

Clifton News

No 268 January - March 2015

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News



We would like to wish all our readers the Lord's blessing for this new year.

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10.24-25)

Carol service

Around 1000 Christmas card invitations were distributed in the area and it was encouraging to see children and parents present to hear the gospel preached by Richard Catchpole. Some of the children took part in singing and reading of the Scriptures.

Watchnight

Around 19 outsiders were present to hear the gospel. Some were new faces and others who have been before. We praise God for His blessing during the Christmas outreach.

Dates for your diary 2015

Easter Holiday Club	30th March - 2nd April
Bible Exhibition	5th - 16th October

Published by Clifton Hall, 45 Whitehorse Lane, South Norwood, London SE25 6RD
Editor: Nitish Patel, Printing - Design JD
Website - www.cliftongospelhall.com. Email - cliftongospelhall@googlemail.com

Meetings

THE WEEK AT CLIFTON

Lord's Day

Breaking of Bread 11.00 am
Family Service 4:00 pm

Monday

Prayer & Ministry 7:45 pm

Wednesday

Seekers Club 6:30 pm
(Term time only for under 10s)

Friday

Friday Club 7:30 pm
(Term time only for 10+)

SUNDAY AFTERNOON FAMILY SERVICE

January

4 Alastair Rodger
11 Nitish Patel
18 Andrew Hall
25 Norman Gibbons

February

1 Nitish Patel
8 John Aston
15 Richard Catchpole
22 Alastair Rodger

March

- 1 Andrew Hall
- 8 Nitish Patel
- 15 Mike Surry
- 22 Richard Catchpole
- 29 Kevin Oh

MONDAY PRAYER & MINISTRY

January

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|
| 5 | Norman Gibbons | Romans 10.1-13 |
| 12 | Jonathan Black | Romans 11.1-10 |
| 19 | Jonathan Black | Romans 11.11-36 |
| 26 | Alastair Rodger | Romans 12.1-2 |

February

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2 | Richard Catchpole | Romans 12.3-13 |
| 9 | Nitish Patel | Romans 12.14-21 |
| 16 | Alastair Rodger | Romans 13.1-14 |
| 23 | Richard Catchpole | Romans 14.1-9 |

March

- 2 R. Catchpole - Romans 14.10-23
- 9 D. Penfold - Romans 15.1-13
- 16 D. Penfold - Romans 15.14-33
- 23 N. Patel - Romans 16.1-16
- 30 N. Patel - Romans 16.17-27

Question Box



Here are answers to questions asked by the young people at our Friday Club.

Can you explain the Trinity?

The truth of the Trinity is of huge and central importance to the Christian faith. For it is all about who God is. We need to know who God is if we are to worship Him in “spirit and truth’ (John 4:24). It’s also a very difficult subject to deal with in just a couple of pages...

We’ll start with a basic definition and then seek to explain it. This definition is taken from page 26 of “The Forgotten Trinity” by James R. White (a book I heartily recommend on the subject).

Within the one Being that is God, there exists eternally three coequal and coeternal persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Firstly there is one God, this a truth found throughout the Bible. God told the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6:4-6, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.”

Knowing that there is one God, we move on to the New Testament, here we find that in the one Being, there are three persons. We see that Jesus is described as God. Here are a few examples to demonstrate this. In John 1:1, the Word (Jesus) is described as being eternal (in the beginning), being distinct from God (with God) and being God. In John 10:30, Jesus says “I and the Father are one”; the Jews knew He was describing Himself as God (v33). In Jesus’ prayer to His Father in John 17, He could pray, “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.” So John tells us that Jesus is God, is coequal with God and coeternal.

When we come to the Holy Spirit, the third Person on the Trinity, we find that He is always given a personal pronoun; He is a person rather than a force. As a person, He can command (Acts 13:2), He sets apart overseers in the church (Acts 20:28) and He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30). He is God, in Acts 5:3-4 Ananias is described as both lying to the Holy Spirit and God, He can be blasphemed (Mark 3:28-29) and He gives life (John 3:6). He is distinct from the Father and the Son, in John 14:16-17 Jesus tells His disciples that He will ask the Father to give another Helper to be with them. Jesus, a divine person, had been with His disciples while He was on the earth. But He was returning back to His Father and so would send the Spirit, another divine person, to be with them. Finally in Matthew 28:18:20, Jesus commands His disciples to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” The three persons are brought together as Jesus commands His disciples to baptise in the one name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So we have one Being that is God, existing eternally in three coequal and coeternal persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

You might ask if I can provide an example of something that compares with the Trinity. Some might suggest, water – it exists in three forms, ice, water and steam but is the same substance, like God. However water can't be ice, water and steam at the same time. The comparison fails. Others might suggest an egg; it is formed of three parts the shell, white and yolk, and all can exist at the same time. However each is formed of a different substance, the Father, Son and Spirit are all of the same substance.

The Trinity can't be compared to anything in nature or illustrated by anything in nature; can a candle be compared with the sun? As I mentioned at the start, the Trinity is a difficult subject to explain briefly, but hopefully this has shed some light on this wonderful and important biblical truth.

Alastair Rodger



Bible Teaching

Elisha Prophet of Water (Part 7)

By the late Charles Wigg (Tasmania)

The name of the King of Edom is not mentioned, but he and his army were considered to be the weakest point in this unholy alliance, by the King of Moab. There had never been any fellowship between the descendants of Esau, and the descendants of Jacob, ever since the time that Esau had chosen the wrong path, and entered into marriages with the wrong people. But now through the instrumentality of the son of Jezebel, we see them in fellowship with those wicked people.

No doubt buoyed up by the prospect of expected victory, and with a carnal self-confidence, they failed to observe even the basic needs of such a vast army, the need of a supply of water. When they discovered this terrible oversight, and the possibility of their joint armies' destruction; only then did they think of seeking help from a higher power. It was Jehoshaphat that thought of calling upon Jehovah the Lord of Heaven and Earth. He asked, "is there not here a prophet of Jehovah?" and one said, "Here is Elisha,who poured water on the hands of Elijah". The response of the King of Judah was to say, "The word of Jehovah is with him!" So those three Kings were compelled to humble themselves before Jehovah's servant, they 'went down' to Elisha. The sight of these three kings, joined in such an unholy alliance, filled the soul of Elisha with indignation.

He was angry that the son of Jezebel should turn to Jehovah now that he was in a situation of crisis, brought about by his own stupidity. He did not hesitate to rebuke Israel's king with these words. "What have I to do with thee? Get thee unto the prophets of thy father, and thy mother". The King of Israel now was compelled to admit the powerless nature of the gods that his parents served, and also of their prophets. He meekly acknowledged that the hand of Jehovah had used his own folly to bring about this situation of tragedy.

Elisha then acknowledged the presence of the King of Judah, and said that it was only because of him, that he would grant their request, and that it was only because of him that he would even see or speak to Israel's King.

We might ask the question 'why was Elisha there at all?' It seems that Elisha would never be present to give credence by his presence, to such an unholy alliance. The ultra separationists, the 'exclusive' people of our day, would surely condemn him, and regard him as being in a position of compromise. However by his presence Elisha was not endorsing, approving, or giving credence to this sad alliance. He was present, yet separate from all that was going on, and he did not hesitate to fearlessly condemn the son of Ahab, or to expose the folly and wickedness of the whole idolatrous system of Jezebel. His presence led to the salvation of numerous lives, the punishment and ruination of the Moabite kingdom, and yet the dashing of the hopes of the wicked son of Ahab.

BRING ME A MINSTREL!

What a strange request! What did Elisha mean by making such a request? Was he depending on the music to get him into the mood for inspiration? There are many today that use music, endless singing, and repetitious choruses, to get them onto a 'high', into the mood for worship, speaking in tongues etc. Such practices are not of God. Elisha was very angry at the wicked practices of Jezebel and her son. Angry with the King of Judah, that he who knew better, should compromise with what was manifestly evil, and he would not attempt to give the message of God, while in an angry state. He needed the soothing ministry of the minstrel to soothe his spirit, to cool his anger. James tells us that "the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God" (James 1:20). Somehow, Elisha knew this and those of us that minister God's word must learn it too. How often a message that is right, but is delivered in anger, brings harm, division, and spiritual death.

I remember a brother saying, that he had spent much time in preparing a powerful message, but he delivered that message in anger,

in the heat of his spirit, in the energy of the flesh; with disastrous results.

Once his ruffled spirit was calm, and his wrath was cooled, then the hand of the Lord, (Jehovah), came upon him, and God gave him a surprising message. They were to make the valley full of ditches thus they were to prepare for showers of blessing. Thus they were to act in faith, they were to believe God's word, even though it seemed to be impossible to fulfil. Yet they would see no rain. God could not bless such an endeavour; He could not righteously support this unholy alliance. The showers were to fall elsewhere. He would pour out His blessing upon others, yet they would receive the overflow. So it was that in the morning, at the time of the morning sacrifice, the water came from a most unlikely place, not from Edom, but by the way of Edom.

THE TIME OF THE MORNING OBLATION

This is so strange, two Kings one Pagan, the other half Pagan, half biblical, yet the practice of offering the morning oblation was continued, probably at the insistence of Jehoshaphat. It is to be regretted that today, in most Western homes, even in the homes of genuine believers, there is no longer any time for the offering of the morning 'meat offering'. Life has become so busy; the children have to go to school, and the parents to work, so there is no time for the things that are really important.

Once it was the practice for the whole family to gather in the early morning, to sing the praises of God, to read His word, and for the head of the house to bow in worship; to commit each member to the Lord in believing prayer. But sadly this is not the practice any more. Is it any wonder that our young people go astray? It is significant to notice that it was at that time that the water came.

It was at that time that the Moabites marshalled their forces, 'all who were able to put on armour', and stood in the border, prepared to defend their territory. But as the sun rose, and shone upon the water that had filled the ditches, it appeared to be red and looked like blood. They knew that the alliance between these three kings and

their people was a very loose one, and they presumed that they had quarrelled and that they had slain one another. They assumed that all that they had to do, was to take the spoil, but they were in for a great shock. God had seen their wicked, immoral, drunken and idolatrous way of living, and had determined to pour out His judgment on these descendants of Lot. So refreshed by the waters of blessing that had come, the confederate army rose to attack. The victory that followed, was not the result of any bravery or skill on the part of the confederate army; but the Almighty Jehovah had given them the victory, had given the Moabites into their hands. They were now acting under His orders, and fulfilling His will, thus victory was assured. Not only did they slaughter the people, but they under divine orders, ruined the land as well.

This thwarted the design of the King of Israel, as he wished only to punish the people, and to make them resume the provision of his revenue. But now, when the people were slain and the land was ruined, he could never again expect any revenue from those people, or from that land. It would take several lifetimes to restore the terrible damage that was done at the command of God.

In one last desperate bid the king of Moab tried without success to break through to the King of Edom. They were his neighbours and an idolatrous people like himself. Perhaps he thought that he would get kindness and sympathy from them?

When this attempt failed, he took his eldest son, the heir to his throne, and offered him as a burnt offering to the demons that he worshipped. By this fanaticism he sought to arouse the powers of hell, and to get them on his side. All he did was to bring their great indignation against the people of Israel. The people that belonged to God, and in a half-hearted way claimed to be his and to worship Him. Yet they were under great bondage to the very powers the Moabite king sought to provoke, and to get on his side.

Thus chastened and humbled Jehoram returned with his army to his own land. There he was to be later murdered by one of his own captains, (Jehu), who had probably fought in this engagement.

.... to be continued

Good News

Why Am I Here? Where Am I Going?

by Robert E. Surgenor



HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED the greatness of the universe? The more you examine the scientific findings, the more befogged your mind will become! Astronomers tell us that the Milky Way galaxy, which includes our earth, contains some 100 billion stars. Only 5,776 are visible to the naked eye. Traveling at the speed of light (over 186,282 miles per second), it would take you over 4 years to reach the nearest star and about 75,000 years to reach the most distant star in our galaxy. To travel across the Milky Way at the speed of light (700 million m.p.h.) would take 100,000 years! Astronomers also claim there are almost one trillion other galaxies detected in the universe! Traveling at 700 million miles per hour, it would take you 8 billion years to reach the most distant galaxy ever seen! This tremendous galaxy is 10 times larger than our own Milky Way! These numbers make us feel rather small, don't they? Is it any wonder the psalmist said, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork" (Psalm 19:1).

Yes, God "telleteth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by their names" (Psalm 147:4). In contrast, man (with all his scientific equipment) has to confess, "the host of heaven cannot be numbered" (Jeremiah 33:22). God sees more with His naked eye than man ever can through his 80-million-dollar telescopes!

PLANET EARTH

Another amazing thing is, that out of all the vast universe, there is only one planet that God has chosen to be inhabited. "For thus saith

the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it; He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited" (Isaiah 45:18). Having a diameter of 7,926 miles, a circumference of 24,901 miles and a surface area of 196,937,600 miles (of which 28% is land), this earth houses over 5 billion humans. Suspended in space, it rotates on its own axis at 1,000 miles per hour; at the same time, it travels through empty space at the rate of 20,936,400,000 miles yearly! Its highest point is Mt. Everest, 29,028 feet above sea level and its lowest point the Mariana Trench, 35,760 feet below the waves of the Pacific Ocean. Yet in spite of its greatness, the earth is not so big after all. You could put 1,300,000 earths inside the sun, 64 million suns inside the star Antares and several 100 million Antares inside Epsilon!

So here we are, orbiting through the vastness of space on our temporary abode called "Earth." Every hour, 17,150 souls are born to take up residence here, while 6,850 bid good-by forever to earth's surface, to take up residence elsewhere. Consequently, every day mother earth has an increase in population of 247,200 souls. Now just what is the reason for all of this movement? Have you ever asked yourself: Why am I here? What is the purpose of it all? Where am I going? These questions are good thoughts to consider, don't you agree? To answer such questions, the only reliable source is the Holy Scriptures. Herein are the Creator's answers to a bewildered and wondering human race.

WHERE AM I GOING?

God's original plan for man was that he glorify God and serve Him forever. However, man ruined himself and his lofty position before God through sin. Sad indeed, "by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). Consequently, the human race, instead of being able to glorify God, is alienated from God, spiritually "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Consequently, mankind is doomed to "hell fire" (Mark 9:43-48), "everlasting

punishment" (Matthew 26:46), and torment for ever and ever in "the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone" (Revelation 14:11; 21:8), "where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:44). These Scriptures answer the question, "Where am I going?" as far as God is concerned, don't they?

WHY AM I HERE ?

But wait! Please read on and find God's answer to "Why am I here?" Even though the devil would like to have you in hell, God desires that you be in heaven with Him when you leave this old planet earth. When we consider the magnitude of God's greatness, what grace it is on His part that He ever considers us at all! David exclaimed, "What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that Thou visitest him?" (Hebrews 2:6). Because of sin, we no longer see all things as when God originally created man; "but we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9). On this earth, the Lord Jesus "appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself," At Calvary, He "offered one sacrifice for sins for ever" (Hebrews 9:26; 10:12). Every soul that accepts the Lord Jesus as the only sacrifice for his sins immediately comes into the good of that sacrifice, and is saved from hell and fitted for heaven. God proclaims, "Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" (Hebrews 10:17). Why am I here? You are here for a short lifetime that you might take the opportunity to obtain God's wonderful salvation. Then you will be able to glorify Him and serve Him, not only on earth, but in heaven throughout eternity. That's God's desire! Are you willing?

*"For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him
should not perish,
but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16)*

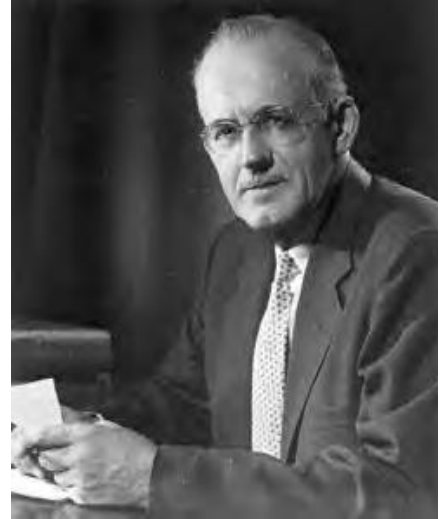
Church History

THE LIFE OF A. W. TOZER

PART ONE: FROM LA JOSE, PENNSYLVANIA TO CHICAGO
BY MARK BEARDALL

A. W. Tozer was a great preacher and writer. His books are still popular now 51 years after his death. His book *The Pursuit of God* is considered to be a Christian classic. He is one of the most quoted Christian authors.

Aiden Wilson Tozer was born on 21st April 1897 in La Jose, Pennsylvania in the United States of America. Aiden was the third of Jacob and Prudence Tozer's six children. Tozer grew up on his father's farm and as a child had to milk the cows and perform various farm duties. One day young Aiden was swinging from a tree with all his might



and singing at the top of his voice, "Is there any room in heaven for a small lad like me?" and he heard a voice saying, "If there's going to be any room for you in heaven you'll have to mend your ways." It was the mother of a boy that he had beaten up. He was given a good old fashioned tongue lashing but it would be a few more years before he would mend his ways.

In 1907 the farmhouse caught fire and Jacob Tozer lost nearly everything. His eldest son Zene left the farm and found work at the Goodyear factory in Akron, Ohio. After the fire Jacob Tozer had a number of nervous breakdowns and was often in hospital, leaving Aiden his ten year old son to look after the farm for the next five years.

After hearing news of job opportunities Jacob Tozer sold the farm and moved to Akron in 1912. Aiden soon found work selling books, sweets and peanuts on the railroad but he didn't sell many books because he enjoyed reading them so much. After a while, he found another job cutting rubber for Goodyear. The work was simple and

repetitive so Tozer would memorize poetry as he worked.

There were many churches in Akron and the Tozer family began to attend church regularly. Tozer began to attend Grace Episcopal Methodist Church. Tozer's next door neighbour Mr Holman was a Christian. One day Mr Holman tapped him on the shoulder and asked him if he had been converted. Tozer told him that he wasn't converted but he would give it some serious thought. One day in 1915 when Tozer was walking home from work, he came across an open-air preacher with a small audience listening to him. Tozer thought it strange that a man should be preaching in the street but he began to listen. The preacher said, "If you don't know how to be saved just call on God saying 'God be merciful to me a sinner,' and God will hear you." These words cut him to the heart. Tozer could not get them out of his mind. He went straight home and straight to the attic to do business with God. Tozer came out of that attic a new man, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Tozer had a real hunger and thirst after God and he needed to find a quiet place to pray. He found a small space in the basement where he could be away from the family and lodgers and be alone with God. Tozer spent hours studying his Bible and crying out to God in prayer. Aiden met his future wife Ada Pfautz at Grace Episcopal Methodist Church. Her mother, Kate Pfautz was a zealous Christian who was constantly witnessing. Although we do not hold the same view as Tozer on the Baptism of the Spirit we feel it right to mention that he believed in a Baptism of the Spirit as a separate experience from conversion, which would result in a holy life. His future mother in law convinced him that he needed this experience. Tozer and Mrs Pfautz prayed earnestly for this and he claimed that he was 'baptised with a mighty infusion of the Holy Spirit' and that there was a great change from this point onwards in his life and that the things of this world lost all meaning to him. Tozer believed in a baptism of holiness, he rejected the idea that the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was speaking in tongues. His views were those of the holiness movement not the Pentecostals. Although we do not hold the same view as Tozer we have included this because it was a central part of his theology.

Tozer married Ada Pfautz on 26th April 1918. He was still working at the tyre factory when he married. Sometime before the marriage he saw many people converted when he took several weeks off work to preach in a gospel campaign in Mount Pleasant, West Virginia, with his sister's husband John Jeffers. Six weeks after the wedding Tozer, his brother in law and his wife Ada returned to Mount Pleasant. Many souls were saved as they witnessed from door to door, held gospel meetings in school buildings and held tent meetings. The meetings had to stop when Tozer was called up to fight in World War 1. He did not actually fight. It seems that he was still training when the War ended.

On leaving the army, Tozer started to preach in the street every night. This brought some opposition from Grace Episcopal Church they disliked street preaching and they thought that he should go to college and seminary before he started preaching. Shortly after, Tozer came across some zealous Christians from the local Christian Missionary Alliance Church. They were very zealous in street evangelism. Tozer was so encouraged by their zeal that he decided to attend one of their services. He liked it and decided to join them.

The Christian Missionary Alliance was founded by the Canadian Presbyterian evangelist A.B. Simpson. A.B. Simpson popularised what he called "The Fourfold Gospel," Jesus Christ; The Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer and Coming King. He emphasised the teaching of "The Deeper Life." Simpson wrote over 120 hymns including, "Yesterday, today, forever Jesus is the same." The Alliance started off as a mission but eventually became a denomination.

Samuel Geow pastor of the Alliance Church in Akron encouraged Tozer to preach and after a while recommended him as a pastoral candidate for any new churches that the Alliance started. After a successful gospel campaign Tozer became pastor of Stonewood CMA Church in 1919. After a year of faithful service Tozer was ordained on 18th August 1920. He took his ordination seriously and made a covenant with God to serve Him faithfully.

... To be continued

Report of the Lord's Work in India & Wembley

Nitish & Ellen Patel

We visited India in October for two weeks. Most of the time was spent in Bombay and a brief visit was made to Anand, Gujarat. Sanjay Parmar has laboured here for around 14 years and continues to visit villages making new contacts and preaching the gospel. There has been blessing this year when a family was saved. We had meetings at their home a couple of years ago in the hospital quarters where they worked. Sanjay continued to visit them and teach them the Word of God so it was a joy to hear that all have come to know the Lord. We also met Dominic, a young brother who has a desire to go full time to serve the Lord in Gujarat. Pray for the 60 million people of Gujarat that the Lord will send out more labourers into this harvest field.

Back in Bombay a visit was made to the assembly in Banduph slum which is on top of a hill. Evangelist Shaji Samuel has laboured here and in other places where he has seen assemblies planted. The believers here are very poor but rich in faith and joy in the Lord. From time to time we are able to pass on gifts from believers here to help them in their poverty. Brother Shaji has seen another assembly planted in a place called Roha about 100 miles south of Bombay. This continues to see blessing and some tribals have been saved there.

The children's work in Wembley closed for the Christmas season with a party and prize giving for the children. A number sang and others read from the Scriptures. We were encouraged to see their progress when they first came, many could not speak much English. Since we started last year, around 200 different children have attended, mainly all Hindus from Gujarat. Two meetings are held on Saturdays to accommodate the numbers and prayer is valued for these children and their parents to be saved.

A Bible exhibition was created in the Gujarati language and displayed for two weeks in July. Many children came to do worksheets every day and learn about God's Word but few adults showed interest except towards the end when a good number came in.



Assembly in Banduph slum (above) and assembly in Anand Gujarat (below)





Wembley Bible Exhibition & Children's Special Christmas party & Prize giving

