

GOOD NEWS for Everyone!



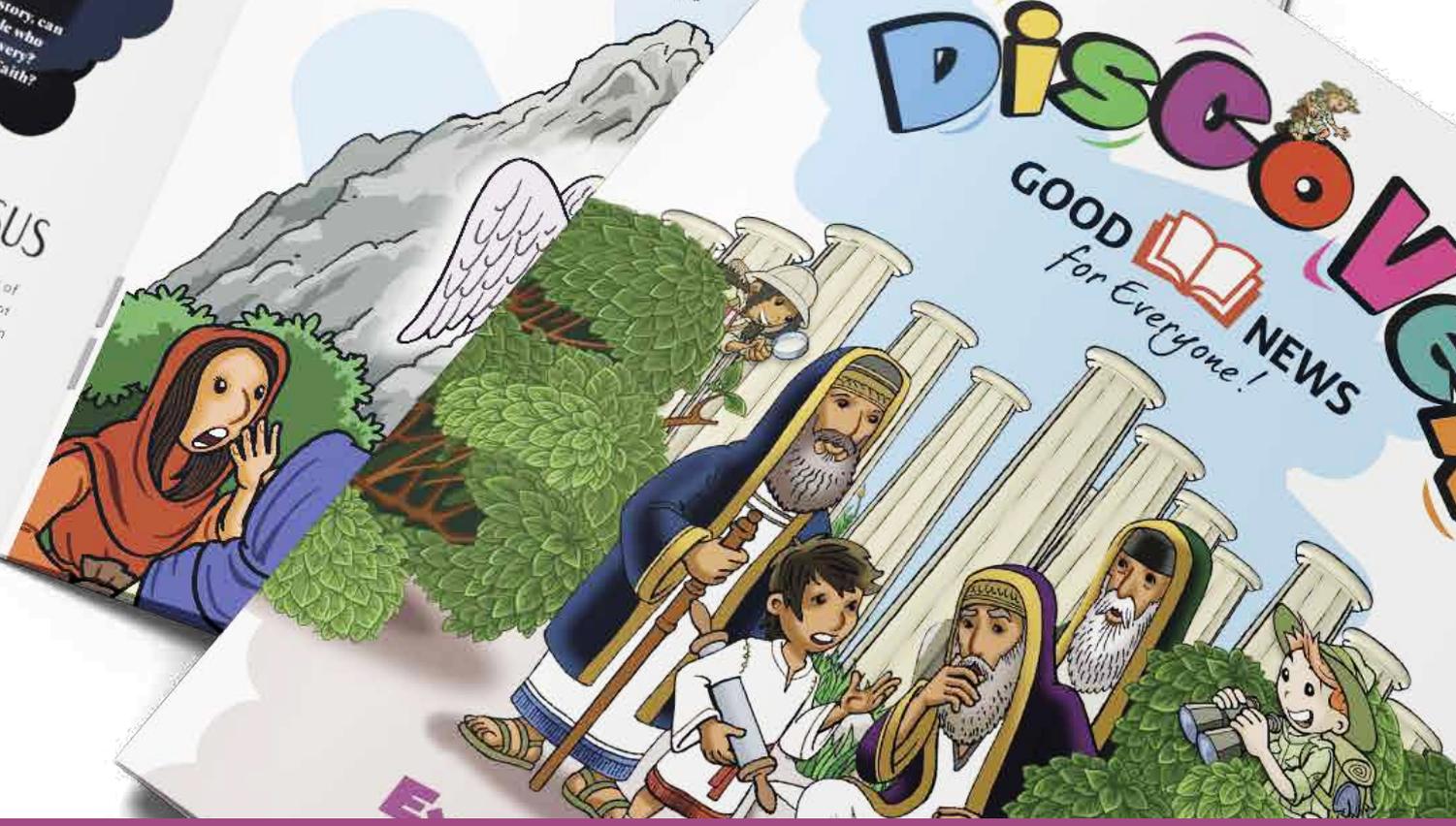
JESUS HAS RISEN MATTHEW 28:1-10

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Then go quickly and tell his disciples. He has risen from the dead and is going ahead.

Christians do not think that Jesus' death was the end. The stories of His resurrection are celebrated at Easter. 'Don't be afraid' say the Angels - and Jesus. Why might Jesus' followers have been scared of the empty grave? ... and they hope

OF JESUS

... a member of ... who had not ... he came from ... self was ... Pilate, ... wn- ... cut in



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GOOD  NEWS
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SPRING/SUMMER 2022

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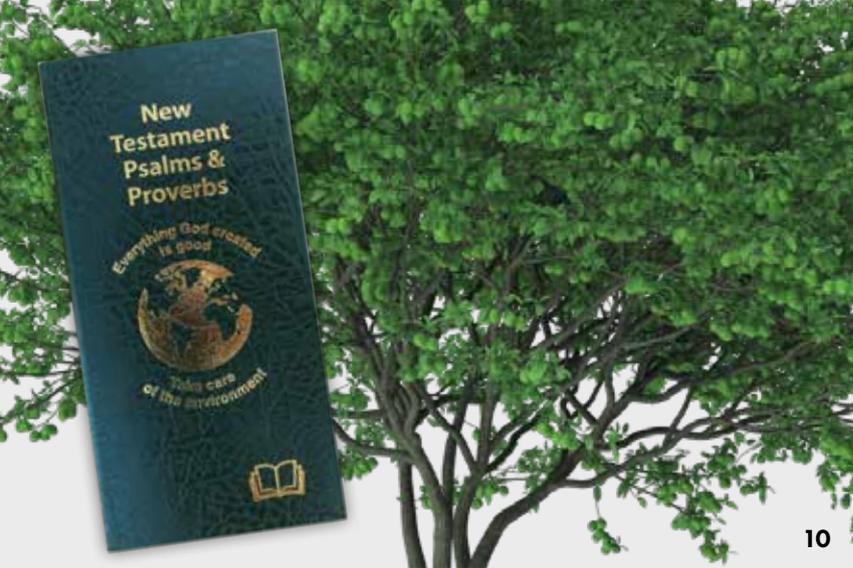
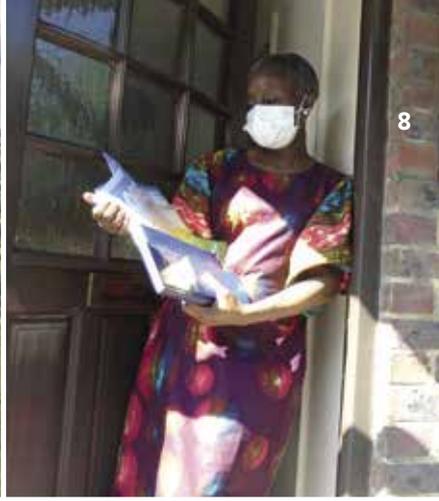
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GET IN TOUCH...

GOOD NEWS for Everyone!

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“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8: 38, 39).

When writing an editorial, particularly for a biannual publication, you are conscious that to refer to some event taking place when writing could mean very little to a reader in a few months’ time. At this moment, the start of 2022, the rules relating to Covid are changing yet again, another outbreak of war is feared in parts of the world, UK politics (*which we certainly won’t comment on here*) seems to be making most of the headlines – and by the time you read this article all these things will most likely have completely changed, perhaps including your personal circumstances.

We are aware that things can change so quickly. We often find ourselves dealing with and managing change. The Apostle Paul faced much change and great uncertainty in many circumstances he had to deal with in his missionary service, but it is with great certainty that he could write the words at the top of this page. Paul knew that nothing, absolutely nothing **will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

That is the hope we must offer people we meet, every day, as we seek to introduce them to Jesus and the certainty that is offered through faith in Him. In a world of uncertainty, we offer hope in Jesus in the Word of God. In a world of change, we offer the unchanging love of the Saviour in the Word of God. In a world of doubt and fear, we offer assurance and peace in the Word of God. In a world where many think that death is the end, we offer eternal life in the Word of God. As Jesus Himself said, **“All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away”** (John 6:37).

Therefore, the work we are called by God to do is urgent – placing and presenting copies of the Bible and/or New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs – and we are delighted to have many Friends joining with members in personal witnessing through the purchase of Friends’ Testaments. Earlier this year, we sent every member a special GOOD NEWS for Everyone! copy of *Have no Fear*, written by John Lennox, to help and encourage in personal witnessing. Over the coming months we are offering a copy to every Friend who purchases Testaments. If you would like a copy, simply tick the relevant box when you place your order for Testaments using the order form on page 31.

We hope you are blessed and encouraged by the articles in the following pages. One impact of Covid is that almost all overseas Mission Trips have been postponed but we pray these will begin soon and you will be reading reports in the next publication.

Thank you to all members and Friends for their faithful service in making God’s Word readily available to many. Let’s be much in prayer that it will be read and those who do so will come to know Jesus for themselves.

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal” (Isaiah 26: 3, 4).

Yours in Christ

Iain J Mair
Executive Director



GOD IS WORKING HIS PURPOSE OUT

Whether it is an answer to prayer over many years or a chance meeting, the Lord continues to present opportunities to place and present copies of His precious Word. Read on to see what we mean and be encouraged!

OUT WITH THE BINS

I am scared sometimes of offering a Testament to people. Just a few weeks ago after I had received a box of Key Worker Testaments I was aware that the binmen were working up our street. This was an opportunity to thank these Key Workers who had worked so tirelessly throughout coronavirus times. (Do you ever pray for your binmen's safety? They literally work in the road amongst traffic all the time!). I thought, "I will do it next week", but then realised it would be a different crew as it would be the recycling team.

A quick arrow prayer and eight Key Worker Testaments in hand I rushed out into the road. One binman politely ushered me on as he returned a bin to the pavement – here was my first opportunity. I said I wanted thank them for working through as Key Workers and tell them that I really appreciate the work they continue to do. I offered a Testament and he quickly accepted.

Then his colleague came across the street and asked for his copy! I decided to go up to the driver, he gladly accepted the six remaining Testaments and said he would put some in the office when he returned to the depot. I said I would check with him that they had enough in two weeks' time.

The following week the recycling crew were happy to accept and then in weeks three and four, I gave more to the relevant drivers for their office workers. The total now is around 24 Key Worker Testaments placed.

It really is worthwhile stepping out for God isn't it? He enables us and strengthens us.

Chris Axelby, Region 3 Director and member of Doncaster Branch.

And it is not only in this country that we see the Word of the Lord going out! Here's a report from the Share Word Global team in Chile.

CLEAN START

The volunteers of Generation of Faith Church, based in Santiago, Chile, had a glorious time sharing the Gospel through the Esperanza magazine at the Clinical Hospital, Doctor Eloiza Diaz, in Santiago. Despite these difficult days of Covid, the volunteers were now given open doors and could preach and pray for the hospital occupants.

This was a very emotional time – after two years of restrictions they could now go in again with the power of the Gospel. And the life of a woman named Ximena was forever changed because of it.

Ximena Caris was behind a door doing her work at the hospital. She is part of the cleaning staff. So when the volunteers approached her, she was shocked. "I'm the kind of person people usually overlook; they don't see me as important," Ximena confided in the volunteers.

The team asked if she wanted them to pray for her, and in that moment, she opened her heart. Ximena shared that her family was crumbling apart. Her brothers had tried to take their lives a few days ago, and she wondered why Covid had not taken her. Her life seemed to have no meaning. But God had something different planned for her.

Ximena finally received Jesus as her Lord and Saviour. Tears filled her eyes as she cried, this time tears of hope not of pain. At last she knew God's love, she understood that God has a purpose and hope for her life.



FLOWER POWER

Rodney and Priscilla Eborn of Havering Branch were enjoying the wonderful summer-like weather sitting on a bench in the beautiful Flora and Fauna Garden of RHS Hyde Hall, Chelmsford, when an elderly man with a clipboard approached them.

"Would you mind completing my questionnaire?", he asked. We noticed at the top of the questionnaire was *The Sun* newspaper logo. Both our minds were boggling. "I would be grateful if you could select your first and second choices for *The Sun* sponsored display of a variety of row after row of a beautiful display of pansies".

We both agreed and made our selections, then entered into a general discussion with him about gardening. He shared that his name was Peter Seabrook and he had been the Gardening Editor for *The Sun* for many years. He had lost his wife, Margaret, to coronavirus after 60 years of marriage. He mentioned that when life was tough, he found solace in his gardening and enjoying the birdsong and the flowers.

We shared that Priscilla had lost her mother, also called Margaret, in March 2021. This was an opportunity to share with Peter Seabrook that we had found God's Word an inspiration when life gets tough. We presented him with a Personal Worker Testament, which he gladly received. He said he still had his Bible presented to him when he was at Sunday School!

Please pray that this seed of the Word of God presented will grow and take root!

Editors note: Peter Seabrook (pictured left) was called home in January 2022. We pray that he found comfort in God's Word since receiving it from Rodney and Priscilla.

COPING WITH TROUBLE-MAKERS

I received a request for a Bible from National Office and, when I followed the enquiry up, an interesting chain of events unfolded with the gentleman concerned.

We met on the doorstep of his home, socially distanced of course, and I spent almost half an hour with him providing him with a Personal Worker Testament, a Bible, and a HOPE magazine for him and his wife. He is a prison officer and night shift warder at a local prison.

He explained that, currently, life in the prison is very disturbing with the normal prison in-take (as well as young offenders) locked in their cells for most of the day. Covid is rife in the prison with around half of those being offered the vaccine refusing. Prisoners wreck their cells in anger, and when able to, cause whatever trouble they can, as well as spitting at various people, warders included. So he talks to them and does whatever he can to help them and to calm them down.

He was talking to his Line Manager about "having a faith" in these challenging times and she, a Roman Catholic, suggested he looked a little deeper. He remembered being presented with a New Testament at his school in Devizes, Wiltshire, which led to him getting in touch with National Office. I explained about our work and connection with the prison chaplaincy. I have promised to pray for this gentleman, his wife, his job, and the prison staff and inmates.

It's good to be reminded that even in extreme circumstances, God is in the midst.

Tony Bruun, Wiltshire North West Branch

TEARS OF JOY

It's taken over four years to bring Cumbria Constabulary Testaments to fruition. I was pleased to hand them over to Allison Lee, of the Cumbria Christian Police Association, at last. When they arrived, and I sent her a photo of them, she replied: "Oh wow! Thank you so much this is amazing. I am just bowled over. Thank you again, you kept pushing me when I got disheartened with my colleagues' lack of input so thank you very much. Now going to find a hanky and have a good weep and give thanks."

Glenys Braithwaite, Cumbria North Branch



TEESSIDE UPDATE

In the last issue of the GOOD NEWS for Everyone! magazine, we asked members and Friends to join in prayer for the Teesside Scripture Focus which takes place Friday 17 – Saturday 18 June 2022.

The Hartlepool & North Tees Branch, along with North Yorks & South Tees Branch, are planning to have a distribution of Bibles and Testaments each day with a Church Leaders' Dinner on the Friday evening.

Hartlepool & North Tees Branch are concentrating on the Stockton and Billingham area, while North Yorks & South Tees Branch will look to cover hotels in Redcar and Saltburn. There will be church bases in North Billingham and Hemlington, Middlesbrough.

Since the last report, North Yorks & South Tees Branch have sent two HOPE magazines to 50 care homes in preparation for more Testaments to be distributed during the Scripture Focus. Also, the Hartlepool & North Tees Branch are hoping to additionally cover hotels/B&Bs, care homes and funeral directors in the Hartlepool area.

As with all our events, prayer is incredibly important. Here are some more items which we would value prayer for:

- That hospital and prison chaplains will accept the invitation to the Church Leaders' Dinner.
- That the Teesside Leaders' Network meetings will give us the opportunity to share about the Scripture Focus; be a source of effective networking with Church Leaders and will encourage them to come to the Church Leaders' Dinner.
- That members will be encouraged when they receive the registration form and sign up to help with the distribution of the Scriptures.
- That the organisation will be done effectively and efficiently.

Please give praise for:

- The completion of distribution points.
- Funds coming in.
- A local man has agreed to give his testimony at the Church Leaders' Dinner.

God is faithful and hears all our prayers! Thank you for continuing to pray.

Submitted by Pamela Rushton on behalf of the Teesside Scripture Focus Team.

A full report of the Scripture Focus is planned for the Autumn/Winter 2022 issue of the magazine.



GAMES OUTREACH TO TARGET 650 HOSPITALITY CENTRES

The XXII Commonwealth Games, more commonly known as Birmingham 2022, are taking place in and around the Birmingham area 28 July – 8 August 2022 as well as a couple of venues in other parts of the country.

Since I wrote for the last magazine, the small Steering Committee has continued in its planning for the Scripture Focus in the area around Birmingham this April and for personal evangelism during the Games themselves.

Our aim during the Scripture Focus remains that “Wherever visitors are staying during the Commonwealth Games, we want to ensure that we place a Bible within their reach, in the most simple, easy to manage and cost-effective way possible.”

Having surveyed nine of the branch areas to be covered we already have a list of 587 hotels, guest houses and B&Bs and this is likely to increase to around 650 by the time the survey is completed. It is our aim during the Focus to ensure that each of these establishments is visited and offered at the very least a small number of Bibles for guests who request them and, where agreeable, one for each of the bedrooms. Our base hotel will be the Metropole Hotel in Birmingham, where Connexions 2022 is taking place immediately the Scripture Focus concludes.

Plans for personal evangelism in the Birmingham area are beginning to move forward, and we have recently begun meeting and working alongside Midlands Mission and Birmingham Churches Together as we plan for this summer.

Ahead of both events we have invited local Church Leaders to two separate Church Leader Lunches to

inform them of what we are planning and to invite them to support us and pray for us. These are taking place on 16 March, at which our National President Bill Thomas will be speaking, and 23 March when Susan Judge, Region 7 Director, will be speaking.

We are continuing to work towards the possibility of having Scriptures available for members of the four UK Teams taking part and hopefully placed within the Games Villages themselves.

Please do continue to pray for the Steering Committee as we move forward with our plans for the Focus in April and the planning of the evangelism in July and August. Pray for our continuing connections with local churches and Birmingham Churches Together.

Pray for those who will visit the many establishments over 27- 29 April that doors would be open to receive the Bibles offered and to make them available for those staying. Pray especially that, as we move out of the pandemic, they will again be open to receiving a copy of God’s Word for their bedrooms.

Finally, please pray for receptive hearts for those who will read the Scriptures wherever they are staying in Birmingham this summer and for those who are offered a free copy from members carrying out the personal evangelism. Let us pray that as we share this GOOD NEWS many will find the hope, comfort, guidance, and salvation we know the Bible offers.

Submitted by Andrew Newham, Scripture Focus Coordinator

A full report of the Scripture Focus is planned for the Autumn/Winter 2022 issue of the magazine.



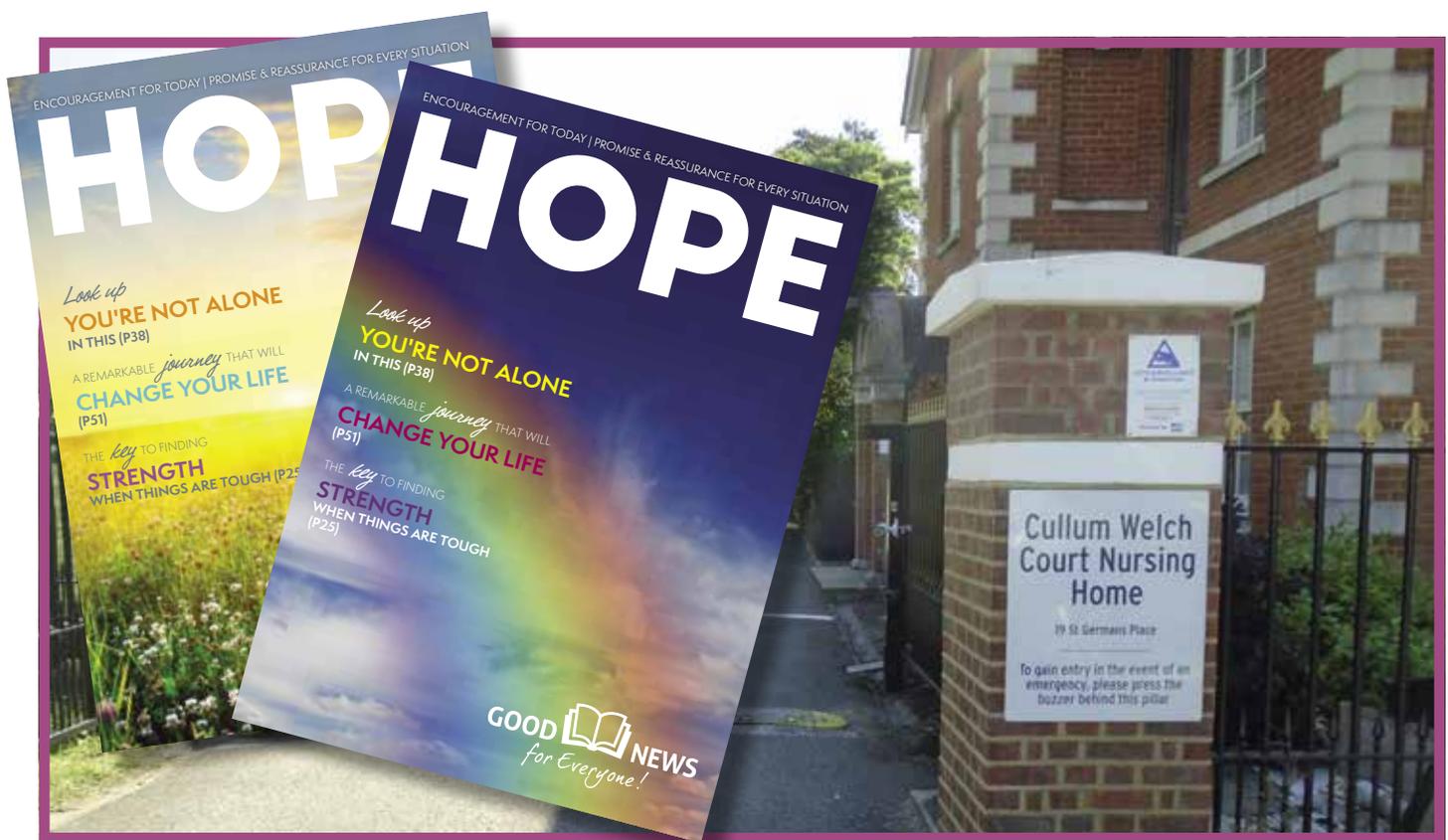
GOD'S PERFECT TIMING IN LONDON

Geoff Mann, London Scripture Focus Coordinator, shares some examples of God's perfect timing for deliveries and presentations in their Focus on south and west London last year.

We should have had seven pallets of Scriptures delivered to Christ Church, Harrow, on the Friday, ready for the Monday but only three pallets came. So when 11 people came to the church on the Monday morning to start making up the 400 deliveries we only had a part delivery when most of them arrived at 10.00am. But God was in control and at 10.24am, Marcel appeared with his lorry and the final four pallets of Scriptures. Praise the Lord!

On the Wednesday morning we set off to do some cold calling in the Dartford & Greenwich Branch area, taking a HOPE magazine, a Large Print Testament and a Key Worker Testament for staff as samples to all the funeral directors and care homes which our telephone team hadn't managed to get a response from.

We put the postcode of the Cullum Welch Court Nursing Home in Greenwich in the satnav and it took two and a quarter hours to get there. However, God's timing was again perfect because as we pulled in through the gate of the nursing home, we met a vicar coming the other way. He was the chaplain of the home, knew of GOOD NEWS for Everyone! and told us that the home was between



managers. He said he would personally contact the interim management about the Scriptures. Five minutes earlier or later and we would have missed him!

Another of the places we visited in Greenwich was Shooters House Care Home. When we offered the samples to the lady at the door she was amazed we were there because one of the 14 year old girls in the home had asked for a Bible the day before, and here we were offering her Bibles.

Another of our teams visited Nazareth House Care Home in Hammersmith. This had been a children's home but was now a Catholic care home. The team visited with their samples and were able to speak to a nun who was visiting that day and had responsibility for the sisters. She was really excited by the samples and immediately rang the manager who placed an order for 10 HOPE magazines, 90 Large Print Testaments and 90 Key Worker Testaments. Any other day and the team would have missed the contact.

On Friday we had a delivery of 25 HOPE magazines, 42 Large Print Testaments and 30 Key Worker Testaments to make at Cedar House Care Home in Harefield. But when we arrived, there were signs on the front door saying "Covid positive!" We weren't sure what to do next so we prayed. And a minute later a man appeared round the corner of the house pushing a trolley. We were able to put the boxes on his trolley and he carried on round the other side of the house with them.

Late Saturday afternoon we had one package left to deliver for a funeral director another team had been unable to find, so we took it with us. We googled the address (which was different from that on the package) and found it at 6.00pm just as a man was locking the door. I pulled round the corner to park and Jane rushed

back to offer it to him. Praise the Lord he took the 20 HOPE magazines. Having googled their website we had seen they do funerals for Hindus, Tamils, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians and Catholics.

During this Focus 900 care homes, funeral directors and hostels for the homeless in south and west London were sent HOPE magazines. All these establishments had been telephoned in August over a 10 day period. Over 400 orders were made up in Christ Church in two days, 600 of the establishments were visited in four days. And now 14,500 Scriptures are in south and west London which weren't there before September. Praise the Lord!

Please continue to pray for fruit from this outreach for 'Night is coming when no one can work' (John 9:4). To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Has Done!

Submitted by Geoff Mann on behalf of the London Scripture Focus Team



GREEN COVER FOR COP26 SCRIPTURES

New
Testament
Psalms &
Proverbs

Everything God created
is good



Take care
of the environment



Thirty members from Region 1 (Scotland and the Isles) and one member from Region 10 (Northern Ireland) took part in a very full day of distributing God's Word in central Glasgow during the COP26 Conference last year. Adrian Currie reports on their behalf.

This was the first Scripture Focus where a local woman was so grateful for being able to get a New Testament free of charge, that she gave me a hug! I was even more surprised on a later day that I received a hug too from a very grateful male recipient! On the last day of COP26, an African delegate, who was making her way to the train station on her way back home, asked me for a second copy of the Testament she had just received. She then went on to explain, "This is the best gift I have ever received!" What another encouragement!

Delegates and observers from 193 United Nations countries gathered in central Glasgow for the 26th Conference of the People (COP26) to discuss Climate Change challenges during the first fortnight in November last year. Members of the public were barred from entering this United Nations exclusive large campus area and related roads. Outside this, all hotels and most other accommodation in and around Glasgow were fully booked with delegates, observers, press, protesters, police and many others.

New green-covered badged Environment Testaments were launched at this event. On the cover is an extract from 1 Timothy 4: 4: "Everything God created is good" and below a symbol of the world: "Take Care of the Environment". Since then, these Environment Testaments have been available for all Branch Scripture Distribution Officers to order from National Office.

On the second day of the Scripture Focus, *The Times* national newspaper, underneath a picture of Greta Thunberg, printed: "Glasgow suddenly seems a very different place, though the climate change activists are only part of this new look. A strike by refuse workers meant that there was plenty of rubbish blowing around the feet of the old school catastrophists who were out in force during the day. At Central Station New Testaments were being handed out, proclaiming the Word: "Everything God created is good. Take care of the environment".



The GOOD NEWS for Everyone! members distributing Scriptures during COP26 were encouraged to take as many Environment Testaments as their two-wheeled shopping trolleys or backpacks could comfortably fill, together with a full Bible, a large print New Testament, one or two blue covered Service Testaments and possibly one or two HOPE magazines. They had a free hand to go wherever they wanted in the many busy pedestrianised streets in central Glasgow. Most of those distributing Scriptures each day met at 9.00a.m. in a basement room in the central St George's Tron church, for tea/coffee, a time of prayer and to collect their first load of Scriptures. This hub remained open until mid-afternoon daily, so that backpacks could be refilled.

Responses to the offer of a copy of a free Testament were predictably mixed with the majority being a polite refusal. But not all.

COP26 delegates from Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Nigeria, Bahamas, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia were among many who received God's Word. Steve gave Testaments to three Hindu men over from India for COP26, then later several to a Pastor from Ghana who wanted to give them to fellow COP26 delegates. Steve was also invited to Ghana to speak about this Scripture distribution work at the seven churches this Pastor oversees! John was interviewed by Chris who, after gladly receiving a Testament, asked his view from a Christian perspective on climate change. Jack from Ireland, who was willing to accept a New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs, asked if he could have a whole Bible instead, as he had read the Koran and wanted to read the Bible from cover to cover.

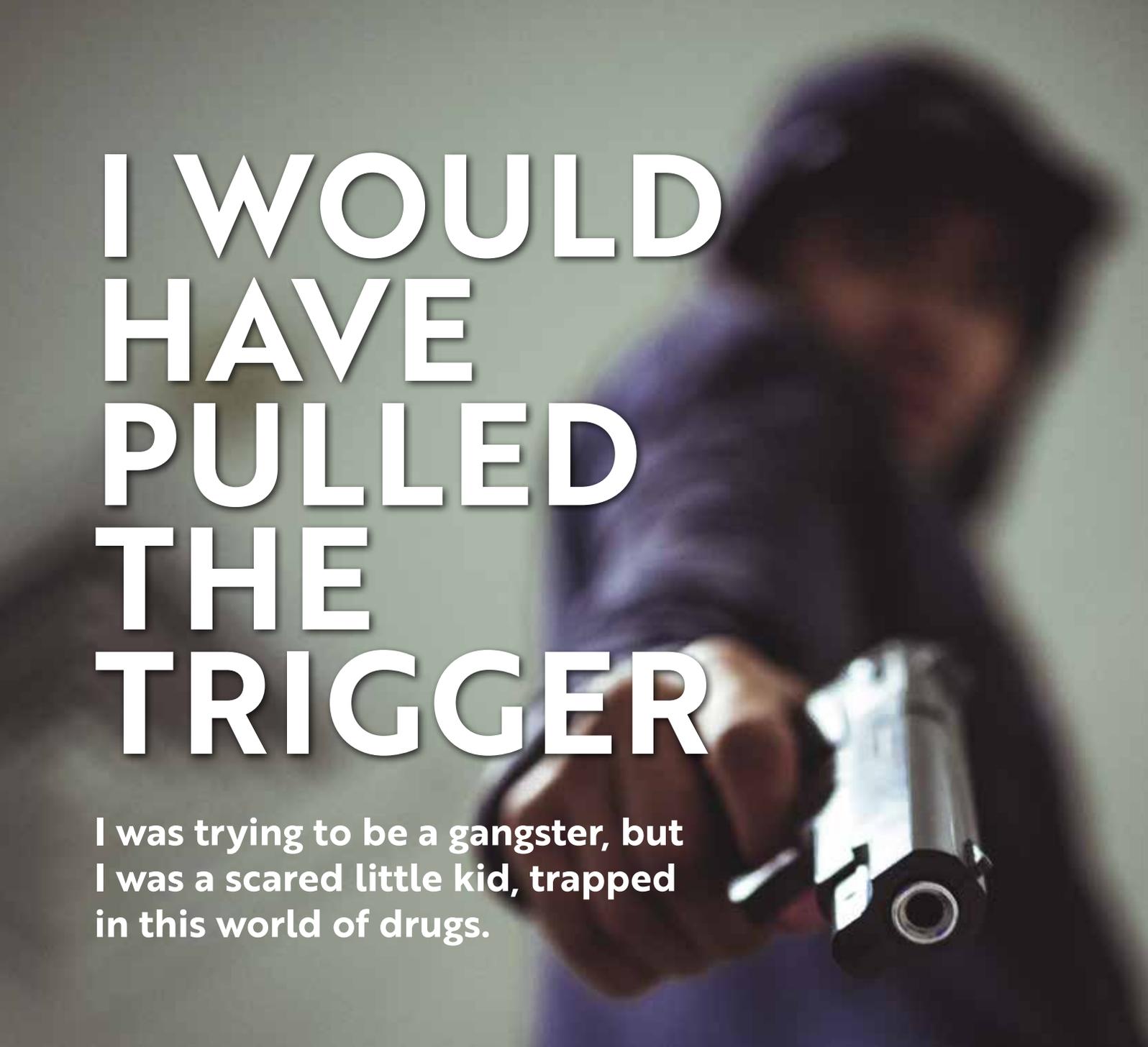
Adrian had been speaking to a Seventh Day Adventist evangelist when a group of four African ladies approached. Each was offered a free New Testament. When the first accepted one, immediately the others followed. One of them then asked for a second one. Before that conversation ended, an African man unexpectedly came from behind and asked if he could have one too. Immediately after getting it he asked for another three for each of his daughters. When he got them, he then asked for a fifth one. The Seventh Day Adventist stood back in amazement! We can praise and thank the Lord.

In another approach, three Glaswegian women refused the offer of a Testament, then one of them changed her mind and asked for one. The other two quickly followed suit. The original woman asked if it was possible for her to get a full Bible for her daughter. That too was given to her. Many local senior pupils from St Aloysius College wanted Environment Testaments each. Graeme had a lady from Ghana who asked him for 10 Testaments! God is good.

More than 5,000 Testaments plus Bibles and HOPE magazines were given out plus another 500 distributed by the Christian Police Association (CPA) at the 10 stands they had in the Well-Being areas of the centres that many of the 10,000 police were briefed at.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will motivate many recipients to read passages from God's Word, so that God will be glorified, and that they will find Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord.

I WOULD HAVE PULLED THE TRIGGER



I was trying to be a gangster, but I was a scared little kid, trapped in this world of drugs.

Ashley Nixon describes his journey from violence and addiction to peace and service.

My family moved from Coventry to Stourbridge when I was young, so I started secondary school trying to make friends. I struggled to fit in and find a good network of friends. Before long, I became angry and disillusioned and hung around with other kids like myself.

At 13 years old I was drinking and taking cannabis, sometimes taking ecstasy. At 16, I had been done for arson, burglary, theft, handling stolen goods – the list went on and on – all to fund a growing drug habit of cocaine, ecstasy, speed, amphetamines. I was always drunk and off my head, every day. My life spiralled rapidly out of control.

By the time I was 19 I realised that the only way to fund my drug habit was to sell drugs. I started to get noticed by some real thugs, proper gangsters, and I wasn't a

gangster. I was trying to be, but I was a scared little kid, trapped in this world of drugs. I started selling drugs for organised crime gangs, buying from the Albanian mafia and selling to people in house parties, Hells Angels, anyone who would buy our products.

I was always drunk and off my head. My life spiralled rapidly out of control.

We were on the west side of Birmingham and there were a few safe houses, places where you could store drugs, or make a deal, count money. The chap I was selling drugs for said the safe houses in the local area were in use and he needed to come to my flat and do a deal there.

These guys came to my flat and one of them sat in the corner of the room, a real tough looking, stern guy. I didn't really pay much attention. I wasn't a gangster, I was a drug addict, I understood the product, so I did what drug addicts do and I tested the batch of drugs that they brought, sniffed them, rubbed them round my gums – the kind of thing you see in the films. We paid tens of thousands of pounds and they left.

**He had an automatic weapon.
His job that day would have
been to kill me.**

My friend asked if I had seen the guy sitting in the corner of the room and I said I wasn't really paying attention. He said he saw what looked like the butt-end of a machine gun sticking out of his jacket. An automatic weapon designed to spray and kill. His job that day would have been to kill me or anyone else in that room that tried to take from them what was theirs. This was my world.

Another time the guy I was selling for told me a gang had given him a kicking outside a shop and we needed to go and prove to them who was the boss. I found myself in a flat, with a firearm, making sure it was locked and loaded. I filled my nose with as much cocaine as possible – this was where I found my identity, this was where my confidence was. I was trying to keep up appearances but being the little boy lost at school.

I found myself driving round in the car, looking for these individuals. I am so grateful I never found them that day because I would have pulled the trigger. I would have aimed to kill because I was still that scared little boy trying to find my place in the world.

INCREDIBLE ENCOUNTER

I found myself in prison where I deserved to be. But when I was in prison, the most incredible thing took place. Again I got into gangs but a guy tried to talk to me about faith and I tried to brush him off. The next day I had an incredible encounter with Almighty God in a corridor. It happened through signing up to Chapel on an A4 sheet of paper on the wall. I wrestled with the idea of signing up but as soon as I did a real sense of peace came over me – a sense I had never experienced in all my life.

**I went out with the gangs,
got into fights, did drugs, but
when I got home I kept reading
my Bible and praying.**

I was in prison but I felt hope; I felt there was a way out. I began to go to Chapel each week, hearing stories about this incredible God who loved me. The inmate who spoke about faith gave me a GOOD NEWS for Everyone! Bible, which he had received from an inmate in another prison.

Who knows how many hands it had been through before it came to me! Wrestling with the pages in the Bible began to transform my mind.

After I left prison, I found myself back in my old environment, with old acquaintances and the old peer pressure. For 10 months I went out with the gangs, got into fights, did drugs but when I got home I kept reading my Bible and praying. It was a crazy battle, going out fighting, doing drugs and then getting home and praying. My God who I met in prison was the only one who could save me and set me free.

A few months went by and a girl phoned me up and said she had met with Jesus and He had saved her life and set her free from drugs. I knew her through the old gangs and network of friends. She could now be a mother to her child. I told her I had met with God but I was not sure who this Jesus character was. She invited me to church and I found there the same love, the same presence, the same God who I had met with in prison. He was in the church, in the people. Eventually I gave my life to Christ and His Word spoke to me in such a profound, deep and intimate way.

It set me free from drugs. There was no rehab, no support workers, it was just the power of God and prayer which set me free.

**I gave my life to Christ and
His Word spoke to me in a
profound, deep and intimate
way. It set me free from drugs.**

I am now a Recovery Coordinator in a Drug Rehabilitation Centre helping others find hope through the Word of God. I am also a Youth Worker, helping with a brand-new Youth Community trying to do everything I can to help others not make the same mistakes I made. I am also a trainee Church Minister – how crazy is that? I am married to an incredible woman who loves me for who I am.

The days can still sometimes be dark, we can still struggle in life, but the Bible is the rock, the foundation and the thing that set me free. Thank you. Please continue your precious ministry.

Ashley shared his testimony at National Convention 2021.

THEY LOOKED SO *DIFFERENT*



Jean shares how a New Testament and an encounter with Christians helped her move on from a dysfunctional family to a successful career in nursing.

I am the youngest of three children. My father was a railway signalman, my mum was from a travelling background. My father was a good man, bringing us up to be truthful, and he had a good work ethic. He was a big guy and had been a bit of a fighter in his younger years; he was a regular at the working men's club and taught me skills such as darts, cards etc. Mum suffered from depression for most of her life and, though small in stature, was feisty.

The family home was not peaceful with two strong personalities, a shortage of money and a rift between the two families. Despite being cared for practically, the volatile home situation had a significant impact on me as a young child with my parents fighting continuously and having violent rows and not speaking to each other for weeks and weeks. I was the go-between for messages. I can remember the impact of laying in bed at night, wondering if Mum would leave or, when I was at school, if she would be there when I got home.

My parents were fighting continuously and having violent rows and not speaking to each other for weeks.

It was pretty rough in the neighbourhood but I made friends with the local youths. They accepted me and being with them was better than being at home. I was scared of my parents and that fear kept me from deep trouble, particularly if the police were involved.

In my first year at senior school, I received a GOOD NEWS for Everyone! New Testament. The gentleman who presented the Testaments to my year explained about the Helps section and the guidance notes. He said that if you were scared or anxious you could find a Bible verse to help. I took the Testament home, thinking that it was really nice but it would not have any help for me or my life problems. I put it under the bed and forgot about it.

A few months later, when things were kicking off again at home, I remembered the Testament and got it out from under the bed. I looked up the Bible verses for things like being discouraged or afraid. I didn't really know what it meant but it was the seed of the Word of God being dropped into my heart which would produce fruit years on.

INTRODUCED TO

Fast forward to 1973. I was a cadet nurse and I had a friend who was also a cadet nurse who sang in her local church choir. One night I was meeting her to go out in the town and I was sitting on the church wall when she came out, followed by two older girls. They looked so different and I couldn't explain why.

They walked towards us and had a polite chat. I noticed one of them wore a badge that said: "Jesus Saves". I thought about how different they were and wondered what it was. The following week the same routine, and, when they talked to us, one of the girls gave me a card and said any time I needed anyone to talk to, day or night, to get in touch with her.

I was invited to a church service which I went to and wept all the way through it.

The following week was pretty rough and I thought I would call this girl and talk to her. We talked for about an hour, she explained she was a Christian and what it meant to have Jesus in her life. She invited me to a church service which I went to and wept all the way through it. The following Monday they invited me to tea and, while I was there, they explained John 3:16 to me. I remembered reading the verse before in my New Testament. I became a Christian that night. I was 17.

I moved out of home and into the nurses' home for the next five years. I went on to train as a Registered Nurse, specialising in critical care and God really blessed my career. I held several senior roles; I was the Assistant Director of Nursing and the Associate Director of Governance. I gained a lot of clinical qualifications in my nursing, despite only getting one GCSE at school. I gained an MBA and LLM in medical law. From that I got a job with the Department of Health in London for four years, helping to keep patients safe. At the latter part of my career, I took a job in Health and Social Care in Sunderland.

I had married in 1989. My husband was an itinerant minister at the time. We travelled a great deal during itinerant ministry, involving mission work, prayer missions, youth work and in various church leadership roles. We have two grown up sons who love the Lord with all their heart. I am now a Doctoral research student at York St John University, studying practical theology.

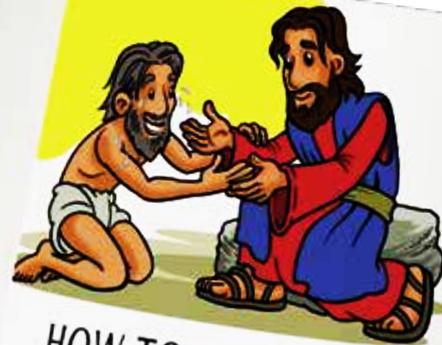
I say all these things not for you to say that I have a nice CV but so that you might be truly encouraged there is a power in the Word of God. You are placing a seed in giving a New Testament. All the things I have been involved in is because somebody put a New Testament in my hand as a young rebellious teenager and I will always be grateful to this ministry.

Jean shared her testimony at National Convention 2021.

Discover

OUR **NEW**
MAGAZINE FOR
PRIMARY SCHOOLS!

Many schools are no longer holding 'traditional' school assemblies. As a result, in 2018, we adapted our approach to schools. In many cases we are now asked by schools to be involved with classroom lessons, usually a Religious Education class (Religious and Moral Education in Scotland).



This story is about a healer, but also about being thankful. Do you think one of them is more important than the other?

HOW TO PRAY MATTHEW 6:9-13

⁹"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." "Give us today our daily bread. "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

JESUS AND HIS FATHER JOHN 14:9

⁹Jesus answered, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

BEING THANKFUL AND HAVING FAITH IN GOD LUKE 17:11-19

⁹Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus crossed the border between Samaria and Galilee. Going into a village, ten men who had leprosy stood at a distance. "and called out in a loud voice, 'Jesus, Master, have pity on us!'" "When he saw them, he said, 'Go, show yourselves to the priest when he saw he was healed, came back, praising him in a loud voice. "He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan." "Jesus said to them, "Were not all ten returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" "Then he said to him, "Rise and go, your faith has made you well."

Jesus' disciples asked Him how they should pray, and He taught them "The Lord's Prayer." Do you think this prayer has become the most popular Christian prayer in the world? Jesus tells Philip the disciple that He and His Father are the same. What do you think He meant?

Think about!



The Gospels:



MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN
FOUR BOOKS THAT TELL US ABOUT
THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF JESUS

THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD LUKE 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. ²⁷ To a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and your name will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." ³² The angel answered, "I am the Lord's servant. ³³ Ever since I came on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁴ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁵ For no word from God will ever fail." ³⁶ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

What do you think?

This famous part of the Christmas story describes the angel's announcement to Mary. She accepts what the angel says, describing herself as the 'Servant of the Lord.'

What does this story reveal about what kind of king Mary's son was to become?

Why do you think this part of the nativity story is so popular?

The story is acted out in nativity plays and dramas in thousands of schools every year. Have you seen a nativity play, or even been in one?



Think about...

JESUS CALMS THE STORM MATTHEW 8:23-27

²³ Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" ²⁶ He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. ²⁷ The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"



JESUS TEACHES HIS FIRST FOLLOWERS MATTHEW 7:24-27

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

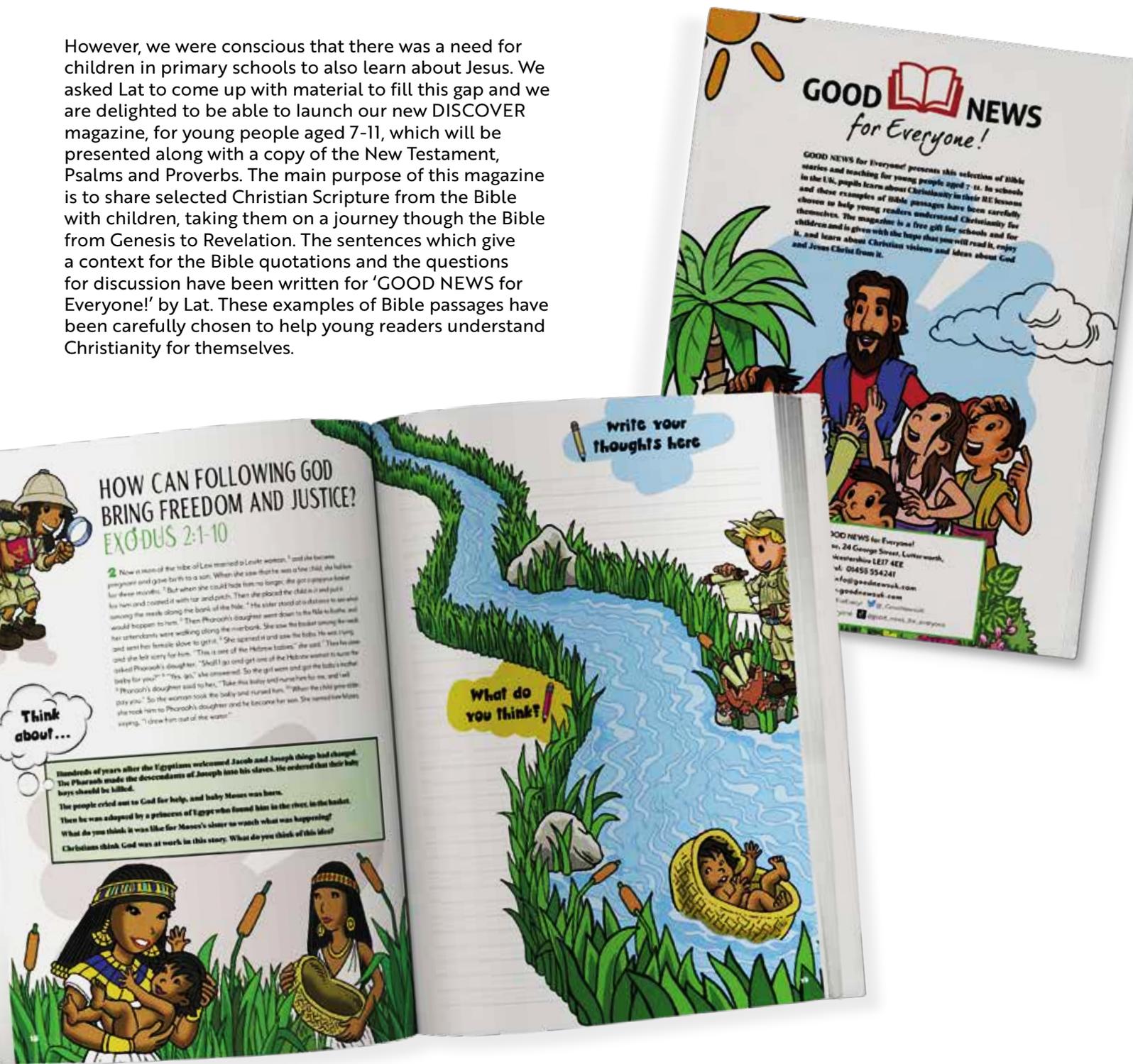
Jesus teaches His disciples that following His Word builds good foundations for life.

Christians often ask: 'What would Jesus do?' when they are deciding how to behave, how to be...



In order to ensure that our members were equipped for classroom lessons, a special training programme, along with a set of specially designed curriculum-based lesson plans, was developed by Lat Blaylock from the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE). Lat is the editor of RE Today magazine and an adviser with RE Today and provides professional development opportunities for several thousand primary and secondary school teachers every year in a variety of local authority, diocesan and other contexts and has a national reputation for practicality and inspiration.

However, we were conscious that there was a need for children in primary schools to also learn about Jesus. We asked Lat to come up with material to fill this gap and we are delighted to be able to launch our new DISCOVER magazine, for young people aged 7-11, which will be presented along with a copy of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs. The main purpose of this magazine is to share selected Christian Scripture from the Bible with children, taking them on a journey through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The sentences which give a context for the Bible quotations and the questions for discussion have been written for 'GOOD NEWS for Everyone!' by Lat. These examples of Bible passages have been carefully chosen to help young readers understand Christianity for themselves.



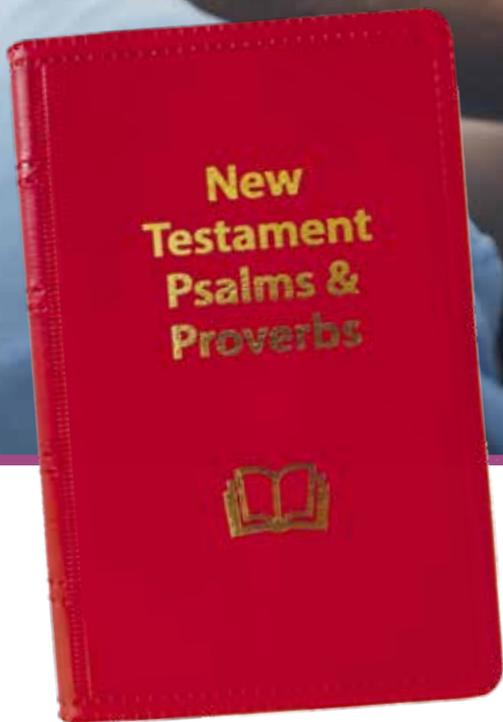
The magazine is a free gift for schools and has been especially created so that children in primary schools in the UK can read what the Bible says for themselves and think about its meanings. It is designed to help teachers to teach about Christian Scripture in RE. The selection of Bible texts has followed the widely used RE resource called 'Understanding Christianity' (www.understandingchristianity.org.uk). The Scripture version used, by permission, in the DISCOVER magazine is the New International Version (UK).

If you would like to find out more about our work in schools, please either contact National Office or visit our website (www.goodnewsuk.com) and click on the Bibles for Education tab.

Please join us in praying that DISCOVER will be readily received by primary schools around the country and that many pupils will read God's Word and come to know Jesus for themselves.

Ed. We would like to record our very grateful thanks to Lat for his work in preparing the text for DISCOVER, Trident Design for their help with illustrating the DISCOVER magazine and to Caroline Cook for her many hours of proof reading and checking.

I FELT BRAND NEW



I remember the school assembly where we were given our little red Testament – I still have mine – and I put my name in the front of it. At home I put it in a drawer, not thinking any more of it. I grew up in a house where the Bible and God was not spoken about.

Aged 30, I had become a heavy drinker, not really a nice person to be around. I had been asked to leave the house of someone I had a relationship and two children with, I was such a difficult person. I came to a point where I realised how unpleasant I was, how selfish I had become and how I affected the lives of other people. I decided that the best thing for me to do was to end my life. It came to the day when I thought “this is the day”.

I knew my parents would have to come and tidy up my flat afterwards and there were some things that I didn't want them to know about me, so I went round the flat tidying up. I opened the last box and sitting on the top – I don't know why I kept it – was this little red book. I don't recall taking it from house to house.

A voice in my head said, “why don't you try looking in it?” In the front there was a list of passages about how the Bible can help in different circumstances. I opened it and started reading from the Gospel of Luke. Even though it had never occurred to me to read it before, I felt it speaking directly to me. The more I read the more I

felt that something, which I believe to be God, was in the room with me. The presence got stronger and stronger and I realised that taking my own life was something I could not do.

I kept reading, looking for hope in there. I reached Luke 7 where Jesus is having a meal with a religious leader who, by all accounts, is considered right with God. A sinful woman walks in, cries on His feet, wipes His feet with her hair. Jesus stood up for her in front of the religious leader, saying that those who are forgiven the most will love the most. I heard a voice in my head saying “you have sinned much but I love you much and I will forgive you much and I will teach you to love much”.

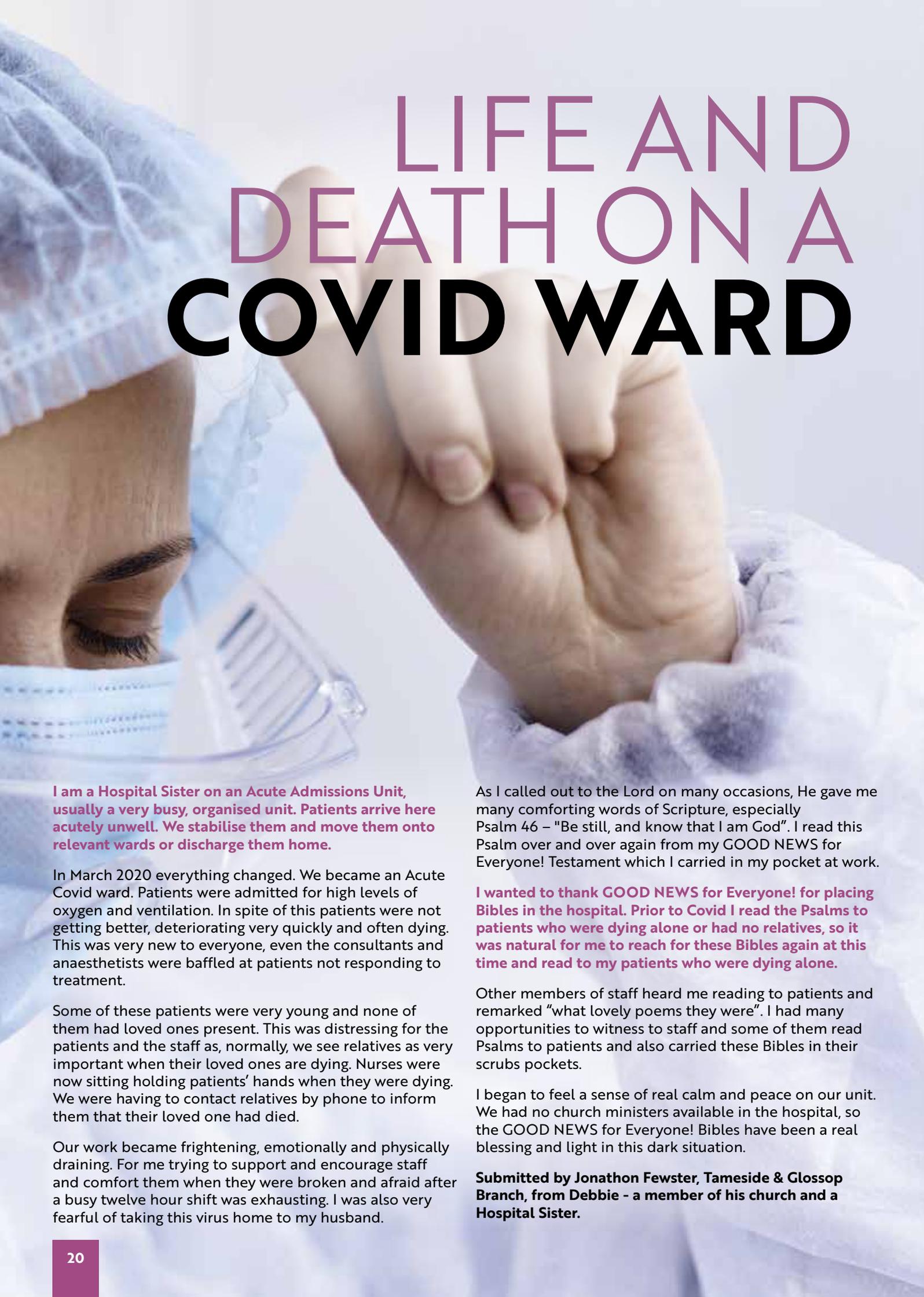
I got on my knees and started crying. I felt all the weight of shame and sin fall off me and I sobbed, feeling like a baby but feeling brand new.

As I continued to read the Bible over the coming weeks, I learned what Jesus had done for me on the cross, that He had taken my sin and shame and given me new life.

It's 15 years since I became a Christian and God has taken me from being so self-focused to be a different and, I hope, loving person. I have been part of several different churches. I met my wife and we have moved several times to help with church plants, mostly around Cheshire. I have also spent time giving away Bibles, tracts, telling people about the Good News of Jesus.

When Jesus says He makes all things new I can look back on the last 15 years and say that He has done that.

Matthew Price shared his testimony at National Convention 2021.



LIFE AND DEATH ON A COVID WARD

I am a Hospital Sister on an Acute Admissions Unit, usually a very busy, organised unit. Patients arrive here acutely unwell. We stabilise them and move them onto relevant wards or discharge them home.

In March 2020 everything changed. We became an Acute Covid ward. Patients were admitted for high levels of oxygen and ventilation. In spite of this patients were not getting better, deteriorating very quickly and often dying. This was very new to everyone, even the consultants and anaesthetists were baffled at patients not responding to treatment.

Some of these patients were very young and none of them had loved ones present. This was distressing for the patients and the staff as, normally, we see relatives as very important when their loved ones are dying. Nurses were now sitting holding patients' hands when they were dying. We were having to contact relatives by phone to inform them that their loved one had died.

Our work became frightening, emotionally and physically draining. For me trying to support and encourage staff and comfort them when they were broken and afraid after a busy twelve hour shift was exhausting. I was also very fearful of taking this virus home to my husband.

As I called out to the Lord on many occasions, He gave me many comforting words of Scripture, especially Psalm 46 – "Be still, and know that I am God". I read this Psalm over and over again from my GOOD NEWS for Everyone! Testament which I carried in my pocket at work.

I wanted to thank GOOD NEWS for Everyone! for placing Bibles in the hospital. Prior to Covid I read the Psalms to patients who were dying alone or had no relatives, so it was natural for me to reach for these Bibles again at this time and read to my patients who were dying alone.

Other members of staff heard me reading to patients and remarked "what lovely poems they were". I had many opportunities to witness to staff and some of them read Psalms to patients and also carried these Bibles in their scrubs pockets.

I began to feel a sense of real calm and peace on our unit. We had no church ministers available in the hospital, so the GOOD NEWS for Everyone! Bibles have been a real blessing and light in this dark situation.

Submitted by Jonathon Fewster, Tameside & Glossop Branch, from Debbie - a member of his church and a Hospital Sister.

COME OVER AND HELP US!

Would you be willing to consider membership of GOOD NEWS for Everyone? In order to continue distributing Scriptures, additional members are urgently required in all parts of the UK. We encourage you to read the following information about our work and prayerfully ask the Lord if He would have you enquire about membership.

The objective of GOOD NEWS for Everyone! is to introduce others to the Lord Jesus Christ by placing, presenting and/or distributing Scriptures in many different areas of life. Most often these are Testaments (which include the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs), but also copies of the full Bible.

Schools – would you be willing to give of your time to visit your local schools?

The highest number of Testaments distributed annually by GOOD NEWS for Everyone! is Youth Testaments, either through a school assembly talk or through Religious Education lessons. A school assembly talk offers the opportunity to encourage pupils to accept a Testament, to inspire them to read it, and to show them how to use it.

Colleges and Universities – would you be willing to give of your time to visit your local college and/or university?

GOOD NEWS for Everyone! offers College Testaments to students at University and College Fresher Fairs or through pavement distribution.

Hospitals – would you be willing to give of your time to visit your local hospital?

Testaments are placed at hospital bedsides and may be hard or soft cover, or even shrink wrapped if required. Testaments are available for presentation to medical and other hospital staff.

Ed: We have been delighted to welcome new members as a result of them reading this article in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of the magazine. If you are reading this and feel prompted to find out more, please don't hesitate to contact us. We will be delighted to hear from you.

To find out more please contact National Office – details on page 2.

Prisons – would you be willing to give of your time to visit your local prison?

Testaments are presented to prison officers, prison staff and prisoners. Bibles are often provided for prison cells.

Hotels – would you be willing to give of your time to visit your local hotels?

As well as placing Bibles in hotels, we also put them in guest houses, holiday homes, cruise liners, medical waiting rooms, and legal offices.

Large Print Testaments – would you be willing to give of your time to visit your local care and residential homes?

And last but by no means least: Personal witnessing. Maybe you don't feel you have the time available at present to participate in any of the above activities, but would you be willing to always be ready to share a copy of God's Word with those you come in contact with on a day-to-day basis?

You may be able to give a little of your time, you may be able to give more. Whatever time you can give to the work is between you and the Lord. Please be assured that every contribution of time is greatly valued and can and will be used by the Lord towards another person coming to faith in Him.

We look forward to hearing from you and being able to share with you much more of the many blessings of membership.



From a Spark to a Flame

This article is reproduced from "The Answer", which is produced by ShareWord Global. We are grateful to Alaina Attaway for her help with providing the information.

From the UK, to Sweden. From Canada, to Chile. From Chile, to Kenya. And from Kenya to the Middle East. God heard them. The unwavering fervent prayers of global believers, lifting up their brothers and sisters in the Middle East as they forged ahead – leaders, children, and families – united as one body, for the sake of forever building His kingdom.

He heard them. The bold, heartfelt prayers of His persecuted sons and daughters in this often-overlooked region of the world, carefully planning each step of the *Spark* launch. God saw them. The folded hands. The bent knees.

And He answered.

The *Spark* program introduced by ShareWord Global to Middle Eastern youth just a few short months ago, has already been completed by 250 churches among a 350-church network! And just as you prayed, the impact is permeating every heart possible.

One youth leader shares:

"Thank you very much for this amazing, comprehensive, and attractive magazine. The *Spark* magazine made a big difference - not only in the number of attendees at the meeting, but in the lives of young adults. We have begun to notice the positive impact of the magazine on their lives - the way they deal with the Bible and their dealings with each other during and after the meeting as well. There is more commitment from them towards their personal daily devotions and being on time for meeting attendance. They are an encouragement to each other. We don't know how to thank you, but God knows how. Thank you very much once again!"



In a nation where almost every second person is between the age of 15 to 16 years old, these leaders and youth are the next kingdom builders.

But that's not all. The work is just getting started! Given the proven success of the *Spark* campaign so far, we aren't sitting still. Having visited five other strategic nations during the month of November, our partner has introduced the Gospel magazine and campaign tools to even more marginalized areas of the Middle East, where Christians and Scripture resources are scarce. These are the same areas where refugees are struggling to survive, and the threat of civil unrest is an everyday norm.

Can you see it? The "spark" that began this summer is breaking borders and bringing even more of Christ's light into this current Islamic and Muslim majority region of the world. Evangelical church leaders are planning together. Some 60,000 more *Spark* magazines are getting printed. As a result, children – mainly refugee children – will be given an opportunity to find an everlasting home in Christ.

We fully expect obstacles ahead. The devil will not be happy.
But it doesn't matter – Christ has given us the answer. Prayer.

Please – will you continue to:

(1) Pray - for the men and women making important ministry decisions for the future of these nations

(2) Pray - for the speedy arrival of the Scripture magazines

(3) Pray - for the future youth leaders' hearts, that they will be fully in tune with Christ as they share His message.

Pray. Because we know God will answer in ways that surpass our wildest dreams.

"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7, NLT)

PRISONS NEED OUR PRAYERS



Bob Wilson is the Free Churches Faith Advisor to both publicly and privately run prisons. We caught up with Bob recently and asked him to tell us more about his role and about Prisons Week.

Prisoners' Week began in England and Wales in 1975. The Prisoners' Week Committee, consisting of Prison Chaplains and other Christians involved in work with prisoners and their families, was formed to encourage prayer within churches and the wider Christian community for the needs of prisoners.

In 1993 Prisoners' Week became a registered charity and in 1995, seeking to focus attention not only on the needs of prisoners but on all those involved in and affected by prison (including prisoners' families, victims of crime, prison staff, those working in other parts of criminal justice and many volunteers), the week became known as Prisons Week.

What does your role as Free Churches Faith Advisor to Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) involve and what is your connection to Prisons Week?

As Free Churches Faith Advisor to HMPPS I am responsible for the endorsement, support and pastoral care of all 220 Prison Chaplains across England and

Wales from what the Prison Service consider "Free Churches". These chaplains come from the 26 member denominations of the Free Churches Group and eight denominations which are not members, but with whom we have an additional agreement to support.

We have within our number large denominations such as the Methodist Church, and far smaller ones such as The Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion. Theologically we have Pentecostal traditions, Methodists, Baptists, Black majority churches, small and large independent churches, the Salvation Army, and a whole range more.

I have been involved with Prisons Week since 2011 and currently serve as Chair of Trustees.

What is Prisons Week all about, what are the main objectives?

Prisons Week is simply a week of prayer held every October (from the second Sunday) to encourage Christians to pray for all affected by imprisonment. This year it runs from 9 to 15 October.



When we think of praying for prisons, we rightly think of prayer for prisoners and prison officers. Are there other groups you encourage prayer for?

Yes. We structure our prayers to ensure that all affected by imprisonment are considered. Each year we make sure that prisoners, prison staff, victims of crime, families, communities affected by crime, and people working in the criminal justice system are all prayed for.

What particular challenge does each group face that we can pray about?

Look out for the Prisons Week prayer guide that will be released in late June 2022!

How can the readers of our magazine get involved with Prisons Week and where can they find out more information?

They can follow the prayer campaign as it develops through any of our social media or internet channels: **Instagram** (@prisonsweek); **Twitter** (@PrisonsWeek); **Facebook** (@prisonsweek) and on our **Website** (www.prisonweek.org) where last year's campaign and videos are still live.

They can also contact us (info@prisonweek.org) to make sure that, when the leaflet is made available in June, they can get copies for their personal use and for their churches. And they can encourage their church to have a prayer slot on the Sunday of Prisons Week (9 October).

Presumably, there is a great deal of preparation that goes into Prisons Week. How can we pray for you and all who are involved in the preparation?

There are an incredible group of people from charities and faith groups across the country who gather together monthly to help develop the ideas and prayers that make up the prayer campaign (<https://www.prisonweek.org/sponsors/>). It would be great if in their prayers your readers could thank God for the commitment and resources that these organisations and individuals put into Prisons Week.

If you could also pray for inspiration and patience: inspiration to hear from God as to how He wants us to present the prayer campaign this year, and patience to see things develop and bloom in His time as together many tens of thousands of people unite in prayer during the second week of October.

Our constant prayer is that we will see His power transform the lives of all affected by imprisonment.

PLEASE TELL YOUR EXECUTORS WE'VE CHANGED OUR NAME

National Treasurer, Iain Gray, shares some important information in relation to legacies. Please read this carefully and take action accordingly.

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He spoke about the consequences of what we do with our worldly goods.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6: 19-21).

One way that we can respond positively to this challenge is to leave a legacy in our wills for the ministry of GOOD NEWS for Everyone! By doing that, men, women and young people will have access to God's Word after we have left this world to spend eternity with our Lord Jesus Christ. I have seen a range of legacies received by the Association, ranging from quite small amounts to very substantial sums of money from Friends and members. But the common feature is a desire by the giver to ensure that money left when they pass on to glory is used as treasure in heaven in the Lord's service.

Many of us may have done this already, but our change of name may introduce uncertainty for the executors of our wills when they are deciding how to implement what is stated. If our wills still make reference to The Gideons International, our executors may not know that the name has changed to GOOD NEWS for Everyone!

If that applies to you, I encourage you to speak to a solicitor about addressing this. I understand that the options are to prepare a codicil to an existing will or to produce a new will, but you should take advice from a solicitor in relation to this.

Please ensure that you specify the gift, which may be a percentage of your estate or a stated sum of money, you wish to leave to GOOD NEWS for Everyone! and include our registered charity number: England and Wales 221605, Scotland SC039224. Please also include the National Office address as an important point of reference: GOOD NEWS for Everyone!, Western House, 24 George Street, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, LE17 4EE.

Submitted by Iain Gray, National Treasurer

REACHING TO THE STARS OF STAGE AND SCREEN



Rick Hillard, Region 8 Director and a member of the Torbay & Teignbridge Branch reports from a presentation to some well-known faces.

The Covid pandemic has had an enormous detrimental effect on the entertainment sector since March 2020. It is only just recently that the entertainment business has been able to start up again and, even then, in fits and starts.

My wife Helen and I have been members of Christians in Entertainment (CIE) and the Arts Centre Group (ACG) for the past 40 years since our time in London in the 1970s. I offered both organisations the gift of Badged Testaments to encourage their members and anyone that they come into contact with involved in the arts and entertainment.

Both organisations celebrate an important anniversary this year. CIE celebrate their 40th anniversary, which was included in the logo on the Testaments, and ACG celebrate their 50th anniversary.

We were able to attend the special celebrations at the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park in Esher. The afternoon session was devoted to the CIE when guests Frank Williams (the Vicar in *Dad's Army*) and Sue Hodge (the character Mimi in *'Allo 'Allo*) were there to entertain. At the start of the session we were able to present the Badged Testaments to these and several other celebrities present at the time.

We are producing the Testaments for the ACG and these will be presented at a special function early in 2022.

Reverend Cindy Kent and Chris Gidney led the sessions. Cindy was a member of the Settlers Band that accompanied Cliff Richard in Christian concerts during Cliff's early days as a Christian. Cindy works with Premier Radio as a presenter and has in recent years been ordained.

Chris Gidney is CEO of CIE, and is a producer. One of his first jobs was to stage manage the original production of *Evita* for Andrew Lloyd Webber. Chris has been very active in bringing Bible studies and prayer times into the theatre world especially in the West End but also across the UK. For some years Chris has organised the placing of Bibles in dressing rooms around the theatres.

Please pray for the continuing work in these areas. If you have any further interest in either of these ministries please contact Rick Hillard – Region 8 for information.

Frank Williams and Sue Hodge are both pictured below centre with Reverend Cindy Kent (left) and Rick Hillard next to her. On the right is Helen Hillard with Chris Gidney next to her.

Submitted by Rick Hillard, Region 8 Director.



LEAKY LOO PROVIDED VITAL CONTACT!

We all know, as Christians, that sometimes God works in a mysterious way. The following story from Barrie and Jill Heaton, members of Plymouth Branch, is one such incident.

Some years ago, a young couple, Tim and Helen, started to come to the house-group that Jill and I run. In due course they married and eventually three children arrived, all under the age of 5 at the time of this story.

In order to accommodate all the children, they moved from their first home to a bigger one which needed significant refurbishment. At church one day Jill was talking to Tim about the new house. He told her they had considerable trouble with their bathroom - the toilet and bath were in a sorry state and very old. They were both working and had little time, most of which they needed to spend with the children.

He asked Jill if we could help in any way, especially with the leaky toilet. Jill and I considered this request and offered to refurbish their bathroom for them. During our time there I was talking to Helen, who had just arrived home from work. I asked her, "where do you work now?" She told me she worked in HR at Plymouth Marjon University (Marjon is the trading name for the University of St Mark and St John).

This rang a bell as GOOD NEWS for Everyone! had been trying to establish contact with Marjon for some years. I immediately asked her if she had any contact with the chaplain there. She told me that she knew the chaplain (Michelle) well and often had her lunch in the chaplaincy. So I asked Helen if she could act as a go-between and persuade Michelle to let me come in and talk to her about what GOOD NEWS for Everyone! could do for students there.

Michelle invited me in to talk and I was able to show her the Badged Testaments we produce. She was thrilled with these and immediately asked if she could have 200 to offer to students at their graduation ceremonies. The necessary artwork for the Marjon logo and prayer was sent to National Office and, thanks to their efficiency, within two months the Testaments arrived.

Plymouth Marjon University has three graduation ceremonies to cater for the large number of students but, after the second ceremony, Michelle ran out of Testaments, and so was unable to offer them to the third. She has now requested 300 Testaments which we shall gladly supply. What an opportunity we can thank God for!

HELPING THE WELLNESS AGENDA

We were so pleased to present 500 badged Testaments to the newly combined Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, incorporating their new badge.

The presentation was made at Southsea to Jamie Kelly, chair of the "FireREACH" faith group in the Inclusion and Diversity Section of the Service. This was a wonderful opening to supply Christian content through this group, as the Lord really opened this door for His Word to be provided. It was a blessing to hear Jamie explain to us all how these Testaments with their "helps in time of need" could be a benefit for their "wellness agenda"!

Brian Gale of Southampton Branch had made the first contact, and he encouraged the Fire Service staff to share the New Testaments with their families. Thomas Whiffen of Portsmouth Branch was introduced to Andy Rook and



Steven Weeks, the Christian members of the FireREACH group, from two Portsmouth churches, making more links.

We pray for the wide distribution of these Testaments in the Service and pray for Jamie and many others to come to know the Lord. We thank God for this new relationship with the Fire and Rescue Service.

Submitted by Peter Bacon, Director Scripture Distribution Region 7, with thanks to John Goodspeed of Portsmouth Branch for the photo.

CHOCOLATE- COATED CARE FOR SAILORS



Michael Cadman is an Associate Chaplain with the Seamen's Christian Friend Society in the port of Ipswich, Suffolk. Not being classified as a Key Worker when the pandemic hit, and unable to visit terminals, he came up with a novel way to make sure GOOD NEWS for Everyone! Testaments reached ships, with the help of members in the Lowestoft Branch.

As well as receiving a New Testament at school from GOOD NEWS for Everyone!, over the years I have found their Bibles in hotel chains. More recently I heard of a friend in Lowestoft who was giving out a special edition New Testament and Psalms to crew on ships coming into the harbour of Great Yarmouth.

Technology has enabled me to view websites that show the position of ships at anchor off our coast. As I began to monitor their movements I noticed that many of them were crude oil tankers and were at anchor quite often for many weeks at a time.

With the help of a colleague who was a former Pilot boat skipper, contact was made with the owner of a company in the Lowestoft area who were involved in supporting these vessels with crew transfers, taking supplies, engine parts etc. We requested that he might be willing to take packages with him when attending these vessels. It was very exciting when he agreed without hesitation.

He had been a former merchant seaman himself and knew about life at sea. We started taking packages to him. We named them "care packages", as they consisted of a New

Testament wrapped up with a tract and chocolate bar and put inside a woolly hat.

A short time afterwards the Chaplain visiting ships in Great Yarmouth put me in touch with the Lowestoft branch of GOOD NEWS for Everyone! who were willing to supply me with New Testaments too. To make them more attractive they came with the emblem of a ship's anchor on the front.

When the Government put restrictions on unnecessary travel we had to stop taking packages to Lowestoft. Then we found out that the company had a boat moored in a marina close to Ipswich and I was invited to take them there, and they would be transferred back to Lowestoft.

But the story doesn't stop here. This vessel goes out to meet fuel tankers heading towards the River Thames and the crew offered to give them a package too. We also send care packages to a company in Cornwall who also take them out when they visit ships with supplies.

All these care packages have GOOD NEWS for Everyone! New Testaments inside, along with other Scripture portions. It is my prayer that new and further opportunities will open up in the future. As I say to the Captain when I enclose a letter in each package, the taste of chocolate will only last a few minutes but reading the Scriptures can change a person's life forever.

We are grateful to Michael and to the members of Lowestoft Branch for submitting this article.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE IN THE WORLD



Heather Capper, one of our National Pastoral Support Officers, shares her thoughts on shining for the Lord.

One of my teenage memories is that of an older man, Major Metcalfe, who came occasionally to speak at our Sunday evening service. I remember him distinctly as being different from other speakers because his face literally shone. I'm not sure how that was, except that he evidently loved God's Word and loved sharing it with others. So every time I read Exodus and am reminded of Moses' face shining as God spoke with him "as a man would to his friend" (Exodus 33:11), I think of this man and am challenged not so much as to whether my face shines but whether others notice how evidently precious God is to me.

Paul refers to something similar to Moses' experience when he writes of us as having "treasure in jars of clay", which is "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" which we have in our inner beings (2 Corinthians 4:6-7). It's a light which should spill out and shine in the darkness which surrounds us in society today.

There are many ways in which we can consciously share this light. Often it is the unconscious sharing of our faith when our personal jar of clay cracks or breaks with the stresses and strains of everyday human experience; others notice it and which (hopefully) authenticates our faith to them, often speaking volumes without any words being said.

Paul tells the Christians at Corinth that they are "a letter from Christ, ...written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

Whether or not we are aware of people watching how we live, react, cope etc, we can be assured that they do. Hopefully what people see in us will reveal to them that God is our strength and our fortress in these difficult times, that He is a God who loves, who cares, who has the power to get us through and who therefore can help them too.

We all go through difficult times, whether it is over-busyness and consequent fatigue, sickness, loneliness, doubt, spiritual dryness etc, and this is surely something we could and should pray for, not only for ourselves, but for others whose witness at any moment may be more unconscious than conscious.

We need to pray that as we deal with issues like these, our faith and trust in our Lord Jesus will somehow bring glory to God and be an occasion for the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus in us and shine His light out.

As with the saying "truth will out", so also "light will out". Wherever there are any cracks in our jar of clay, that light of Christ, which we have in our hearts by God's grace and through His Holy Spirit, will shine and God will use it to further His purposes.

Let's strive to ensure that our light isn't dimmed or deflected or minimised through our lack of focus on Jesus. The closer we walk in fellowship with Him, the brighter will be the light emanating out for all to see.

So, whether it is a conscious or unconscious witness to the light of the Gospel in our lives, let's follow Jesus' encouragement to His disciples in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"; and as Paul wrote in Philippians 2:15, "shine like stars in the universe... as you hold out the word of life".



New Testament & Psalms

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