

Clifton News

281 April - June 2018

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News

We value prayer for our brother Norman Gibbons who was taken ill the middle of February and has been in hospital for many weeks. He is making very slow recovery. The assembly values much prayer for him and Mary at this time.

By the time this magazine arrives from the printers we will have concluded our Easter Holiday Club. A report of it will be out in our next magazine. Pray for all the children and parents who will hear the gospel.

Ian and Preeti along with their daughter Rhea have moved to the Isle of Wight and we look forward to welcoming Vincent and Shara Khushal who along with their two children who will be moving from Waltham Abbey into the annexe next door in July and coming into fellowship.

Currently the annexe is being renovated and hopefully will be ready for habitation by June.

We have been put in touch with a young man named Pedro from Barzil who has recently being saved. Along with his wife Ingrid and daughter Alice, he lives near the hall and has been attending the meetings. Pray for his spiritual progress and the Lord's blessing on the family.

The two children's clubs still enjoy good attendance for which we continue to praise God.

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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

April

1	Richard Catchpole
8	Andrew Hall
15	Glyn Davies
22	Mike Surry
29	Mike Surry

May

6	Alf Taylor
13	Ferrantti Wong
20	George Rassovsky
27	Richard Catchpole

June

3 Andrew Hall
10 Nitish Patel
17 Nitish Patel
24 John Aston

MONDAY PRAYER AND BIBLE TEACHING

April

2 Easter Monday (no meeting)
9 G. Rassovsky
16 Martin Hayward
23 Nitish Patel
30 Nitish Patel

May

7 Bank holiday
14 David Tinkler (Report meeting)
21 Richard Catchpole
28 Bank holiday

June

4 Roy Aitkin
11 Roy Aitkin
18 Colin Roberts
25 Colin Roberts

Question Box

This quarter, we answer another question sent by a believer in India



WHAT DOES JOHN 3:8 MEAN?

“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

THE WIND

The Hebrew word for the Holy Spirit and the wind are the same because of the similarity between the nature of wind and the work of the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:2). It is the same word also used for the breath of life in man and animals and for the spirit in man (Genesis 6:7; 7:15; Psalm 31:5).

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE WIND

“The wind bloweth where it listeth”

The wind is viewed as doing its own will. Man cannot control the wind or speak to the wind and tell it what to do. It does what it wants. So it is with the Holy Spirit. He is sovereign. No one can control Him or tell Him what to do or how to do His work.

THE NOISE OF THE WIND

“and thou hearest the sound thereof”

Likewise, in Acts 2:1-4, the Holy Spirit came with a mighty rushing sound of a wind but no one could see Him. The evidence that He had come was seen in the likeness of tongues of fire on the disciple’s heads and they were all filled with the Spirit and began to miraculously speak in other languages. The Holy Spirit is invisible.

We can see Him working when we see the results before our eyes. The wind is powerful and so also the Holy Spirit who is almighty. The thousands saved on the Day of Pentecost bear testimony to this and the countless millions saved since.

THE MYSTERY OF THE WIND

“but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth:

The movements of the wind are a mystery and no one can predict how the weather will be in the future. The work of the Holy Spirit is known to Himself as God. He moves in this world according to the plans of the triune and eternal God.

THE SPIRITUAL ANALOGY

“so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

In the conversion of sinners, the Holy Spirit like the wind is sovereign. He saves whom He wants at what time He wants and where He wants and in which manner He wants according to the will of God. Who would have thought that Saul of Tarsus would suddenly be saved? Absolutely no one in the church or amongst Saul’s associates! The Lord saved him suddenly and changed him completely. The new birth cannot be explained only observed. We cannot understand how the Holy Spirit works in the lives of sinners but we see the outward results of a life transformed by the grace of God.

LESSON FOR US

No one can manufacture results. Some tell sinners to pray the sinners prayer whether the person is serious or not. Some make them sign decision cards or put their hands up. Salvation is not in our hands. It is the work of the Holy Spirit alone. Neither can we demand that souls are saved today or choose the day when souls are saved. We cannot chose from where they will be saved or what time. We can only faithfully proclaim the gospel leaving the results with God.

Bible Teaching

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LORD JESUS (Part 1)

by John Wallace (Hartlepool)

INTRODUCTION

A careful reading of the scriptures will reveal that within the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This revelation is particular to this present dispensation. In the Old Testament we read of God as LORD (Jehovah), in the book of Revelation it is God and the Lamb (Revelation 7.10). We need to be clear that this relates to how God has revealed Himself. God doesn't change; what he is today he always has been in the past and what he has been in the past he always will be. A misunderstanding of this leads to a misunderstanding of God.

There are those who will not accept the idea of a triune God on the basis that in the Old Testament we read, Hear O Israel. The LORD our God is one LORD (Deuteronomy 6.4). This relates to how God was known to Israel; today God is known, as we have seen, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28.19). Beware of the word "Trinity"; those who will not accept the truth of the Godhead will be quick to point out that the word "Trinity" does not appear in the Bible. This is true but it does not affect the truth.

We shall see that the ultimate evidence of three persons is at the baptism of the Lord Jesus when the Son came up out of the water, the Father spoke from heaven and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove.

We want to think particularly of the Holy Spirit in relation to the Lord Jesus.

HIS BIRTH (Isaiah 7.14)

In this verse there are two things -

A declaration - a virgin shall conceive

The explanation - that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost

The virgin birth of the Lord Jesus is a truth which is denied even by professing Christians today so it is important that we should adhere to what the Bible says and be clear as to what the Bible actually says.

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son. Note precisely what the verse says. It doesn't say "a virgin shall bear a son" it says "a virgin shall conceive and bear a son". Every child from Cain upwards has been born as the result of an act of conception; the Lord Jesus is no exception. The exception with the Lord Jesus is the unique manner of His conception. The word of the angel to Joseph was "that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost".

The word to Mary was "thou shalt conceive in thy womb" (Luke 1.31). The words "in thy womb" would seem in the context of the verse to be unnecessary. However in the light of modern medical science conception can take place outside the womb. Who knows what the ultimate of this will be? In a day to come a man will appear who will be a false Christ. He will be so much like the real thing that even the people of Israel will be deceived. Is it possible that this man will be born of a virgin?

It is suggested by some that the word "virgin" merely indicates an unmarried young lady. The Word Study Old Testament has the

following comment, “the Hebrew word used by Isaiah is the clearest word that Isaiah could have used to denote the idea of virginity.”

At the end of the genealogy of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 1.16, we read, “and Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary of whom Jesus was born”. The word “whom” is important; it is female singular and points direct to Mary. The Lord Jesus is the long promised Seed of the woman, He is also the Son of God. Conceived of the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus is absolutely sinless. The word to Mary was, “that holy thing which shall be born of thee”.

ISAIAH’S PROPHECY

There are three portions in Isaiah that speak of the Lord Jesus in relation to the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 11.2, “The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him”

Isaiah 42.1, “I have put my spirit upon him”

Isaiah 61.1, “The spirit of the Lord is upon me”

Isaiah 11.2

“The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him”

Isaiah speaks of the Lord Jesus as the rod and the branch

He is the rod out of the stem of Jesse and the branch out of his roots

The rod out of his stem — He is the son of David

The branch out of his roots — He is also David’s Lord

This is the question that the Jews couldn’t give an answer to, whose son is he? (Matthew 22.42) He is of David’s line but He is Davids Lord.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

Noah sent forth his dove and it returned unto him, it could not find a place of rest (Genesis 8, 9)

God sent forth His dove upon the person of His beloved Son and it remained upon Him (John 1.32). The Holy Spirit found a perfect resting place in the Lord Jesus.

Rest is the result of harmony. In the very beginning God rested on the seventh day. With so much going on throughout the universe how could God rest?

Everything was moving in perfect harmony. The Holy Spirit found in the Lord Jesus that which was in perfect harmony with Himself.

The heart and mind of the Lord Jesus were in perfect accord with the heart and mind of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 42.1

“I have put my spirit upon him.”

In this portion we see the Holy Spirit given to the Lord Jesus as an expression of the joy and pleasure that God found in him.

In this verse there are two expressions

1. My servant whom I uphold — His dependence on God

2. Mine elect in whom my soul delighteth — Gods delight in Him

The force of the word is, God found perfect, continual delight in Him At His baptism, when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, the voice out of heaven declared “This is my beloved son, in Whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17)

Gods beloved Son became Gods perfect Servant.

God finds absolute pleasure and delight and satisfaction in all that He is and in all that He does.

to be continued ...

Good News

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ A fact not a conspiracy !

The Watergate scandal rocked America in the early 1970s and led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. The President had been seeking re-election with a landslide victory in the 1972 election. Things were not looking good with the Vietnam war and domestic problems so the President and a number of his men resorted to dirty tricks to spy



on his opponents so that he would win. This involved five men who in June 1972 broke into the Democrat's office in the Watergate complex to plant bugs to listen to conversations. These men were caught by the police as burglars and eventually imprisoned. It was discovered that one of them was on the payroll of Nixon's reelection committee and was paid \$25,000 for the job. Two intrepid reporters from the Washington Post pursued the story and eventually all the abuses of power were brought to light especially when it was revealed that Nixon had recorded all conversations on tapes proving he knew of the break in and his attempts to cover up backfired on him. Before he could be impeached, he chose to resign in disgrace on 9th August 1974.

One of Nixon's men, Special Counsel to the President, Charles W. Colson (1931-2012) was also indicted for conspiring to cover up the Watergate burglaries and imprisoned for seven months on 1st March

1974. He was a man feared and was also known at the White House as the "hatchet man," because of his ruthless ways with his political enemies.



Before he went to prison, on the 12th of August 1973, he trusted Christ in tears having come under conviction for his sin. He became an evangelical Christian though his profession of faith was ridiculed by some newspapers. The Boston Globe reported, "If Mr. Colson can repent of his sins, there just has to be hope for everybody."

He entered Alabama's Maxwell Prison in 1974 as the first member of the Nixon administration to be incarcerated for Watergate-related charges. He served seven months of his sentence. After leaving prison, Colson founded Prison Fellowship Ministries in 1976, which has since become the world's largest outreach to prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families.

Conspiracy theories became very popular in the USA after Watergate and few trusted governments any more. But Colson had this to say about the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

"I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."

"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses."
(Acts 2:32)

Design in Creation



The Duck Billed Platypus

(*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)

By Nitish Patel

This year marks the two hundredth anniversary of the novel by Mary Shelly about the Frankenstein monster sewn together from different human parts by a scientist and made alive by electricity.

When duck-billed platypuses were first discovered in Australia and dead specimens bought back to Britain in 1799, scientists thought that they were victims of a hoax! It was described as, "a 'high frolic practised on the scientific community by some colonial prankster'." Those who first glimpsed at a platypus saw it as some kind of unnatural creature sewn together from several different animals. No one had seen anything like it.



The platypus is now found only on the east coast of Australia and has a life span of around 10-15 years. It is around 15 inches long from head to tail.

The platypus and the echidna, a spiny anteater found (right), in Australia and Papua New Guinea are the only monotremes in the world, that is, the only mammals that lay eggs and suckle their young. Even in this they are unique in that the milk is not suckled through teats but comes out through enlarged milk glands onto patches of skin to be sucked by its blind and helpless new born babies.



The Platypus creates more questions for those who believe in

evolution than it provides answers. Evolutionists have carefully constructed a tree of how mammals and birds evolved from reptiles which in turn had evolved from fish who learnt to walk on land. The platypus throws all these theories into confusion for it has features of all three at the same time. It is like a bird, a reptile and a mammal. There is absolutely no proof that it evolved from anything. The platypus has some remarkable design features that show it could only have been created by God.

The platypus has claws on its feet for burrowing. It will burrow a 20 metre long tunnel in the side of the bank in which the female will lay her eggs.

It has also webbed feet for swimming and its broad flat tail helps it with diving under water. It rolls up the webbing to free its claws for digging and walk on their knuckles.

It has dense fine fur which is in two layers to keep the animal dry while diving under water.

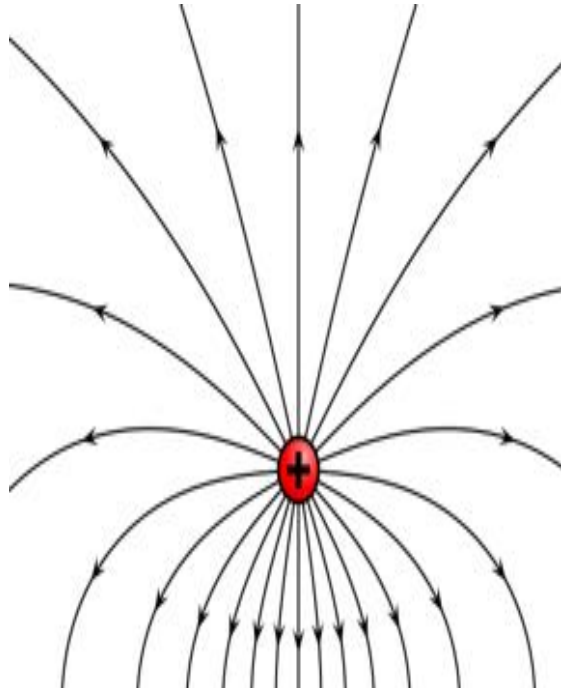
They are mammals because they are warm blooded at 32 degrees Celcius, they have milk glands, a large brain and a complete diaphragm.



The males have spurs on its hind feet which are connected to a gland that produces toxic venom. The effects of a strike are like a snake bite but not enough to kill a human but can cause excruciating pain. They use them against other males during the mating season as that is the only time the venom is

secreted.

The platypus searches for food under water with its ears and eyes firmly shut. It was discovered that its duck bill has thousands of highly complex and sensitive electrical sensors which help it find food at the bottom of muddy rivers and lakes. This proved that this was not some primitive animal half evolved between reptiles and mammals. Its bill has fine nerve receptors which allow it to pick up the electric fields given off by shrimp and other prey. The platypus goes under just for a minute or two at a time and stores the shrimps and worms in a pouch in its mouth.



Little is known of their ancestry and evolutionists had speculated that Australia broke away from the other continents 225 million years ago and these animals evolved because they were in isolation but discoveries of fossil platypus teeth in 1990s in South America which are identical to fossil teeth in Australia proved that this was wrong.

The fossil record only shows that the platypus has always been a platypus. In 1984 a large platypus jaw bone was discovered with three large teeth and according to evolutionary dating to be 110 million years old. Yet it was no different to platypuses



today except the only changes have been that it has lost teeth and shrunk in size. This degeneration of the DNA fits with the account on the fall of man and the effect of this upon creation (Romans 8:20).

A pair of platypus ancestors would have been on the Ark of Noah. When the one ice age that followed the flood would have lowered sea levels around the world, their descendants could have easily have migrated to Australia and beyond on land bridges or by means of rafting on floating wood or vegetation.

“Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, *and* whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.” (Genesis 8:19)



Ruins of ancient Corinth

