He was interested and accepted a Voice magazine.
12. Very hot and thirsty called at the Liverpool St. Station Hotel where Samantha, an Australian Reception Lady, gave me a bottle of cold water without charge. Told her she would get her reward and gave her my testimony. Had a rest on the train home!

These stories reveal that if we will make ourselves available to God, He will bring people alongside us as He brings fish to the waiting Heron. To begin with just speaking to a stranger may be as much as we dare to do. But then, if we want to, we can, like a baby, learn to stand, walk and even talk!

9. THE GOD WHO OPENS THE WOMB

The testimony of Maggie and Andrew Colvin

On the day when Prince William was born in September 1982, a day when new babies were on everybody's mind, my husband Andrew and I went to a dinner at the Café Royal given by the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International. It was a poignant day because, after six years of marriage, we had no children.

After the talk, one of the Full Gospel leaders came up to ask if there was anything we wanted prayer for. Three babies had miscarried in my womb over the previous 18 months. Andrew was especially gutted, and although I was disappointed, I had complete faith that God would give us a family at the right time.

So when the leader approached us, we asked him to pray that we could have a baby sooner rather than later. After his prayer for healing, he confidently announced that I now had a new womb. I was not sure that was exactly what was needed but I believed God had given him the right prayer and it would be answered. With God nothing is impossible. I had already experienced divine healing of my kidneys two years previously. God had also healed many emotional hurts from my past life.

Then – you guessed it! Almost nine months to the day, our first son Harry was born. After a short pause our second boy, Robert, arrived. Twenty six years later, at a wedding in Norfolk, I met again the man who had prayed for us and reminded him of his prayer which he had forgotten. Then I was able to introduce him to the result!

What a great and awesome God we have who raises up men of faith to demonstrate the Lord's favour and powerful redeeming love for His sheep.

THANK YOU, LORD!

10. THE GREEN LEATHER PURSE

The annual service of the College of Evangelists had just finished at Southwark Cathedral. Feeling suitably holy, a member of the College was descending the escalator at London Bridge Tube Station.

In front of him was a young lady in her late twenties wearing a black jacket. Somewhere she had picked up a skein of white wool which had got stuck on her back. It spoilt her otherwise elegant appearance.

On the platform he saw her again sitting on a bench. He sat next to her and as he did so she dropped her green leather purse. He dived forward gallantly to retrieve it for which she was suitably appreciative.

‘By the way’, he said, ‘I noticed on the escalator that some white wool has attached itself to the back of your jacket. She jumped up so that he could remove it. By this time they were almost good friends.

‘I should warn you,’ he said, ‘that you are in some danger. I am a member of the College of Evangelists licensed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York! Would you like me to sit somewhere else?’

‘Oh no, that’s quite all right. I am the Choir Mistress of a Church in North London.’

‘Have you been born again?’ he enquired as the train approached.

It appeared that this was an adventure still to happen. He gave her a Voice Magazine to help her in her pilgrimage and then dashed for the train, hoping that those praying for her would hear how their prayers were being answered.

11. BILLIONS TO ONE!

For fifteen years I have been waiting for God to fulfil His promise to vindicate me after a seventeen – month fraud trial listed in the Guinness Book of Records.

The jury found me guilty of carrying on the trade of a business alleged to be insolvent when I was neither a Director nor an employee of the company and the owner had said in court that I had had nothing to do with the business. The Crown Prosecution Service even apologised to me for the Jury verdict. The Jury were, of course, not to blame. Government research has shown that after six weeks only fifteen percent of the Jury can remember or comprehend the evidence.

Then on 24 October 2008 I was due to be in Belgium. However, whenever I tried to book online with Eurostar, I was unable to complete the booking. I sensed the Lord did not want me to go. Then an old friend died. His funeral was on that day at Middlesborough so I guessed that was where the Lord wanted me.

I planned to go by car and stay with friends on the way up. But when I telephoned half a dozen friends no one was in. Then it occurred to me that I could go by train. It turned out that the timings were perfect. So I went by train.

On the way back, we were just coming into Peterborough station where I changed trains. As I got up from my seat a man who had been standing slipped into it. While the door was being opened I introduced him to the other men at the table. Then, just as I moved down the corridor to get off the train, I asked the man what he did. He said he was a barrister so I told him I was a celebrity, having been in the longest continuous criminal trial mentioned in the Guinness Book of Records.

At this point a voice behind me said,

‘I know who you are. You are Mr Wright!’

I turned to see a man behind me who followed me out onto the platform where he explained, ‘I was a member of the jury in your trial!’

The Juror was very friendly and gave me his address so that I could send him my Prison Letters with the story of the trial. As there are about 55 million people in the United Kingdom divided by eleven jurors I guessed the odds against the meeting were about 5 million to one! Added to this, all the 'ifs'. If I had gone to Belgium, if I had gone by car, if I had not taken the 20 second opportunity to speak to the man, if he had not been a barrister, it would not have happened. The odds against this all happening must have been billions to one. God has ever revealed Himself in coincidences!

Now I have to wait, like Joseph in the book of Genesis, after the visit of the Butler to the prison. As Joseph could not resist asking the Butler to speak to Pharaoh, so I could not resist sending the Juror my 'Letters from Prison'. I knew it was wrong, God does not need any help to achieve His purposes. But it was a powerful token of God's love to keep my faith alive as I wait, like Joseph, for my vindication in God's time in God's way for God's glory.

12. THOUGH THE VISION TARRIES, WAIT FOR IT!

*From 'The Cheque Book of the Bank of Faith'
by C.H.Spurgeon. ISBN 0 551 05027 6*

'For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.'
Habbakuk 2:3

Mercy may seem slow, but it is sure. The Lord in unfailing wisdom has appointed a time for the outgoings of His gracious power, and God's time is the best time.

We are in a hurry; the vision of the blessing excites our desire and hastens our longings; but the Lord will keep His appointments. He is never before His time; He is never behind.

God's word is here spoken of as a living thing which will speak and will come. It is never a dead letter as we are tempted to fear when we have long watched for its fulfillment. The living word is on the way from the living God, and though it may seem to linger it is not in reality doing so. God's train is not behind time. It is only a matter of patience, and we shall see for ourselves the faithfulness of the Lord.

No promise of His shall fail; 'it will not lie.' No promise of His will be lost in silence; 'it shall speak.' What comfort it will speak to the believing ear! No promise of His shall need to be renewed like a bill which could not be paid on the day in which it fell due – 'it will not tarry.'

Come, my soul, can'st thou not wait for thy God? Rest in Him and be still in unutterable peacefulness.

13. THE TRIAL OF FAITH

A Word from the LORD from 'God Calling', published by The Baker Publishing Group, reproduced with permission.

'I am your Lord, your supply. You *must* rely on Me. Trust to the last, uttermost limit. Trust and be not afraid. You must depend on Divine Power *only*. I have not forgotten you. Your help is coming. You shall know and realise My Power.

Endurance is faith tried almost to breaking point. You must wait, and trust, and hope, and joy in Me. You must not depend on man but on Me, on Me, your Strength, your Help, your Supply.

This is the great test. Am I your supply or not? Every great work for me has had to have this great test time.

Possess your souls in patience and rejoice. You must wait until I show the way. Heaven itself cannot contain more joy than that soul knows, when, after the waiting test, I crown it Victor. But no disciple of mine can be victor, who does not wait until I give the order to start. You cannot be anxious if you *know* that I am your supply.'

14. AFTER THE PORK, BUT BEFORE THE PUDDING

The Full Gospel dinner had come round again but a member had failed to persuade anyone to come. At the Hotel he bumped into Paul, a Mortgage Broker, and his friend Jane, a Research Chemist. They had come because of a conversation he had had with a lady on the train to London the week before. He was overjoyed!

Over the pork chops Paul told him how one day he had passed a bunch of young, happy people. They were outside what he discovered, to his astonishment, was a Church. A week later Paul decided to go to this Church, complete with coffee shop. His business needed prayer, as did two friends, who were seriously ill. One in particular needed to find a donor for a heart transplant or he would die.

Paul received a warm welcome and sat at the back. Here God sent a man who asked Paul about his situation. Then the man prayed for Paul and his sick friends with a spectacular result. The heart donor appeared and his friend's life was saved. This was followed by an Alpha course at which Paul committed his life to Christ.

By this time the pudding had appeared. The man asked Paul if he had been baptised with the Holy Spirit? This was new to him, so the man explained that Christians were like teapots – designed to pour tea but needing both the tea bag and the hot water. We are created to be witnesses of the Gospel but to be effective we need Jesus (the tea bag) and the empowering of the Holy Spirit (the hot water). Paul got the message. He bowed his head and was baptised with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of tongues. After this he tucked into the gâteau with commendable gusto!

Nor was this the end of the matter. A few minutes later he was on his feet giving an excellent testimony of how he had found Christ at an Alpha course and the Holy Spirit after the pork but before the pudding!

15. WHAT REALLY CHANGED THE CHAPEL

*The testimony of Rev Dr RT Kendall
Formerly Minister of Westminster Chapel, London.*

If God had not brought Arthur Blessit to us in 1982 I wonder if the matter of my becoming a personal soul-winner to strangers would have entered my mind. But Arthur was used by the Lord to change all that.

From then until the present time I have almost always carried a selection of pamphlets in several languages to give to those who cross my path. Sometimes I will try to engage others in conversation and , if possible, lead them to Christ right on the spot. Until Arthur came I assumed I had done my job as an evangelist (2 Tim 4:5) by preaching the Gospel from the pulpit on Sunday nights at Westminster Chapel.

Far more can do this sort of evangelism than most imagine. After all, we are all called to be soul winners. One of our members, Derek Temple, a very quiet, laid back Englishman who had been a member since Dr Lloyd-Jones' day, came out with us one Saturday. I was amazed but thrilled to see him. He returned the following week and actually led someone to Christ. He kept coming and now never misses a Saturday. He has had dozens and dozens of people from all over the world to pray to receive the Lord. He is now a Deacon.

Our emphasis on personal evangelism is what really changed the Chapel. I will believe until I die that God has honoured us to the degree we have been blessed because we made evangelism a priority.

16. THE LOST SHEEP

A British Telecom van was blocking his drive as a man returned from a walk on a sunny November afternoon. Knowing from long experience that it was there for a purpose he stopped and spoke to the driver who was measuring the height of an overhead cable.

The man introduced himself to Alan, the engineer. Then he asked,

‘Are you a Church-goer?’

‘I was, years ago.’

‘Have you been born again?’

‘Yes’, he said, with a smile, ‘when I was twenty three under Rev Eddie Stride.’

‘So you are a backslider?’

‘Yes, I suppose I am,’ he admitted rather sheepishly.

‘You realise I am a sheepdog sent by Jesus to lead you back to the flock. Do you want to come?’

Alan burst into tears and gave him a hug as he cried his way back to Jesus. The man then prayed with him to be baptised with the Holy Spirit and he immediately broke out into praying in tongues with great joy.

Every day, it seems, we walk down the Jericho Road.

17. FAITH AT WORK

A letter from Peter Bull

I was at the prayer meeting of a Missionary Society in Wellingborough. There I was told that the new printer, for which we had paid a great deal of money, just would not print some important letters which were going to Korea.

As we prayed I remembered the story in *The Desert Road South of Jerusalem* how you laid hands on a computer at a garage which would not work and then it did. So I got up, laid my hands on the printer, and prayed a simple prayer asking our Father God to please make this thing work. We then carried on praying about many other matters. When we broke for lunch, the computer was re-started. After the print queue cleared it began to function perfectly. It had been playing up for a long time but off it went!

That was not the end of the story. With our faith aroused, I was asked to lay hands on the other computer, because it was not working either. So here we go again, I thought. After more prayer it worked perfectly as well. Great to be reminded that nothing is impossible to God!

18. A PAEAN OF PRAISE.

It was a cold November afternoon as a man walked through the countryside. Normally he took the longer circuit but this time he felt propelled by the Holy Spirit along the shorter route by a track up a valley.

There he met a couple from a village where he had once been a Lay Reader. They told him they were occasional Church-goers and definitely Christians. So he told them how he had been a model Anglican but destined for hell. Until one evening the Holy Spirit had revealed to him the state of his heart and the need for repentance. How this had brought him to his knees and how he had experienced the weight of sin lifting from his shoulders and the joy that followed.

They were evidently very touched by this as the Holy Spirit lifted the religious veil from their eyes. They all held hands as the man led them through a sinner's prayer. Then joy and some tears from the wife, overwhelmed at meeting Jesus so unexpectedly and in such an unlikely spot.

The man told them that all the angels in Heaven rejoiced when a sinner came to Christ. As if to prove the point, a large flock of geese flew over in the gloaming, honking an accompanying paean of praise to their God.

19. THE OBEDIENT SERVANT

A man took his newly trained gundog out for its first day's shooting. The eight guns formed a line, thirty yards apart, and waited for the pheasants to be driven over. The young dog was quivering with excitement. This was what he had been trained for.

Soon, a pheasant flew towards them which his master shot. The pheasant fell twenty yards in front. The dog gazed at its master anticipating the command to pick it up. But his master said, 'SIT!'

Next the man shot a pheasant which landed to his left between him and the next door gun, whose dog ran in to pick it up for his master. The dog whimpered, 'Look, he is about to steal your bird. Let me go quick and I will get it off him'. But his master, inexplicably, said, 'SIT!'

Then the man shot a high pheasant that fell thirty yards behind and immediately got up to run away. It was only winged. The dog whimpered again, 'Look, the bird is running. Please send me at once so it won't escape.' Again, contrary to all reason, his master said, 'SIT!'

What the young dog could not know was that at lunch all the other guns gathered round his master to congratulate him on the incredible steadiness of his new dog who was obedient even under the greatest provocation.

So it will be with us when we have given what we could not afford, when we have blessed those who have persecuted us, when we have chosen a path that seemed folly, all out of obedience to the seemingly unreasonable commands of the Holy Spirit.

20. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

An extract from his diary in the early 1500s.

‘It was the Lord who put it into my mind, (I could feel His hand upon me), the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with marvellous rays from the Holy Scripture. For the execution of the journey to the Indies, I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics or maps. It was simply in fulfilment of what Isaiah had promised. No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of the Saviour, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service. The working out of all things has been assigned to each person by our Lord, but it all happens according to His sovereign will, even though He gives advice. Oh, what a gracious Lord, who desires that people should perform for Him those things for which He holds himself responsible.’

*From ‘The Light and the Glory’ by Peter Marshall and David Manuel.
Published by Fleming H Revell Co, 1977.*

21. GOD IS NO MAN'S DEBTOR

The testimony of a member of the House of Lords

My friend and his wife had planned a three week holiday in New Zealand in September. It was going to cost them £4,000. But in August, as my friend read the appalling news from Darfur at the breakfast table, he said to his wife,

‘With all this going on, and the desperate need for aid, I really cannot see how we can spend all this money on a holiday.’

So there and then they cancelled the holiday and sent the money instead to Darfur. Two weeks later they learnt that his wife had cancer and would have to have an immediate operation. This, of course, would have prevented them going to New Zealand anyway.

After the operation, near the end of September, they were wondering where they could go for a few days rest and recuperation. Then an old friend telephoned to ask if they would like to spend ten days on his yacht in the Mediterranean – all expenses paid as well as being flown out in a private jet!

Truly, God is no man's debtor!

22. BROKENNESS

When to do the will of God means even my Christian brethren will not understand, and I remember that neither did Jesus' brethren believe in Him, I bow my head and accept the misunderstanding. This is brokenness.

When I am misrepresented, and I remember that Jesus was falsely accused but He '*held His peace*' and I bow my head to accept the accusation without trying to justify myself. This is brokenness.

When another is preferred before me and I am deliberately passed over and I remember that they cried, '*away with this Man and release unto us Barabbas*' and I bow my head and accept rejection. This is brokenness.

When I see the work of years brought to ruin by the ambition of others, and I remember that Jesus allowed them to '*lead Him away to crucify Him*' and He accepted the place of failure, and I bow my head and I am willing to accept the injustice without bitterness. This is brokenness.

When, in order to be right with God, it is necessary to take the humbling path of confession and restitution and I remember that Jesus '*made Himself of no reputation even unto death on the Cross*' and I bow my head and am willing to accept the shame of exposure. This is brokenness.

When others take unfair advantage of my being a Christian and treat my belongings as public property and I remember that '*they stripped Him and, parting His garments, cast lots*' and I bow my head, joyfully accepting the spoiling of my goods for His sake That is brokenness.

When one acts towards me in an unforgivable way and I remember that, when He was crucified, Jesus prayed, '*Father, forgive them, they know not what they do*' and I bow my head and accept any behaviour towards me as permitted by my loving Father That is brokenness.

When people expect the impossible of me, I remember that Jesus said, '*This is my body which is given for you*' and I repent of my self-indulgence and lack of giving. This is brokenness.

23. DUFFER'S WEEK

*When the Mayfly hatch the trout find them irresistible
so even duffers can catch them!*

It started with my frail, eighty nine year old father in law, a retired Major General of the Royal Engineers. On a walk, commenting that he had nothing to look forward to, I reminded him that, 'eye has not seen, ear has not heard, the mind of man has not conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.' This brought him to seek Christ after which he was baptised in his swimming pool two days later.

Then, at Twyford Stores, I asked 18 year old Daniel behind the counter if he believed in God. 'I hate God, he took away my brother.' he said. After a short conversation he received Jesus.

On the way back I spoke to a man called Dunlop and therefore a distant cousin of mine. He was aware of the difference between Churchianity and the real thing and had once been a seeker after God. Gave him Voice Magazine.

At a wedding later that day I asked a waiter called Tom from Bath if he was a Christian. He came under conviction as I spoke and prayed with me to be born again. Gave him Voice.

The following Wednesday I was saying goodbye to Norman, the Service Manager of one of the suppliers to my Agricultural Machinery business. I asked him if he knew where he was going when he died. He didn't. Now he does and is heading for heaven!

Thursday found me in Coventry visiting a major international company. Handed out Voice Magazines and my 'Road' booklets to the general manager and staff. On the way home on the M6 a black man driving an open topped BMW pulled up alongside us. I shouted, 'Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ?' He beamed and shouted back, 'Yes, man , Hallelujah, I am a Christian!' My not yet Christian co-director travelling with us was stunned!

Saturday 7.30am. I felt the Lord tell me to go for a walk. Met a lady walking by the river called Sue. She was a Spirit filled Essex farmer's wife on a Broads holiday and her husband was a Spiritual Director in the Chelmsford Diocese. As we sat on a bench by their boat a young man walked past carrying fishing rods. I called out, 'Have you heard the news?' Then told him the story of the Mafia boss at Newcastle on Tyne who called out to Jesus just before he jumped out of a window. He said his name was Daniel, he was a builder, he would love to believe in God, and he lived at Mulbarton where I was preaching the next day! Sadly he did not show up at Church but the Hound of Heaven is close after him!

On Sunday the Norwich bypass was blocked on the way home from Church so I diverted via Stoke Holy Cross. Coming up behind a police car, I flashed my lights at him to stop. Introduced myself to Sam, the police constable, as the founder of the Stoppa Copper Society whose members thank the police for what they do. Sam was delighted to be thanked – they all are! Then I asked him if he believed in God. He was not sure so I gave him a Voice with the story of PC Malcolm Reeve, former Chairman of the Norfolk Police Federation. Seeds well sown!

At Poringland Stores I called in to get some cream for the strawberries. The lady behind me in the queue accosted me. She said, 'You are that nice gentleman who stopped me in the street and gave me one of your booklets.' She introduced me to her husband to whom I gave the latest Voice and put him under holy obedience to attend Stoke Holy Cross Church at 10.30am the next Sunday to meet our blonde bombshell Vicar Rosie Bunn!

24. ESPECIALLY PROPHECY

A man was at a Christian Convention in Philadelphia with Buzz Dulley, an excited Anglican who had come to faith at the age of sixty and was making up for lost time! Three successive black waiters, who brought them their breakfast, were led to the Lord by Buzz, kneeling with him at the foot of his bed.

As they had breakfast in their room, the man confessed that he had never really wanted to prophesy. He was too frightened of getting stuck in the middle of a sentence or having someone say, 'That was not God' afterwards, since all prophecy has to be tested by those present. He didn't want to make a fool of himself. It was much safer to leave prophecy and interpretation to others! 'You have to repent of that!' Buzz exclaimed, 'It says in scripture that we should earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially prophecy.' Buzz was quite right and so the man repented on his knees asking God for the gift of prophecy to build up the church.

An hour later, being overseas visitors, they were seated on the platform facing a crowd of some 10,000 people in the main auditorium. During the time of worship God gave the man a picture. He saw how mist is carried up by the heat of the sun to form clouds which return to bless the earth as rain. Then came the interpretation. As the response of the moisture on the earth to the warmth of the sun is to rise up as mist, so our response to God's love is to send praise and adoration up to heaven as a sweet incense. This blesses God because He is then able to return his blessing upon those praising him as the rain returns to bless the earth.

As all this was going through his mind, he suddenly realised that the Holy Spirit was urging him to go to the microphone. As obedience triumphed over panic, he put his hand on the shoulder of the Chairman of the meeting to say, 'I think I have a word from the Lord'. At this moment the worship came to an end and someone spoke in tongues. He knew he had the interpretation and was amazed that he could speak with complete fluency and without fear in front of so many people. Fortunately they did not realise he had never done it before!

25. SHUKRAH, ALLAH!

A man was flying from Kuwait to Amman. He had an aisle seat and beside him was a Chemical Engineer called Hamid. His family were Palestinian refugees who had emigrated to Kuwait. Hamid spoke good English but his mother, sitting on his right by the window, only spoke a few words.

Hamid told the man he was going to get married. When the man asked how long he had known his bride his reply astonished him.

‘I have never met her. I sent my mother to choose her for me. My mother is a much better judge than I am.’

The man asked Hamid if it was possible to get out of the marriage if he did not like his mother’s choice. He said it was possible but very unlikely – he trusted his mother completely.

The man opened his Bible and read to Hamid the story of Abraham sending his servant to find a bride for Isaac. God chose Rebecca who was waiting at the well. He explained that this was a picture of how the Holy Spirit is sent by God the Father to find a bride for Issa (Jesus).

Hamid was intrigued by the story. The man suggested that God had put Hamid next to him to call Hamid into a relationship with God through His son Issa. This coincidence was the same as the arrival of Rebecca at the well in answer to the servant’s prayer. Hamid moved by the Holy Spirit, bowed his head and received Issa as his Saviour.

The man was worried that Hamid’s mother, who could see what was going on, might make a fuss. For a Muslim to become a Christian means expulsion from his family and sometimes death. But to his amazement she flung up her hands and cried,

‘Shukrah, Allah. Shukrah, Allah!’ (Thank you Lord, Thank you, Lord!’)

The next day Hamid called at the man’s hotel where he was given a Bible and received prayer for his marriage.

26. THE BOY FRIEND

It was one of those August evenings in Norfolk – sunshine and showers. On my walk I stopped to chat to Esther, a neighbour in her sixties, gardening outside her house.

She looked radiant, as if she had got a boyfriend, so I said,

‘You look brilliant – what has happened to you?’

‘I have got peace. I feel wonderful. I love everyone.’

‘Where did this peace come from? I asked.

‘I don’t know, it just came. Instant cognition.
Then I got the words, “I AM.”’

‘Do you know who “I AM” is? It is the name of God in the Bible.
You have found God, or God has found you.’

‘I don’t care. I don’t want names. I don’t want the Bible. I have had enough of all that. I just have peace and its wonderful.’

So I continued my walk thrilled that Esther had a boy friend and hopefully, one fine day, would discover His name. Also delight in our marvellous God who acts in such glorious, out-of-the-box ways.

Shocking, really, and so theologically incorrect!

27. SLUGGISHNESS

One morning recently I was reading my NKJV daily Bible when I came to the following comment with regard to Abraham who remained strong in his faith even though the promise was long delayed. ***‘Thus the writer encourages the faith of believers who may be sluggish in their endeavours for Christ’.*** Later I turned to my NRSV Bible and read a note on Isaiah 52:1 ***‘Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion!’*** which said ***‘Now God calls for the saints of Zion to wake up and put on their strength. They must stop being sluggish and get busy doing what they were supposed to be doing.’***

That evening my reading before bed again mentioned this word ***‘sluggishness’*** as the abiding sin of the Body of Christ, however born again and Spirit-filled we may claim to be. I did not remember seeing this word ***‘sluggishness’*** in a Christian context but suddenly three times in one day this word came to me. I believe it was a word from God for me. Perhaps it has a wider application. I believe the Lord is saying, ***‘Wake up NOW and do what I have told you to do.’***

We are warned that in the last days there will be a falling away. The Church will become luke warm and make God sick. St James reminds us that faith without works is dead. We are so easily seduced by worldly pursuits, the oil in our lamps runs out, our hearts become cold, we fear men more than we fear God. But God calls us to waste no opportunity at times convenient and inconvenient to be witnesses for Jesus ***‘in word and in deed, in the power of the Spirit, with signs and wonders.’*** ***Romans 15:18-19.*** This is the reason God gave the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, that we should be witnesses.

In the parable the unjust steward was commended by his master for his shrewdness in making provision for his future. It is incredible that Christians today, who are deeply concerned for their pensions on earth, seem to have no concern for their treasure in Heaven. Those who are using the divine deposit of the Gospel with which they have been entrusted by daily witnessing will have secured a reward in heaven as God’s response to their harvest of souls on earth. The servants who don’t do what their master tells them will, in the words of Jesus, ***‘merit a severe beating!’***

28. JONAH

A man was at a Cornish Chapter dinner of the Full Gospel Business Men. Before the meeting he asked the Lord, as usual, for words of knowledge about who God wanted to heal that evening.

As he did so he had a strange thought that there would be someone there who was a Jonah. As Jonah was told to go to Nineveh but ran away instead, so there would be someone who had been told to go to Africa but they had not gone.

This thought followed the divine formula of being short, foolish and he did not want to do it. Against this was the excitement of discovering if this really was God speaking. If he was wrong there was no harm done. Indeed, it would be helpful in demolishing any latent spiritual pride.

So after the dinner he asked who was the Jonah that God had sent to Africa. Immediately an Irish nurse ran forward in tears. She said that the Lord had told her to go to Africa three years earlier but she had not gone.

No purpose of God can be thwarted! Job 42:2.

29. LEAH'S LAMENT

Leah longed for Jacob's love. But Leah was ugly and Jacob loved Rachel. So God, who saw that Leah was hated, Genesis 29:31, and because His nature is to bless those who are rejected and downtrodden, opened Leah's womb. After each of her first three sons she thought, 'Now Jacob will love me.' But the more she pursued Jacob, the more she put him off. Hope deferred makes the heart sick – but this sickness was the crisis that led Leah to a great discovery.

Eventually she realised that the reason we are alive is to worship God. Intimacy with God has to come first. So she called her fourth son Judah – praise to her God. Then God, as she began to delight in and be satisfied by Him alone, gave her the desire of her heart - a place in Jacob's heart. Rachel was given her own tomb but Jacob honoured Leah by burying her in the tomb of Abraham and Sarah where he was later to join her. At the end of their lives they were united. Genesis 49:31.

As I reflected on this poignant story I realised it was also the story of St John of the Cross, John Wesley and so many others who have been filled with the Holy Spirit. Rejection by the religious establishment has worked together for good. They have been driven, through persecution, deeper into God. As a result, as with Leah, they have been very fruitful. The Leah spirit, which seems so ugly to religious people, is always rejected. By contrast, the Rachel spirit, which seems so beautiful, full of good works and respectability, is barren until it repents.

The call to give priority to Jesus alone, whence comes all ministry, was confirmed when I realised that Elisha, a type of the Church, had to keep his eyes on Elijah, the type of Jesus, to get a double blessing. Elisha saw Elijah go up in a whirlwind and was not be distracted by the Chariot of Fire, a type of signs and wonders ministry. So Elisha got his double portion and we will do 'greater things' if we keep our focus on Jesus rather than ministry.

I am indebted to Pastor Francis Frangipane for this precious insight into the life of Jacob's wife Leah. Our relationship with God comes before everything.

30. THE TRAIN TICKET

A lady was being driven to the station to catch the train to London. She was a bit concerned that her ticket was for a later train and therefore it would cost her a lot to purchase a new ticket.

She was wondering what she should do. Hope the inspector would not notice – maybe the Lord would blind his eyes as he did with the Aramean Army at Dothan for Elisha. (2 Kings 6:18) Or maybe she could tell a sob story of the dire distress of her daughter-in-law that necessitated an earlier train.

Her chauffeur suggested an alternative. Confess to the Inspector that she had the wrong ticket and throw herself on his and the Lord's mercy. By putting everything into the light and trusting in God she would surely provoke God into His covenant blessing and protection.

When the time came the lady followed this advice. The Inspector listened, looked, clipped the ticket and moved on without a word.

What a lovely example of being truthful and putting our trust in God for His mercy.

31. LIGHT IS SOWN

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart'
Psalm 97:11

From 'The Cheque Book of the Bank of Faith'
by C. H. Spurgeon. ISBN 0 551 05027 6

Righteousness is often costly to the man who keeps to it at all hazards, but in the end it will bear its own expenses and return an infinite profit. A holy life is like sowing seed: much is going out and apparently it is buried in the soil, never to be gathered up again. We are mistaken when we look for an immediate harvest; but the error is very natural for it seems impossible to bury light. Yet light is 'sown' says the text. It lies latent: none can see it, it is sown. We are quite sure that it must one day show itself.

We know for sure that the Lord has set a harvest for the sowers of light, and they shall reap it, each man for himself. Then shall come their gladness. Sheaves of joy for seeds of light. Their heart was upright before the Lord, though men gave them no credit for it, but even censured them. They were righteous, though those about them denounced them as censorious. They had to wait, as farmers wait for the precious fruits of the earth. But the light was sown for them, and gladness was being prepared on their behalf by the Lord of the Harvest.

Courage, brothers! We need not be in a hurry. Let us in patience possess our souls. For soon shall our souls possess light and gladness.

32. THE UNHAPPY HIGHWAYMAN

The testimony of George Whitfield, the Methodist Evangelist, 1710-70.

George Whitfield had been invited by the Earl of Leven to conduct a series of evangelistic meetings in the Highlands.

Returning with a companion on their way south to their next appointment in North Wales, they passed a widow and her children being evicted from their cottage for non-payment of the rent. Whitfield was moved with compassion for the poor woman and paid the rent for her.

As they continued on their journey his companion remonstrated with Whitfield for his generosity as they had little enough for their journey. ‘The Lord will provide’ was all that Whitfield would say.

At that moment they heard galloping horse’s feet behind them. A highwayman came up, levelled his pistol, and demanded their money which they handed over. As an afterthought he also demanded Whitfield’s jacket in exchange for his own dirty and somewhat smelly coat. Then he galloped off.

As they continued, Whitfield remarked to his friend, somewhat dryly, that his money was better placed in the Widow’s hand than the highwayman’s pocket! At that moment they heard galloping hoof beats returning. ‘He is not going to have my horse as well’ said Whitfield as he and his companion set spurs to their steeds to reach the safety of Kingussie a mile ahead.

They got there just in time and took refuge in an Inn. There Whitfield took off the disgusting highwayman’s coat. As he did so he heard a ‘clunk’ as it dropped to the floor. Inside, sown into the lining, they found forty gold sovereigns, the ill-gotten gains of the highwayman that he had providentially forgotten about!

As the Lord, who changes not, has said, ‘Give and it will be given unto you, pressed down, good measure, running over!’

33. CHANGED INTO ANOTHER MAN

A Roman Catholic Priest was the latest member of the Norwich Chapter of the Full Gospel Business Men. Some of our Pentecostal members were a bit alarmed so I asked Father Tim to give a short testimony at the next dinner.

‘Well’, he said, ‘I come from a very devout family. From the age of twelve I don’t remember a day when I have not received the sacraments. At the age of twenty-two I became a Priest and at forty-two the only spiritual content of my life was a bottle of whisky which I drank every day to the grave embarrassment of my flock and my Bishop.

So I was sent away on a seven day Retreat in York lead by Father Ian Pettit OSB. It was ghastly. They sang silly songs and waved their hands in the air. On the Friday morning, before I went home on the Saturday, one of the Priests leading the retreat said he would like to pray for me. ‘That wouldn’t do any good’ I said.

‘If it won’t do any good, it won’t do any harm either,’ he replied.

So he prayed for me, asking Jesus to deliver me from the spirit of alcohol addiction and to baptise me with the Holy Spirit. When he had finished I said with withering sarcasm, ‘You see, it didn’t work, did it!’

‘It will, it will’, he replied.

That night I went to bed a lonely, miserable, alcoholic Priest. At two in the morning I woke up. I found myself sitting up in bed. My hands started going up involuntarily above my head. Then I heard myself singing in a language I had never learnt. I was sovereignly baptised with the Holy Spirit, delivered from alcohol addiction and went back to my flock, like King Saul, changed into another man.”

At this point our Pentecostal members rushed forward, embraced Father Tim, and said, ‘Brother, you are one of us’.

Joy in heaven!

34. RIVKA

From Canon Andrew White, Rector of St George's in Baghdad

One day I was sitting in Regan Airport , Washington, waiting to take a flight to Charlotte, North Carolina. I felt as if the Lord was telling me to tell the woman sitting next to me to call the baby 'Rivka' (Hebrew for Rebecca).

I looked at her. She was too old to have a baby, so I did nothing. Then the thought came back, 'Tell her to call the baby Rivka.' This time I said to myself, 'I'm British and we don't do that kind of thing' – even though I do all the time. Then the persistent thought came back and I remembered Samuel being called by God three times before he realised it was God calling.

So I said to her, 'Madam, have you thought of calling the child Rivka?'

'How do you know?' she said.

'How do I know what' I replied.

Then she told me that she was going to see her daughter who was in labour. She had been asked to give the child a name but she did not know what to call her.

'You know the baby is a girl, call her Rivka!'

The woman phoned her daughter and said, 'I am sitting next to a Pastor in the Airport and he just gave me the name of the baby.' The daughter asked to speak to me on the phone. As I asked how she was doing she shouted down the telephone, 'That's Father Andrew!'

I asked how she knew who I was. She said she was in the army and in my congregation in Baghdad!

It reminded me that God is always talking to us, we just need to listen.

35. HAVE A GO!

A man was walking down a country lane near his home just before Easter. Two ladies came towards him, a mother and daughter who was limping with a stick.

He stopped to talk, asking them their names and what had happened to the leg. Apparently Diana's daughter Hannah had had two unsuccessful operations on her knee which was swollen and painful.

The man asked Hannah if she would like him to pray and ask Jesus to heal her knee. Hannah looked at her mother and then turned back to the man. 'OK, have a go!' she said.

The man knelt down, put his hands on her knee, and asked the Holy Spirit to heal the knee. Then he asked Hannah to try her knee. She flexed it back and forwards and said in some amazement, 'The pain has gone.'

This demonstration of the love and the power of Jesus in the world today so amazed the mother and daughter that they bowed their heads and received Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

We pass people every day, placed in our path by our Father in Heaven, so that we can talk and God willing lead them to Christ. See no 15, the testimony of Rev Dr RT Kendal. We are all called to 'Have a Go!'

36. THE LADY AT THE POST OFFICE

Just before Christmas a man was in the queue at his Post Office. He chatted to the lady behind him in the queue (as one does!) and mentioned the Christmas Card he had produced. It showed an extraordinary photograph taken from an aeroplane of Jesus in thunderclouds rebuking the storm.

So he was rather surprised when she burst into tears. ‘My father is dying of cancer in hospital’ she said. So the man fetched the Christmas card from his car for her dad.

‘Are you a church-goer?’ he asked.

‘No’, she said, ‘I used to go, but then my mother died, so I gave up.’

‘Would you like a visit from the Vicar?’ he asked.

‘Oh, yes please,’ she said, and gave him her name and telephone number.

After Christmas the man returned to the Post Office. Who should be in front of him in the queue but the same lady. She was quite blown away by the coincidence and exclaimed, ‘It’s meant, it’s meant!’

‘Would you like me to visit your Dad in hospital?’ he asked. ‘Would you really? That would be wonderful.’ she said.

Two days later her Father surrendered his life to the love and mercy of God and was born again! It then transpired that his nurse was a Baptist who promised to encourage him in his new faith.

37. THE IMPOSSIBLE OFFICE

From the Desert Road South of Jerusalem

At one of the early meetings of the Order of Christian Unity, it was decided that we needed an office in Central London. It would contain a telephone, a table, a chair and a lavatory and washbasin attached. For this we could only afford £5 per week. Suddenly the Chairman, Lady Lothian, turned to me and said "Johnny, you are a businessman and know about these things. Could you arrange this for us?"

I telephoned my friends in the Estate Agents, but it was an impossible request. Finally, Patrick Scott at John D. Wood said "Johnny, you need a miracle." I suddenly realised that as this was God's work it was just possible he was going to provide an office. But how? I had just read *The Cross and The Switchblade* in which the author, David Wilkerson, asked God to lead him across New York to find a family he needed to meet. When he parked his car after a twenty minute drive he found he was outside their house! Well, I thought, if God can do it in New York, perhaps he can do it in London.

The next morning after taking a friend to Waterloo Station I reminded God that I hoped that He knew where we were going and started driving. I soon came to Westminster Bridge where the roundabout has six exits. "Lord", I said, "if you don't tell me which road to take I will go on round and round until I run out of petrol." I could imagine explaining myself to a policeman, "Well, you see officer, I was waiting for God to tell me which road to take." It was all quite absurd but as these misgivings assailed me the thought came that I should take the back road to Chelsea through Pimlico.

Five minutes later, driving down Warwick Way, I was forced to a halt by a traffic jam. As I waited, again a thought came to me. "Look to your left." I looked at the terrace house on my left which was like any other house except that it had a print of the Crucifixion in a frame set against the downstairs window. "There you are!" Immediately I became rebellious. "Lord, you can't possibly expect me to knock on the door of that house and say 'God sent me'. I'll get locked up!" "But isn't that what you asked for?" Horrified, I could see the headlines in the Eastern Daily Press. "Bank Chairman goes mad, thinks God speaks to him, hears voices!" I knew what effect that would have on our depositors - there would be a run on the Bank!

But at this point I knew that the traffic jam was not going to move until I was obedient. With some apprehension I parked the car in a providential parking space, got out and rang the door bell. An elderly, grey haired man answered the door. "Can I help you?" Quickly I tried to establish my bona fides. "Good morning, my name is John Wright, I am a merchant banker from Norwich." I paused as I came to the point of making a fool of myself. "Yes", he said encouragingly. "Well, it may seem a bit strange, but I think God has sent me to ask whether you have an office in central London with a table, a chair, a telephone, a lavatory and a washbasin, at £5 a week for His work." For what seemed ages he looked at me without saying anything, and just as I was about to apologise for having troubled him and rush away, he spoke. "Yes", he said, as he reached up for a key that was hanging beside the door, "It so happens we have exactly what you want!"

My mouth fell open in astonishment and I felt my knees go wobbly. "You what?" I said, "but that's ridiculous, you can't have!" "Young man" he replied, "if you knew enough to come and ask what you have asked you should not be surprised. Praise God!" So I came to meet a remarkable man of God, Richard Clitheroe, who worked for Miss Urch, the founder of a charity called Ladyholme. We set off in the car and after a short journey came to a block of council flats with, on the ground floor, an office belonging to Ladyholme which was surplus to their requirements. We walked up a flight of three steps and through a door. Opposite was another door which concealed a lavatory and washbasin, and on the right was a small room which was empty except for a table, a chair and a telephone!

38. EVERYTHING AGAINST ME

Genesis 42:36

The testimony of Os Hillman

Jacob had come to the end of his rope. He had lost Joseph. Simeon was in jail in Egypt. Now, in order to free Simeon, he was being asked to send his youngest son Benjamin down to Egypt. It was more than Jacob could handle.

Jacob was unable to recognise the years of preparation for what would prove to be the deliverance of his nation. The darkest hour is just before dawn. God's big picture is often too hard for us to understand. It was the same for the disciples when Jesus tried to tell them of His coming crucifixion and resurrection.

Eventually, Benjamin and his brothers discovered that Joseph was the Governor of Egypt under Pharaoh. Jacob was re-united with his son whom he had not seen for thirteen years and whom he had thought to be dead.

So often we believe our dreams are dead. There seems to be nothing left in the world for us to live for. Everything appears to be against us. During these hard times God is doing His deepest work in our lives – a work that cannot be seen or understood at the time.

When clients began to leave my advertising agency and it dried up for no apparent reason it seemed as if 'everything was against me'. I could not see that God was arranging a whole new calling on my life. At the time it seemed I had been a failure.

But God said, 'NO'. All the years before had been a preparation for God's ultimate calling. One of God's means for directing His children's steps is through drying up resources: a job loss, a career change, a disaster.

At these times we seek God more intently and desire to hear from Him to alleviate our desperation. C.S.Lewis wrote, 'God whispers to our pleasures, speaks to our consciences but shouts in our pains.'

39. A LETTER FROM PRISON

From HM Prison, Morton Hall. Easter 1992
The testimony of a prisoner

A library of Christian books arrived after lunch on April 1st brought by two brave ladies. He asked the Lord to chose him a book that would encourage him, and went away with ‘Until the day breaks’ by Patricia St John. This is the story of Liliias Trotter, a young girl sent by God in 1900 to bring the Gospel to Muslim women in Morocco.

Back in his room he opened the book at random at page 95 and began to read an entry in Liliias’ journal.

“Jesus does not explain. If you are to enjoy a close walk with God you will have to leave many things unexplained... He strengthens faith, reveals His character through power and miracles, and then says, ‘Go and tell John about it.’ I know of no hour more trying than when Jesus multiplies His power in signs elsewhere, but does not use it on our behalf; when He sends you His message, ‘I can do it, but trust me when I don’t.’ This is the point where hearts break, when the messengers come back and say, ‘Yes, He is all you thought, but He said no word about taking you out of prison.’ These are the hours that, in eternity, we will study with delight and amazement; no explanation, faith in spite of prison, doors left closed, and then the message, ‘Blessed is he who is not offended in me.’ *Matthew 11:1-6.*”

The prisoner’s name was John!

40. DRENCHED WITH JOY!

At the Living Water Bible Camp at Norwich a young man came up to me.

“John, you may be interested in one outcome of your talk on ‘Speaking to Strangers’ last year. I was sitting on a bench in a park in Norwich when a man came and sat down on the next bench to me. I felt the Lord telling me to tell him that God loved him but I was glued to my seat with fear. Eventually the man got up and began to leave. Then the Lord said, ‘I am not going to condemn you for this but you have missed an opportunity.’

I was so ashamed I leapt to my feet and ran after the man. Very embarrassed I stammered out that I was a Christian and thought God had told me to tell him that God loved him. He thanked me courteously and that was that. A non-event, you might say.

But as I went back to my bench I was *drenched* with the joy!”

41. THE LONG LOST COUSIN

I was in York for the annual meeting of the College of Evangelists. Walking to the Minster after lunch a tall elderly man with a shepherd's crook appeared ahead of me. The Holy Spirit prompted me to talk to him.

'Are you a Bishop?' I asked. 'Noo' he replied, in a deep Scottish brogue, but I was a shepherd. Apparently he had been a farmer near Cockermouth, Cumbria.

Hoping to win his acceptance as a fellow Scot, I said
'My mother was a McGuffie from Ayr'.

'My name is McGuffie!' he replied. It turned out that he was my cousin!

'Do you go to Church?' I asked.

He said that he and his wife went to their local Anglican Church.

'Have you been born again?' I enquired.

'Noo', his wife replied, 'we would not be doing anything like that!'

Six weeks later I bought a car, providentially at Carlisle, and went up from Norfolk to collect it. On the way home I called in at the McGuffie farm. There I met Ross and Isobel McGuffie and her sister Ruth who had been with them in York. After a magnificent tea they all bowed their heads and received Jesus as their Saviour.

Amazing Grace!

42. DRIP! DRIP! DRIP!

At Living Water Conference 2004, just before a workshop on 'Prophetic Evangelism', heavy rain fell on the roof above the 'Market Place'. There was a leak just next to our Stand so a bucket was found into which the water fell drip by drip. I sensed God was wanting to say something. When I asked this came to me; ***'I have poured out the Gospel on the Church in all its abundance but only a few drips get through to a world that so desperately needs it.'*** Then I had a picture of a cullender, with water pouring through. Each hole a Christian who has repented and become a witness like Jesus who said to Pilate, ***'For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to bear witness to the truth.'*** John 18:37

This was supported by another word that came to me when I was looking at pictures in the Sunday paper of famine in the Sudan. I was crying out to God, feeling helpless. What could one do, apart from sending some money to Oxfam? Then this word came to me, ***'It is all very well for you being upset at ten per cent of the world's population dying from lack of food and water; but what do you think it is like for me, Almighty God, when ninety per cent of the world's population is perishing for want of the Bread of Life and the Living Water which I have given to my Church but which they seldom give away.'***

The third picture came when I was praying one morning. I saw a Cavalry Fort in the wild west days. There was a parade taking place. The General was taking the salute, the band played, the ladies were wearing fine hats and splendid dresses. They were all having a great time. Then this thought came to me, ***'This is a picture of the Church, but they seldom go to war!'***

Later I started reading the obituaries in my daily paper. Marvellous lives were portrayed of soldiers, statesmen, scientists etc who had made a difference. Then the thought came, ***'What do you think their obituary is in heaven?'*** 'I don't know, Lord,' I replied. ***'Perished, perished, perished!'*** came the answer. Only then did I realise that in none of them had there been any mention of faith in God.

43. ANGELIC REAPERS

from 'The Fire Sonnets', by Roger Wagner

The Besalel Press, 62 Rose Lane, Oxford. OX4 4HS

The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are angels.

Matthew 13:39

'I saw the Cherubim one summer's night
Reaping it seemed a field of endless wheat.
I heard their voices through the fading light
Wild, strange, and yet intolerably sweet.
The hour such beauty first was born on earth
The dawn of judgement had that hour begun
For some would not endure love's second birth
Preferring their own darkness to the sun.
And still love's sun must rise upon our night
For nothing can be hidden from its heat;
And in that summer evening's fading light
I saw his angels gather in the wheat:
Like beaten gold their beauty smote the air
And tongues of fire were streaming in their hair.'

44. THE FINAL HARVEST

I had been concerned that the window of opportunity to bring in the final harvest of souls was shrinking. The season of the Lord's return being so evident and yet the Church mostly asleep to the urgency of evangelism. It would take years to get the Gospel out to the world given the prevailing lethargy.

Then in late May I passed a field of barley. There had been some much needed rain and the barley had sprung up seemingly overnight. I reflected that the Barley harvest was so quick, only three months from sowing to reaping. Then I believe the Lord spoke to me, 'That is how the last harvest will be!' He will send rain and sun!

Suddenly it all fell into place. I recalled the stories of the 1921 Lowestoft Revival. A man woke at 2 am under such conviction of sin (the sun) that he ran in his nightshirt to the local Church. He found it full of people praying!(the rain) This is the answer. The power of God putting a great burden of prayer on the Church and a great conviction of sin and eternal damnation on unbelievers.

Confirmation came a few days later at a training morning for the College of Evangelists in York. We were shown a cartoon of Snoopy (the seeker) coming to a water bowl (the Church) which was empty. Snoopy sighs and says, 'Such a pity, I was so thirsty.'(Conviction of sin).

So Snoopy takes the bowl to a tap but there is no one to turn on the water. (No evangelists allowed in MY Church!). Utter sadness. What will poor, thirsty Snoopy do now? Then the heavens open with a cloudburst. Snoopy holds up the bowl to God. It is filled with fresh (un-doctrinally polluted) water and his thirst is satisfied.

The last harvest promises to be a sovereign act of God like rain and sun. He will get all the glory!

'Then Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people: for the thing was done suddenly!' 2 Chronicles 29:36 (Like the fall of the Iron Curtain).

45. THE GOD WHO KNOWS THE END

*Prophecy given by Dr Sharon Stone (USA) at Motherwell, Scotland
Sunday 13 July 2008.*

‘September is a turning point and a sign of the times. It is all about those who have made Godly alignments in this season being blessed with revelation and information in the midst of world crisis.’

‘I see more banks will suffer. A USA world bank’s shares are in trouble. I see government in the USA bailing out mortgage giants and the government in England cutting house purchase taxes for the sagging housing crisis, to no avail. I see a European airline failing with no notice. I see the eyes of the world looking to see, “who is coming out of Alaska?” I see smoke coming out of the Channel Tunnel.’

Dr Stone commented, almost apologetically, after giving this prophecy, that much of what she had said sounded strange, but it was what the Lord had given her.

Within two months of this prophecy:

- Lehman Brothers went into Chapter 11(Bankrupt)
- The US government bailed out AIG Insurance
- UK reduced stamp duty on house purchase
- The XL Leisure Airline went bust without warning
- The Channel Tunnel caught fire and closed
- Governor Palin emerged from Alaska

46. THE DAYS OF NOAH

'As it was in the Days of Noah.' Luke 17: 26.

Lamech, Noah's father, prophesied, 'Out of the ground which the Lord has cursed this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the toil of our hands. Genesis 5: 29. Noah was a type of Jesus in two respects. First-born and deliverer. As Noah brought deliverance, so has Jesus.

Noah built the Ark in what seemed like foolishness because up to that point it had not rained on earth. Thus Noah became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. Hebrews 11: 7.

Eight persons were saved through water which corresponds to baptism.

1 Peter 3: 20-21. Eight is also the Hebrew number for resurrection. Those who believe, are baptised and persevere will be saved today.

As the Flood was an unimaginable event to the people of Noah's day so the return of Jesus is unbelievable today to people whose eyes have been blinded because they have not repented. 2 Cor. 3: 16.

The flood came seven days after they entered the Ark. Joshua also had to wait for the Jordan to empty. It took 2 hours from the city of Adam, 20 miles upstream. When we have done all there comes a point where we just have to wait and sweat it out.

The world – all flesh – had become corrupt – reached its tipping point as with Sodom and Gomorrah. Every man did continually only the evil which was in his heart. Genesis 6: 5. All flesh had corrupted their way on Earth, so God said to Noah, 'I have determined to make an end of all flesh.' Genesis 6:12-13.

So God will initiate a moral cleansing (NOT ethnic cleansing) as at Sodom and Gomorrah and with the destruction of the Canaanite tribes.

The earth's crust came under pressure – fountains of the great deep – earthquakes and volcanoes lifting dust up into the stratosphere turning the moon blood red.

Signs in the heavens – solar flares – incoming geodes – communications chaos. Men scorched by the sun. Sun and moon give no light. Heavens and Earth languish. Isaiah 13:9-10 & 24:4-6

47. SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS

As reported in the Daily Mail by their Science Editor Michael Hanlon, commenting on a report in the New Scientist, 20 April 2009.

On 1st. September 1859 Richard Carrington, one of Britain's top astronomers, was observing the sun through his telescope using a filter. A bright flash of light detached itself from the sun. Unbeknown to Carrington it was a cloud of charged plasma on its way to Earth. Just 48 hours later it struck and the effects were extraordinary.

Brilliant Aurorae lit the night skies. Telegraph operators received severe electric shocks as solar induced currents surged through the networks. It was as though the earth had been immersed in a bath of electricity.

Such damage was easily repairable when the world ran mostly on steam and muscle. This is not the case today when we depend on a gargantuan super-network of power and communications. Electric power is modern society's 'cornerstone technology' on which virtually all infrastructure and services depend.

Daniel Baker, a space weather expert, prepared a report for the US National Academy of Sciences in March 2009. It makes grim reading. 'Every year, our human technology becomes more vulnerable', he says. A repeat of the 1859 event would cause massive power surges that would melt transformers. With no electricity, the water and sewage plants that run on electricity would fail. The taps would run dry. No telephones; no manufacturing, no fuel and the food supply badly disrupted apart from locally grown produce.

The Sun's activity waxes and wains every eleven years. Currently, the Sun is very quiet but a peak of activity is predicted for 2012. This would be at the spring or autumn equinox when the orientation of the earth's magnetic field to the sun makes us very vulnerable.

Ironically, the least vulnerable parts of the world will be the poorest areas where they live without dependence on electricity.

It also would explain how darkness will cover the earth when the Lord returns – no electricity! Exodus 10:21 & Isaiah 8:22 & Rev 16:10

48. THE PROPHETIC PASSOVER

At Passover 2009 Jews recited a special blessing over the sun. This blessing marks an event that happens only once every twenty eight years. The sun shows up in the exact same spot in the sky as when it appeared on the fourth day of creation, according to the book of Genesis.

The Talmud says, ‘Our wise men taught us that whoever sees the sun at its turning point shall recite the blessing of the King of creation. The prayer says, ‘Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who carries out the works of creation.’

This is only the third time in history that this alignment of the sun has fallen on Passover. The first time was during the Exodus when God took Israel out of Egypt at the Feast of Passover; the second was at another deliverance for the Jews at the Feast of Purim when the Jews were saved from destruction at the hands of Haman recorded in the Book of Esther.

Rabbis say that this third occurrence clearly points to the imminent deliverance for Israel coming from the Messiah.

49. THE DAY OF THE LORD

From The Damascus Road, received on 28.6.2005.

1. Background

I have been impressed for some time by the Encyclopaedia of Biblical Prophecy demonstrating that there are 610 prophecies that must precede the second coming and of these 600 have already happened. This suggests to me that we are in the season of the Lord's return which Jesus told us we would recognise as being like the days of Noah. This is evidenced by lawlessness, 'all men doing continually only the evil which is in their hearts'. By signs in the heavens. By the earth's crust under pressure producing earthquakes, tsunamis etc. By a tiny minority of God fearing people being mocked for believing the unbelievable. By a world which, like Sodom and Gomorrah, has become a stench in God's nostrils and is ripe for judgement.

2. Yehuda the Hassid

Yehuda was a German 12th century AD Jewish prophet. He wrote towards the end of that century that the days were coming when Jerusalem would be overrun by Islam. On the eighth Jubilee (a period of 50 years) from this date Jerusalem would be liberated but not to Jewish control; on the ninth Jubilee Jerusalem would be returned to Jewish control; then Messiah would come. This could mean before the tenth jubilee. In 1517 the Ottoman Turks overran Jerusalem; in 1917, eight Jubilees later, General Allenby liberated Jerusalem but not to Jewish control; in 1967, the ninth Jubilee, Israel took control of Jerusalem in the Six-day War. The tenth jubilee is 2017.

3. How can the Church prepare for the panic following world chaos?

In Buenos Aires in 2001 there was panic. The Banks were closed. People could not get money to buy food. The Churches put out 900 prayer stations in the streets. Just two people with a poster saying, 'If you are anxious we will pray for you.' In four days they prayed for 70,000 people and 22,000 made a commitment of some sort to follow Jesus.

4. **A Word from the Lord?**

I have been saying that the Lord could come by 2017, not as a prophecy, but as an expectation from season-watching. On 28 June 2005 I asked the Lord, on the Urim and Thummim principle, if it was true He would return by 2017. He said 'Yes!'. Then I asked for confirmation from a second witness in the Word. I was given page 1207 which in my daily Bible is Daniel 2:12-37 – the dream of the Rock (Jesus) crushing all kingdoms and becoming a mountain. I asked for a third witness and opened my bible at random. It was Zechariah 14 speaking of the Lord's return. I believe the Lord has also shown me that this **Third Day** Century will start with seven fat years followed by seven thin years eating up the wealth of the fat years as in Genesis 41.

This put the start of the shaking in 2008

5. **Confirmation**

Four weeks later, at the Norwich Crusade on 23rd July 2005, the evangelist, Benny Hinn opened with a serious word. He said the Lord had told him on July 4th to go home and be alone with God for two days. At the end God told him to warn people of imminent global tribulation.

God told Daniel in Daniel 12:4 to shut up the words **until** the time of the end. God does nothing without telling His servants the prophets. Jesus did not know, as a man, the date of His return because it was not then God's time to reveal it.

50. A PROPHETIC WORD

My dear children, I love you all very greatly.

Do not fear the increasing turbulence of the world around you, for you are not part of this kingdom. I have caused this turbulence so that many children of this kingdom should look to me. I gave them life and created the world in which they live. I am the only means by which they, like you, may be saved from eternal destruction.

You are in my kingdom of Light. You have eternal life in Me and your future is entirely in My hand. You have nothing to fear from the turbulence since you are no longer in the kingdom of this world. You do, however, find yourselves in intimate contact with the children of this kingdom. Every day, if you look carefully, you will see the children of this world floating past you. In many cases they are looking to me for some relief from their suffering, for re-assurance about their future and for an opportunity to start a new life with me.

I have empowered each one of you with the Holy Spirit who lives within you. He is the agent who performs my will. You are the vessels through whom I have chosen to speak. You are now My light in the world and your words are my words to this world. Do not allow any opportunities to pass. I have purposely created great turbulence in this world, which will only increase, expressly for the purpose of opening the spiritual eyes of the children of this kingdom who come into contact with those who know me.

My Spirit lives within each one of you. He is empowered to speak my words and to reveal My Kingdom in this present world. I am the Lord and I change not.

A PROPHETIC CREED

By J.C. Ryle, Bishop of Liverpool. 1815-1900

I believe that the world will never be completely converted to Christianity by any existing agency before the end comes. In spite of all that can be done by ministers, churches, schools and missions, the wheat and the tares will grow together unto harvest. And when the end comes, it will find the earth in much the same state as it was when the flood came in the days of Noah. (Matthew 13:24-30, 24:37-39)

I believe that the widespread unbelief, indifference, formalism and wickedness, which are to be seen throughout Christendom, are only what we ought to expect from God's Word. Troublous times, departures from faith, evil men waxing worse and worse, love waxing cold, are distinctly things predicted. So far from making me doubt the truth of Christianity, they help confirm my faith. Melancholy and sorrowful though the sight is, if I did not see it I should think the Bible was not true. (Matthew 24:12, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:1, 13-14.)

I believe that the grand purpose of this dispensation is to gather out of the world an elect people, and not to convert all mankind. It does not surprise me at all to hear that the heathen are not converted when the missionaries preach and that believers are a little flock in any congregation in my own land. It is precisely the state of things that I expect to find. This is a dispensation of election, and not of universal conversion. (Acts 15:14, Matthew 24:13).

I believe that the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is the great event which will wind up the present dispensation, and for we ought daily to pray. 'Thy Kingdom come, come Lord Jesus' should be our daily prayer. We look backward, if we have faith in Christ dying on the Cross and His resurrection from the dead; we ought to look forward no less, if we have hope, to Christ's coming again. (John 14: 3; 2 Timothy 4:8, 2 Peter 3:12.)

I believe that the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ will be a real, literal, personal, bodily coming; and that as He went away in the clouds of heaven with his body, before the eyes of men, so in like manner He will return. (Acts 1:11)

I believe that after our Lord Jesus Christ comes again the earth shall be renewed and the curse removed; the devil shall be bound, the wicked shall be punished; and that before He comes there will be neither resurrection, judgement, nor Millenium, and that not until after He comes shall the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. (Acts 3:21, Isaiah 25:6-9, 1 Thessalonians 14-18; Revelation 20.)

I believe that the Jews shall ultimately be gathered again as a separate nation, restored to their own land and turned to the faith of Christ their Messiah. (Jeremiah 30:10-11, 31:10, Zechariah 12:10, Romans 11:25-26)

I believe that the literal sense of Old Testament prophecies has been too much neglected by the churches, and is far too much neglected at the present day, and that under the mistaken system of spiritualising and accomodating Bible language, Christians have too often missed it's meaning.

I believe that it is for the safety, happiness and comfort of all true Christians to expect as little as possible from Churches or Governments under the present dispensation, to hold themselves ready for tremendous convulsion and changes of all things established, and to expect their good things only after Christ's second advent.

I am well aware that the views I have laid down appear to many persons gloomy and discouraging. The only answer I make to that charge is this: *'Are they Scriptural?'*

JOY ON EARTH, TREASURE IN HEAVEN

*An article commissioned by SWORD Magazine
www.swordpdp.com*

All called to be witnesses

Most Christians accept in theory if not in practice that we are meant to be witnesses. We like to do this by reflecting the fruit of the Spirit to those around us. We are not so good at speaking and this may well be the best thing for family and friends. Did not St Francis say, ‘Speak if you have to.’ But with strangers we meet it is a different matter. We see people daily who are drowning in their sins and we pass them by. I have done it often enough myself. It is inconvenient; I am in a hurry; it might be dangerous; I might die of embarrassment!

Of course we are not all evangelists but we are witnesses and witnesses talk. What do they say? They give their testimony like St Paul. How they came to discover God was real after all. I asked the Lord for the difference between an evangelist and a witness. He showed me a football field. The goalkeeper kicked the ball to a back who kicked it to a midfielder who passed it to the striker who kicked it into the net. Ten witnesses, one evangelist. We are all engaged in the process of salvation. The purpose of this article and the stories in **The Jericho Road** and **The Desert Road South of Jerusalem** is to introduce you to the excitement of daily witnessing to strangers which brings joy on earth and treasure in heaven.

Drenched with joy

A young man came up to me at the Living Water Bible Camp in Norfolk. He told me what had happened after my talk the previous year on ‘Speaking to Strangers.’ ‘I was sitting on a park bench in Norwich,’ he said, ‘when a man came and sat down nearby. I felt the Lord prompt me to tell him that God loved him but I was glued to my seat with fear. Then the man got up to leave. The Lord said to me, “*I am not going to condemn you for this but you have missed an opportunity.*” I was so ashamed of myself. I rushed forward to deliver my message. The man said, “Thank you very much” and walked on. No great deal. But on my way back to my seat I was **drenched** with joy!’

For this reason I was born

There is no doubt from the scriptures that we are to be witnesses ‘proclaiming his salvation from day to day’. This was the original and continuing purpose of Pentecost. ‘For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to bear witness to the truth’ said Jesus to Pilate. If we claim to be the body of Christ, if we boast we are filled with the Holy Spirit, then we are expected to ‘walk as he walked’ 1 John 2:6, and to ‘do the things that he did’. This is the mission that goes with membership of the royal priesthood, the holy nation. It is ‘that you may declare the praise of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.’ The fire of Pentecost is given to those who obey him. It soon goes out if we don’t use it. We have to stay in the firing line.

Food you know nothing about

Jesus gives us a marvellous model of what it means to walk as he walked. He had had a hot, tiring, morning’s walk. The disciples had gone off to get food from the village. I can imagine Jesus resting under a fig tree having a time of sweet communion with his Father in heaven.

Then a Samaritan woman comes to draw water from the well. The Holy Spirit whispers to Jesus, ‘Go and talk to her.’ Jesus had every reason not to do so. It was not done for men to talk to strange women; it was certainly forbidden for a Jew to talk to a Samaritan; Jesus had come for the lost sheep of Israel; he was tired; he needed to pray. But his heart ruled his head. This immediate, unquestioning obedience led to a gift of knowledge about the woman’s marital history.

The outcome was that a Church was planted in Samaria. All hung on that simple act of obedience. Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘I have food to eat you know nothing about. My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.’ The consequences of simple acts of obedience are incalculable. On one occasion when I was told to speak to a young man it led to his friend being saved from suicide. (See story no 11 in the author’s book, ‘**The Desert Road South of Jerusalem.**’)

Make a splash for Jesus

Admiral Lord Nelson said, 'A Captain will suffer no criticism if he lays his vessel alongside the enemy and opens fire!' The wretched people we pass each day are caught like a fly in Satan's web of deception. Surely we can have a go and see what the Holy Spirit will do who 'confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.'

Norfolk people are rescued every year from drowning in the Broads. Those who dive in to rescue them, who sometimes cannot swim themselves, often say, 'If I had thought about it I never would have risked it.' But their heart ruled their heads. We too need to learn to jump out of the boat. It is the only way to walk on the water. Children love doing it and making a splash. Jesus told us to become like them, making a splash! Then what a testimony we will have to encourage our Church next Sunday!

Rules of engagement

A fisherman always carries worms as without them he can't catch a fish. So we need to carry worms with us. The Full Gospel Business Men produce a unique testimony magazine called 'Voice'. It is a brilliant resource for any Church interested in evangelism. Even better emulate Isleham Baptist Church near Ely. They have written out their own testimonies on their computers with a nice digital photo on an A4 sheet folded in four. They call them, 'My Story.' They carry these in their shopping bags and brief cases and say to people they meet in Sainsbury's queue, 'You might like to read my story.' It is no surprise that the Church is growing.

It is important to talk at the moment you meet people as otherwise a wall of silence builds up. Also to ask people their name and use it in the conversation. Be sure to be at the same level which will mean getting on your knees if they are sitting down at a table in a restaurant. The Holy Spirit will show you what to say. Because one may only have a moment or two I tend to go straight to the point and ask, 'Are you a Churchgoer?' or 'Have you heard the news?' and then tell them about the cover story in my Voice Magazine. The Holy Spirit will use your personality. He will show you new ways of approaching people. You will grow in confidence and learn as you break through the fear barrier. It is harder if you have not done it for a few days, like an unused muscle protests at unaccustomed exercise. You will find more help on this subject in the Author's book '**Rescue.**'

Daily Opportunities

Every day brings an opportunity. Always look out for captive audiences. Cab drivers, paying a bill, delivery van drivers, will all give you a minute or two. This morning two van drivers, Mark & Stuart, called from the local Peter Jones. I told them stories and gave them a Voice Magazine. Then Kirstie telephoned to sell some insurance. I told her about a friend who was a Mafia Boss in Newcastle on Tyne. Jesus appeared to him when he was about to commit suicide. He is now a Vicar! Then I was speaking to Debbie at Volvo Customer Relations. I talked about her famous namesake in the book of Judges and encouraged her to get a Bible. Four people had been challenged to think about whether God might be real and it was only ten thirty!

Then there are the ladies who do cold calling on the telephone. You might try this approach. 'What is your name?' 'Linda.' 'That's amazing, Linda, I know someone who knows you. Do you know what he said about you?' 'No, go on, what did he say about me?' 'Linda has stolen my heart.' 'Oh, who is that then, what is his name?' 'His name is Jesus, Linda, and he loves you very much'. This opens people up in a wonderful way. Everyone wants to know they are loved.

Go and do thou likewise

Jesus commended the unjust steward because he was thinking about his future. How many Christians are concerned about how they will fare before the judgement seat of Christ for works done on earth in obedience to the Holy Spirit? Jesus told many parables about idle servants who knew what to do in their master's absence but did not do it. They will merit a severe beating! He spoke of a buried talent, virgins with no oil in their lamps. There is a terrible urgency to consider our ways and to learn from the Good Samaritan with the command of Jesus ringing in our ears, 'Go and do thou likewise!'

Making God sick!

Many Christians believe we are the generation that will see the Lord's return. This is the season when evil will abound and the love of most men will have grown cold. It is the season of the Laodicean, lukewarm Church which makes God sick! Most people tell me they don't share their faith with strangers because of fear. Jesus said in Revelation 21:8 that the cowardly would end up in the fiery lake of burning sulphur.

The Sweetness of Grace

In the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Amman, Jordan Revival of 1931 the Holy Spirit said this, *'And thou, who hast been blessed and hast tasted the sweetness of the grace of God, why dost thou bury it in thine heart? Why dost thou not proclaim it openly and speak of it? But thou art ashamed. Dost thou despise Him who has honoured thee with it? Be not ashamed and fear not forever.'*

Disgrace for the sake of Christ

Others tell me they are concerned not to appear to be over fanatical. They are happy to be known as people who go to Church and to do good works. But to have the name of Jesus on their lips is, for them, a step too far. They forget that Moses regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ of greater value than the treasures of Egypt because he was looking ahead to his reward. Hebrews 11:26. We are called to be overcomers if we wish to inherit the kingdom. Perhaps we have preached the kindness of God without the balance of his severity. Both are scriptural.

Our reward

The question we might ask ourselves is not what I ought to do (the law) but what do I want to do (the Spirit). Do I want to show my gratitude and love for Christ by obeying him? Or is my Christian walk a religious sham? Of course he who plants and he who waters is nothing but God alone who gives the increase. But there is a reward. Daniel says that he who saves souls is wise and will shine like the stars eternally. Above all, if we have been faithful, if we have been overcomers, if we have loved not our lives even unto death of embarrassment, we shall at the end hear that most marvellous of all greetings, **'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'**

Then the trumpets will sound for us on the other side!

Britain today is manifestly a nation under God's judgement.

'Britain has the worst record in Europe(excluding Ireland) for pilfering.'
5.10.05.

'Britain is now the card fraud capital of Europe. Classic Radio 21.11.06.

'Britain is the single parent capital of the world.' Daily Telegraph 23.3.05.

'London is the abortion capital of the world.' Evening Standard 7.8.07.

'Britain's youth are the most destructive in Europe.' Classic Radio
21.11.06.

'Britain has one of the highest rates for school drop outs.' 6.7.07

Britain has the highest rate of school truancy since records began. 21.9.05.

Between 1969 and 2005 an average of one church closed every eight days.

When the salt is removed the meat stinks!

On one occasion Queen Victoria was asked by an Indian Prince to explain the secret of Britain's power. For her answer the Queen picked up a Bible from the table and said, 'This is the secret.'

How can a righteous God bless a nation that wants nothing to do with him? Our society has lost touch with sin and the penalties that God exacts for those who ignore the ten commandments. So the nation is saddled with massive debt, dishonesty is rife, even in the Houses of Parliament, family life and discipline is in melt down. We are rotten to the core. No one seems to have any answers and yet no one will admit that we need, as a nation, to repent. When King George the Sixth called the nation to prayer in the crisis of Dunkerque God answered our prayers in a mighty way. Can we not ask Him to do it again?

A PRAYER FOR THE NATION

Almighty God and Everlasting Father, we give you thanks for our Christian heritage as a nation that once attracted your blessing and made us Great. We give you thanks for our Queen, who has been a shining example to us all, and for all those of your servants who have been bold to proclaim your Gospel in an increasingly hostile environment.

But today, O Lord, we come to you with shame and confusion of face. Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good.' We confess we have done just that.

We have murdered children and called it 'choice.'
We have not disciplined children and called it 'building self esteem.'
We have abandoned marriage and called it 'self determination'
We have rewarded laziness and called it 'welfare'
We have coveted possessions and called it 'ambition'
We have abused power and called it 'politics'
We have been motivated by greed and called it 'profit'
We have polluted your beautiful planet earth and called it 'progress'
We have ridiculed time honoured Biblical values and called it 'enlightenment'

O Lord, as we humble ourselves and pray and seek your face and repent from our foolish ways, have mercy upon us, we pray. Turn us back to the paths of righteousness, to the rock from which we were hewn. In your wrath remember mercy and heal our land.

*See also 'A Call to the Nation' which can be downloaded free from:
www.churchsurvey.co.uk*

MEN'S MINISTRIES

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01761 232262 admin@cvmen.org.uk www.CVMen.org.uk

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YOUR JOURNEY INTO LIFE

If this booklet has given you a desire to be found by God, to be given a purpose in life and peace of mind about the future, you may wish to say this prayer, preferably upon your knees.

Heavenly Father, You know I have sinned and am not worthy to be called your child. But I believe You are a God of mercy and that You sent Your Son Jesus to die on the Cross for my sins.

So now I turn to You, Lord Jesus, with great thankfulness. I surrender my life to you. I ask You to forgive me for all that is past, to cleanse me from all my sins, and to send Your Holy Spirit to live within me as my Teacher and my Friend.

I reject Satan and every occult spirit in the name of Jesus Christ and declare the Word of God, 'If the Son has set you free you are free indeed'. I declare that Jesus has set me free today from all my sins and from every bondage of Satan. I have been born again from on high, I am a child of God, I am a new creation, I have eternal life in Jesus mighty name.

Amen. Hallelujah!

If you have prayed this prayer sincerely from your heart please let me know at the address on the back cover so that I can rejoice with you and all the angels in heaven that you have joined the royal family of God. I would also like to send you a booklet with help for your pilgrimage.

God bless you

John Wright

There is something for everyone in these uplifting readings to be enjoyed on The Road to Jerusalem. The stories and experiences all testify to the faithfulness of our God and the truth of His promises. Even a quick read, by the busy traveller, will be very rewarding!

General Sir Richard Dannatt GCB CBE MC

“Once again John Wright has produced a remarkable collection of personal stories which show the transforming power of the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit”.

Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach

Vice Chairman, Goldman Sachs International

“The age of miracles has not past. Indeed, God’s hand is to be discerned each day in the wondrous things He is doing. Sadly, blindness and hardness of heart are also part of our daily experience. John Wright has taken to heart our Lord’s commission to proclaim recovery of sight to the blind (Luke 4:18, Isaiah 61:1). Do we want to see Jesus? John Wright’s response, like that of the earliest apostles, is ‘Come and see.’ (John 1:46). It is the Lord’s doing and it is wondrous in our eyes.

Rt Rev Peter Fox, formerly Bishop of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.



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