

Clifton News

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THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN

What woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose
doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and
try till she find it? And when she hath found it, she
calls and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice
with me, for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say
unto you, there shall be joy in the presence of the angels of God over
one sinner that repenteth.



Bible Exhibition



Seekers Christmas party & Watchnight service (below)



News

We wish all our readers a very happy new year

Bible Exhibition

Over 250 visitors attended the October Bible exhibition and 50 children from one school. The local Roman Catholic school that used to send the whole school in past years sadly did not send any this time. The new headmistress in charge showed no interest. Three Moslem women also came in and read much of the information.

The exhibition was followed up by a series on prophecy to interest those who came.

Carol Service

This year's carol service was not as well attended by the children as we had hoped but a handful of children and a couple of parents were present to hear the gospel clearly presented by Kevin Oh.

Watchnight gospel meeting

There were 27 in total present to hear the gospel and see in the new year and many of them were not saved.

Future plans in the Lord's will

A **seed sowers program** has been suggested which a number of other assemblies are using for their evangelism. We hope to look into producing these gospel cards and distributing in our area.

The **Easter Holiday Club** is planned for the 29th March to 1st April 2016

Following on from last year's successful outreach at the **Thornton Heath Festival**, we hope to set up a stall at the **South Norwood Festival** also which takes place in July. It will be a great opportunity to reach thousands with the gospel in both places.

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Meetings

THE WEEK AT CLIFTON

Lord's Day

Breaking of Bread 11.00 am
Family Service 4:00 pm

Monday

Prayer & Ministry 8.00 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

3 **No meeting**
10 Nitish Patel
17 Richard Catchpole
24 Alf Taylor
31 Norman Gibbons

February

7 Alastair Rodger
14 Ferranti Wong
21 Craig Spence
28 John Aston

March

6 Andrew Hall
13 Norman Gibbons
20 Alastair Rodger
27 Nitish Patel

MONDAY PRAYER AND MINISTRY

January

4	James Robert	Report of work in India
11	Alastair Rodger	The Deity of Christ
18	Nitish Patel	The Manhood of Christ
25	Nitish Patel	The death of Christ

February

1	Richard Catchpole	The resurrection of Christ
8	Jonathan Black	The ascension of Christ
15	Jonathan Black	The priesthood of Christ
22	Jonathan Black	The Church and the churches
29	Roy Aitkin	Fellowship

March

7	Roy Aitkin	Headship, 1 Cor. 11.1-16
14	Martin Hayward	Worship, 1 Cor.11.17-34
21	Martin Hayward	Membership, 1 Cor. 12
28	No meeting	Easter Bank Holiday

Question Box



What does it mean to have eternal life?

A few weeks ago I was telling the young people at Friday club that if they repent from their sins and believe in the Lord Jesus, they will receive eternal life. After I said that, a hand went up and I was asked the question “What’s eternal life?”

I had to pause for a moment while I realised that so often at Friday club I talk about having eternal life, but my listeners may not realise what that means.

Let’s look at what God’s word says that eternal (or everlasting) life is and what it means to have it.

In probably the most well known verse in the Bible, John 3:16, we read that, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” Eternal life is contrasted with perishing, that is dying. The one who believes in the Lord Jesus has eternal life and doesn’t perish.

What does it mean to perish? One thing is sure for all of us; we will all die at some point, our lives will come to an end, however that isn’t the end for us. We don’t stop existing, become nothing, get annihilated; the Bible makes that clear. We die and either go on to eternal punishment away from God in hell (perish) or we go on to eternal life with God in heaven. Look at the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. There are only two places we can go to, only two states that we will be in forever and ever.

John 3:36 makes this clear again, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” The two states we face are having eternal life or not having life.

There are only two options and whether we have eternal life or whether we have eternal punishment depends on whether we believe in the Lord Jesus or not.

Notice that John 3:36 says that the one who believes in the Son has eternal life, they have it now, it's something they have and they can be sure of.

Not only do you know you have life to look forward to when you die, it's also something that can be enjoyed now.

In His prayer to His Father in John 17, Jesus describes how His Father has given Him authority to give eternal life to all who have been given to Him. Eternal life is given by God (Romans 6:23). Jesus goes on to describe eternal life in verse 3 "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

As we've seen eternal life is life that goes on forever (as opposed to perishing), it's a greater quantity of life. As John 17:3 tells us, by knowing God, eternal life is also a greater quality of life, to know God is to have a relationship with Him.

Eternal life then is something offered to all who will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and so as we finish, can I ask, is it something you have?

Alastair Rodger

Bible Teaching

Elisha Prophet of Water (Part 11)

By the late Charles Wigg (Tasmania)

THE MAN FROM BAAL-SHALISHA

The chapter closes by introducing us to an unusual man. Unusual, because in a time of famine; he seemed to have abundance. It is apparent that in New Testament language, he had been sowing to the Spirit, and he had reaped a harvest. He also knew and obeyed the instructions given in the law of God, regarding the first fruits that were to be given to God. So he gave to the man of God, twenty loaves of Barley, and full ears of corn. The prophet did not take this as his own, though it was given to him, but he shared it with the sons of the prophets. However amongst the many that were there, this seemed to be so little, so one asked, "shall I set this before a hundred men"? But the man of God commanded that it be done, saying that all would eat and leave some. It came to pass as he had spoken by the word of the Lord. This takes the mind to John's Gospel chapter 6, the great food chapter of Holy Scripture. But there it was not Elisha who wrought the miracle, but Elisha's Lord. He exhorted His apostles as He sent them out, "freely have you received, freely give. Mat. 10:8. It shows us that whatever we may have, though it seem so little, when we give it to the Lord in His hands it is multiplied.

Let us be like that man from Baal Shalisha, let us sow to the Spirit, knowing that of the Spirit we shall reap eternal life. Even though there be a drought all around us spiritually!

THE CLEANSING OF NAAMAN

The Lord Jesus said that though there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet none were cleansed but Naaman the Syrian. That seems to make the cleansing of Naaman rather special. Dispensationally, this points on to the day when the grace of God

would reach out to the sinners of the Gentiles, when we lost sinners would experience the cleansing of the blood of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son. There are many encouragements for us to gain from this story, as well as warnings and instruction. Little did the mighty Naaman realise what blessing would result for him from the raid that he and his army made into Israel.



He must have known that he was suffering from the dread disease of leprosy, and that his illustrious career as a successful General was about at an end. But he brought back a little maid that he gave to his wife as a servant. In time she noticed that telltale white patch on Naaman's flesh, and realised that he, though so great and successful, was a filthy leper, and was doomed to die a lonely and bitter death. She could easily have been resentful and bitter. She could have rejoiced at the calamity about to fall upon the man that had cruelly taken her away from the parents whom she loved, and made her a wretched slave. She could have wished a curse upon that man, and rejoiced at his pending misery, but she did not.

AN EXAMPLE TO ALL LITTLE MAIDS

Thus this little maid whose name is not given, became an example to all other little Maids, especially to those little maids that belong to the Lord Jesus.

It seemed that she had learned to accept the circumstances that were beyond her control, and sought to serve God in those very circumstances. She enjoyed a close relationship with her mistress as a



result, and through her conveyed a message of hope to her master. She knew that her God, the God of Israel was the only true God, and that He possessed the power of life and death. Though Israel was in a backslidden state, though they were disobedient to God's word, yet still He had not forsaken them, and that He still had His messenger amongst them, in the person of Elisha.

Little did she know that her story would be read and told by countless people, all over the world, and over several millenniums. May every little Christian maid that reads this story take courage. May they realise that the same mighty God can make use of them, to the eternal blessing and salvation of others!

When the news was passed on to Naaman, it seemed too good to be true. It was indeed 'good news' but too good to be true?? It was nay centuries later that the Lord Jesus said, "That which is impossible with men, is possible with God". Nevertheless it was the only hope that the Syrian General had, so he passed the information to his king. The king did not wish to lose the services of such a successful and valiant man, so hoping against hope, he decided to send Naaman to Samaria. He wrote a letter to Israel's king, and sent Naaman loaded with gifts and rewards on his journey.



In due course Naaman stood before Israel's king, who on reading the letter tore his clothes in distress. He knew that he had no power to cure the incurable, and saw it as a pretext for the Syrian king to attack or to make trouble for him. It never entered his head that Jehovah the God of Israel could be behind this matter. However the mighty, yet gracious prophet was sitting untroubled in his house. He

knew what was taking place in the palace and sent a message to the troubled king, asking why he was so distressed as to tear his clothes, and telling him to send the visitor down to him, and that he would then know that there was a prophet in Israel.

GREATNESS REBUKED

Israel's king must have been very relieved to receive this message. He knew that he was powerless to do anything in such a situation. He also knew that the false gods that his mother worshipped were powerless to do anything. So the proud Syrian general came with his pomp, his greatness, his horses and chariot and stood before the door of Elisha's house.



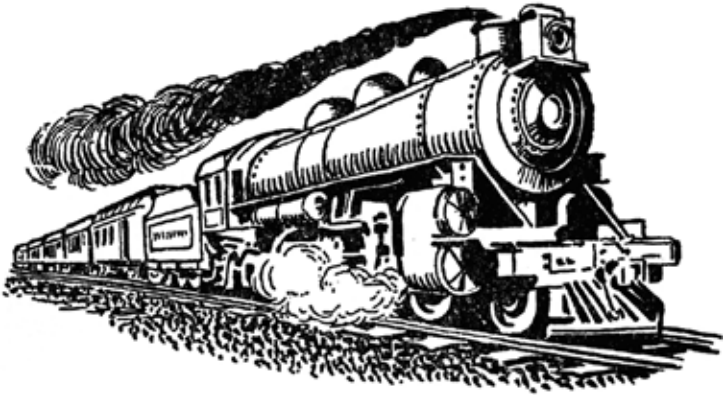
The prophet knew that the proud Syrian must first be humbled before he could receive any blessing, so he did not personally attend on the great man, but sent his servant with a simple message. Naaman had to realise that in spite of his greatness, yet he was just a filthy leper, and was doomed to die.

This treatment did not suit the pride of the great man, and he became very angry. How similar his attitude was, to that of lost men today. Though they suffer from the greater moral leprosy of sin, yet when commanded by God to repent, so often they become angry, and reject God's offer of cleansing and salvation through the blood of Christ.

..... to be continued

Good News

HE DIED FOR ME



William and Mary Tanner were crossing the railroad tracks when it happened. Mary's foot slipped and wedged itself between the rail and the wooden crosswalk. She tried frantically to pull her foot free as the sound of an approaching train was heard. There were but seconds left as the express came rushing toward her around a curve. Will Tanner pulled on her foot, desperately trying to free her.

As the train came closer and its whistle screamed and brakes shrieked, Will held her in his arms. While people shuddered in horror, the train thundered over them. One witness said that just before the engine hit them, he heard the brave man cry, "I'll stay with you, Mary!"

This story of a man's great love for his wife reminds us of a far greater one - that of God's love for us. God gave His only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins at the place called Calvary. Many mocked Him saying "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross ... He saved others; himself he cannot save." (Matthew 27:40, 42)

But in order to save us from our sin and the hell we deserve, He chose not to save Himself. It was not the nails that held Him to the cross, it was His love for us. He stayed there till the work was done

- the work of suffering the judgment of God in our place. Not only did He die but He rose again from the dead the third day and is alive today a mighty Saviour! He can save all who trust Him.

Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

SKY DIVER FORGOT HIS PARACHUTE

On Saturday April 5th 1988, Ivan Lester Mcguire, aged 35, a veteran sky diver who had made over 800 jumps, met with a tragic end when he jumped out of a plane at 10,500 feet.

He took off from the Franklin County Sports Parachute Center and was carrying a heavy backpack with a video recorder inside and a voice activated camera mounted on his helmet.

Walter L. Riggsbee, the FAA investigator, said the video equipment may have been mistaken for a parachute.



"The absent minded bachelor got carried away" said Al Burnett of the parachute centre. He was excited and was launching a new career wanting to become the best sky-diving photographer in the country. He was going to film four other sky divers and though had made two jumps previously that day, made a tragic mistake of forgetting to put on his parachute. The others made preparations and jumped out. He followed after them. When the film footage was recovered by police it showed that he was unaware he did not have his parachute on till the moment he reached down to the cord on his right leg to release it but it was missing. His last frantic words on the tape sounded like "oh, no. Oh my God, no!"

He plummeted at a terrifying 150 mph towards the ground and was killed instantly.

Franklin County sheriff's Capt. Ralph Brown said there was no foul play and no indication of suicide, although "a man who has jumped 800 times ought to remember his parachute."

This man's tragic mistake reminds us of the negligence of so many today when it comes to their never dying soul. As time hurtles them towards death and eternity, their minds are too occupied with everything except the most important and the most obvious thing anyone can think of, their need of a Saviour.

Leslie Mcguire thought all was well when it was not. We urge you to think about your soul's salvation for which Christ shed His blood on the cross to save. Faith in Christ will save you now but not when it is too late. There is nothing more important in life than to be prepared to meet your God.

The Bible warns "It is appointment unto men once to die but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

Church History

C. T. Studd

Cricketer and Missionary (Part Three of Three)

By Mark Beardall (Lewisham)

In the Heart of Africa

After finishing his missionary service in China, the ex-cricketer C.T. Studd spent six years serving the Lord in India. He returned home to England in 1906 and the Lord provided the funds to send three of his daughters to boarding school. For the next two years Studd spoke

at various meetings testifying and challenging people to missionary service.

In 1908 when Studd was walking through Liverpool, he saw a sign advertising a missionary meeting, which said, "Cannibals need missionaries." Studd found the statement amusing and intriguing so he decided to attend the meeting. Dr Karl Kumm. A man who had travelled across Africa said that there were many tribes in the middle of Africa that had never heard of the Lord Jesus Christ and that no Christian had gone to tell them of Jesus. Studd was so moved that he asked the Lord, "Why have no Christians gone." He felt that the Lord was saying, "Why don't you go?"



Studd made plans to travel across Africa via Niger with Karl Kumm but he was prevented by an attack of malaria. He took this as the Lord saying, "No!" His next plan was to travel to Southern Sudan with Kumm to see if there was anywhere that he could start a work for the Lord but he was rejected by the mission committee on medical grounds. They wouldn't support him if he went south of Khartoum. Studd told the committee, "Gentlemen, God has called me to go and I will go. I will blaze the trail, though my grave may only become a stepping stone that younger men may follow." He had no money but God supplied his needs and he sailed on 15th December 1910 opposed by the doctors, the committee and even his wife.

When Studd reached Khartoum he spoke several times at the Anglican Church. One of his converts became a famous preacher. He also held a mission among the British Soldiers who were stationed in Khartoum, which was greatly blessed of the Lord. Studd travelled with Bishop Gwynne to Southern Sudan, where they met Archdeacon Shaw of the Church Missionary Society. The three of them spent 2½ months trekking through Bahr el Ghazal looking for a place to start a mission. Studd realised that though the people were in desperate need of the gospel, the population was not great and that the C.M.S would be able to do the work themselves if they opened a couple of

new stations. It was not a wasted journey because when he was in the Sudan he heard of masses of people in the Belgian Congo who had never heard of the Lord Jesus Christ. Studd returned to England full of zeal to start a new work in the Belgian Congo and also to form a new missionary organisation. They started off with the name Christ Etceteras which became the Heart of Africa Mission and eventually World Evangelization Crusade.

Studd travelled to the Belgian Congo with Alfred Buxton, who was the son of one of his old Cambridge friends Rev Barclay F Buxton. They arrived in Niangara on 16th October 1913. With the permission of the Belgian authorities and several tribal chiefs they set up mission stations at Niangara , Nala, Bambili and Poko. The first mission station was built at Niangara for the sum of £6. It was called, "Buckingham Palace."

The first white man came ten years earlier to subdue the people. He and 33 of his 35 soldiers were killed, cooked and eaten. When Studd had been there for two years five more workers came to help and Studd returned to England to recruit new workers.

Studd missed the first baptism service which was held in Niangara on 19th June 1915. A gun was fired into the water to frighten the crocodiles and then Alfred Buxton baptized 12 converts. Six months later 18 people were baptized at Nala. Some of these people had been cannibals, drunkards, murderers, thieves, witches and adulterers. One man said, "My father killed a man and I helped to eat him."

One day when Studd was travelling by canoe some of the people from a local tribe that were helping him stopped working and refused to row. One of the converts said to them, "Get on with your work! Remember, in my time I have eaten better men than you." This speech had the desired effect!

Studd and Buxton decided to concentrate on the Bangala language which was spoken by many traders. At least 100 tribes understood this language as well as their own languages. Buxton translated half of the Old Testament and the whole New Testament into Bangala.

One of the greatest trials came when Mrs Studd became ill just after C.T. sailed back to Africa. Her heart had extended by several

inches. It seemed that she was going to die but she improved after Lord Radstock prayed for her. She was almost housebound and was to only be out of bed for seven hours per day. This could not prevent her from serving the Lord. From her house she produced monthly newsletters, edited H.A.M. Magazine and dealt with the mission correspondence. Both C.T. and Priscilla Studd defied their ailments to serve the Lord. Because of the increasing workload a property at No 17 Highland Road, Upper Norwood for their busy head office. After spending some time at home Studd travelled back to Africa with eight people including his daughter Edith who was going out to marry Alfred Buxton. C.T Studd took the service at Buckingham Palace Niangara.

By April 1917 there were about 100 baptized converts. In one day 81 people were baptized. Earlier on in the year they were able to send out 20 members of the Church at Nala to preach the gospel in other areas. Studd was impressed with the fact that they carried little baggage compared to the British evangelists who needed five people to help carry their things.

Four months later there was another 50 people who wanted to be baptized. Studd found that the local believers were "the most loving and joyful folks on earth." One day he was not feeling very well and stayed in bed a little longer than usual so six of the believers came to visit him with great concern. He said to them that it was just laziness. He wanted to get rid of them politely so that he could get dressed but all six surrounded his bed and prayed for him, one by one. In October he wrote, "The progress is simply wonderful; people are coming from every quarter and from very long distances. We are pretty nearly having weekly baptisms. The converts are evangelizing far and near. Many Chiefs are imploring us to send the teachers and are even building chapels and houses for us." "Four men came a 20 days journey to Nala, and when asked why, said, 'All the world knows there is much knowledge of God at Nala.' "

Soon after a Chief offered him some land if he would come and preach to them. Chief Abiengama used to be a cannibal and had recently eaten 14 men but God had worked in his heart. The land that was given was called Deti Hill in Ituri province. This was a very beautiful place with a great view and it gave him opportunity to

expand the work into that region. Studd sent a Mr and Mrs Ellis there when the building of the mission station was completed. A great work was done there. When he visited them in 1918 he was amazed at the number of people who attended the meetings, including a number of Chiefs.

Buxton and Edith had returned England after baby Susan's dedication service. It was hard for C.T. to part with Buxton who he owed his life too. If it wasn't for Alfred's nursing he may have died. "Alfred was ever to me a loyal son and heart companion. None but God can know the deep fellowship, joy and affection of our daily social and spiritual communion, for no words can describe it." The mission was now short of workers but Mrs Studd sent a cable in faith saying, "Reinforcements leaving this year." She didn't know of anyone who wanted to go but seven days before the end of the year a party was sent including his youngest daughter Pauline and her husband Norman Grubb (his biographer). A few more parties were sent and it was not long before they had 40 workers in Africa. In 1921 Buxton returned and took hold of the reigns at Nala enabling Studd to explore the Ituri province.

Studd moved to Ibambi in 1922 which was four days south of Nala. He was given the name Bwana Mukubwa which means Great White Chief. So many people attended the meetings that, "Under our supervision a House of God was built to seat 1250 people." A few miles away was Adangwe's village where 600 people gathered regularly to worship the Lord. Adangwe at one time was one of the worst cannibals but the Lord saved him. During a time of revival his whole face lit up with the joy of the Lord. He became a leader in his church of 500 people. That church eventually sent out at least 50 evangelists. These evangelists were all supported by the local church.

Studd became increasingly ill. He had asthma, recurring malaria and gallstones. He had more than one heart attack and attacks of breathlessness caused by gallstones. He died of gallstones on 16th July 1931. His last word was Hallelujah which he said a number of times between breaths. About 1500 to 2000 people attended his funeral including Chiefs Kotinaye, Owesi, Abaya and Simba.

...thy name is as ointment poured forth...S.S. 1v3, Psalm 45v8, S.S. 2v3-5

BELOVED

'Tis worship but to whisper
The Name of Him I love,
It's sound of sweetest metre
Bears heaven from above,
And fills with wondrous fragrance,
Life's suffocating air,
When once the soul, with reverence,
His bosom seeks in prayer!

Ah! presence all-anointed!
Thy garments smell of myrrh---
Perfume from pain procuréd,
In deepest sorrow stirred--
Therefore the virgins love Thee;
For this they've made Thee glad,
From palaces of ivory,
Where endless joys are had!

Beloved Lord transcendent!
'Mong sons of men unique!
'Mid barrenness, abundant!
Thy shadow I would seek;
And raptured there reclining,
Anticipate in part,
The bliss unspoilt by sinning,
That reigneth where Thou Art!

Oh! stay ye me with flagons,
For I am sick of love!
Love of unsounded fathoms,
Of heights all heav'ns above!
Love wide with Godhead grandeur,
From finite limits free!
Outlasting life's vain vapour ---
Long as eternity!

(Leon Hartley, Brook Street Chapel, Tottenham)



Metula, Israel's northernmost town and mount Hermon