Christian journey

Ware Christadelphians

A Christian Voice in the Community

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www.christian-journey.org

Have you heard the good news?

Competition

We have 4 Bibles to give away this month.

Fresh Starts

... plus The Story of Henry

This newsletter is produced by the Ware Christadelphians and is dedicated to promoting a Christian way of living, understanding the Word of God and how it applies to our lives.

for study, guidance and ideas on living a christian life

Have you heard the good news?

In today's world it might feel like there is little or no good news. However, when we look at the Bible, it contains some wonderful news which gives us hope for the future.



As we come to the end of another year, Bible readers reflect on the birth of Jesus as good news. The birth of a child in today's society is still regarded as good news and family and friends celebrate the new arrival. It was the same when Jesus was born. Angels rejoiced and praised God. A group of shepherds came to see the new baby and told the good news to many other people. When he was 8 days old, Jesus was taken to the temple and two people, Simon and Anna, who had read the scriptures and who were expecting him also gave thanks to God and rejoiced. Have a look at Luke chapters 1 and 2 to refresh your memory about Jesus' birth. In Matthew chapter 2, we are told that some time later, wise men from the East came to find "the king" and to worship him. They brought Jesus gifts and rejoiced when they found him.

So what was so special about the birth of Jesus ? Right from the time of Adam and Eve, God promised he would provide a saviour for mankind. During his lifetime, Jesus set us an example of how to live and how to obey God's will. He was the first man who never sinned and although he was put to death, God raised him from the grave. God has promised that he will raise us too if we believe in Him. If that isn't enough, the good news goes on. Jesus will return to the earth and reign as King, ruling the world in peace. There will be no more famine, disease or wars. Jesus called it the "Kingdom of God on earth". Read Isaiah chapter 65, verses 18-25 if you want to learn more about what the world will be like in the future.

This future is exciting. It is good news for all of us. We just have to decide if we want to be part of it or not. The Bible is the history of the world from beginning to end and Jesus is at the centre of it all. Let us believe in Him, rejoice at the good news and look forward with joy to his kingdom on earth.

Whats On!

Bible Reading Group: 8 - 9pm

These fortnightly classes are ideal for someone wishing to start reading the Bible. Each session is presented by a member and there is plenty of time to discuss the topics. Refreshments are provided at the beginning of the session. We are currently looking at the letter to the Romans with the followin subjects being considered on future evenings.

Dec	13	Life in the spirit
Jan	10	The potter and his clay
	24	Lord of all
Feb	7	The future of Israel
	21	Humble service

Bibles are provided

How to contact us

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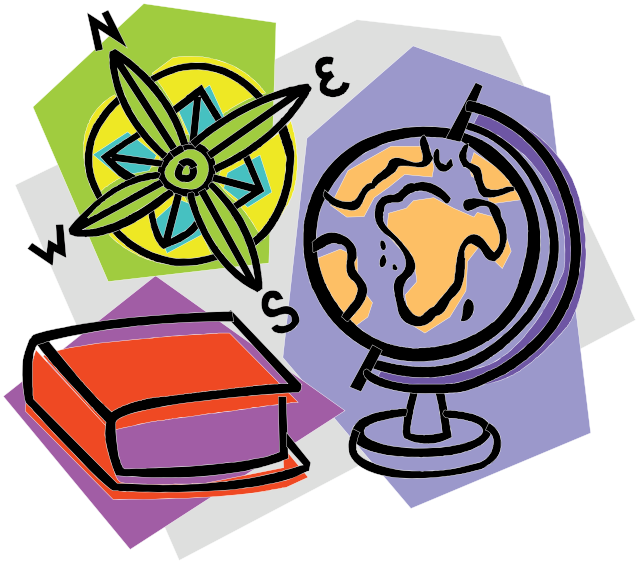
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Fresh Starts

Fresh starts are an important part of our lives. They happen when we first start school, when we change schools, when we leave school or university, get married, start a family, change jobs, retire; there are always changes in direction, some good but some we may later regret.



Many people regard January 1st as an ideal time to make independent changes in our lives. There is some cynicism about such resolutions, as regrettably, few of us have the stamina to change our habits even if we acknowledge that such will be beneficial to us and to our families. Because of this, New Year Resolutions have become a joking matter; how many start a new diet, a new exercise regime, give up smoking etc, only to find, after a few weeks or even a few days, that we have failed to stay the course ?

Fresh starts are frequently described in the Bible though not actually under that name. One of the most dramatic was that of the Apostle Paul – this is related in the 9th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. Paul, or as he was then known, Saul of Tarsus, was a frenetic persecutor of the then newly formed body of Christians, even helping to arrange the death of some of the believers. One day, on a journey in connection with this persecution, he had an experience which changed his life completely. Jesus himself appeared to him and asked a simple question, "Why are you persecuting me ?" Paul might of course have replied that he was only upholding the Jewish faith, but in fact he accepted the reality of Jesus Christ and was, that day, changed from being a persecutor to being one of the most devoted and hardworking members of the early Christian church.

None of us is likely to have such a dramatic experience but the absence of such need not debar us from making a similarly fresh start in our lives.

At a recent funeral, one of the friends attending commented that he knew that the deceased had read the Bible completely some thirty times. There was some astonishment at this but actually the man had done so quite simply, just by reading short passages each day, so that in 365 days he had read the Bible completely. And once started, he had kept to this for over thirty years.

What New Year's Resolution will you be making, and keeping, for 2012 ?

Thoughts of a Bible reader



Competition

We have 4 Bibles to give away this month. Just answer the simple question and return your answer to us stating your name and address, by 31st December 2011.

Question:

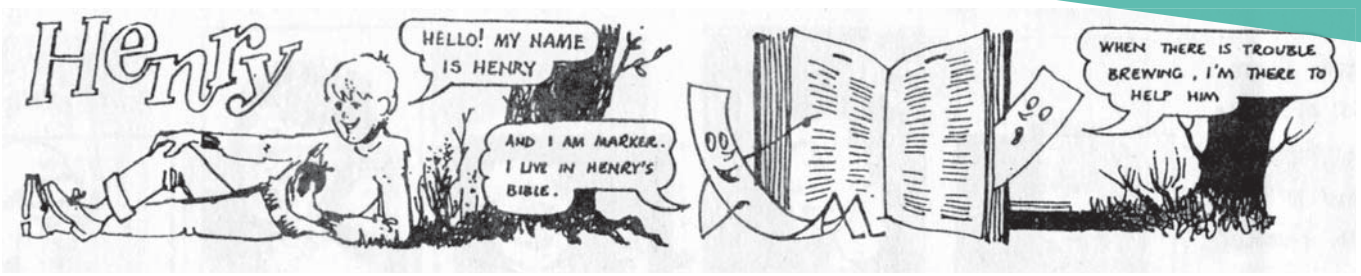
In which town did Jesus grow up ?
a) Jerusalem b) Nazareth c) Bethlehem.
(You'll find the answer in Matthew 2 or Luke 2)

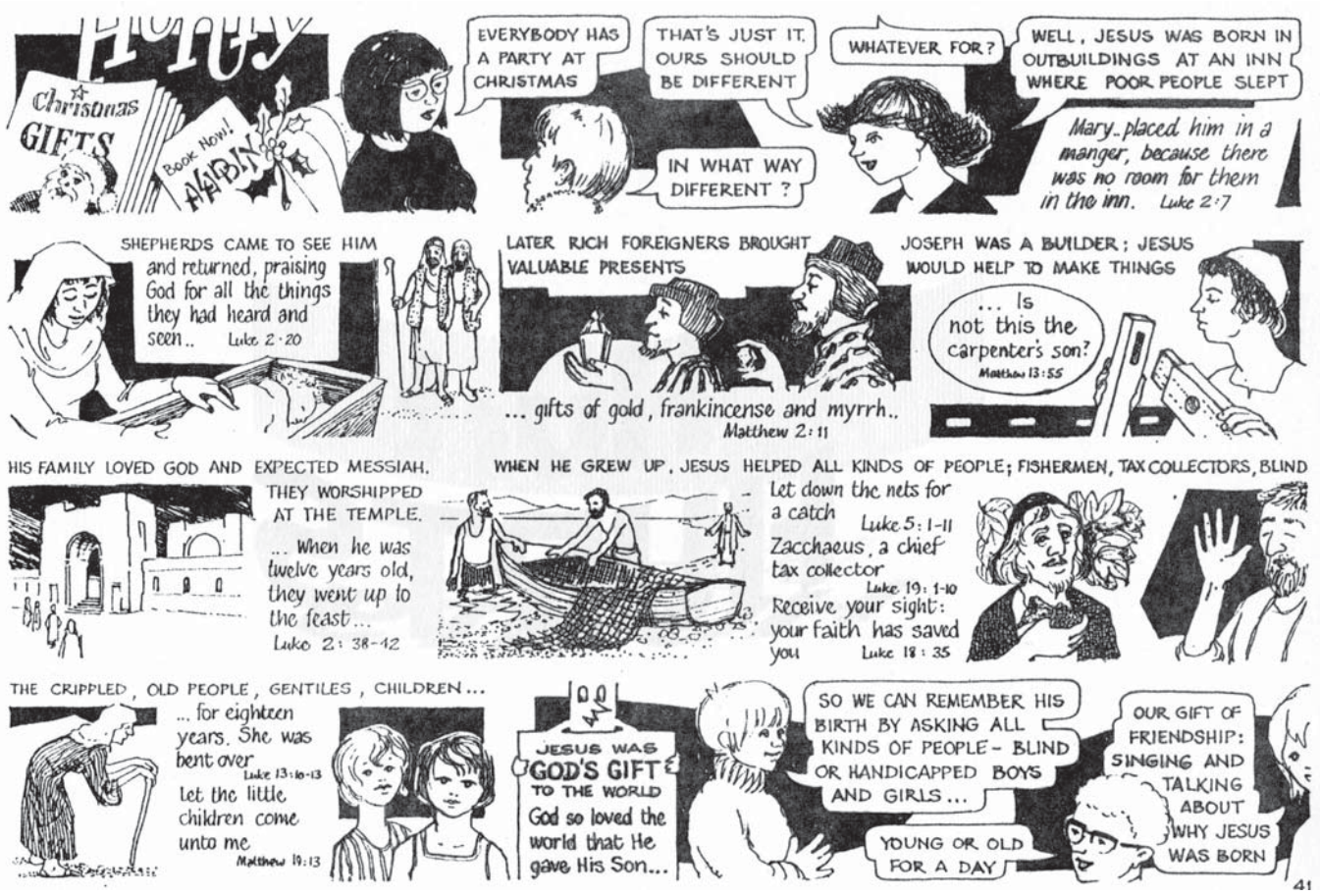
Send your answers to the address given on page 2.

We would like to send you a free magazine, "Glad Tidings".
If you would prefer not to receive this publication please tick the box. ☐

Your name and address will not be passed onto any third parties.

The Story of Henry





Henry cartoon is printed by kind permission

M	A	B	D	E	E	N	I	T	B	O
E	M	A	N	F	S	D	L	I	H	C
V	U	F	M	A	U	Y	R	E	F	A
E	T	W	A	S	O	T	O	V	I	L
R	A	H	U	V	H	M	A	R	Y	L
C	H	S	E	H	O	N	T	B	A	E
H	E	I	N	D	J	U	H	R	G	D
J	H	K	G	A	M	O	R	E	S	I
G	O	N	I	H	C	A	O	O	V	K
E	I	D	E	N	O	B	N	V	A	S
K	S	J	R	K	T	A	E	R	G	U

WORDSEARCH *– from* ***Luke 1 verse 30-33***
Find the words that have been underlined.

This is the good news that the angel Gabriel gave to Mary:

Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; His kingdom will never end.