

Clifton News

286 July - September 2019

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News

This year's outreach at the **South Norwood Community Festival** saw another year of good weather and one of the organisers told us that there were more families this year which is what they wanted. Children came to do worksheets at our stall and many adults took literature especially the magazines on creation. Prayer valued for those who have shown an interest to bring their children to our weekly clubs and for blessing on the gospel literature given out.

There is still no news yet whether the **Thornton Heath Festival** is going to take place this September. We will wait for news and make application for a stall if it takes place.

God willing we hope to have another outreach at the **Grange Picnic in the Park** on Sunday 14th of July. This is very close to the hall and attended by those living near by.

We were pleased to receive into fellowship **Jaydee Alexander** who has been attending since came to Sunday school 18 years ago. She had been saved and was baptised in the church her mother attends.

God willing we hope to have a **baptism meeting** on Saturday 27th July 2019 at 7 pm. **Roberto Manzi** who is from Brazil and attending Clifton for a number of months has asked to be baptised. **Kiran Patel** also asked for baptism and we hope others too might take this opportunity to obey the Lord.

Dan Girard will be getting married to **Jochebed Coelho** on Tuesday 30th July in Chichester and prayer is valued for the happy occasion.

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Meetings

Lord's Day

Breaking of Bread 11.00 am
(During outreach at local community events it is at 10 am)

Young people's Bible class 12.00 pm
Family Service 4.00 pm

Monday

Prayer and Bible Teaching 7.45 pm

Wednesday

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

Friday

Friday Club 7.30 pm

SUNDAY AFTERNOON FAMILY SERVICE

July

7	Richard Catchpole
14	No meeting (Outreach at Grange Picnic in the Park)
21	Nitish Patel
28	Vincent Khushal

August

4	John Aston
11	Alastair Rodger
18	Nitish Patel
25	Nitish Patel

September

1	Alastair Rodger
8	Nitish Patel
15	Richard Catchpole
22	Ferranti Wong
29	Vincent Khushal

MONDAY PRAYER AND BIBLE TEACHING

July

1	Nitish Patel
8	Nitish Patel
15	Roy Aitkin
22	David Penfold
29	David Penfold

August

5	To be announced
12	Richard Catchpole
19	Richard Catchpole
26	No meeting (Bank holiday)

September

2	Nitish Patel
9	Nitish Patel
16	Paul Miller
23	Paul Miller
30	Paul Miller

Question Box

Should believers give tithes (one tenth) of their money to the Lord?

In the Old Testament, we read that Abram gave tithes to Melchizedek. "And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all." (Genesis 14:20)

What Abraham did voluntarily, was given in commandment to Israel. They were to give one tenth of all their harvest to the LORD. This was given to the priests and Levites who were not allowed to have any inheritance. "But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance." (Numbers 18:24)

In this way they were giving to God by supporting the priests and Levites who served the LORD in the Tabernacle and Temple. The priests offered sacrifices on their behalf as well as teaching God's law.

God had promised Israel a land flowing with milk and honey and no diseases if they obeyed Him so they were without excuse not to give from the abundance God had given to them. King David said, "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee." (1 Chronicles 29:14).

Failing to give to God was accounted robbery and brought them under a curse. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." (Malachi 3:8-9)

In the New Testament, we are told that we are under grace and not under the law (Romans 6:14). There is no commandment for believers to give exactly one tenth of their income to the Lord but we are told

that our giving should be as freely as we have received (Matthew 10:8). We can give one tenth, we can give two tenths or even half or all of our money like the widow who cast in her two mites (Luke 21:1-4). There is no limitation or restriction. Our giving must reflect the love the Lord Jesus Christ showed to us when He gave His all for us.

We are to give as God has prospered us.

“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.” (1 Corinthians 16:2)

We are to give cheerfully not because we have to

“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

God has given His best and set the greatest example in giving

The chapter ends with the greatest gift ever given, our Lord Jesus Christ, “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” (2 Corinthians 9:15)

In light of this how could any Christian be mean, tight fisted and give only the bare minimum or whatever they find in their pockets or purse on the Lord’s Day morning. Our giving should not be restricted to what we put in the collection box on Sunday mornings but we should always seeking to share of what God has given to us. “But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” (Hebrews 13:16)

Nitish Patel

Bible Teaching



ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRAY

by Harry A. Ironside (1876 - 1951)

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive” (Matthew 21:22).

A number of years ago it was my privilege to attend a Bible conference at which the late Dr. D. M. Stearns was the main speaker. On one particular occasion he had a question hour, and, among the questions there was one that I never forgot.

It read something like this: “If you had prayed all your life for the salvation of a loved one, and then you got word that that person had died without giving any evidence of repentance after having lived a sinful life, what would you think, both of prayer itself and of the love

of God and His promises to answer?"

It was a very striking question and I know that every- one in the room sat up and wondered what the doctor would have to say in reply to it.

He said, "Well, dear sister, I should expect to meet that loved one in heaven, for I believe in a God who answers prayer, and if He put that exercise upon your heart to pray for that dear one, it was because He, doubt- less, intended to answer it."

Then he told a story. Many years ago there was a dear old lady living in Philadelphia who had a very wayward son. This young man had been brought up in church and Sunday school, but he had drifted away from every- thing holy. He had gone to sea and had become a very rough, careless, godless sailor.

One night his mother was awakened with a very deep sense of need upon her heart. When fully awake, she thought of her son and she was impressed that he was in great danger; as a result, she got up, threw on a dressing gown knelt by her bedside, and prayed earnestly that God would undertake for the boy, whatever his need was. She didn't understand it, but after praying for perhaps two or three hours there came to her a sense of rest and peace, and she felt sure in her heart that God had answered. She got back into bed and slept soundly until the morning.

Day after day she kept wondering to herself why she was thus awakened and moved to prayer, but somehow or other she could not feel the need to pray for that boy any more; rather she praised God for something which she felt sure He had done for her son.

Several weeks passed. One day there was a knock at the door. When she went to the door - there stood her boy! As soon as he entered the room, he said, "Mother, I'm saved!" Then he told her a wonderful story.

He told how a few weeks earlier, his ship had been tossed in mid-Atlantic by a terrific storm; and it looked as though there were no

hope of riding it through. One of the masts had snapped; the captain called the men to come and cut it away. They stepped out, he among them, cursing and reviling God because they had to be out in such an awful night. They were cutting away this mast when suddenly the ship gave a lurch, and a great wave caught this young man and carried him overboard.

As he struggled almost helplessly with the great waves of the sea, the awful thought came to him, "I'm lost forever!" Suddenly, he remembered a hymn that he had often heard sung in his boyhood days, "There is life in a look at the crucified One; There is life at this moment for thee; Then look, sinner, look unto Him and be saved; Unto Him who was nailed to the tree."

He cried out in agony of heart, "Oh, God, I look, I look to Jesus." Then he was carried to the top of the waves and lost consciousness.

Hours afterwards when the storm had ceased and the men came out to clear the deck, they found him lying unconscious, crowded up against a bulwark. Evidently, while one wave had carried him off the deck, another had carried him back again. The sailors took him into the cabin and gave him restoratives. When he came to, the first words from his lips were, "Thank God, I'm saved!"

From that time on he had an assurance of God's salvation that meant everything to him.

Then his mother told him how she had prayed for him that night. They realised that it was just at the time when he was in such desperate circumstances, and God had heard and answered.

Now suppose that that young man's body had never been brought back to the ship. Suppose he had sunk down into the depths. People might have thought he was lost forever in his sin, but he would have been as truly saved as he actually was. God had permitted him to come back in testimony of His wonderful grace.

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## E. M. Bounds on prayer

“God's plan is to make much of the man, far more of him than of anything else. Men are God's method. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men. ”

“What the Church needs to-day is not more machinery or better, not new organisations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use -- men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men -- men of prayer.”

“Preaching never edifies a prayerless soul.”

“Whatever affects the intensity of our praying affects the value of our work.”

“All the true revivals have been born in prayer.”

“A prepared heart is much better than a prepared sermon. A prepared heart will make a prepared sermon.”

“Nothing is well done without prayer for the simple reason that it leaves God out of the account.”







## **Come as you are!**

A fire broke out in a narrow street in the early hours of the morning and a policeman on duty called the fire brigade. The house quickly caught fire and flames leapt up high in the air. When the fire brigade arrived they saw a man come to the window dressed in his pyjamas. They told him to climb out to the ladder but he refused. He said, "he was not dressed". Several firemen tried to break through one window but the heat was intense. Another managed to get through the door but the stairway inside collapsed due to the heat. They called out to him but again but got the same answer. At last the roof collapsed instantly killing the man inside.

This story is a picture of a far sadder one. Many think that they need to improve themselves before God will accept them not

realising God wants them to come to Him just as they are. They think that giving up some bad habits, trying to change their lives by their own efforts will fit them for heaven but we all are sinners and the sentence of death upon us all (Romans 3:23; 6:23). Salvation is not of works lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:9). It is a free gift of God purchased by the Lord Jesus Christ when He shed His blood on the cross and rose from the dead.

The Lord Jesus said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37). "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Reader, trust Christ as your Saviour. He alone can fit you for heaven. Don't think that you must improve yourself first for you cannot and you will find yourself in hell if you die in your sin. Just come as you are!

*Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready waits to save you,  
Full of pity, love and pow'r:  
He is able, He is able,  
He is willing, doubt no more.*

*Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requireth  
Is to feel your need of Him:  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.*

*Joseph Hart (1712-1768)*



# *Design in Creation*



## **THE INDUSTRIOUS ANT**

*(Insect family Formicidae)*

*by Nitish Patel*

There are over 10,000 different species of ants and they are found on almost every landmass of the earth except Antarctica. They come in four colours, red, yellow, brown and black. The Bible mentions ants just twice but the verses are full of instruction and spiritual truth.

“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6:6-8)

“The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the

summer." (Proverbs 30:25)

God tells the sluggard to learn wisdom from the ant. We are told three things about these remarkable creatures from the insect world.

## **1. THEY HAVE NO LEADERS**

They are have no leaders of any kind that men need to make them work. They have no captain to lead and guide them, no overseer or officer to make sure they do their work and they have a queen but she does not rule over them.

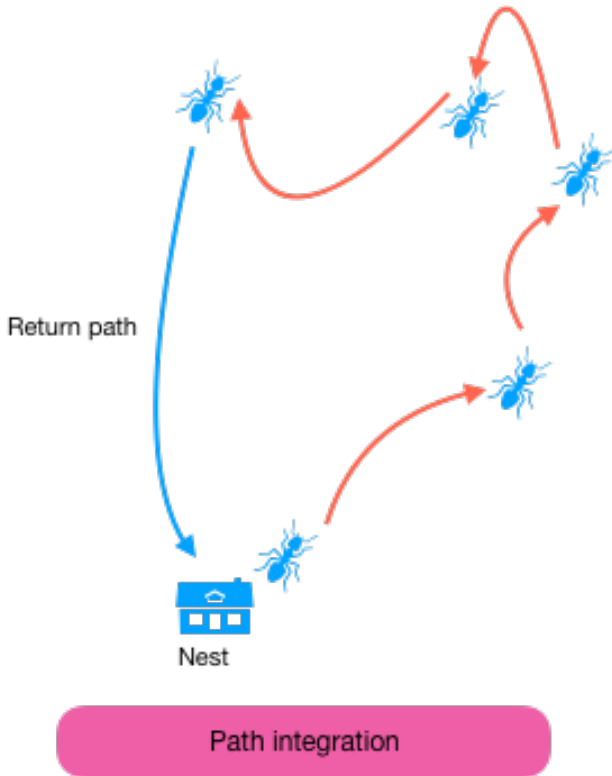
Ants live in colonies and are very social creatures. There are three classes in the nest, the queen, the males and the infertile female worker ants. In some species the queen and the males have wings to fly off and create a new colony. Queen can live for nearly 30 years and spend their whole life laying eggs which the males fertilise and die afterwards. The larger females act as soldier ants to guard the nest while all the others busily provide food for the colony and the next generation. Colonies can be enormous sometimes forming super colonies. One of the largest supercolonies is that of the Argentine ant in Europe is over 3000 miles long and consists of billions of ants.

## **2. THEY FORAGE FOR FOOD IN THE SUMMER**

Ants know that winter is coming and wisely prepare for the future unlike the sluggard who will end up begging (Proverbs 20:4). They forage for animal and plant matter food. Ants are also the only other creatures apart from humans that farm other creatures. Ants farm aphids for the sweet honeydew that they produce and protect them from their predators even to the extent of taking them to their nest when it rains heavily. Others farm fungi in their nests and strip leaves to provide nourishment for the fungus garden. Ants have two stomachs, one to hold food for itself and the second to store food for other ants in the colony.

We all know what happens when some sugary juice is spilled in the

kitchen, garden or road, before long there ants are all over it. How does one lonely ant finding food tell the others? Ants use pheromones which are chemicals signals to pass information on to other ants. Ants have different pheromones. Some tell of danger, other signal no food down this path, another signals 'food this way'. This amazing ability to send information by chemical signals requires intelligent design.



Not only is their signalling mechanism amazing but their ability to get back home. Ants trails have been studied by scientists and the conclusion is that they make their way back to the nest not by visual clues alone but by advanced mathematical calculations. German and Swiss researchers publishing in the Nature journal in 2001 showed how the Saharan desert ant (*Cataglyphis fortis*) used path integration to find its way back having zig zagged hundreds of

metres across the desert looking for food. Whatever route it had taken uphill and downhill, it could calculate the most direct path back to the nest using their built in odometer. They somehow manage to calculate the horizontal projection of the distance travelled in every direction not the actual distance they have walked up and down slopes so they can work out exactly the distance and direction of the nest.





### 3. ANTS ARE A PEOPLE NOT STRONG

Comparitively speaking, the ant is not strong. They range between a tiny 2 mm to 25 mm in size. Any larger creature can squash one but relative to their size they are some of the strongest creatures God has made. They can lift 10-50 times their own body weight and the Asian weaver ant can even lift 100 times its own mass! Ants makes up for their individual weakness but a working together like no other insect in Creation. They even build bridges out of their own bodies for other ants to climb on. Again such behaviour cannot arise by chance. Such intelligence must be programmed into the ant.

A few other interesting facts. Ants don't have lungs like all insects and breathe through pores in their body. They have two sets of jaws, one for carrying and the other for chewing. They don't have ears but can feel vibrations through the subgenual organ which is located in its legs. They even dispose of their dead and carry the body out of the

nest to prevent disease. Many ant species produce their own antibiotics to deal with bacteria and disease. Researchers found that the thief ant (*Solenopsis molesta*) had the most powerful antibiotic agent on its exoskeleton.

Evolutionists claim that ants evolved from wasp like ancestors from the Cretaceous Period 140 million years ago. There are many ants which have been preserved in amber (fossilised tree resin) which according to evolutionary thinking are millions of years old but they look virtually identical to ants today. No change has happened. No evolution! The ant's organised behaviour and incredible abilities have been programmed into it and a program needs a Programmer who is God.

There is so much more that could be said of this humble creature that defies naturalistic explanations for its existence. These few facts shows how it bears testimony to its Creator God.





Flying ant



Fire ants transporting food





Camels in Timna Valley, Israel

