

Clifton News

280 January - March 2018

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News

We would like to wish all our readers a very Happy New Year with "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." (Proverbs 10:22)

During the Christmas season we were able to reach out with the gospel in the area. For the first time there was a Christmas fair held in Thornton Heath High Street. It was not a great affair and there were only a few stalls but despite the bitterly cold Saturday some of us were able to give out invitations to our Christmas services. These meetings went well and the Carol Service had around 30 in attendance and the Watchnight gospel meeting had about 25 in attendance including a number of unsaved.

We were encouraged to hear from the organisers that we have been given a place for our stall at the South Norwood Festival in July 2018 and we thank God for this new door kept opened for us. There are a number of plans upon our hearts to reach out with the gospel this new year including the Easter Holiday Club during the first week of April, various festivals in the summer and a Bible Exhibition in September, God willing.

With sadness, we bid farewell to Ian, Preeti and their daughter Rhea as they leave us to move to the Isle of Wight. We wish them God's blessing in their new home and pray that in coming days they will be a help to the assembly where they will be in fellowship.

We are thankful to all who pray for us and we look to the Lord to bless His Word and save souls this new year as we wait for the coming again of the Lord Jesus.

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Meetings

Lord's Day

Breaking of Bread	11.00 am
Family Service	4.00 pm

Monday

Prayer and Bible Teaching	7.45 pm
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Wednesday

Seekers	6.30 pm
(Term time only for under 10s)	

Friday

Friday Club	7.30 pm
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SUNDAY AFTERNOON FAMILY SERVICE

January

7	Richard Catchpole
14	Glyn Davies
21	Alf Taylor
28	Nitish Patel

February

4	Nitish Patel
11	George Rassovsky
18	Nitish Patel
25	John Aston

March

4 Thomas Taylor
11 Richard Catchpole
18 Ferranti Wong
25 Nitish Patel

MONDAY PRAYER AND BIBLE TEACHING

January

1 Bank Holiday
8 Paul Miller
15 Paul Miller
22 Nitish Patel
29 Nitish Patel

February

5 Robert Bennett
12 Robert Bennett
19 Richard Catchpole
26 David Willis

March

5 David Penfold
12 David Penfold
19 Timothy Miller
26 Timothy Miller

SATURDAY NIGHT MINISTRY (7:30 pm)

7 January James College (Pamberheath)
3 February Andrew Logan (Kilburn)

Question Box



This time, we do not have any questions from our young people but deal with a question asked by a believer in India ...

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LUKE 16:9?

“And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.”

This verse follows the Lord’s parable of the unjust steward (Luke 16:1-8). It is the Lord’s lesson for His disciples from this parable.

The unjust steward was commended by his master, not for robbing him obviously, but for his wisdom in preparing for his future. The steward knew once he is thrown out his money will fail and he will have nothing, no job, no money and no home. So he devised a plan to make plenty of friends by cutting down the debt they owed to his master. His master would suffer further losses and when he was thrown out, he would go to the home of these debtors who would be happy to let him stay with them because he had helped them so much.

He acted with wisdom

He prepared for his future

He used his master’s money to make friends who will help him when he is in need.

Likewise believers should be wise about the future.

Just as the steward was going to leave his home, we are leaving earth for heaven one day and leaving all our money behind.

Just as the steward made preparation for where he was going, believers should do the same.

Just as the steward used money to make friends, believers can make friends with the money they have. We cannot use it where we are going and we can use it for God down here to make friends by helping those who are poor and needy, caring for the sick, spending sacrificially to spread the gospel amongst adults and children.

Just as the steward went to the homes of these friends he made and they welcomed him so too when we reach heaven one day, we will meet those whom we have seen saved and become our friends there to welcome us and they will be our crown of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:18-19). In the story of the rich man and Lazarus that follows, we have an example of this. If the rich man had been right with God and used his money to help Lazarus, he would have found Lazarus waiting to welcome him in Paradise when he died (Luke 16:19-31).

Money is not neutral but the Lord called it “unrighteous mammon” and “filthy lucre” (Titus 1:11) because causes so much evil in this world, “For the love of money is the root of all evil ...” (1 Timothy 6:10). But God can sanctify it and use it for good which is what we are to do with our wealth. Then will we have treasure in heaven and many friends. What the steward did to his master was wrong but he was wise in preparing for his own future. Believers can use money in a right way without cheating but with the same wisdom of the steward by thinking of our future and the needs of others.

The Lord Jesus followed by saying if we use our money faithfully as He taught from this parable then God will entrust to us greater spiritual riches and rewards in that day to come .

“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?” (Luke 16:10-11)

Nitish Patel

Bible Teaching

THE FACE OF THE LORD JESUS (Part 2)

by John Wallace (Hartlepool)

“His face was like the sun” (Revelation 1v16)

We turn from His sufferings to think of His exaltation. John sees Him now in resurrection glory and he says that His face shone like the sun. The same words we have thought about in Luke but John adds the words in His strength; “His face was as the sun shineth in his strength.” In Genesis 1 at creation we are told the sun was created to be “the ruler of the day.” It moves invincibly in its course.

The Lord Jesus, before He left His disciples, could say to them, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” (Matthew 28:18). Peter, preaching for the first time could say, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:36). Preaching to Cornelius and his company he could say, “preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)” (Acts 10:36). A new day has dawned; the Lord Jesus is ruler of the day.

The apostle John was given an amazing revelation of things that would be in the future. Coming towards the end of his vision (Revelation 21), he sees the great city the new Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God. John has many things to say about the magnificence of this wonderful city, the first and most important thing being “having the glory of God” (Revelation 21:11).

One of the features of this great city is there was no need of sun or moon because “the Lamb is the light thereof” (Revelation 21: 23). One of our best loved gospel hymns has put it beautifully when it says,

*No need of the sunlight in heaven we're told,
The light of that world is Jesus
The Lamb is the light in the city of gold,
The light of that world is Jesus*

One day there will be no more night, no more yesterday, today and tomorrow; we will dwell perpetually in the sunshine of the presence of the Lord Jesus. What a glorious anticipation.

“Look upon the face of thine anointed” (Psalm 84v9)

Psalm 84 is a beautiful Psalm expressing the desire of the Psalmist's heart after God but sadly we don't know who wrote it. Who is the Psalmist referring to when he speaks about “thine anointed”? Although much has been said and written about the question, the answer is that we can't be sure. However sometimes we can look beyond the actual scripture and see something deeper.

Who is the Lords anointed today? We do know the answer to that question Peter, speaking to Cornelius could say, “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power..” (Acts 10v38). The Lord Jesus is Gods anointed today (the word “anointed” is literally “Christ”). Where is the Lord Jesus today? He is at the right hand of God, God looks upon the face of His anointed. What a joy and delight it is to the heart of God to see Him there. Because God sees Him there, He is able to look favourably upon those who are associated with Him. Our acceptance before God is based on the fact that He is able to look upon the face of His anointed.

“To give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4v6)

As we go on with the Lord Jesus we discover more and more of what happened in that moment when we first trusted the Saviour. It was sufficient for us to know in that moment we were saved, that was a wonderful thing; we were not only saved but we knew we were saved. Since then, through reading the Word of God, we have learned that so many other things happened to us. Paul tells us of one of those things in 2 Corinthians 4 v 6, God shined into our hearts. Just as, at the very beginning, the Word of God caused the light to shine into the darkness so God has shined into our hearts.

We notice in reading carefully that two different kinds of light are in view, first the light of the sun, second the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. In the first we have thought of illumination, the light dispelled the darkness, in the second we have the thought of revelation, the revelation of the very glory of God.

The Psalmist could say the heavens declare the glory of God. How can we see the glory of God today? In the face of Jesus Christ. He is the express image of God's Person, the brightness of God's glory. He is the ultimate, perfect, complete revelation of God to us today. Moses prayed, "I beseech Thee show me thy glory" (Exodus 33:18) and God said, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee" (Exodus 33:19).

Where can we see the glory of the Lord today? In 2 Corinthians 3 v 18 Paul says, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord."

The glass is the mirror of God's Word and as we look into the mirror and gaze into the face of the Saviour, we see the glory of the Lord. But Paul now goes further and says, "we ... are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

We have thought about revelation but Paul goes beyond that to the thought of transformation. All those who love the Saviour would desire to be like Him, but how? It is evident that by our own effort we will never make ourselves one whit more like the Saviour. We look into the Word of God and see the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit working in our hearts produces the same likeness, from glory to glory.

There is a lovely hymn in Redemption Songs that perhaps sums up our meditation.

*I've seen the face of Jesus,
He looked in love on me.
My heart was filled with rapture,
My soul with ecstasy.
The scars of his deep anguish,
Were hid in glory bright,
I've seen the face of Jesus,
It was a wondrous sight*

*Oh wondrous face of beauty,
Oh wondrous touch of care,
If here it is so blessed
What will it be up there?*

Good News

THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

Leonardo da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi", the Saviour of the world, has become the most expensive artwork to ever sell at auction, going for the incredible sum of \$450.3 million at Christies in New York.

The painting was first commissioned by King Louis XII of France around 1500 AD. The 25 $\frac{7}{8}$ x 18 in (65.7 x 45.7 cm) oil painting was later owned by England's King Charles I. But the artwork had been presumed lost since the late 18th century.

The rare painting is one of fewer than 20 authenticated works by the Italian in existence. It depicts Jesus Christ in Renaissance clothing, one hand raised in blessing and the other holding a crystal orb.

When "Salvator Mundi" reappeared at auction in 1958, it was dismissed as a copy and sold for only \$59 (£45). Later on in 2005, a group of art dealers purchased it for less than \$10,000. The painting was in poor condition and had been heavily overpainted but was then painstakingly restored and was authenticated as a genuine work of Leonardo Da Vinci. It has been hailed as the greatest artistic rediscovery of the last 100 years.



Many expected a price of over \$100 million but within 20 minutes of bidding that price was exceeded. There was gasps in the auction room and then applause at the final bid.

We ask the question, "What is it that gives this painting such enormous value to the eye of man?" Many will say the name, "Leonardo Da Vinci" one of history's most renowned artists but this painting and the vast sum paid for it cannot compare with the vaster sum paid for the subject of the painting, the Lord Jesus Christ, to become the Saviour of the world.

The name of the painting comes from the phrase is found in 1 John 4:14, "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world."

It was the love of God that sent His Son Jesus Christ had to die for the sins of the world, a price no man can calculate and no one can pay except God's beloved sinless and spotless Son who went to Calvary to die for our sins and rise from the dead in triumph the third day. The Bible says of Him, "Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (1 Timothy 2:6).

*Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Lovingkindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout Heav'n's eternal days.*

(William Rees, 1802-1883)



Design in Creation

The Gecko's Sticky Feet By Nitish Patel

Many of us visiting other countries have seen Geckos running up and along the walls, sometimes hiding behind a calendar or near a light to catch flies. Geckos are lizards found in many warm countries and there are around 2000 different species of them. What is the most wonderful thing about them is not just their variety and colour but their amazing ability to stick to any surface including the ability to run upside down on smooth glass.

Some thought they used some kind of micro suction pads but this was disproved when gecko feet were stuck onto glass in a vacuum with no air. It was not electrostatic attraction either for when any electrical charges were removed by x-rays in experiments their feet still stuck. It was not glue for the lizard has no skin glands to produce glue. It was not until this century that scientists finally understood how they do this without falling down.

It was all down to microscopic hairs on their feet called setae which are about 1/10 of a millimetre long and so thin that 5000 are packed

into a tiny square millimetre (three million per square inch)! No only so, but each tiny setae is further divided up into 400-1000 branches ending in a spatula like structure about 0.2-0.5 microns (less than 1/50,000 th of an inch) long. Researchers say that this is beyond current human technology to produce.

VAN DER WAALS FORCES

It was discovered that these tiny hairs make use of what is known as Van der Waals forces which exist between all atoms and molecules and named after a Dutch scientist. This force is weaker than other atomic forces and there needs to be an enormous area of contact for there to be enough attraction to support the lizard. This is done through the huge area created by the millions of tiny hairs on the lizard's feet. These spatulae provide the area needed to stick the lizard to anything however rough or smooth it is. The footpad of a Tokay Gecko was examined and found to have an area of 100 square mm (1/16th of an inch) and can produce 10 newtons of adhesive force enough to support around 1kg of weight. Researchers further discovered that each individual seta had an attractive force 10 times stronger than expected. A million of them can stick a child to the ceiling! So no matter how rough the surface is the gecko has enough sticking power to adhere to it.

Just having these hairs is no use. The gecko knows how to stick and unstick its feet rapidly at the right angle. It has to uncurl its toes to stick and unpeel them to detach. Their feet are also self cleaning and leave dirt behind so the stickiness does not diminish. This is something still not fully understood.

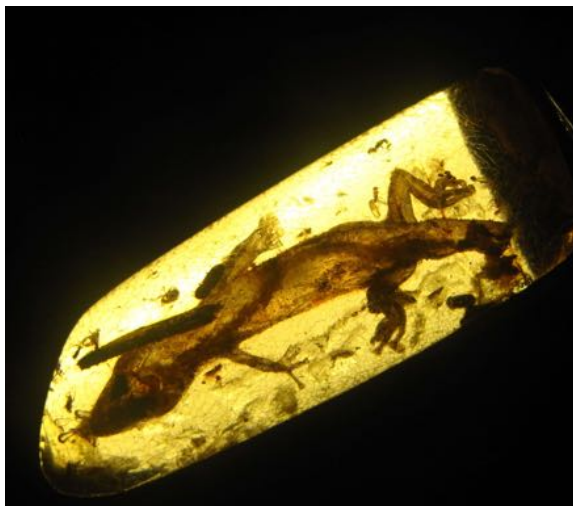
NOT EVOLVED

Evolution through chance mutations and natural selection could not have produced the gecko's complex foot and the intelligence to use it properly. If somehow by blind chance an ancient gecko had grown a few hairs on its feet, how could this have been of any benefit which

would select its offspring to survive those that did not have them for it could not climb walls unless the whole climbing apparatus was in place and the information written into its DNA to pass onto future generations. Not only did the gecko need hair but hair tiny enough to use the Van Der Waals forces properly.

Those who believe that evolution brought this about through millions of years of lucky mutations and survival of the fittest are basing their beliefs not on science but on blind faith.

A gecko was found embedded in amber (right) and estimated to be according to unreliable dating methods to be 100 million years old. However, careful examination shows that its were not partially evolved or transitional feet but fully formed like modern day geckos. This kind of complexity does not happen no matter how many millions of years you allow.



Let us admire God's amazing wisdom and power in Creation.

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20)



Report of a visit to India
By Nitish & Ellen Patel

During the end of November we were able to visit India for two weeks to see Ellen's family and renew fellowship with the believers in Mumbai (Bombay) and Gujarat.

We visited the believers who live in Banduph slum on top of a hill in Mumbai. The assembly was planted by evangelist Shaji Samuel a number of years ago and is composed of very poor believers including some widows who have several children to look after. They are happy in the Lord despite their poverty. Two of the brethren were recently manhandled by Hindu militants who are active in the area and made them promise not to allow any foreigners into the slum. Hindu militant groups in India have spread a lot of fake news and bad press about Christians getting money from Western countries to entice Hindus to convert. Several states in India have draconian anti-conversion laws in place where permission is needed from the government to change your religion and the Indian government has recently stopped many thousands of foreign Christian organisations sending money to India. Despite all their efforts they cannot stop Christ building His Church and Christians continue to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29), preaching the gospel and seeing even more souls are saved.

In Gujarat, we were encouraged to hear of a new assembly planted in the city of Vadodara which has grown to 30 in fellowship and we were taken to a believers home in a village where neighbours send their children to hear the gospel every week. We were told that three of the children have recently been saved. In the assembly in Anand, a Hindu man told us he has recently been saved and wants all his family and relatives to witness his baptism.

Ellen's uncle Ernest Nimbargi is involved in the Living Waters ministries which broadcast gospel programs on national cable TV and he told us of the great response they are receiving.

Assembly in the Banduph slum (Mumbai)



Children's meeting (Gujarat)



Views of Jerusalem, Israel

