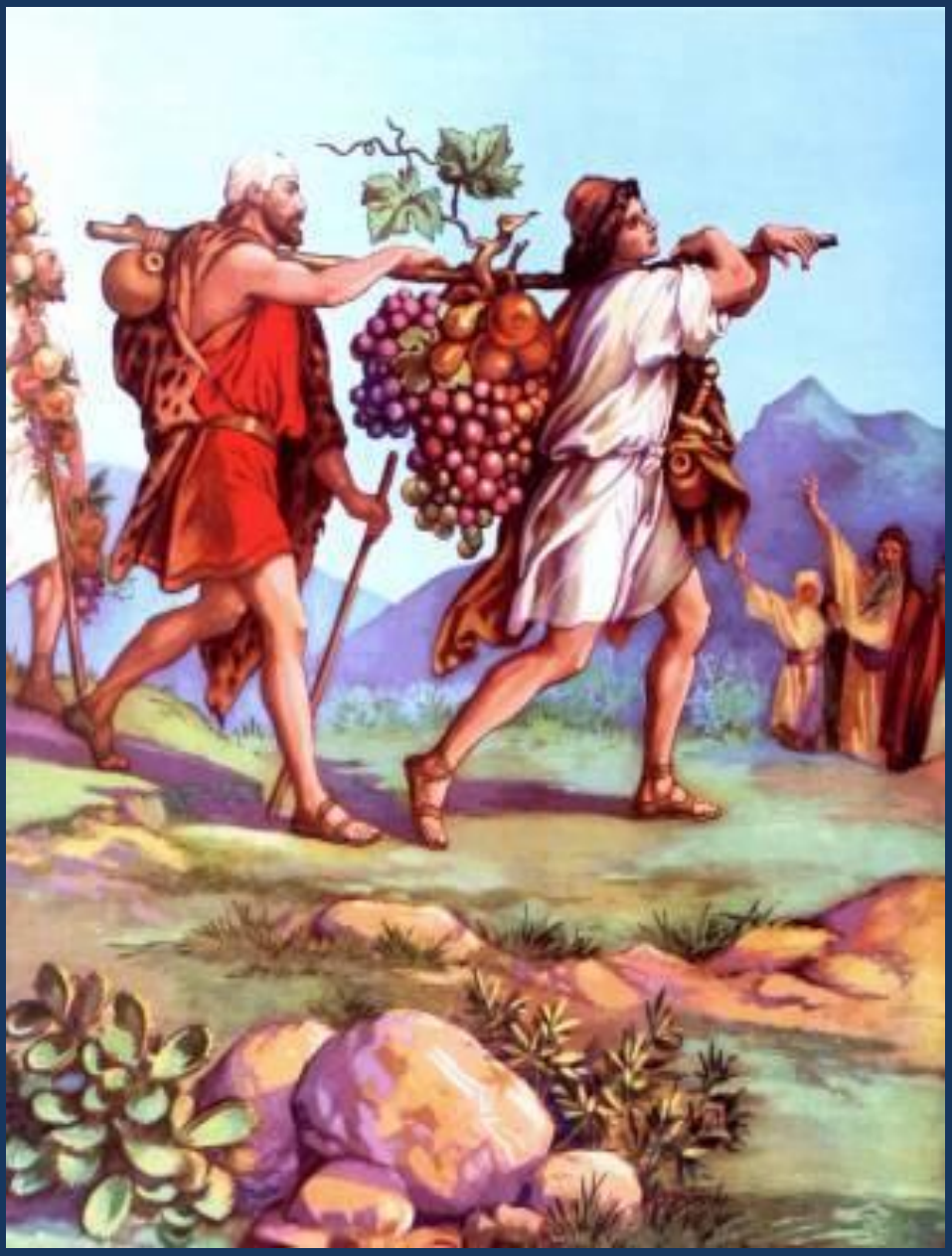
THE ROAD FROM EGYPT



JOHN WRIGHT

INTRODUCTION BY LORD ELTON

THE ROAD FROM EGYPT

Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them,

‘Go up there into the Negeb, and go into the hill country, and see what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and whether the towns they live in are open or fortified, and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be bold, and bring some fruit of the land,’ Now it was the season of the first ripe grapes.

Numbers 13:17-20

And they told Moses,

‘We came to the land to which you sent us;
it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.
Yet the people who live in the land are strong,
and the towns are fortified and very large;
and besides we saw the descendants of Anak there.

Numbers 13:27-28

Then Joshua and Caleb said,

‘If the Lord is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. Only, do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they are no more than bread for us; their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us;
do not fear them.’

But the whole congregation threatened to stone them!

Numbers 14: 8-10

THE ROAD FROM EGYPT

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 done 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 as far round as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the Good News of Christ.'

Romans 15:18-19

by

John Wright

The Feast of Tabernacles 2015

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I dedicate this little book to Michael Wiltshire,
a former Commissioning Editor at the Financial Times,
now a National Director of the
Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International,
who has been a faithful and encouraging friend
through many difficult years.

INTRODUCTION

Like so much of John Wright's work, this is an extraordinary book. Constructed on what seem at first to be haphazard lines – a mere chance collection of items from a spiritual commonplace book – it reveals itself to be a glorious patchwork quilt carefully assembled from pieces of every sort, colour and texture of material which together present a coherent and compelling picture.

A great many of the pieces come directly from his own experience, but others come from sources as widely separated as Julian of Norwich (d. 1416), George Frederic Handel (d. 1759) and John Stott (d. 2011). Academics will notice the minimal amount of information about context – the lack, sometimes, even of attribution. This is a strength, not a weakness. It forces the reader to think only about the spiritual content and challenges set out on the page. No footnotes beckon you away into fascinating bypaths of history or sociology. What you are confronted with, whether it be an event, an issue, a commentary, a prophecy, an aphorism or a miracle, invites – almost demands – a reaction. Scarcely any can be treated simply as neutral matters of interest.

Agnostics will notice an absence of apologetics. There is an assumption that the reader will accept what is presented as consistent with their own framework of belief, but the material is its own apologetic. The great variety and detail of insights into the work of the Holy Spirit will speak compellingly to many, even to those who are on the edge of faith; others who wait expectantly, like fencers constantly en garde for some great onslaught of logic, will be unmoved.

The fifty numbered pieces make up the patchwork, and this patchwork proves to be an introduction to another which adds up to a compendium of advice on practical evangelism drawn from his own experience of going wherever he believes the Holy Spirit is leading him. He is leading him into a still increasing variety of circumstances and places, developing an increasing ability to spot opportunities and greater confidence – almost, his friends would say, greater sangfroid – in following the Master from whom his courage comes.

This is a book from which many who are called to mission have much to learn, and in which others may well hear that call themselves. Wilbur Chapman's eight "Ifs" in the last section seem to be addressed directly to them.

Rodney Elton
A former Deputy Speaker
The House of Lords

FOREWORD

The Road from Egypt is the story of our Christian pilgrimage. We are all tested on our journey to see if we will trust and obey God like Joshua and Caleb, and so reach the Promised Land. The alternative is to make decisions based on our circumstances, like the ten spies, and perish. Many are called but few are chosen.

Some, sadly, refuse to set out. Others, going through the desert alone with God, are tempted to remember the cucumbers of Egypt and want to go back. The biggest problem is unbelief that lets in fear. We are afraid of a seeming lack of water or of bread, of our needs being met. As Jesus said later, '*You of little faith, why are you talking about having no bread*?' Matthew 16:8.

Today we also fear the 'Giants' in the land. We are afraid to speak to people about the love of God and His command to repent. Acts 17: 30. We can be '*wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked'*, lukewarm Christians who make God sick. Revelation 3:17.

Jesus told many parables about stewards left in charge of assets to be increased in their Lord's absence. There is an eternal reward for faithful servants who realise that the treasure of the Gospel is to be multiplied.

Do we need to wake up? We would all reach out to save someone drowning, or someone who has fallen over a cliff. But on the train, next to someone going to eternal torment, would we talk to them or just read our paper?

If we are obedient in wasting no opportunity to share the Gospel, we can look forward to hearing those wonderful words:

'Well done, thou good and faithful servant!'

Also to enjoying a great reward - the fruits of the Promised Land!

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1. GO HOME AND DIE!

The testimony of Peter Jamieson, Shetland.

I left Shetland to make my fortune in Aberdeen. There I became an alcoholic, a heroine addict and a drug dealer. Eventually the doctor said to me, 'Ninety per cent of your liver is dead. '*Go home and die'*.

So I went back to Shetland where my sister had pity on me. She got me into a Christian Rehabilitation Centre on an island off the coast called Papa Stour.

There I heard about Jesus; they suggested I should give what was left of my life into His hands. I did this one evening with lots of tears, and afterwards felt much better.

That night I had a dream. Jesus asked me what I done with my life. I was so ashamed. I had just destroyed myself and other people. He smiled at me and said, 'No more!'

When I woke up I discovered that my liver was completely healed.
The doctors could not explain it.

A few days later I was at a prayer meeting. I asked Jesus if He would do something that I could see. I looked down and found that my arms, which had been ruined by injecting heroine, were like those of a new born babe. Jesus had given me two creative miracles.

Now I take every opportunity to tell people what God has done for me.

2. NO CORRUPTION!

Neither will thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption. Psalm 16:10

The story of Faith Nainby

John Nainby was Pastor of a Baptist Church in Norwich. He and his wife Faith were baptised with the Spirit shortly after their arrival and were given a healing ministry. But then Faith got cancer. I went to see her and was shocked by her appearance. Her face was all skin and bones, ravaged by the disease. Then she died early one Sunday morning.

John called to tell us, but strangely I had complete peace at the sad news. On the Monday night, at a Full Gospel Business Men's dinner at Yarmouth at which Bishop Richard Hare was speaking, I felt the Lord say, '*I will raise Faith on the Third Day*.'

When I got home I went into our little Chapel and said to the Lord,' *I can't say this to John unless I have a powerful confirmation. I am going to open a hymn book, a prayer book and the Bible. If what I read in each book speaks of the resurrection I will tell John tomorrow*.' I opened the three books. Every passage I read spoke of the resurrection!

The next morning, Tuesday, being the third day since Faith's death, I went to see John and told him what had happened. He called his daughter, only to discover that she and her husband had had the same word, that Faith would be raised on the third day. John then called Faith's sister. They too had had the same word. It was uncanny but hugely exciting. So John called the Undertakers and arranged for us to see Faith at 4pm. Just as we left the house the Lord seemed to say, '*Faith will need some clothes*!' So John ran up the stairs to pack a bag. We both had 110% faith that Faith would be raised.

When Faith was wheeled in we were stunned. She looked like a young girl! So beautiful and peaceful with all traces of the disease miraculously removed. We were seeing the miracle of a body restored from corruption. John said to me, '*Well, John, this is a bit beyond me – will you pray*?' (As if I did this all the time!). So we started to worship the Lord, kneeling beside the coffin, welcoming the Holy Spirit. Then the Angel of Death was bound and cast out and Faith was commanded to return to her body in Jesus name. Inevitably there was an attack. '*You are going to be famous, you will be on Television.*' We continued to worship and pray for twenty minutes, but Faith remained with Jesus.

To my relief John was not at all upset. He was just thrilled that we had been obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Should we have persisted in prayer for longer? I knew the story of the 17th century Tutor of the son of a Scottish Earl who locked himself in a room with his dead charge only to see him raised on the Third Day. But at the same time we were glad that Faith remained in Heaven. No one who has been there wants to come back!

3. THE SHY MANNEQUINS

We were at Vichy, France, in October 2009 for the French National Convention of the Full Gospel Business Men. I had been asked to teach them how to talk to strangers about Jesus.

So, to show that such madness could succeed even in France, I walked down a marble paved street in Vichy lined with very expensive shops.

Outside a very *haut couture* ladies dress shop I saw two young girls, very elegantly dressed, with delicious hats, gazing at the dresses in the window to the right of the door. They had their backs to me so I sailed up behind them and said

'Bonjour, Mesdemoiselles!'

They ignored me. So, discerning that Satan had put a spirit of deafness upon them, I cast out this vile spirit and again spoke to them,

'Bonjour, Mesdemoiselles!'

Again they ignored me. Then I had a gift of wisdom. I would pretend to walk through the door; they were bound to look up to see who had been speaking to them; I would whirl round and catch their eye. Then they would hear about the One I love.

So I walked through the door, whirled round, and then discovered that they were, in fact, not girls at all but dummy Mannequins! When I recounted this story to the assembly later that afternoon my interpreter was laughing so much he could hardly speak.

But it was a gift of God to enable me to give the manageress a Voice Magazine. Also to break the ice and gain acceptance for the message from my audience later that day

With God all things are possible - most of the time!

4. THE FOXHOUNDS

In prayer one morning I was grumbling about the state of the Church. So often, it seemed, they had forgotten their real call to take the Gospel to the world and instead were more concerned with Church politics.

Then a picture came into my mind. I saw foxhounds in their kennel. There was an open exercise area where they were wandering about looking bored. Some were snarling and backbiting each other. Others were laid out asleep in the sun. One or two were scratching for fleas. It was not a happy picture.

Then I saw them in full cry after the fox. They were alert, stretched to their limits, bright eyed, working in harmony with a common objective. No boredom or backbiting was evident. They were fulfilled by performing the purpose for which they had been created.

I realised what the Lord was saying. A healthy, happy Church is to be found where witnessing by all members is the top priority.
Then they are fruitful and multiply!

5. PASTOR HSI

Hsi was a landowner and much feared advocate in China in the 1930's. He was also addicted to opium but this stopped once he had become a Christian.

Soon he was pastoring a Church. Then a neighbouring landowner ordered his servants to change the boundary marks and annexe Pastor Hsi's most fertile field by the river.

Pastor Hsi had always taught that one must bless those who persecute us. If they want our shirt we should offer our coat as well. This is God's Word, he used to say, which we can safely follow because God Himself is the source of all we need.

Shortly afterwards the Landowner who had stolen Hsi's field became ill. All efforts to cure his sickness failed. Eventually he was forced to humble himself and ask Hsi to visit him to pray for his healing. Hsi was glad to oblige, but made no mention of the field. After his prayers the man recovered and was so impressed that he began to attend Hsi's church.

However he still would not give up the field he had stolen. Some time later he became ill again and died while Pastor Hsi was away on a mission. The neighbourhood were deeply impressed by this demonstration that '*vengeance is mine'*, saith the Lord.

Many turned to Christ as a result. But even then Hsi made no effort to claim back his field. '*The field belongs to my Master'* he said.
'*If He wishes to use it in this way for His glory, what is that to me?'*

6. HANDEL'S MESSIAH

In April of 1737, at 52, Handel suffered from a stroke which incapacitated him. It was no longer possible for him to play the spinet or conduct, because his right arm was paralyzed and he was right handed. He also complained of blurred vision.

In addition, falling in and out of favour with Royalty had left him alternately in and out of money. Because he was not a wise businessman, he lost a fortune in the opera business. By 1740. Handel was depressed, and in debt.

In 1741, with a sense of hopelessness, Handel felt his life was over. In desperation he cried out to God for help. Following a season of prayer he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

He spent the next twenty three days shut in his room, constantly writing as the Spirit inspired him. By the end of this period he had finished his immortal Messiah.

When Handel came to the end of himself, he only had God left. With the death of his pride and self-reliance, the Holy Spirit was able to produce in him something far surpassing anything he had produced before in his own strength.

This was the birth of Messiah.

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'Very truly I tell you, except a grain of wheat fall to the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.' John12:24.
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7. A DIVINE LEGACY

The Legacy of Mrs John Wright to her descendants
Nottingham 1776

My dear Children, very dear to me in the bonds of nature, I would, as my last request both to sons and daughters, entreat you to read this with attention and regard, as a testimony of my love to your precious souls; that I being dead, may yet speak, to the comfort and encouragement of your hearts in the ways of God and holiness.

You know how I have spent my hours in my closet, to acquaint myself with the Lord; that I might be at peace with Him through Christ Jesus. *This* is the most important study, and without this, all other knowledge will only add to our condemnation at the last day; therefore, my dear children, seek first the kingdom of God and *His* righteousness, and all other things shall be added; but what will it profit, if you should gain the whole world, and lose your soul?

I hope I have always sought to make them my guide and counsellor in every circumstance and difficulty of life, and God has often brought the word to my mind for my instruction and comfort, exceeding applicable to the then state of my mind. I have often opened the Bible in the very place of comfort that has been surprisingly adapted and applied to me, for which I have had my heart filled with praise and sweet meditation, for which reason I generally peruse a part of the place where the Bible first opens, before I proceed to the chapter I first intended reading.

Lately opening my Bible at the 16th chapter of St Luke, I fell upon reading the parable of Dives and Lazarus; that sentence, of Dives lifting up his eyes in hell, being in torments, greatly affected me, and I was led to lift up my heart to God, that neither we nor ours might ever come into that place of torment; and God was pleased sweetly to make me hope, that my many prayers and requests on your account should be answered; and that what I see not, *believing* I shall rejoice in, in His own due time, when the time of the promise shall come, it shall not tarry, wait for it, as you will find it in the word of God.

I would not deceive you with vain hopes for the world; for except ye seek the Kingdom of Heaven *with your whole heart, yourselves,* it is not my prayers will save you; religion is a personal thing; and the most comfortable, the most delightful, reality, when we have an experimental knowledge of it ourselves;

but there is nothing substantially good, either in life or godliness, to be obtained without care and diligence. We must strive to enter in at the straight gate; we have many irregular passions to subdue, many vain affections to strive against, for God requires our hearts, our best affections.

But one of our greatest enemies is self. O we are so partial there, we see not our own foibles; we can see the mote in our brother's eye, but the beam in our own we perceive not. We have the world and its innumerable temptations to strive against, it is a terrible enemy to our souls, both as to its pleasures and its cares; and we have a busy enemy, even the Devil, who is continually watching to ensnare us, by sinful passions, irregular motions of our hearts, as well as actions of our lives. What reason then have we to watch and pray continually that we enter not into temptation. It is to them that *overcome* that Christ says, '*I will not blot his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before His angels*.' Rev 3:5

Cultivate a meek and quiet spirit: '*The meek shall inherit the earth, and delight themselves in the abundance of peace,'* says the Psalmist; and '*Learn of me*,' says Christ, '*for I am meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls'*. They that would follow Christ must deny themselves.

I have not found it a vain thing to wait on God, but blessed be His name, I hope and trust, have obtained by faith and prayer, not only my own salvation, but an assurance of the salvation of my dear children's souls, by His many precious words of promise, upon which He hath caused me to hope; particularly that in Isaiah 44:3-4, *'I will pour water on him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit on thy seed, and my blessing on thy offspring; and they shall spring up among the grass, as willows by the water courses.'*

May you make all diligence to make your calling and election sure; that none of you, my dear children, may fail of the grace of God; but that an abundant entrance may be given to you all, into the Kingdom of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, is the earnest desire of

Your affectionate Mother,

Ann Wright

8. THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

The testimony of Charles Whitehead

I had to go to Kansas City for a meeting. While I was there I visited the International House of Prayer founded by the prophet Mike Bickle. They have teams of worshippers and prayer warriors who keep interceding twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

They also offer to pray for anyone who wants to hear from the Lord. I was taken into a room by a young man and three girls, all under twenty five years old. They said that all they needed to know was my name. We then all waited on the Lord in silence.

After about ten minutes the young man said to me, 'You are a Catholic.'

'That is correct,' I replied.

He continued, 'You have written a book on the ministry and gifts of the Holy Spirit. It will be published in two weeks time. God says that He is very pleased with the book and that it will be widely read and very influential in the Catholic Church.'

I was stunned but also so encouraged. My book, '*Towards a fuller life in the Holy Spirit'* was due to be published two weeks later. Everything he had said was correct.

Then one of the girls spoke. 'I am not sure that you are going to like this, but God says you will have no retirement in His service.'

She explained that some people look forward to retirement from full time ministry. Well, I don't, so that was good news for me too.

9. THE GOD WHO HEALS

The testimony of Barbara McCormick

I had an ear problem that caused me to take to my bed because I was giddy. I could not even stand up without feeling sick. I was meant to be going to my Father's birthday party that afternoon, but I had not been able to help my sisters prepare the food.

It was a lovely morning, so I took your book, *The Jericho Road*, and sat on my sunbed in the garden to read it. I was encouraged by all the opportunities God gave you to witness for Him.

As a result I said to God, '*If you would heal me I would be able to witness for you at the party.*' As soon as I said this, I felt a release in my ear and knew that the problem was gone.

A lot of people at the party knew I had been unwell and so asked me how I was. I was able to tell them of God's grace to me, and share the Gospel.

10. AA ANGELS

The testimony of Rev David & Trevis Gosling

On a glorious summer afternoon Trevis and I drove out to view the delights of Waddesdon Manor, one of the homes of Baron Rothschild. On the way home we chose a route through country lanes away from the traffic where I missed a turning and so needed to turn round. A little way ahead was a verge wider than the length of our car, ideal to back up on.

I reversed; there was some resistance, which I assumed was the kerb; a little more power and the back wheels mounted it. Going further back to clear the road, I felt the rear of the car drop and there was a loud bang. I got out and found I had backed up on to a large slab of concrete. The rear wheels had dropped off the end and the chassis was resting on the concrete. There was no traction and I could not possibly lift the car while Trevis drove. We were stuck!

Of course we had forgotten to bring our mobile phones with us. Should we go up or down the lane in search of help? How badly damaged might the car be? Would a single recovery man be able to lift the car? Whilst all these thoughts were rushing through my mind I noticed that a car, that had just driven passed us, was backing up. It stopped a little way past us.

The driver got out and opened the rear door. Two young men dressed in white stepped out, as though they had just come from a cricket match. They walked towards the rear of the car and the driver said to me, '*get in and start up*.' I felt the rear of the car rise, so was able to drive forward. Before I could get out of the car and express my thanks, all three had returned to their car and were gone. Apart from those few words to me nothing else was said. I believe they were angels. They came just when needed, knew what to do, did it and went.

As Scripture says: 'Before you call I will answer' and, 'Are not the Angels ministering spirits, sent to serve those who are to obtain salvation?' Hebrews 1:14.

11. THE PATRIARCH OF VENICE

It was his first morning as Patriarch (Bishop) of Venice. He sat in his palatial office overlooking the Grand Canal behind a huge, gold lacquered desk. His Chaplain handed him documents for his signature from a pile that had accumulated during the interregnum.

The Bishop paused – '*What is this*?' he asked.

'A very sad case' the Chaplain replied. '*Father Alfredo has been seduced by alcohol and women. This document is to confirm his removal from the Priesthood.*' The Bishop sighed, and set the document on one side.

The next morning at 6am the Bishop knocked at the door of the Priest's lodgings. A slatternly woman answered the door.' *Is Father at home* ?' the Bishop asked.

'*Not here, where do you think he is*?' the woman replied as she nodded to a Bar across the square. '*That's where you will find him.*' The Bishop crossed to the Bar where he found Father Alfredo, unshaven, slouched over a table, his first absinthe of the day at his elbow.

'The Bishop stood over him. '*I am your Bishop. Follow me*.' The Bishop then walked back to his Palazzo, followed by Father Alfredo. Up the grand stair case, into the Bishop's office. The Bishop locked the door and spoke kindly to his errant Priest.

'You are a Priest. I want you to hear my confession'. The Bishop then knelt at the feet of a stupefied Priest and was absolved. Nor was he the only one to enjoy the grace of God that morning. Father Alfredo was renewed in his faith, delivered from his addictions and restored to his Parish.

A few years later the Bishop became Pope John XX111!

12. THE PRINCE AND THE PEASANT GIRL
'You have ravished my heart'
Song of Solomon 4:9

A long time ago, there was a Prince who lived at the Royal Castle, the home of his father, the king. The Castle was surrounded by a deep and dark forest. The Prince excelled all the young men at Court. He was tall and handsome but also modest, gentle and kind. He was the best horseman, a master swordsman, and sang with a beautiful voice. The young ladies at Court all wanted to win him if they could.

One day the Prince went hunting with his friends on his magnificent white horse. As they rode through the forest, they came upon the hovels of some charcoal burners, the poorest of the poor. The Prince was thirsty and asked a peasant girl for a drink. She was some sixteen years old, her hair was bedraggled and full of lice; her dress was torn and dirty. She was bare footed, unwashed and had the smell of the common people.

But as she lifted the pitcher of water to the Prince, and as he looked down into her face, a strange thing happened. He saw no more the dirty peasant girl, bur a beautiful Princess.

The Prince got down from his horse and knelt at the feet of the peasant girl. He took her dirty, work-worn hands into his and asked her,

'Will you marry me?' The peasant girl was overwhelmed.

'My Lord,' she said, 'how can you fancy a poor peasant girl like me?'

'With one look', said the Prince, 'you have ravished my heart!'

Greatly wondering at such grace, the girl accepted his proposal. The Prince lifted her up onto his horse and carried her back to the castle. There she was given seven baths and seven shampoos and a sumptuous wedding gown was made for her. She had become the most beautiful bride in all the land.

On the third day they were married and lived happily for eternity. On another third day those who know Jesus, despite their poverty, will marry Him. By grace we are saved through faith, not of works, lest any man should boast.

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This was given by the Holy Spirit to an Evangelist visiting Romania. It was his sermon on his last night. He cried through the story as he tried to speak.

Many came to Christ.
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13. CHILDREN OF MEDJUGORJE

The words of the Blessed Virgin Mary received 2 March 2012.

'Dear Children! Through the immeasurable love of God I am coming among you and I am persistently calling you into the embrace of my Son. With a motherly heart I am imploring you, my children, but I am also repeatedly warning you, that concern for those who have not come to know my Son be your priority. Do not permit that by looking at you and your life, they are not overcome by a desire to come to know Him.

Pray to the Holy Spirit for my Son to be manifest in you. Pray that you can be Apostles of the Divine Light in this time of darkness and hopelessness. This is a time of your trial. With love in your heart, set out with me. I am leading you towards Easter in my Son. Pray for those whom my Son has chosen, that they can always live through Him and in Him – the High Priest. Thank you.'

14. THE POWER OF STILLNESS

From Quaker John Southall 1855-1928

Twenty years ago a friend gave me a little book. It became one of the turning points in my life. It was a mediaeval message with but one thought. God is waiting in the depths of my being to talk to me if only I would get still enough to hear His voice.

I thought this would be an easy matter, so I began to get still. But I had no sooner commenced than a perfect pandemonium of voices reached my ears, a thousand clamouring notes from without and within, until I could hear nothing but their noise and din. Some were my own voice, some were my questions, some my prayers. Others were voices of the world's turmoil. Never before did there seem so many things to be done, to be said, to be thought. In every direction I was pushed and pulled, greeted with noisy acclamations of unspeakable unrest.

But as I listened, and slowly learned to shut my ears to every sound, I found, after a while, that when the other voices ceased, or I ceased to hear them, there was a still small voice in the depths of my being that began to speak with an inexpressible tenderness, power and comfort.

As I listened, I did not need to think so hard, or pray so hard, but that 'still, small, voice' was the answer to all my questions. It was life and strength for soul and body, and became the substance of all knowledge.

This quiet is our spirit's deepest need. It is thus we receive spiritual refreshment. It is thus that our body is healed, and our spirit drinks in life. Thus we go forth to life's conflicts like the flower that has drunk in, through the night, the cool crystal drops of dew.

We cannot go through life strong and fresh if we are on constant express trains of activity. We must have quiet hours, secret places of stillness, times of waiting when we renew our strength and learn to mount up like eagles. Only then can we come back to run and not be weary, to walk and not be faint.

15. CELEBRATE MY PRESENCE!

Angola was in the midst of a Civil War. A couple had been called by God to go there as Missionaries.

One Saturday evening the husband had gone to the capital city to try to get over sixty Pentecostal Churches to work together. An almost impossible task, except to God! His wife remained at their little compound with their Angolan co-workers.

She was upset with God. They had no money; the electricity was off, so they had no water; they had no food. As she complained, a still small voice spoke to her heart.

Why don't you celebrate!

She was outraged. '*What have I got to celebrate*?' she asked.

You could celebrate my presence!

So, at ten o'clock at night, she gathered her co-workers and began to praise the Lord for His goodness and loving kindness. Then they remembered there were still a few ears of maize in their plot. They started to roast them over a fire and eat them.

So this continued. The maize did not run out until they were full. With a shock they realised it was six o'clock in the morning. They had been celebrating all night. The mantle of the Holy Spirit, the mantle of praise, had fallen upon them. Their delight in the Lord had filled them with joy.

Then a lady appeared. She said she had been at the fish market and felt they might like a basket of fresh fish. Then one of her boys shouted that the power had come back on, so they had water. Full of expectation she went to the local internet café and found that $1,000 had been paid into her account.

So, in the midst of every human misery, there is someone whose presence we can celebrate, who has said, *'I will never leave you or forsake you*.'

16. JESUS IS ALL WE NEED.

Dr Helen Roseveare, a missionary to the Congo (now Zaire), relates how for twenty years up to 1972 she headed a medical training school in that country. She had been through the Congo rebellion when many missionaries had been massacred. Twice she faced a firing squad. Each time she escaped by Divine intervention.

The time came for Helen to retire. A great send off was planned. The choir and orchestra had been practising for months. It was going to be graduation day for the students, plus her farewell, with a fanfare of trumpets.

But a few weeks beforehand the Christian student union went on strike. Helen was deeply hurt. Was this the harvest of twenty hard years? At a time of bitter humiliation she had to resign as Director of the College. None of the students came to say goodbye. She had to leave Africa with a deep sense of failure.

It was two weeks before God got through to her. Is not Jesus sufficient for every need? Are you looking for Jesus **plus** success, plus popularity, plus recognition?

God reminded her that, after the Congo rebellion, she had told her students that Jesus satisfies. She had told them that Jesus is sufficient for **every** need.' *So why are you no longer content with Jesus? Why do you seek worldly praise?'*

So God graciously broke Dr Roseveare's heart, as she whispered in prayer,

'Yes, Lord, Jesus is all I need.'

17. CHRISTIANS IN THE WORLD

Epistle to Diognetus 5.1-6.1 2nd Century AD

'Christians are not distinguished from the rest of humanity by country, language, or custom. For nowhere do they live in cities of their own, nor do they speak some unusual dialect, nor do they practice and eccentric way of life. This teaching of theirs has not been discovered by the thought and reflection of ingenious people, nor do they promote any human doctrine as some do.

But while they live in both Greek and barbarian cities, as each one's lot was cast, and follow the local customs in dress and food and other aspects of life, at the same time they demonstrate the remarkable and admittedly unusual character of their own citizenship. They live in their own countries, but only as non-residents; they participate in everything as citizens, and endure everything as foreigners. Every foreign country is their fatherland, and every fatherland is foreign.

They marry like everyone else, and have children, but they do not expose their offspring. They share their food but not their wives. They are in the flesh, but they do not live according to the flesh. They live on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven. They obey the established laws; indeed in their private lives they transcend the laws.

They love everyone, and by everyone they are persecuted. They are unknown, yet they are condemned; they are put to death, yet they are brought to life. They are poor, yet they make many rich; they are in need of everything, yet they abound in everything. They are dishonoured, they are glorified in their dishonour; they are slandered, yet they are vindicated.

They are cursed, yet they bless; they are insulted, yet they offer respect. When they do good, they are punished as evildoers; when they are punished they rejoice as though brought to life. By the Jews they are assaulted as foreigners, and by the Greeks they are persecuted, yet those who hate them are unable to give a reason for their hostility.

In a word, what the soul is to the body, Christians are to the world.'

18. THE MISSING DAY

A summary of an article by Harold Hill, President of the Curtis Engine Company, a Consultant to the American Space Programme, printed in the English Churchman 15 January 1971.

Space Scientists at Green Belt, Indiana, were checking the position of the sun, moon and planets over past centuries. They have to know this to avoid sending up a satellite that collides with something later on in one of its orbits.

They ran the computer measurements backwards over several centuries and it came to a halt. The computer showed a red light to indicate that something was wrong either with the information put in or the results compared to fixed standards. They checked and found nothing wrong with the computer.

'*Well, we've found that there is a day missing in lapsed time'*, they said. They were puzzled until one man remembered from Sunday school how the sun stood still for about a day in Joshua 10:12-14. This tied in with the 23 hrs 20 mins missing in Joshua's day. But there was still 40 mins to find.

Then the same Sunday school student remembered that the sun went back in the days of Hezekiah. They looked it up in 2 Kings 20 and found that Isaiah cried to the Lord for a sign to Hezekiah and the sun went back 10 degrees which is exactly 40 mins.

Those who do not believe in miracles will have a problem with this!

19. HUMBLED BY GRACE, EXALTED IN GLORY

Charles Spurgeon

It is the Lord who sends all things – poverty and wealth. All my changes come from Him who never changes. If I had grown rich, I should have seen His hand in it, and I should have praised Him. Let me equally see His hand if I am made poor, and let me as heartily praise Him.

When we go down in the world, it is of the Lord, and so we may take it patiently. When we rise in the world, it is of the Lord, and we may accept it thankfully. In either case the Lord has done it, and it is well.

It seems that Jehovah's way is to lower those who He means to raise, and to strip those whom He means to clothe. If it is His way, it is the wisest and best way. If I am now enduring the bringing low I may well rejoice, because I see in it the preface to the lifting up.

The more we are humbled by grace, the more we shall be exalted in glory.

20. THE TREASURE HUNT

Speaking to strangers is like treasure hunting – you never know what wonders the Holy Spirit has prepared for you.

At the Charismatic Leaders Conference at High Leigh, I was given a couple of minutes to tell everyone about my DVD on ***Talking to Strangers.***

On the way to the meeting I passed a young man sealing the corner between the floor and the wall of the corridor. He was about twenty eight years old, heavily tattooed, and sporting an Erroll Flynn beard.

As I passed by (on the way to Jericho!) I felt prompted to go back, get on my knees and talk to him. His name was Craig Love, and he said he came from Swanwick in Derbyshire. I asked him if he had ever heard of the Butterley Company a few miles south of Swanwick.

'*Oh yes'*, he said, '*my Grandad used to work for Butterley Company.'*

'*Then your Grandad worked for my Grandad'*, I said. '*My Great Uncle lived at The Hayes, Swanwick and I am the Patron of Swanwick Church!'*

Craig was very touched by this extraordinary 'co-incidence' which was just a miracle where God decided to remain anonymous.

I gave Craig a Voice Magazine of Christian testimonies as seeds of the Gospel for others to water and for God to bring to life.

So the Lord provided a perfect, fresh introduction to my talk!

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Strangely enough, a few years back, coming out of the Happy Eater on Newmarket bypass, I felt prompted to talk to the man in front of me. He came from Heanor, the next door town to Ripley; his Father and Grandfather had also worked for the Butterley Company.

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Perhaps these encounters are the fruit of the prayers of my ancestors for their employees?

21. THE LAST BID

The testimony of Canon Ian Gooding
when Vicar of Stanton by Dale, Derbyshire.

The Anglican Church had a clear word from the Lord that they should purchase the Methodist Church in the village which was to be auctioned in the local Pub.

They arranged a Bank Loan for the amount the Agents thought it would sell for. The Vicar then attended the auction, with the church treasurer and a solicitor who was also a Church member, sitting in the front row.

The auction began with the bidding rapidly passing the £14,000 estimate in 1985. However the treasurer encouraged the Vicar to keep lifting his hand. He raised it for the last time at £25,250 whereupon there was silence. The auctioneer asked if there were any more bids – another long silence – then he brought down his hammer with the words, *'Sold to the Vicar*!'

Bedlam then followed as higher bids came from the back of the room. The auctioneer said it was sold, and sold it was. The treasurer then told the Vicar that he had made his last bid, as 10% of the bid price had to be paid on the spot, and all the Church had was £2,525.

Clearly the Lord knew how much the Church had, as He prevented any further bids once the critical figure was reached.

The building is now much used and is a great blessing.

22. THE LOST PENSION

In 1975 a man was leaving a company with the agreement that they would repay his full pension contributions. Later the sum offered proved to be only 50% of what had been promised. The man was determined to show up their dishonesty in Court. But after six months of Solicitor's letters, costs were going up and no progress was made.

Then the man was reminded in the Bible to bless those who rob us. He knew he had to give up not part, but the whole Pension. He remembered how St Francis had returned his patrimony to his father, and trusted God to keep him. The man was joyful, knowing the best way to preach the Gospel is to show that money has no control over us. His former employers were amazed!

In all this God was faithful. In 1980 the man inherited £15,000. He decided to put it in a Pension Scheme and ask the Holy Spirit to manage it, as only God knew the future. So instead of spreading his investment in many markets and countries, as a professional manager would have done, the fund was always 100% in cash or in one market.

The man has kept his email of 31 August 2001 to Barclays Corporate telling them that God had told him to sell everything and be completely liquid. Eleven days later came the twin tower disaster in New York. The man was also 100% in cash at the great wind of 1987.

There were, however, testing times. After the wind of 1987 the man was in cash until November 1988 when the market started to recover. The man was desperate to invest, but no word from the Lord. It was like Saul desperate to sacrifice to keep his army together, but he was not allowed to until Samuel appeared.1 Samuel 13:8-15.

Saul went ahead and so lost the Kingdom. Trust and obedience is all God requires, but it can be very difficult indeed. As Jesus said, He leads us on a hard way. Eventually God told the man to invest in Japan. By the next July Japan had risen 40%.

The outcome was that the man achieved a Pension Fund of £246,000 by the year 2000 which was much better than he would have got if the fund had been managed by professional managers. When we are obedient in giving, God restores with good measure, pressed down, running over

23. THE YEARS THE LOCUSTS HAVE EATEN

The testimony of Don Ostrom, an International Director of The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

I had been asked to speak at a Men's breakfast at the Hilton Hotel in down town, Los Angeles. As I arrived at 7am I felt bad. I did not have a not yet saved guest with me.

Outside the hotel I noticed a drunk, sitting in the early morning sun against a wall, still evidently the worse for wear from the night before. Then, to my horror, came the thought, '*There is your guest!'*

I complained. *'Lord, I can't take him in with me. He is drunk, a tramp, he probably smells, other people's guests will be offended, it will ruin the breakfast.'* There was a silence. I sensed the Lord's sadness at my concern for myself rather than the plight of this lost sheep.

So I pulled him to his feet and sat him down next to me on the top table, trying to ignore the strange looks I was getting. My new friend, Bill, lived up to all my fears. His food went down his shirt and only sometimes into his mouth. He was incoherent and seemingly unable to take in what was going on.

However, when I had finished my testimony and made the appeal for those who wanted to receive Christ as their Lord and Saviour to raise their hands, Bill's hand was the first to shoot up. He was not only soundly converted and baptised with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues; he was also delivered from the spirit of alcohol addiction and sobered up in an instant. He truly had, like King Saul, been changed into another man.

Then he told me his story. He had been the Marketing Vice President of a big international company. The pressure of his work led to alcohol which caught him in its merciless grip. He lost his job, his marriage and ended up in the gutter. Until that morning when life started for him once again.

Later I heard that, unbelievably, he recovered not only his job, but also his wife and children. The years that the locusts had eaten had been restored!

24. ISLAM

The testimony of Walid Shoebat, a former Palestinian Muslim Terrorist

Walid Shoebat was born in Bethlehem from a Palestinian father and an American mother. He was taught to hate Jews and Christians, the Infidels. Then at sixteen he was trained as a bomber, and blew up the Israeli Bank Leumi in Bethlehem. Later Walid went to the United States to further his education. He read the Bible to discover its errors. To his astonishment he saw Islam revealed in the Bible as the antichrist. So Walid became a Christian.

He has since written a 500 page book on Islam. It is revelatory as it comes from a former Muslim with a middle - eastern mind. He tells Christians to wake up! He shows clearly that Allah is not the God of Abraham. Jehovah said that all who bless the Jews will be blessed, while Allah calls for the extermination of Jews. The Qur'an, although it uses Jewish and Christian teaching for deception, is not the word of God. It denies the Trinity, that Jesus is God, that He died and rose from the dead. As God says, '*Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.' I John 2:22.* Sadly there are many Christian Churches that believe that Muslims and Christians follow the same God!

Walid shows that Biblical passages saying that the 'world' will be in the control of the antichrist in fact refer to the Middle Eastern, Biblical world. He points out that the Church Fathers recognised Islam as the antichrist. Even Cyril of Jerusalem, 315-386, before Islam, prophesied that, '*A King shall arise out of Syria, born of an evil spirit, … he will also be a prophet of lies…*' Likewise Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, an Arab Christian 560-638; John of Damascus 676-749; Martin Luther 1483-1546; John Wesley 1703-1791 all recognised Islam as the source of antichrist.

Walid suggests that the removal of despots in Iraq, Lybia, and Egypt etc will enabled the unification of Islam under the leadership of Turkey in a restored Ottoman Empire. We can now anticipate a war between the Shia and Sunni nations, the coming of the Mahdi to agree a seven year treaty with Israel, the breaking of the treaty and the final battle at Jerusalem when Jesus returns, helped by seven nations, to destroy antichrist, and to reign for 1000 years. We have much to look forward to after the troubles of the immediate future!

Walid's book is called 'God's War on Terror.' www.shoebat.com

25. MOTHER BARBARA

A Prophecy given to Mother Barbara of the Russian Orthodox Church by Bishop Aristocoli in 1911.

'Tell the women they must belong absolutely to God. They must believe in the great things that God is doing on the Earth. They must prepare their souls, their children and their husbands. They will have very much work to do for God. Oh, what a great work the women will have to do in the end time, and the men will follow them.

Not one country will be without trial – do not be frightened by anything you will hear. An evil spirit will shortly take Russia and wherever this evil spirit comes, rivers of blood will flow. This evil will take the whole world, and wherever it goes, rivers of blood will flow because of it. It is not the Russian soul, but an imposition on the Russian soul. It is not an ideology, or a philosophy, but a spirit from hell.

In the last days Germany will be divided, France will be just nothing. Italy will be judged by natural disasters. Britain will lose her Empire and all her Colonies and will come to almost total ruin, but will be saved through praying women. America will feed the world, but will finally collapse. Russia and China will destroy each other.

Finally Russia will be free. Believers will go forth from her and turn many from the nations to God.

26. KELLING HOSPITAL

The Testimony of the late Rev David Broome
Formerly Vicar of Stoke Holy Cross, Norfolk.

I was spending a week at Kelling Hospital, Norfolk. On arrival I found the hospital staff to be in turmoil. They had been told that the hospital was to close, and that a senior official would be arriving at 10am the next day to announce the closure.

I found myself prophesying to the assembled staff. '*Thus sayeth the Lord. This hospital will not close. It shall increase.'* The staff looked at me in astonishment. I was a bit surprised myself!

The next morning the senior official arrived on time at 10 am. He called the staff together and said, '*When I left home this morning I had the documents in my briefcase to close the hospital. But on the way over, as I was driving along, I thought it over. I have decided that the hospital will not close after all, but will expand!'*

Huge rejoicing!

27. THE TOWER OF BABEL IN CHINA

From David Pawson's great book, 'Unlocking the Bible' page 75.

Groups of people were sent from the Tower of Babel by God to form nations. One of these groups became the Chinese nation. They carried from Babel the picture language of ancient Egypt, as the Cuneiform alphabet had not yet been invented.

The amazing thing is that the story of Genesis 1-11 can be read in Chinese characters! For example:

The word for **'create'** is made up of mud, life and someone walking.

The word for **'devil'** is made up from a man, a garden and a secret

Their word for '**tempter**' is made up from devil, two trees and cover.

The word for '**boat'** is made up of container, mouth and eight. So a boat is a vessel for eight mouths, the same number as in Noah's Ark!

So the Chinese language is an independent confirmation that the Bible stories are true – they actually happened!

28. APPLES

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush to the gate, at the very busy Chicago Airport, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. The apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, all managed to reach the gate in time.

But one of them paused, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his friends to go on without him, and asked them to call his wife to explain why he was taking a later flight. He then returned to the overturned apple display, where the apples were all over the terminal floor. He was so glad he did.

The 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her. Nobody had stopped to help her. The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised. He put these aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, *'Here, please take this $40 for the damage we did. Are you okay?*' She nodded through her tears.

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "*Mister*...." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "*Are you Jesus?"* He stopped in mid-stride, paused, and went back to her. "*No*", he said, "*No, I am nothing like Jesus. He is good, kind, caring, loving, and would never have bumped into your display in the first place*." The girl nodded: "*I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me, so you are like Him. Only He knows who will do His will. Thank you for hearing His call, Mister."*

As he made his way to catch the later flight, that question burned in his soul: "*Are you Jesus*?" Do people mistake you for Jesus? That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply going to church. It's actually living His life day by day.

We are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked us up on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged souls

29. YEHUDA THE HASSID

Yehuda ben Samuel, known as Yehuda the Hassid, (1150-1217), was the founder of Jewish mysticism in Germany. He became so famous that he was consulted by the Bishop of Salzburg and the Duke of Regensburg.

He wrote about 1200 AD that the days were coming when Jerusalem would again be overrun by Islam. On the eighth Jubilee (a period of 50 years Leviticus 25:8-17) after this event Jerusalem would be liberated, but not to Jewish control. Then, on the ninth Jubilee, Jerusalem would be restored to Jewish control and then Messiah would come.

In 1517 the Ottoman Turks occupied Jerusalem until 1917, the eighth Jubilee, when Jerusalem was liberated, but not to Jewish control. Then on the ninth Jubilee in 1967 the Jews finally got control of Jerusalem in the Six Day War.

The Gaon of Vilna (1720-1797) was the father of scientific Biblical research. He believed Yehuda's Jubilee prophecy started with the Ottoman conquest of 1517. Jerusalem Torah Scholar Shabtai Shiloh has also calculated that Daniel's 2,300 'days', were completed in 1967, the ninth Jubilee.

The sign of a prophet is that what he says comes to pass. That the first three legs of Yehuda's prophecy have happened is remarkable. While his prophecy says that Messiah would not come before the ninth Jubilee, the structure of the prophecy suggests 2017, the tenth Jubilee, as a strong possibility.

The Encyclopaedia of Biblical Prophecy lists six hundred prophecies that will happen before the Rapture. These have all happened. Then there will be a seven year final tribulation period before Jesus returns to defeat Satan and start the Millennium thousand year period of peace when Jesus will reign from Jerusalem.

Jesus said that we should recognise the season of his return, but only His Father knew the hour. It would be like the Days of Noah when all men did continually only the evil that was in their hearts. The earth's crust came under pressure so that the fountains of the deep broke out and there were signs in the heavens. So we must expect Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis, quite apart from wars and famines – all birth pangs of the Lord's return

The earth was at the time of Noah, and is now, ripe for God's judgement.

30. **THE WATER CARRIER**

There was a water carrier in India who travelled each day with a long bamboo pole over his shoulders. At each end of the pole hung a water pot. The water carrier brought water to the Maharajah in his palace.

One water pot was perfect and delivered its contents in full. The other pot had been cracked, so that half the water leaked out between the river and the palace.

One day the leaky pot apologised to the water carrier. *I am so sorry that I lose so much of your water,* he said.

The water carrier smiled. *Don't worry,* he said. *Just look at the roadside where your water has leaked. It has become a garden of beautiful flowers that I pick for the Maharajah's table.*

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So let us all be leaky with the Gospel. One day we will see a bowl of flowers!
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31. THE HARDEST LESSON

From 'God Calling'

Wait and you shall realise the joy of the one who can be calm and wait, knowing that all is well. The last, and hardest lesson, is that of waiting. So wait!

I would almost say to you, 'Forgive me, my child, that I allow this extra burden to rest upon you, even for so short a time.'

I would have you know this, that from the moment that you placed all in my hands, **and sought no other aid**, from that moment I have taken the quickest way possible to work out your salvation, and to free you.

There is so much you have had to be taught – to avoid future disaster. But the Friend with whom you stand by the grave of failure, of dead ambitions, of relinquished desires, that Friend is a Friend for all time.

Use this waiting time to cement your friendship with Me, and to increase your knowledge of Me.

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God will not take us out of the oven, however uncomfortable, until the bread is cooked, emitting a beautiful aroma, the fragrance of Jesus!
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32. AN ETERNAL REWARD

Mother Julian of Norwich, the famous mediaeval Anchoress, was given many Visions, some of which are in her book, '*The Revelation of Divine Love.'*

In one vision she saw Jesus on His throne. She saw His complete love and His complete power. At his feet she saw His servant at the start of his ministry. In the servant Julian saw complete devotion and obedience to his Master.

Then the servant set out, full of joy in the ministry given to him. But he was shipwrecked, imprisoned, beaten, cold, hungry, maligned and robbed. Eventually Julian saw the servant return to the feet of his Master at the end of his life's pilgrimage, seemingly more dead than alive, but still joyful.

Julian was perplexed. She said, '*Lord, how could this be? How could you, who have total love and power, allow your good servant to be treated so badly?'*

Jesus turned to her with a smile and said, *'How else could I reward him?'*

33. ANTS

Recently in prayer I saw an ANT's nest, (the Church), and I felt that ants were about to come pouring out of the Church to do their work of seeking souls. Later I was sent an email about a prophecy from Dr Sharon Stone. She had also seen an army of ants leaving the ant's nest. These ants are not great names like Billy Graham, but just obedient slaves doing **what we are all told to do**.

So I began to ask myself some questions:

1. There are good reasons to suppose that we could be in the season of the Lord's return. (See *Hell or Heaven in the Last Days*)
2. This may therefore be the season of the lukewarm Laodicean Church. (With exceptions like Alpha, Street Pastors, Prison Fellowship etc)
3. Clergy may be tempted to just teach people to be blessed, know the Word and be comfortable!
4. We know Christians will all face the Judgement Seat of Christ to receive rewards for their works on earth. 2 Cor: 5:10.
5. We know that our works will *'burn*' if they have been wood and straw as opposed to gold and jewels. 1 Cor: 3:12-15.
6. We are commanded to shout out as a town crier (*Kerusso*) the good news at times convenient and inconvenient. 2 Tim: 4:2.
7. We should be at war every day setting the captives free - but most Christians are bound by fear and keep quiet.
8. Cowards risk the second death! Rev. 21:8.
9. If we don't warn people their blood may be on our heads. Ezekiel 33:8.
10. Jesus told many parables about the cost of disobedience.

We are cells in the Body of Christ that are meant to multiply!

So are we all called to make an effort to be witnesses?

Evangelism.

'If we are not taking a part in Christian witness, we are not just ineffective; we are positively in revolt against Christ. It is sheer hypocrisy to pay lip service to the Lordship of Jesus if we do not heed His command to evangelize.
A dumb Christian is a disobedient Christian.
A Church not engaged in mission is guilty of apostasy.'
John Stott

From the Holy Spirit in the Amman, Jordan Revival 1933

'And thou who hast been blessed and hast tasted of the sweetness 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 hast honoured thee with it? Be thou not ashamed and fear not for ever!'

34. DIVINE MADNESS

A prayer of St Teresa of Avila 1515-1582

Lord, I am mad. I have become mad from your love. It is a holy, heavenly madness which overwhelms me, deriving from your goodness and mercy. And I try to turn everyone to whom I speak equally mad. I am an apostle of divine madness. O Lord, ensure that I need pay no more attention to the things of this world. My mad spirit could not deal with worldly concerns.

O Lord, how delicate and heavy is the Cross which you have prepared for those who have reached this state of madness. 'Delicate' because it is so sweet and enjoyable; 'heavy' because there are times when it is impossible to bear. Yet I do not want to be freed from this madness. Rather I want to be as mad as you want, knowing you will bear my burdens.

35. NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GOD.

The story of Ian Dyble, a former Norfolk Solicitor, now an Anglican Vicar.

Not long ago we were in Kolkata, India. Walking down the street, I was prompted to speak to a man with his wife and 2 young children who were living on a mattress on the pavement. I shared my faith and bought them a Bible. Thought I'd done my bit!

Then Lord prompted me to get them off the street. But he man, who was gaunt and yellow, refused the help. He was not prepared to be accountable to the church leader I was working with. The man was on drugs, so I was not prepared to give him money. It made me a bit mad. The man was clearly going to die on the street and leave his wife and children very vulnerable. He was still not prepared to receive help. When I had left India I thought about them a few times and prayed for them. I assumed he would die before long.

Four years later we went back to Kolkata, a City of 17 million people. Driving down a road one evening after dark, I pulled over outside a hotel to pick up a missionary couple we were going out to dinner with. We had been stopped about 30 seconds when there was a knock on the window. It was that man! He said that his wife, who was standing next to him, had said that we had met four years ago and tried to get them off the street.

I confirmed that we had. He told me he had no recollection of our meeting because of the drugs he'd been on. They'd been on the street for 18 months more until he came *'To full repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and my life was immediately turned around*.' He came off the drugs and is now working for the government. He and his family live in their own accommodation ten kms out of the city. They just happened to have come in for the evening!!!

You never know what effect you are having in the heavenly realms when you stop and pray for someone in the street and tell them about Jesus, even if they can't remember ever meeting you!

There will be those we meet in glory whose story we never heard on earth.

36. SPRINGS IN THE VALLEY OF BACCA

I was going through a hard time in 2012. Disaster around me in the natural and needing the comfort that God was walking with me. So He arranged four daily miracles just to say that 'I AM' was still with me.

Walking down our lane in early Spring sunshine a car appeared. I put out my hand and it stopped. Inside was a very raffish young man with a very pretty African girl. I asked him if he knew where he was going. He said he was going to the pub on the river. I asked him if he knew where he was going when he died.

As he chortled about going to Heaven, he hoped, the name Darren came into my mind. I said, '*Darren, if you want to go to Heaven you need to find God*.' He looked shocked. '*How did you know my name?' 'God told me'* I said, '*He knows you and is calling you*.' Darren then accepted a Voice magazine, very touched by his divine encounter. Jesus said, '*When they receive you, they receive me.'*

The next day I was passing a Broads Authority van outside the pub. I felt prompted to go back and speak to the driver. The name Andrew was in my mind so I asked him if this was his name. It was and he was amazed. His parents and grandparents had been Salvationists, but he had drifted away. He took a Voice magazine and knew he had received a call back to God.

The next day I was driving up the lane and stopped to talk to a couple walking down towards me. The man said he was a Prison Officer from Wayland Prison. When I started to talk about God his wife behind him, who turned out to be a Christian, was beaming at me with encouragement to sock it to him. I 'happened' to have my *Prison Letters* in the car and gave them to him.

The next day I saw an elderly couple approaching. As I greeted them I said to the man, '*You are Christians*.' They were indeed. A lovely retired Missionary Doctor and his wife who went to a leading Evangelical Church in Norwich but had no experience of the Gifts of the Spirit. They were astonished by my recent experiences on the lane and accepted Voice magazine. Later I sent them my booklet on the Baptism with the Holy Spirit commended by three Anglican and Catholic Bishops!

37. THE YOGHURT SALESMAN

I was at Winchester Sainsburys where I saw a young man giving away 'Liberty' yoghurt made in Canada.

The only problem was that he had big dark glasses. So I said to him,

'Young man, if you want to give or sell things you need to take off your dark glasses so that people can see your eyes. They are the window of your soul.'

He took off his glasses. Beneath his eyes were two big semi-circular red rashes.

'I am a Christian,' I said. 'Would you like me to ask Jesus to heal your eyes?'

'I am a Christian too', he said, 'and I asked God this morning to send someone to pray for my eyes'.

So I put my hand on his head and prayed for his eyes. They were not immediately healed but doubtless soon would be.

Then he said, 'Follow me.'

He took me to his refrigerator van and gave me lots of yoghurt.

It pays to talk to people, you know!

38. NOT YOUR PLOT!

The testimony of Judge Christopher Compston.

The Judge was an avid vegetable gardener and had a plot on Chiswick Allotments.

One day he decided to visit his plot only to find a large gentleman already there pulling up his Spring Onions. The Judge gently commented,

'I think those are my Spring Onions'

The large gentleman replied, 'No, they are not.'

'This is plot 32' said the Judge. Do you have a plot?

'Yes', said the large gentleman, 'it is over there.'

He pointed helpfully to plot 34. It was covered with weeds.

The Judge, a Christian, was in an interesting situation. He had the vast power of the Law behind him to establish justice. But he also knew Jesus' command to bless those who rob us, and not to ask for stolen goods back again.
With a sigh he said,

'Do enjoy the Spring Onions'. Then, as he surveyed the rest of plot 32, added rather sadly,

'And the potatoes, the carrots, the spinach and the lettuces.'

Then he got out his spade from his shed and began to dig his new plot, praying that the Lord would bless him with a bumper harvest. Also, that the large gentleman would become his friend and hopefully, one day, even his brother in Christ.

39. MINISTERING SPIRITS

The story of John & Zelda Miller

Zelda believed in Angels. When she obtained a scholarship she said it was as if her teacher was standing beside her telling her what to write.

Years later Zelda was married to John Miller, a District Officer in Swaziland. She was taken violently ill and rushed to the local hospital. Prayers were arranged to support her. But Dr Alexander, the Hospital Superintendent, said that Zelda's condition was life threatening, and they could not discover what was wrong with her.

An hour later an American Physician called at the hospital as he passed by on holiday. He was a pancreatic specialst and diagnosed that Zelda's pain was due to a gallstone blocking her pancreatic duct. He listed drugs that were needed. Dr Alexander then ordered them from Johannesburg.

The plane with the drugs arrived, thanks to a helpful Aviation Director who provided the emergency night landing equipment. Zelda took the drugs and eventually recovered for another forty one years of marital happiness. But the strange thing is that they were never able to locate the visiting Physician in South Africa or America. They believe it was an Angel.

Years later Zelda was in a coma from the last stages of cancer. She awoke at 10am as Palm Sunday Eucharist was starting in Norwich Cathedral. Zelda looked at a corner of the ceiling, then a radiant smile spread over her face. Her eyes shone brighter and brighter. She said the Lord's Prayer with John and received the blessing . Then she was gone.

John does not doubt Zelda saw Angels who had arrived to take her to Jesus.

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'Are not the angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who are to obtain salvation?' Hebrews 1:14.
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40. THE LADY FROM ANTIGUA

On the 8am train to London I asked a man if I could sit at his table? *(Talk immediately before a wall of silence builds up*). Alan, from Hewlett Packard Computers, invited me to join him. To impress him, I replied that I was at Harvard Business School and had founded two good banks. (*If you share yourself they are encouraged to respond*.) He was impressed and knew he could listen to me with advantage!

I then told him of a greater adventure when I met Jesus and gave my testimony of being born again. (*Follow St Paul in giving testimony*). At Ipswich Franstine, a Christian lady from Antigua in a pretty dress, sat opposite me and next to Alan. She was about forty years old. A thought came to me that she was in the Police. (It seemed mad!). So I said, '*I hear you are a policeman*.' She was! No less than President of the Black Police Association. I told Alan he had heard a sign from God to help him believe.

Franstine then said she had painful arthritic knees. I asked if I could put my hands under the table, place them on her knees, and pray? She was delighted. Then I reminded her of the ten lepers who were healed '*on their way*' to the Priest. I told her to take a walk up the carriage, and '*on her way*' she would be healed. She came back amazed – the pain had gone.

Alan, having seen two supernatural signs, went off stupefied at Liverpool Street station clutching a *Voice* magazine of Christian testimonies commended by the Archbishop of York! Three months later Franstine's knees were still pain free!

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Any Spirit – filled Christian can walk as Jesus walked.
1 John 2:6
Lots of joy*!*
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41. THE SHOE LACE

It was at the Poringland Doctor's surgery. In the waiting room an elderly man paced to and fro, his face like thunder, his body language screaming, '*Talk to me if you dare!'*

But I noticed he had an undone shoe lace. This was all that was necessary to start a conversation. It turned out he was a retired policeman, so I introduced myself as the Founder of the '*Stoppa Coppa Society'* whose members thank police for all they do. We were immediately friends!

I asked him if he would like to bring his wife to a dinner of the Full Gospel Business Men the following Friday and gave him a Voice Magazine. The next day his wife called to say they would like to come.

At the dinner Jeff and Jean confessed that even though they had been on an Alpha Course they did not know if they were born again and did not know God.

At the end of the dinner they committed their lives to Christ!

The Holy Spirit had set it all up. Glory to God!

42. HELL

The Experience of Bill Wiese, a United States Property Developer, from his book. '23 Minutes in Hell.'

On the night of Sunday 22 November 1998, my wife Annette and I were asleep. At 3am the next morning I felt myself being hurled through the air and landing in a stone walled prison cell with bars on the door. God says in Job 17:16, '*They shall go down to the bars of the pit.*'

I noticed that it was so hot that no earthly body could have survived. '*For a fire is kindled in my anger, and shall burn to the lowest hell'*. Deut. 32:22. I felt as if I was in a holding area, awaiting a final destiny. '*And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison.'* Isaiah 24:22.

I felt completely weak, as it says in Psalm 88:4, '*I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man that hath no strength'*. Looking round, I saw two enormous beasts about ten feet tall. They looked at me with intense hatred. They picked me up and threw me against the wall, their strength was like that of the Gadarene demons in Mark 5:3-4. They seemed to take pleasure in torturing me. In Mark 9:18 we read of a demon attacking a child, '*Whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down'.* I was paralysed with fear and wanted to die. '*The sorrows of death compassed me, the pains of hell got hold of me: I found trouble and sorrow.' Psalm 116:3.*

Then came darkness, as if the light had been a momentary intrusion. God called Moses to call down a '*darkness that can be felt'* on Egypt. I was also nauseous from the terrible stench, like dead rotting flesh and sulphur, coming from these creatures. I became aware of flames coming from a big pit nearby. I felt a terrible hopelessness that I would never get out. In Psalm 140:10 we read, *'Let them be cast into the fire, into deep pits, that they rise not up again.'* With all this I was so thirsty, *as the rich man experienced when he was in hell. Luke 16:23.*

With all this I had no thought of calling on God for help. I was there as one who did not know God. I was without hope, naked and exhausted which increased my vulnerability. I was longing to talk to someone, but I could not. There were people, but all were in such agony they could not talk to each other. Then suddenly I was taken out of the cell and placed by the pit of fire I

had seen in the distance. The screams of condemned souls were deafening. There were hideous demonic creatures, but they were chained to the walls and could no longer attack me. As Jude verse 6 says, '*The angels who did not keep their proper domain …He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgement of the great day*.'

Then at last came relief. I was drawn up through a tunnel and came into a burst of light. The figure whose face I could not see because of the light said, 'I am'. Immediately my awareness that I was a Christian returned. I was so grateful that I had escaped hell. Jesus touched my shoulder and my strength returned. He said, '*I sent you to hell because many people, even some of my own people, don't believe that it exists*.' I found that Jesus answered my questions before I asked them. Jesus went on to say, '*Go and tell people about this place. It is not my desire that any should go there. Hell was made for the devil and his angels.*' I wondered if anyone would believe me? But Jesus said to me, '*It is not your job to convince their hearts. That responsibility belongs to the Holy Spirit. It is your job to go and tell them.'*

I asked why the mis-shapen demons hated me so much? I was told it was because I was made in the image of God, and they hate God. As I looked back at the power of the demons, I was told that all I had to do was to cast them out in the name of Jesus. Then I was shown that the important thing was to rejoice that my name was written in heaven. Luke 10:20. *For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* Luke 19:10.

Finally Jesus said, '*Tell them I am coming very, very soon*!' In my spirit I felt an urgency to warn as many people as possible. Then Jesus repeated, **'TELL THEM I AM COMING VERY, VERY SOON**.' This repetition made me realise we are indeed in the season of Jesus' return. We must get the truth out to people so that they know they have to make a choice between heaven and hell. Without Jesus as your Saviour you will not be going to heaven. '*He who wins souls is wise*' Proverbs 11:30.

43. THE LORD LOOSETH THE PRISONER

A meditation of Charles Spurgeon on Psalm 146:7

He has done it. Remember Joseph in prison, Israel in Egypt, Daniel, Peter and many others. He can do it still. He breaks the bars of brass with a word and snaps the fetters of iron with a look. He is still doing it - in a thousand places troubled ones are coming forth to light and enlargement. Jesus still proclaims the opening of the prison to those who have been bound.

He will delight to set you free, dear friend, if at this moment you are mourning because of sorrow, doubt or fear. It will be a joy to Jesus to give you liberty. It will give as great a pleasure to loose you as it will be a pleasure to you to be loosed.

No, you do not have to snap the iron band, the Lord Himself will do it. Only trust Him and He will be you Liberator. Believe and trust in the Lord in spite of the stone walls, or the manacles of iron. Satan cannot hold you, sin cannot enchain you, if you will now believe in the Lord Jesus, in the freeness of His grace and the fullness of His power to save.

Defy the enemy, and let the word now before you be your song of deliverance: 'Jehovah looseth the prisoners' AMEN.

44. THE BAGS FOR INDIA

The testimony of Pastor Graham Jones

I was travelling from Paris to India for a mission. I had two large bags full of Bibles that were eighty kilos over the permitted weight.

The check-in man told me to go to a kiosk to pay the excess while he labelled the bags. At the kiosk I was told the excess would cost six hundred Euros that I did not have.

So I prayed. '*Lord, what do I do now*?'

I believed the Lord told me just to go back to the check-in man and tell him the bags were going. So I did. I told him God had told me that the bags would go even though I could not pay the excess.

The check-in man was not impressed. '*Well, God does not work here and I do. I am telling you these bags are not going'*.

So I asked the Lord and again got the reply, '*Tell him again.'*

So I repeated my message. This evoked a somewhat angry response. The bags were definitely not going.

So I asked the Lord again. I got the same reply. *Tell him again!*

So, in fear and trembling, I did. This made the check-in man really angry. He stood up, pounding the work console in front of him, shouting that the bags were not going.

But I noticed that he had inadvertently hit the button to despatch the bags. I watched them disappear through a hole in the wall.

Eventually he looked down and saw no bags. He turned and shouted at me,

'*Get out of here*.'

So I fled and the bags got to India!

45. A BUDDHIST FINDS THE TRUTH

The Testimony of Esther Baker, a former Buddhist Nun.

I was brought up with parents who, for their own personal reasons, were very angry with the Church. But from the age of twenty one I had a deep need to find the truth. I had already dabbled with the occult, Tarot Cards and Ouija Boards. But then became attracted to Buddhism.

At the age of twenty seven I became a Buddhist Nun of the Thai tradition in the UK. I shaved my head and eyebrows, I wore a dark brown robe, and lived a strict ascetic life under many major and minor rules. We meditated through the night most full and new moons.

One Easter time I was wondering about the story of Jesus. Who was he? Why did he have to die? I looked at the statue of Buddha in my room, then turned to be surprised to see the shadow of the Cross on the wall. It made me think.

Occasionally we were allowed to see suitable spiritual Video's. On one all night meditation we watched one about Jackie Pullinger, an English music graduate. God sent Jackie to bring the Gospel to the Triad gangs and drug addicts in Hong Kong. I saw for the first time that God was real.

I was astounded. After God had touched me, over a period of months my Buddhist faith became completely unstitched. This mountain of 'truth', as I had believed it to be, fell into a pile of rubbish. I related to what St Paul said in Phil.3:8. He had lived the strict life of a Pharisee, but he considered it all as rubbish compared to knowing Christ.

The Lord, in His mercy, redeemed my past, and has used it to prepare me to be a Christian Missionary to the Buddhists in the Far East where I now live.

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Esther has written her Biography called,
'I once was a Buddhist Nun.'
Inter Varsity Press 2009.
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46. A SURPRISE AT SELFRIDGES

Young Mr Gibson started his career at Selfridges and eventually rose to become Secretary to the great Mr Gordon Selfridge himself. The Lord had lifted him up, but not without a test.

One day Mr Gibson answered the telephone in Mr Selfridge's office. Someone wanted to speak to Mr Selfridge. While he held the call, Mr Gibson asked Mr Selfridge if he wanted to speak to the man?

'No, tell him I am out,' said the great man.

'Would you mind telling him yourself?' said Mr Gibson, as he handed the telephone to Mr Selfridge. Somewhat perplexed by this strange response, Mr Selfridge dealt with the call.

Then he turned to Mr Gibson, somewhat frostily.

'Why did you do that?, he asked.

'If I can tell him a lie, I can tell you a lie, and I am not going to do it', said Mr Gibson.

Mr Selfridge was very impressed with the courageous integrity of his young employee. From then on, whenever the company had a serious problem, Mr Selfridge would say,

'Ask Mr Gibson what he thinks about this.'

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How we behave speaks louder than what we say!
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47. THE JERICHO ROAD

The testimony of Rev Robert Ward from Newcastle on Tyne.

After a big weekend I awoke on Monday morning feeling completely flat. I went for a walk to marinade my misery over lunch at the Cathedral. Then a thought came to me.

'Robert, my dear son, it won't be the minor sins I will hold you accountable for on the Great Day of Judgement. Rather it will be to ask what you have done with the love my dear Son has poured into your heart to share with others.' The result was extraordinary. Gone was the sad limp and mournful introspection. Once again I had a joy, a release of spirit.

Then I passed a young man sitting in the gutter with a yoghurt pot, his begging bowl, in front of him containing a few coins. A thought came to me. '*You can't pass him by!'* I was shocked. Fear and middle class embarrassments fled as I stood before this tragic, lifeless figure. '*I would like to buy you lunch'*, I said. The young man stood up, dressed in black jeans and a shabby anorak. Soon he was enjoying hot chocolate and a shepherd's pie.

Paul was twenty six years old. He was taken into care and spent years in foster homes. He described shocking abuse and violence. Tears came down my cheeks and I snivelled into a hanky. As it was July I hoped he would think it was hay fever. It turned out that he had given his life to Jesus when he was sixteen, but when he went to Church people stayed in their cliques and showed no interest in him. Drugs and homelessness followed.

There was a battle in my mind. I was far too busy to get further involved. I had done my bit. I could pass him on to the Salvation Army hostel. But we had some young visiting Christians at the Church sleeping comfortably on the carpet in our Church Hall. '*Let's go for it, Lord*.' I said. So Paul came to join the Church and has gone from strength to strength. He has got a job as a fitted kitchen salesman. He has brought a former rough sleeper to know the Lord.

Later Paul told me he had prayed, ' *God, I am giving you four weeks to change my life. If you don't I am going to jump off the Tyne Bridge and end it.*' God answered that prayer on the Third Day of the fourth week.

The Third Day, throughout the Bible, is the Day of Deliverance.

48. THE GIANT AWAKES!

A Dream given at Winnipeg, Canada, on 25th July, 1961, to Tommy Hicks, who led the Argentine Revival in 1954 when President Peron was healed!

The Vision came three times exactly the same just after I had fallen asleep. It has transformed my understanding of the ministry of the Body of Christ in the years before Christ returns.

I was looking down, in fear and trembling, on the earth from a great height and saw every country, tribe and tongue. As I looked there was lightning and thunder; then an enormous giant appeared who stretched from sea to sea. I saw this great giant was struggling for life, and was covered in debris. When he struggled to raise himself, thousands of evil creatures fled from him; but when he became calm, they came back.

Then the great giant began to raise his hands to the heavens, and all the evil creatures fled from him into darkness. Then the giant started to rise; he seemed to have cleansed himself from all debris and filth that had been on him; his head and hands entered the clouds as if praising the Lord.

Suddenly every cloud became the most beautiful silver I have ever seen. I cried out, '*Lord, what is the meaning of all this?*' Then from the clouds great drops of liquid light came raining down upon the mighty Giant. Then slowly the Giant began to melt into the earth itself that was flooded with this liquid light. Then the Giant became millions of people throughout the earth lifting their hands and praising God.

At that moment there was a great thunder in the heavens. I looked up and saw the most glorious figure in glistening white. I did not see his face but I knew it was the Lord Jesus Christ. He stretched forth His hand upon all the praising peoples and a mighty anointing came on them to proclaim the Gospel, heal the sick and raise the dead.

But there was a tragedy; there were many people who refused the anointing and the call of God. I saw Jesus reach out to many people I knew that I was sure would respond, but they bowed their heads and backed away into darkness. But I saw thousands go forth, some of whom had been sick, from all walks of life, saying, '*According to my word, be thou made whole.*'

The Lord said to me, '*This is what I will do in the last days. I will restore all that the canker worm, the palmer worm, and the caterpillar have destroyed. My people shall be a mighty army that will sweep over the earth'.* These people were transferred by the Spirit of God from country to country; they came through fire, pestilence and famine; nothing stopped them. Angry mobs came against them, but they just passed through them like Jesus. There were no long prayers, people were healed at their word. I never saw a Church nor a denomination; these people just went out in the name of the Lord of Hosts.

God is going to give the world a demonstration of His love and power such as has never been known before. A divine love flowed from these people – Jesus Christ was their reason for living. God said, '*I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.*' I saw liquid light falling on gatherings that lifted their hands praising God for hours – even days! There was no end to the miracles God was doing.

Then I saw a great persecution all over the earth. There was another clap of thunder and I heard a voice saying, '*This is my people, this is my beloved Bride.'* Then I saw the graves opening and the dead in Christ rising and they seemed to be forming again the gigantic body. But this time the giant was arrayed in the most beautiful white garments and as it rose into the clouds I saw the Lord Jesus become its head. Then another clap of thunder that said, '*This is my beloved Bride in whom I have waited. She will come forth tried by fire. This is she that I have loved since the beginning of time.'*

Then I saw men and women crying out in anguish, buildings destroyed. I heard a voice saying, '*Now is my wrath being poured out upon the face of the earth.'* It seemed as if great vials of God's wrath were being poured out upon all the world. I saw cities going down into destruction and great weeping and wailing. I shook and trembled to see people hiding in caves, but the mountains opened up; they leapt into water, but the water would not drown them; they were wanting to take their lives, but they could not take them.

Then I turned to see the Body, arrayed in a beautiful white garment without spot or wrinkle, slowly lifting from the earth. As it did, I awoke.

I had seen the end of time ministry.

'I will pour out my Spirit on all people …..' Joel 2:28-32.

49. THE NAME OF MESSIAH

As reported in 'Israel Today' 30.4.2007.

Rabbi Izaak Kaduri died in Jerusalem aged 108 on 28 January 2006. He was revered throughout Israel – the Chief Rabbi looked up to him as a '*righteous man*.' Thousands visited him for advice and for healing.

In the week before he died Rabbi Izaak talked of nothing but the coming of Messiah who had appeared to him in a vision and in dreams. Messiah said he was **coming very soon**, and it would be after the death of Ariel Sharon, who has been in a coma since 4 January 2006.

The Rabbi also wrote down the name of Messiah and placed it in a sealed envelope not to be opened until a year after his death. Then his eldest son, David Kaduri, opened the note.

He read that Messiah will lift up His people and prove his Law and His Word to be true. Then came some words, the first letter of each spelt out the name of Messiah.

The name was 'Y'shua!' (Jesus)

50. ONE SOLITARY LIFE

He was born in an obscure village, the son of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he became a wandering preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of those things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through a mockery of a trial. He was executed by the state. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone since his death. Today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on earth as much as that

One Solitary Life.

A PROPHETIC WORD FROM GOD

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.

JOY ON EARTH, TREASURE IN HEAVEN

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 different. 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!

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. The Lord showed me the difference between an evangelist and a witness. In a football field the goalkeeper kicked the ball to a back who kicked it to a midfielder and on to the striker who kicked it into the net. Ten witnesses, one evangelist. We are all engaged in witnessing.

Drenched with joy

At a Bible Camp a man told me what had happened after my talk the previous year on '*Speaking to Strangers*.' 'I was sitting in a park in Norwich,' he said, 'when a man came and sat down nearby. I felt I should 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' and to do the things that he did'. 1 John 2:6, 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 had a hot, tiring, morning's walk. The disciples went 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 the well. The Holy Spirit whispers to Jesus, '*Go and talk to her.'* 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. I was once told to speak to a young man that led to his friend being saved from suicide.

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 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 witnessing. 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*.' Their Church is growing!

The Wall of Silence

It is important to talk when you meet people as otherwise a wall of silence builds up. Ask people their name and use it in the conversation. Be at the same level which will mean getting on your knees if they are sitting down at a table. Say something nice to people. What a nice baby, dog, car, hat etc. Because one may only have a moment or two you can go straight to the point and ask, '*Are you a Churchgoer?'* The Holy Spirit will show you new ways of approaching people. You will grow in confidence as you break through the fear barrier. It is harder if you have not done it for a few days, as an unused muscle protests at lack of exercise. You will find more help on this subject in the Author's book '**Rescue.'**

Daily Opportunities

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

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!

Ladies on the telephone

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 - 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? 2 Cor. 5:10. 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!!
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. We know the kindness of God, but there is also 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 greeting, '*Well done, thou good and faithful servant*.'

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

If

By J. Wilbur Chapman

If to be a Christian is worthwhile, then the most ordinary interest in those we meet should prompt us to speak to them of Christ.
If the New Testament be true, who has given us the right to place the responsibility for soul winning on other shoulders than our own?
If they who reject Christ are in danger, is it not strange that we, who are so sympathetic when the difficulties are physical or temporal, should apparently be so devoid of interest as to allow our friends and neighbours and kindred to come into our lives and pass out again without a word of invitation to accept Christ, to say nothing of sounding a note of warning because of their peril?
If today is the day of salvation, if tomorrow may never come and if life is equally uncertain, how can we eat, drink and be merry when those who live with us, work with us, walk with us and love us are unprepared for eternity?
If Jesus called his disciples to be fishers of men, who gave us the right to be satisfied with making fishing tackle or pointing the way to the fishing banks instead of going ourselves to cast out the net until it be filled?
If Jesus himself went seeking the lost, if Paul the Apostle was in agony because his kinsmen, according to the flesh, knew not Christ, why should we not consider it worthwhile to go out after the lost until they are found?
If I am to stand at the judgment seat of Christ to render an account for the deeds done in the Body, what shall I say to him if my children are missing, if my friends are not saved or if my employer or employee should miss the way because I have been faithless?
If I wish to be approved at the last, then let me remember that no intellectual superiority, no eloquence in preaching, no absorption in business, no shrinking temperament, no spirit of timidity can take the place of, or be an excuse for, my not making an honest, sincere, prayerful effort to win others to Christ.

J. Wilbur Chapman (1859-1918) was one of America's outstanding evangelists. His ministry at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was interrupted by a revival campaign in Boston that led to an evangelistic ministry that took him around the world.

MEN'S MINISTRIES

Christian Vision for Men (CVM)

CVM exists for evangelism to men in the UK. admin@cvm.org.uk
The Hub, Unit 2, Dunston Road, Chesterfield. S41 8XA 01246 452483

The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI)

An interdenominational worldwide ministry calling men back to God and into the Church through testimony after a meal confirmed by signs and wonders! Contact your local Chapter & order Voice testimony magazines from the Field Office at:
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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 on 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 I turn to you, Lord Jesus, with great thankfulness. I surrender my life to you. Please forgive me for the past, please cleanse me from all my sins, and give me the Holy Spirit to live within me as my Teacher and my Friend.

I reject Satan and every evil 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, from every bondage of Satan. I have been born 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 family of God. It will become real when you tell someone you have become a Christian.

I would also like to send you a booklet with help for your pilgrimage and encourage you to go on an Alpha Course by calling 0845 644 7544.

God bless you

John Wright

John Wright is a caring and compassionate Christian Evangelist. I hope that his readers will find encouragement and inspiration from his stories.

The Very Reverend Jane Hedges
Dean of Norwich Cathedral

A delightful series of anecdotes which both amuse and at the same time pack a real spiritual punch.

Professor Andrew Quicke
Chair of the Film and Television Department, Regent Universty, USA.
Author of 'Chasing the Dragon', the biography of Jackie Pullinger.

The Road from Egypt is a remarkable collection of stories about how God has changed the course of history because human beings, through events that have happened to them by the power of God, have changed their lives. We need testimony of God, not words about God that fail to make an impact. This book describes miracles that have resulted in God becoming real and alive for people, changing them and so changing others.

I highly recommend this book for all. It may give encouragement for us to achieve what God has created us to do - some definite service that no one else can do. This alone will lead to a fulfilled and happy life for us all. We need to discover the living God and then, by God's grace, respond to Him in love.

Father Jonathan Cotton OSB
Monk of Ampleforth Abbey
Parish Priest of St Mary's, Leyland.

I have come to know John Wright well and so anticipated that I would be reading something that was clear and unambiguous in its Christian message. I was not disappointed. John, whose forte is in sharing testimonies that penetrate, has done it again. His stories are jaw-dropping, touching the heart and gladdening the recipient. The reader cannot fail to be changed by what he reads because John's aim is to glorify God.
Professor Roy Peacock
Formerly at the Department of Aeronautical Sciences, University of Pisa.

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