Christian journey

Ware Christadelphians

A Christian Voice in the Community

No. 2 Spring / Summer 2011

www.christian-journey.org



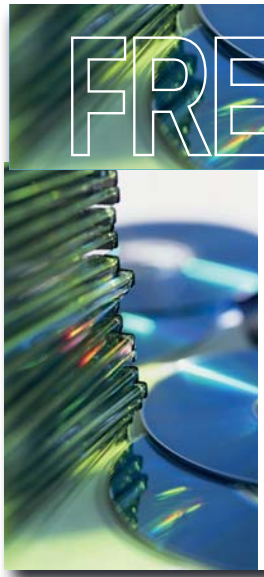
This newsletter is produced by the Ware Christadelphians and is dedicated to promoting a Christian way of living, understanding the Word of God and how it applies to our lives.

for study, guidance and ideas on living a christian life

Welcome

The Bible is made up of number of different books covering a vast array of subjects including history, poetry, law and prophecy. We have 4 Bibles to give away. Simply answer the following question and send your answer along with your contact details to us by June 30th. The first 4 correct replies will be winners. Methods to contact us are provided below.

Question: How many books are there in the Bible ?



FREE DVD

"Why I believe the Bible" is a DVD of 6 short films by Christian professionals. They explain how the Bible complements their work lives; in jobs as diverse as science and gardening.

If you would like a free copy of this DVD just contact us; contact using the contact details below.

How to contact us

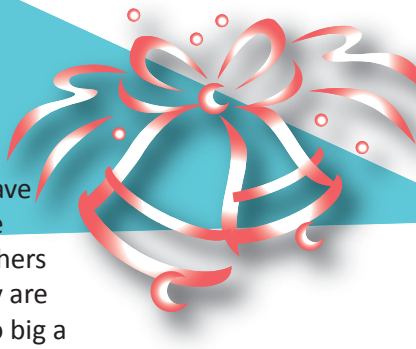
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Weddings



In the past few weeks we have been told that weddings are fashionable again and by others we have been told that they are not. Is the commitment too big a concept for our time ? Things are difficult now, but they always have been. Trial marriage does not replicate the conditions and emotions of the real thing, or so I am told; I didn't try one. A civil ceremony gives legal union, shared lives and peace of mind, but a ceremony with religious content reaches for the highest ideals. If we invite God into our lives at a marriage we will be promising before him to "forsake all others" and "until death us do part". We will be told that God considers us as a couple who have "become one" and that marriage is indissoluble except in exceptional circumstances; also that God is there to help us when the going gets hard.

It must be pleasant to have a celebration to follow; a wedding where people know each other, the weather is kind and the price is reasonable – not very likely these days. Our wedding was a very inexpensive celebration held soon after the end of World War 2. Rationing was at its most stringent and meals were limited to a maximum of 5 shillings (25p!) per person with wine and wedding cake extra.

To everyone's delight, austerity was thrown to the winds for the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip – a truly royal celebration. Most brides are described as being "radiant" – she emphatically was so. As for the commitment, those of use who share her age group and the vast changes of the years since then will declare that our Queen has shown an ability to change and remain committed to her heritage and her marriage.

Most of us will have witnessed the wedding of an heir apparent to the throne. The wedding ceremony performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury in Westminster Abbey and blessed in these difficult times. Some may begrudge the cost to the public in an age of cuts; this is a more critical age than 1947. We had our cuts through the war and taxes were at an all-time high. In God's mercy, we survived and with his help we will again. Violence will not help – it is the meek that will inherit the earth; that is God's promise. More than that, God has appointed a day when he will judge the world in righteousness by the Son he raised from the dead. He has also promised a "wedding supper" to outshine all others – which Jesus our Lord will share with his followers who have committed their lives to Him and whom the Bible describes as his bride. Wouldn't you like to be invited ?

Thoughts from a 1947 bride.

Life Lessons from Nature



One of the many encouraging things the Bible tells us in Genesis is "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." We could also add springtime and autumn as they come after winter and summer.



Springtime is a most wonderful time of the year, coming after a hard winter with snow, frosts and long, dark nights. We see everything around us springing to life after being dead in the ground throughout the winter. First there are the catkins and pussy willows in the hedgerows. Then the beautiful white carpets of snowdrops, followed by the deep colours of the crocus and other bulbs. By late April the woodland floors are covered in bluebells and the trees are budding again. The young of the animal kingdom are born; we see lambs skipping in the fields. As time passes from spring to early summer growth everywhere appears to be more abundant and more vigorous. It shows us that as the Bible says, there is a great creator. He has designed it all, in every little detail for his pleasure and for us to enjoy and be part of it.

So what of ourselves in this wonderful creation ? Whatever age we are, there always seem to be problems to cope with in our lives and it's not always easy. Sometimes life seems cruel and our lives are cut short unexpectedly. The Bible tells us that in the end we will return to the ground from where we were created. Whether we're good or bad, rich or poor, we will all die and return to dust. So is that all there is for us in this wonderful creation ? In 1 Corinthians chapter 15, the Bible tells us that just as a seed may lie in the ground, apparently dead, it will burst to life and grow into a new plant and the same can happen to us.

That is the hope that the Bible offers to you and to me. It has already happened to Jesus. He died and rose from the dead in the springtime. Jesus has promised that if we believe in him, he will raise us from the dead and give us a new life like his. The resurrection is like the springtime when everything comes back to life again. It is a wonderful hope we can look forward to when Jesus returns to the earth as king and rules all nations in peace.

The whole creation will eventually give God the pleasure that he created it for. This is for all of us. Winter is now a dim memory. We have just remembered the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter time. We should now be looking forward while we still have time.

Thoughts from a Bible Reader

Whats On!

Bible Reading Group

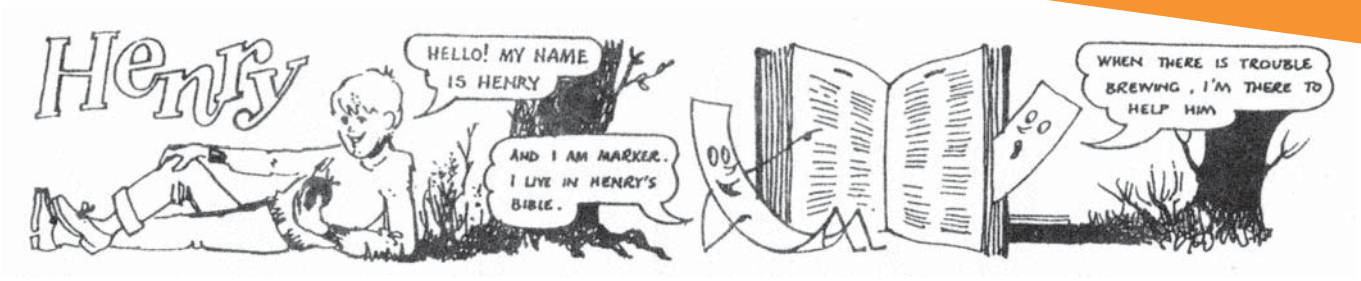
8 - 9pm

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 begining of the session.

May	10	Life : depression, stress and disease
May	24	Life : the credit crunch
June	7	Life : Floods and adverse weather
June	21	Life : the whole problem of suffering
July	5	Miracles of Jesus : Command over nature
July	19	Miracles of Jesus : Healing
Aug	2	Miracles of Jesus : Raising the dead

Bibles are provided!

The Story of Henry





Henry cartoon is printed by kind permission

A	Y	G	R	E	E	N	E	R	S
B	S	C	E	P	A	D	I	H	E
F	S	E	R	O	T	S	E	R	R
G	H	A	D	L	Q	P	M	E	U
W	T	N	T	I	H	I	S	R	T
A	A	D	O	E	U	P	S	W	S
T	P	U	R	T	I	G	Y	A	A
E	H	D	R	O	Q	U	L	N	P
R	A	B	W	A	L	U	Q	T	I
S	D	A	E	L	R	S	A	S	D

WORDSEARCH – Psalm 23 verse 1-3
Find the words that have been underlined.

This is taken from a psalm of David and the words of it are still sung in hymns today :

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.