

# Clifton News

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# News

## **Thornton Heath Festival - Sunday 6th September**

The outreach we had during the Thornton Heath festival went very well with sunny weather and many visitors. Most were in a festival mood and readily took literature and CDs from our stall. Some stopped to chat and there were opportunities to share the gospel. We value prayer now for the Word of God sown. Lord willing, we hope to do this outreach every year.

## **Bible Exhibition - October 5th - 16th**

The Hildenborough Bible Exhibition is now at Clifton Hall and open every day from 3 pm to 8 pm, except Sunday. This year we hope to have guided tours and short talks on various aspects of the exhibition.

### **Special ministry meetings**

3rd October	Mark Lacey (Bath)
7th November	Justin Ramsey (Helions Bumsptead)
5th December	Alastair Henry (Uxbridge)

(We hope to upload the messages to our web site)

### **New additions**

We welcomed into our fellowship Jim & Merly Roberts who along with their daughter Sarah (aged 3) have moved to Croydon from Collier Row. Jim's parents are also with us on a visit from India. Jim's parents are full time in the Lord's work and his father James is an evangelist labouring in the city of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu State.

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# Meetings

## THE WEEK AT CLIFTON

### Lord's Day

Breaking of Bread	11.00 am
Family Service	4:00 pm

### Monday

Special Prophecy Meetings	8.00 pm
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### 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

### October

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

### November

1	Richard Catchpole
8	Alf Taylor
15	Ferranti Wong
22	John Aston
29	Nathan Taylor

## December

6	Andrew Hall
13	Alastair Rodger
20	Kevin Oh (Carol Service)
27	Richard Catchpole

## SPECIAL MONDAY PROPHECY MEETINGS

During the last quarter we will be having special gospel/ministry meetings on prophecy by various speakers. All meetings will commence at 8 pm.

## October

19	Jonathan Black	The Rapture
26	Jonathan Black	The Judgment Seat of Christ

## November

2	Phil Briercliffe	The Tribulation
9	Ken Wilkins	The number 666 & Antichrist
16	David Willis	The battle of Armageddon
23	<b>No Meeting</b>	
30	Nitish Patel	Christ's Return

## December

7	David Penfold	The Millennium
14	Colin Roberts	The Great White Throne
21	Colin Roberts	The new heavens and earth
28	<b>No meeting</b>	

### WATCHNIGHT GOSPEL MEETING

Thursday 31st December at 11 pm

# Question Box



*How do I read the Bible?*

This October we're hosting the Bible Exhibition at Clifton Hall. In the lead up to it, we've been talking about the Bible at Friday club. We've spoken about 1 Timothy 3:16-17:

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Using this verse as a starting point, we have explained that the Bible is the inerrant, sufficient word of God and that it is profitable for every aspect of our lives. We have also talked about how the scriptures have been preserved and not changed over the years, so that the Bible we have today is the same the original writings.

Having thought of all these things, we've been encouraging everyone at Friday club to read their Bibles everyday.

On the face of things, our question sounds very easy to answer; just grab a Bible, open it up and start reading. But the Bible not just any book, it's given by God to teach us, reprove us, correct us and train us in righteousness, that we may be complete and equipped for every good work. Therefore, when we read it, we want to learn from it.

If you've never regularly read the Bible before, how do you start?

Firstly, you need a Bible, secondly a daily reading plan will help give some structure to your reading, rather than just dipping in and out of different books of the bible at random. The third thing to have is a pen and paper to write down anything you learn or any questions you would like to have answered later.

Next, find somewhere quiet where you can concentrate on reading,



so put your phone away, turn the TV off and try to get away from other distractions.

As you read, ask yourself some questions about what you're reading. Some simple questions you can start with are:

What does this tell me about God?

What does this tell me about man?

What does this tell me about what God does?

It is not always easy to understand what you are reading, Peter says of Paul's letters "There are some things in them that are hard to understand" (2 Peter 3:16).

Nevertheless, when open your Bible to read it, it is not all in code nor do you need years of training before starting; it gives "understanding to the simple" Psalms 119:130. So press on, and make a habit out of reading God's word each day.

Lastly, pray about what you read so that God might teach you, guide you and point you to Christ through His word. (Romans 10:17)

Alastair Rodger

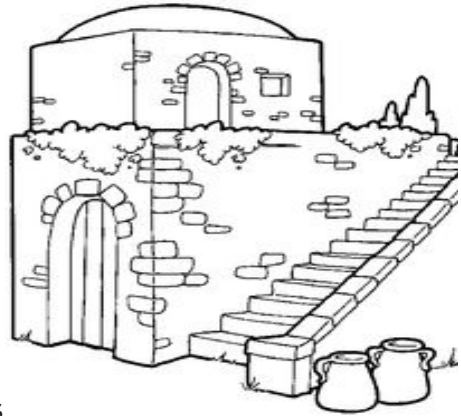
# Bible Teaching

## Elisha Prophet of Water (Part 10)

By the late Charles Wigg (Tasmania)

### TRAGEDY STRIKES

Years of blissful happiness passed by, and that precious child grew on to adolescence. It seemed that his father lacked in both wisdom and discernment, because he encouraged the child to try to do things that were meant for those who had skill and experience. The child though grown now, was still a child, and was foolishly exposed to the heat and



burden of the day. This was beyond his ability and experience, and he suffered sun stroke. The father did not show the care and concern that he should have done. He did not care for the boy himself, as he did not want the work of reaping to be hindered, but instructed one of the servants to carry the lad to his mother.

Then the worst happened; the boy sat on his mother's knee till noon, then died. The mother then took the lifeless boy up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door and went out. Thus the dark clouds of tragedy blackened the sky of her life. She called her husband and requested one of the servants and an ass, so that she could run to the man of God. Still the husband did not discern the seriousness of the situation, and questioned the need of such haste. But the woman testified to her faith in that she said, "It shall be well".

However she did not consider for her own comfort, but urged the servant to make the journey as quickly as he could. The fact that



she knew where to find Elisha shows one of two things. She either followed the movements of the prophet with prayerful interest, or else she had been before God in earnest prayer, and He had revealed the whereabouts of the prophet. Both are commendable and desirable at all times, but specially at a time of crisis.

The fact that Elisha was at Mount Carmel was significant. It was on that Mountain that he had seen the display of the power of Jehovah, he needed to see another display of that power now. He recognised the woman from a distance and sent Gehazi to inquire about their welfare. She gave an illusive answer, as she would not be content merely to deal with the servant, she must get to the feet of his master. So she came and caught Elisha by the feet, she took the lowly, the humble place. Gehazi thought that her importunity was not in keeping with his master's official greatness, and drew near to thrust her away. The prophet rebuked him with the words, "Let her alone". He knew that it was not time for officialdom, or to stand on ceremony, but added, "Her soul is bitter, (troubled) within her, and the Lord has not told me." This shows that the Lord does not tell His servants everything. He may reveal much to them from His word, but not one can claim to know the mind of God in every situation. No matter how great a person may think themselves to be, we are all human at best, and can make mistakes.

Then the woman unburdened her soul, and revealed that her distress was centred in the son that God had given her, in answer to Elijah's prayers. So he sent off Gehazi with strict instructions as to what he was to do, and not to do, and put his staff in Gehazi's hand. But the mother of the boy had greater discernment at this point than Elisha did, and she refused to return without him. She knew that no display of unbending official power, would bring back the life of the boy she loved. The prophet himself must come, she would not leave him! Perhaps she discerned the nature and condition of Gehazi. Maybe she saw the self seeking and covetous nature of his wicked heart. This comes to light in the next chapter. Also it seems that Elisha himself had a lesson to learn, and that was that resurrection could not take place without total identification with the dead person. This too was what took place when Elijah raised the son of the widow to life, and

also Paul did this with Eutychus, (Acts 20:9-10).

Once Elisha had come to the house, he went into the chamber, and shut the door upon them both. This was to be a secret matter no others were to know what took place. First he prayed, this is of first importance in any situation. Then he stretched himself on the dead boy. He put his eyes on his eyes, his mouth on his mouth, and his hands on the boys' hands. This was total identification, and as a result the boy's flesh became warm; he imparted his own warmth to the dead boy. Revival, or resurrection, will never come about through the exercise of mere legal power, or authority. Gal. 6:1, tells us what we are to do when one is taken in a fault. The spiritual are to restore such a one, not with boastful pride, but in a spirit of humility.

When he had done this, the man of God then walked up and down in the house, as if he suspected that something was wrong there. Because often where spiritual death or departure takes place, it is because things are not right in the house, the family, or the Assembly. He then went back up to the death chamber, and stretched himself once more upon the child. He did not give up at the first attempt, faith never does! Then the boy sneezed seven times, as if there was something in his head that he needed to get rid of, and then he opened his eyes. What was a death chamber, now throbbed with life, coldness gave place to warmth.

The man of God did not rush down to convey the good news to the broken hearted mother, but sent the message by his servant to call her. She then came and with amazement saw the miracle of resurrection before her very eyes. The prophet then told her to take up her son. But before she did so, she first fell at his feet in affection and thankfulness to him, and to the eternal Jehovah, whom he served. She then took up the boy, whose lifeless form she had laid on that bed many hours before, held him to her bosom and went out. What rejoicing there would have been in that house that night, yet the father of the boy had no part in all that had happened since before noon. Yet he was not criticised or rebuked, perhaps the events were rebuke enough?

## DEATH IN THE POT

Next we read that Elisha came to Gilgal, the place of circumcision. Perhaps he needed to learn that lesson again, after the remarkable success that he had experienced at Shunem. The flesh is always ready to exalt itself, if we meet with success in the service of the Lord. Even Paul was given a thorn for the flesh to humble him, lest he be exalted on account of the exceeding greatness of the revelations granted to him.

There was a famine in the land, which it seemed was a localised famine, because he had just come from Shunem where they were reaping a harvest. The prophet ordered the sons of the prophets to set on the great pot, so that all could be fed. One went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine which had borne some gourds, (cucumber like things). His inexperience led him to gather his lap full of these things, and without enquiring of others that were more experienced, he cut them up, into small pieces, and shred them into the pottage. Once the stew was ready, they all sat down to enjoy the same. But once they tasted it, (the wild gourds would have made it extremely bitter), they cried out, "Man of God, there is death in the pot". Let us be warned, wild things are often poisonous! This is a warning for us, lest youth and inexperience introduces things amongst God's people for them to feed on, and those things be poisonous.

As we have mentioned previously, let us thank God for youth, zeal, enthusiasm, but let it be tempered by experience, maturity, and the discernment that comes with age.

However the prophet did not panic, but simply said, then bring meal. He then added it to the pottage, and it neutralised the poison. The meal speaks to me of a positive ministry of Christ. He was the corn of wheat that fell into the ground and died. He was ground in the mills of poverty and affliction. He is the answer to every poisonous situation.

..... to be continued

# Good News

## The Big Difference Between Hoping and Knowing

by Robert E. Surgenor (USA)



WHEN ASTRONAUTS blast off into outer space, they hope for a safe re-entry, but do not know. Airline passengers, when their plane rumbles down the runway and reaches for the sky, hope for a safe landing, but do not know. When folks leave for a vacation, they hope for a safe return, but do not know. When two take their marriage vows, they hope for a loving and lasting marriage, but do not know. Anything can happen! Yes, we are living in a world of uncertainties. God says, “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1). To boast in such matters is pure presumption.

However, there are areas where we can know without a shadow of a doubt what will take place in the days that lie ahead of us. “WHAT!” you exclaim, “That is impossible!” Oh no, it isn’t, and I will prove it to



you from the Holy Bible!

It is simply amazing how the old devil has deceived the world. People try to convince me that no one can know in this life that all of their sins have been forgiven, and that no one can know without a shadow of a doubt that they will be in heaven when they die. Ask them, and their answer usually is, "Well, I hope so!" But they can't say for sure - they just "hope so."

## UNCERTAINTY

Now all of this uncertainty is very sad indeed. I certainly would not relish lying on my death bed wondering if I was going to be in heaven or not. What if I didn't make it to heaven? The only other place, according to God, is hell, where souls weep and gnash their teeth. No, my friend, the issue is too tremendous to play with lightly. One's eternal destiny is a very solemn matter. I want to know for sure, right now, where I will be when I die.

Some have the strange idea that God will weigh their good works against their bad deeds and whatever weighs the most will determine where they go. Where did folks ever get that kind of an idea? Why, they got it from the devil himself, of course. Who else? God never says such a ridiculous thing, so it has to come from the devil. Of course, such deceived folk hope that their good works will somehow outweigh their bad deeds and that hopefully heaven will be their eternal home. However, we all have been found guilty by God. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). God says that salvation is "not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:9). That rules out the devil's lie of works being weighed at death to determine my destiny.

## How One Can Know For Sure!

Be sure of this, my friend, God never intended souls to be held in suspense or doubt. There are absolutely no uncertainties with God when it comes to your eternal destiny. God wants you to know that

you are a sinner, unfit for heaven. That's the bad news! However, He also wants you to know that, "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,. And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3,4) That's the good news! He also wants you to know that, "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). There is not one shade of doubt in this tremendous statement, is there? God also states, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36). That word "hath," means a present possession! After all, folks, the following Bible verse tells me one of the reasons the Bible was written. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13).

### **God's Written Guarantee**

Let me drive the nail in deeper. God again says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). Jesus exclaims, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life" (John 6:47). What could be plainer? What could be more pure and simple?

Has the Word of God convinced you? I certainly hope so, for if you are simply hoping, you are lost, my friend! "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Trust Christ and know the immediate forgiveness of all your sins by God and a home secured for you in heaven. Don't go through life hoping - be sure!

# Church History

## C. T. Studd

Cricketer and Missionary (Part Two of Three)

By Mark Beardall (Lewisham)

C.T. Studd sailed for China in February 1885 as a member of the famous Cambridge Seven. The Cambridge Seven were all Cambridge graduates who had given up successful careers to serve the Lord as missionaries in China. Before their voyage a number of meetings were held in Oxford, Cambridge, London and Edinburgh. The men gave their testimonies of God's calling and spoke God's Word. Many were saved.



Norman Grubb called it "A revival among the students." According to a newspaper report, twelve hundred people attended the final farewell meeting in Cambridge, including many important people in the University.

The Cambridge Seven did not wait until they landed in China to spread the Good News; they started by spreading it to people on the ship. They led seven passengers, several of the ship's stewards and the Captain of the ship to the Lord. The Captain had been known for lying, swearing blasphemy and drinking but after his conversion he spent most of his free time reading the Bible. He also gave his testimony publicly about three times during the voyage.

The China Inland Mission required it's missionaries to wear traditional Chinese dress. Hudson Taylor believed that the only way to reach the Chinese people was to become like them. Studd wrote, "I been

laughing at our grotesque appearance. Stanley, Monty and A.P.T have been converted into Chinamen; we put on the clothes this morning and were duly shaved and pigtailed; the other three notwithstanding advice to the contrary had their moustaches off; it does make them look so funny. I cannot help roaring when I see them."

They saw much blessing when they held Gospel meetings in Shanghai. Even the Chaplain of the Cathedral was saved. He publicly confessed, "Last night if the Lord had come I should have been a lost soul; but if the Lord comes tonight, I shall be a saved soul." Everyone was talking about the meetings and CT could say that the Lord had turned Shanghai upside down.

After this Studd and two of the Seven, began the long journey up the Yangtse and Han Rivers, by boat to Hanchung which was about 1800 miles away and took three months. Studd spent most of his time on that journey trying to learn the language. When they arrived in Hanchung they began the long walk to Pingyang Fu to meet Hudson Taylor. They walked about 30 to 40 miles per day for several weeks to reach their destination. His feet were in a terrible state and he was in agony but he felt the Lord's presence closer than before. And the Lord restored his health through prayer.

In 1888 Studd married Priscilla Stewart, who was serving the Lord in China with the Salvation Army. Studd had inherited about £29,000 (£24 million prestige value in today's money) from his father's estate a few years earlier and had given a lot of it away to various missions but had kept back £3000. Mrs. Studd told him to start the marriage by giving away all the inheritance. The Lord gave them five daughters and a son who only lived a few days. Studd believed that the Lord gave him daughters so that he could teach the Chinese people about the value of women. At that time many baby girls were thrown into pagodas to be eaten by wolves. His love for his daughters was a testimony to them.

The Studd's first house was in Lungang Fu. The only reason that it was rented to foreigners was because the owner believed it was haunted.



The Studds could hardly leave their house without being cursed by their neighbours. They were blamed for every bad thing that happened in the city. When there was a drought people thought they had brought bad luck on the city.

One day a “god” was placed in the street and placards were put up commanding people to burn incense outside their houses to the idol. They knew that the Studds would not comply, so they planned to loot their house. When they saw that the Studds did not obey them, they threw glass and brick-bats at them and pulled down the chapel. The crowd were intent on destroying them but a well respected teacher asked them why were they wasting time in this place. He told them to move the god away to a place where he could feel the sun on his head. The people moved on and looted the rich people’s houses and left the Studds alone.



They saw a number of converts. One man said that God could not save him because he was a murderer, an adulterer and an opium smoker. They spoke to him about the Saviour and he was instantly converted. After his conversion he returned to his home town to preach the gospel in the place where he had committed these crimes. Crowds came out to hear him preach but he was arrested and sentenced to 2000 strokes of the bamboo. This beating almost killed him but he was taken to hospital and nursed back to health by Christian friends. He went back again to preach the gospel in that city and was sent to prison. This did not stop him, for he preached the gospel to large crowds through the prison window. When the authorities realised that he preached to more people in the prison than out, they released him.

The Studds set up an Opium Refuge to help Opium addicts. Most

addicts were cured within a month and many were saved.

Mr and Mrs Studd returned to Britain in 1894. Both of them were unwell. C.T. improved in health and went to America in 1896 and saw much blessing among American students.

Studd always wanted to serve the Lord in India to pay back the people who made his father so rich. He pastored the Union Church (C.M.U.) in Ootacamund, South India, for six years. C.T. joined a Cricket tour in order to reach some of the British Army Officers stationed in India. He was the second man in India to score two double centuries. All four surviving girls were saved in India and baptized, the first girl only lived a day.

Studd returned to England in 1906 to organise education for his girls before going on to Sudan and the Congo.

..... to be continued

(The spellings of Chinese place names may not be the same today as in Studd's time.)

...avoiding...oppositions of science falsely so  
called...1 Timothy 6v20, Isaiah 40v12-31, 57v15

## SCIENCE

Though science split the atom,  
And probe the fringe of space,  
"First cause", it cannot fathom,  
Nor find Jehovah's face!

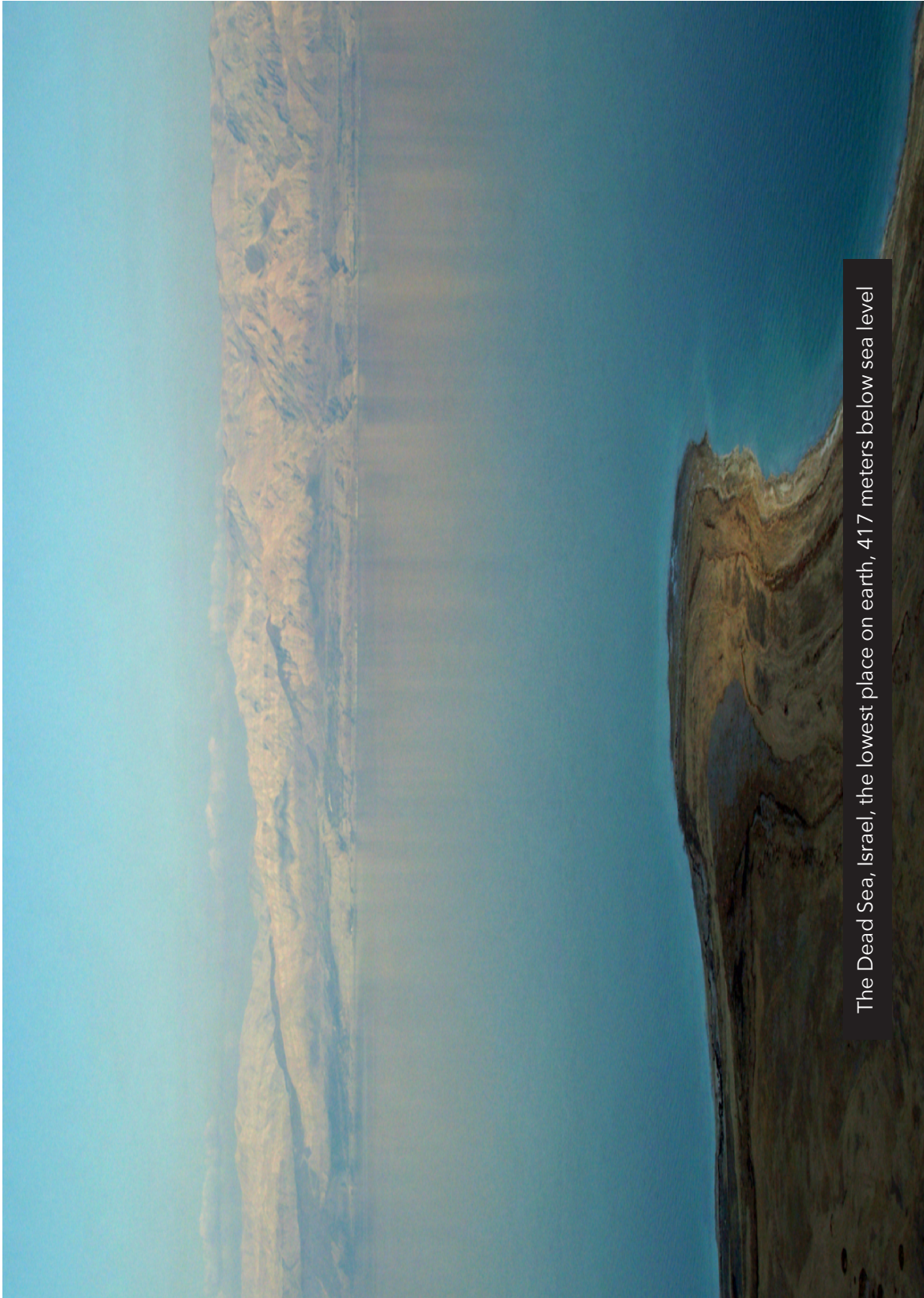
How vain the futile forage,  
And false the claim to, "know";  
Theory is never knowledge,  
Nor can true light bestow!

Should dust upon the balance  
Gainsay the pow'r of God?  
Men rather ought with reverence,  
Adore, with feet unshod,

The High and Lofty---dwelling  
In ageless ambient---  
Being without beginning,  
From Whom all life is lent!

(Leon Hartley, Brook Street Chapel, Tottenham)





The Dead Sea, Israel, the lowest place on earth, 417 meters below sea level