THE ROAD TO ANTIOCH

INTRODUCTION BY SIR KYFFIN SIMPSON, KA, CBE

JOHN WRIGHT
The Church at Antioch

‘So then, those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except the Jews alone.

But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the Church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.

Then, when he had come and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all with resolute hearts to remain true to the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. So considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

Barnabas left for Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. It came about that for an entire year they met with the Church and taught considerable numbers.

The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.’

Acts 11:19-26

The Front Cover Watercolour Drawing is by Edward Lear 1812-1888.
Fifty stories to encourage Christians in the drama of the Last Days, reminding them to hang on in every battle of faith and to waste no opportunity to pass on the Good News.

‘They shall be mine, sayeth the Lord of Hosts, my special possession on the day when I act, and I will spare them as Parents spare their children who serve them. Then once more you shall see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.’

_Malachi 3:17-18_

by

John Wright

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Dedication.

I dedicate this book to Andrew and Sarah Harmsworth who have been called by God to encourage the revival of the Church in the Shetland Islands and have been our kind hosts over many years in their romantic home by the sea.
INTRODUCTION

‘John and his dear wife Susan have been treasured friends of ours for nearly four decades. John is a true evangelist at heart! He openly shares the good news of the Gospel with absolutely anyone who crosses his path.

Over the years John has published collections of supernatural acts of God that have taken place on ordinary days, in everyday places. They are remarkable examples of God’s amazing, unconditional love and grace.

So we read in The Road to Antioch of the dead being raised, Angelic help, transformed lives by the power of God, Jesus healing the sick today, the need to jump out of the boat before we can see the miracle of walking on the water!

John also teaches us to share the good news of the Gospel, although he is quick to point out that this is not him, but the ministry of Jesus in him in the power of the Spirit. His one desire is to walk as Jesus walked.

He has been known to sing a love song from Jesus to those he meets; to share a word of knowledge or prophecy given to him by the Holy Spirit. The person is left wondering how on earth this stranger could possibly know this about them! This may open the door for John to lead them to salvation! John’s love for the Lord is unquenchable! His passion is contagious!

The Road to Antioch, his latest work, also specifically conveys a sense of urgency to the reader to get ready! The Great and Awesome Day of the Lord is drawing closer. John wants no one to miss out on God’s offer of salvation!’

Sir Kyffin Simpson, KA, CBE.

Knight of St Andrew, Barbados.
FOREWORD

Like the rumble of distant thunder over the horizon, the Coronavirus has come as a warning of increasing storms coming upon Planet Earth before the Lord returns. It is a birth pang of the coming Millennium; these warnings will grow in intensity until the end of the seven year Tribulation period when Jesus will return to overcome the forces of the Anti-Christ.

So it is a **Wake Up!** call to secular leaders who do not believe that God exists or is interested in their behaviour. It is a **Wake Up!** call to many Church Leaders who have strayed far from Biblical truth, who have been excluding the Holy Spirit, and have not been warning governments of the judgements of God that will come. It is a **Wake Up!** call for Churchgoers who have not been born again, and for lukewarm Laodicean Christians who are making God sick. **Rev 3:16.**

The stories in *The Road to Antioch* remind us that, as Jesus rose from the dead, today people are also being raised from the dead; that, despite the great advances of Science, Planet Earth is hugely vulnerable. Also to be assured that we will never be without hope, even as we fight for life, because Jesus will never leave us or forsake us. Also to prepare us, as the Bride of Christ, to be welcomed at the Banquet by our fruitful obedience to the Holy Spirit. There will be many trials, but we are called to persevere and never give up.

I hope this will convey to readers the urgency of salvation and the need to be baptised with the Spirit so that we can walk as Jesus walked. **1 John 2:6.** The on-line Alpha Course, approved by all main denominations, is a great help to get to know Christ personally and to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The lifting up of true believers to be with Christ, known as the Rapture, may happen soon. It will be unexpected to unbelievers, like a thief in the night, **1 Thess.5:3.** Hopefully it will be before the terrible second half of the seven year Tribulation period. God forbid that any reader of this book should ignore the mercy of God and miss His offer of salvation from the wrath to come.

**John Wright**
**Pentecost 2020**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Raised from the Dead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>He reached down from on high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Singing Love Songs!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Global Threats – a Wake up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>God is not mocked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Obedience in Foolishness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Ringing stopped!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>You have not been forgotten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Faith, Hope and Charity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>A Drug Dealing Thug Transformed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Angels on Duty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Benjamin’s Dream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>A Promise for End Time Saints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Christians escape a Firing Squad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Fear Not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>The Years the Locusts have Eaten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mourning into Dancing!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kisses from the Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Hope in the Midst of despair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>The Obedience of Faith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Paracetamol or Prayer?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>The Plagues of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Rome Saved from a Plague</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Jesus is King!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>The Power of Providences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>The Man in White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>The Message of the Stones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Jesus held my Hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Witnessing at Waitrose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Walking on the Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>The Angel at Schiphol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>The Generosity of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Out of my Comfort Zone!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Young Men shall see Visions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>The Berisheet Prophecy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>A Muslin finds Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>A Present Help in Trouble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>An Awesome Encounter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>The Signs of the Jewish Feasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>The Problem of Pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>The Power of Forgiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>The Testimony of a COVID Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>The Counterfeit Coin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>A Prophetic Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Signs of the End Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>A Trial of Faith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>The Lost Spectacles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>The Half Inch Spanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>From Violence to Victory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>The Awesome Presence of God</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **Raised from the Dead**

*The Testimony of an Australian Doctor*

On Friday 24th October 2008, as I drove back to Kalgoorlie, I started to feel a minor discomfort in my chest and a bit hot. So I went into the medical clinic as we passed through Kambalda where I had an ECG. I was shocked to discover I was having a heart attack.

Just 11 minutes after the ECG, with the pain in my chest becoming unbearable, my heart completely stopped. I was in refractory Ventricular Fibrillation for 48 minutes during which I received 13 electrical shocks and CPR. I then progressed to flat line (asystole) for the next 37 minutes. In 1 hour and 10 minutes, the team agreed to stop all life support measures except oxygen to the lungs. My wife Sherry, also a Doctor, arrived about ten minutes later.

My wife and I share a faith in Jesus Christ as the Almighty God. She took my hand in hers, offering a simple, silent prayer: “*Lord Jesus, Sean is only 39, I am only 38, we have a 10-year-old boy, I need a miracle*”. Immediately, my heart beat came back even though I had been dead for 1 hour and 25 minutes.

I was taken to Royal Perth Hospital where Cardiologists operated to clear an extremely blocked right coronary artery. The attending physicians were extremely doubtful I would survive at all, let alone wake from my coma with any brain function. The heart attack had also damaged my liver and kidneys.

In the following days my recovery astounded all the staff treating me. On Wednesday I was completely conscious. Not only could I talk, I could see and move, read my charts and monitor my own recovery. Within three months I had returned to full-time operational duties at Kalgoorlie Hospital.

On reflection now, I think God saved my life to teach me some important truths. Jesus Christ really is the Creator God, the giver of life, the accomplisher of impossible things, and He responds to the humble prayers of His servants. Also, eternity is only a breath away for us all, and what really matters is our relationship with God. We are only pilgrims on this earth, life is temporary, what matters is eternal.

How valuable is your life? Jesus Christ loves you and wants to be your Saviour. He died on the cross to take away your sins and mine. Whether you live tomorrow or die, with Jesus in your life you’re promised an eternity in heaven. Why not ask him into your life today?

1.
2. ‘He reached down from on high and lifted me up.’
Psalm 18:16.

The testimony of Tamrat Layne, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia

‘I was rebellious as a young man, living in the mountains as a guerrilla. However, in the Civil War the Mengistu Government was overthrown and I became Prime Minister for five years 1991-95. Later I was arrested for embezzlement and sentenced to 18 years in prison.

I was in solitary confinement for five years but I had access to a Bible and was able to hear Christian Radio broadcasts, so I knew a little what Christianity was about. Then Jesus Christ appeared to me in my cell on three separate nights. He said to me, ‘I AM Jesus Christ, follow me.’ So I got on my knees and said, ‘OK, Lord, do whatever you want with my life.’ Immediately my life changed and I was able to forgive all those who had attacked me.

My wife had fled to a refugee camp in Ethiopia, where Jesus appeared to her also and told her to follow Him. So she became a Christian as well. Then, by the grace of God, I was released early for good behaviour. At once I publicly proclaimed Jesus as my Saviour. Every newspaper wrote about me. For the first time the name of Jesus was broadcast on national television!

The simplicity of Jesus’s life amazes me. He had no possessions. We complicate Him. He simply asks us to open our lives to him. He alone can satisfy all our needs. Go on the journey with Him.’

Today Tamrat and his wife live in USA where he shares his faith in Christ in Churches and Universities across the country. As he says, ‘I am doing my best to share the love and forgiveness that Jesus has shared with me.’
3. Singing Love Songs!

Every day there is a possibility of a Fine Romance. One August evening, walking up the lane, I stopped a car. (Rule 1. Waste no opportunity, at times convenient or inconvenient! 2 Timothy 4:2.) I knelt down, as Anglicans do, to speak to a young couple. (Rule 2. Always be at the same level as people you talk to). I then thanked them for not spreading their litter on my lane, holding up the tin cans I had just collected. (Rule 3. Start by saying something nice to people like, ‘Well done’; ‘Thank you’; ‘I apologise’.)

I introduced myself to David and Katie. (Rule 4. Develop a relationship). I then went on to tell them that my mission in life was to restore Romance by teaching young men to sing love songs to their ladies. I asked Katie if she would like a song for David to sing to her? She was delighted, so I sang:

‘What a day this has been,
What a rare mood I’m in,
Why, it’s almost like being in love!’ etc

I then asked them if they knew who was singing to them? ‘He is the greatest singer of love songs in the world,’ I said. ‘It is Jesus Christ who lives in me, but you are quite safe, I am an Anglican. To my amazement David and Katie jumped for joy. They were Christians! So I invited them home for a glass of wine. (Rule 5. Practice hospitality to strangers. Romans 12:13.) Then David said he was the son of Rev. John Coles who had started ‘New Wine’ Conferences. John had kindly written a wonderful commendation for my book, SHOUT IT FROM THE HOUSTOPS!

Amazingly, David & Katie had been praying for a God-incidence during their visit to Norwich! They also wanted to learn to speak to strangers about Jesus. So we all had much joy at the romantic providence of our meeting!

**Pablo Greco, a young Evangelist to Universities in Uruguay, was asked what his system was? ‘I have no system’, he said, ‘I am just myself. It’s like when you are in love, you want to tell everyone.’**
4. Global Threats – a Wake Up!

1. Solar Rays removing all electricity and communications.
2. World Pandemics from Drug Resistant Disease. Professor Dame Sally Davies, UK Chief Medical Officer, warns that strains of Tuberculosis, MRSA and *Clostridium Difficile* do not respond to anti-biotics.
3. Severe Weather from God given Climate Change
4. Atomic War
5. Runaway Artificial Intelligence
6. Economic Collapse
7. Rampant over-population
8. Geophysical disasters like earthquakes, volcanos, tsunamis.
9. Incoming Meteorites, as in the past.
10. Man's greedy exploitation of global resources

It is astonishing that the Coronavirus has brought turmoil to every nation. It has been a Wake Up! call to World Leaders, to proud unbelievers, to Pastors who have embraced secular values, and to Christians to be sure that they have oil in their lamps.

‘For the Lord has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted high.....The haughtiness of people shall be humbled, and the pride of everyone shall be brought low; and the Lord alone will be exalted on that Day..... Enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground from the terror of the Lord and the Glory of His majesty, when He rises to terrify the earth’.

*Isaiah 2:12-18*
5. God is not Mocked!

‘Be not deceived, God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that he will reap’. Galatians 6:7.

John Lennon said in 1966, ‘Christianity will end but we are more famous than Jesus Christ’. Soon afterwards he was shot six times.

Tancredo Neves, President of Brazil, said, ‘If I get 500,000 votes from my party, not even God could remove me from the Presidency.’ He got the votes but died before he was re-elected as President.

Cazuza, a Brazilian bi-sexual singer, puffed some smoke in the air during a show in Rio de Janeiro and said, ‘God, that’s for you.’ He died soon afterwards.

The Titanic builder was asked by a Reporter if it was safe? He replied, ‘Not even God could sink it.’ It sunk.

Marilyn Monroe was visited by Billy Graham before a show. She said, ‘I don’t need your Lord Jesus.’ A week later she died.

Bon Scott, a Singer and ex-Vocalist of AC/DC, sang in 1979, ‘Don’t stop me, I’m going down all the way, down the highway to hell’. On 19 February 1980 he was found dead, choked by his own vomit.

In Campinas, Brazil, a worried mother prayed for her daughter going out with drunken friends, ‘Go with God, may He protect you.’ Her daughter replied, ‘He will have to go in the boot as there is no room in the car.’ Soon afterwards they were all killed in a crash, but a box of eggs in the boot was untouched.

Christine Hewitt, a Jamaican Entertainer, said, ‘The Bible is the worst book ever written.’ Soon afterwards, in June 2007, she was burned to death in her car.

People have forgotten that there is no other name given under heaven by which men may be saved but the name of Jesus.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge! Proverbs 1:7.
6. Obedience in Foolishness

Stephen Grellet was a pioneer evangelist to the lumbermen in the Rocky Mountains. He felt the Spirit of God leading him to a particular lumber camp to preach. When he got there, the place was absolutely deserted.

He said, “Lord, I don’t understand, but I’m going to be obedient.” So he opened his Bible, without a soul in sight, and preached a full-length message. Then he cried out to God for people to come to Christ. He said, “Lord, I don’t know what this was all about, but Lord, I am being obedient.”

Years later, a man walked up to him in England and said, “I was the foreman at a lumber camp in the Rockies. I had come back to the camp to get an axe, and I heard you preaching. I stood behind a pile of lumber and listened. As you preached, my heart was strangely warmed, and I repented of my sin and gave my heart to Jesus Christ. I later witnessed to four other men. Now, all five of us are missionaries preaching around the world!”

That’s how IMPORTANT it is that we obey even in the seemingly foolish things!

‘And Samuel said, “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.”’ 1 Samuel 15:22.
7. The Ringing Stopped!

The testimony of Carley Serwat, Idaho. USA.

About ten years ago, I was challenged by a Christian girl I knew. She had great boldness in talking to strangers and saw lots of miracles happen. So I asked the Lord to give me an opportunity to pray with strangers, but fear always stopped me. So one day I prayed, “Give me one more chance, and I will do it!”

Later that day, in the grocery, I felt the Lord say about the cashier, “That is the man.” Instantly I began to panic. When it was my turn, I asked him how he was doing. He replied, “Not that great.” I asked him why. “My ears won’t stop ringing.” I told the Lord, “If I knew he was a Christian, then I could pray with him.’ I asked him why his ears were ringing. ‘I was a missionary and a bomb blew up near me. My ears have been ringing ever since.’

I asked him if I could pray for him. He looked surprised. “Um...yeah. Sure.” I prayed the least eloquent prayer of all time. I didn’t really have much faith. Then I ran to my car and exclaimed, “I did it!” A few weeks later I went back to the same store. He recognized me immediately, “You’re that girl who prayed for me!” I admitted I was and asked him how he was doing. “It is amazing! I was hoping you would come back in. Ever since that day you prayed, the ringing has not returned! It is a miracle! Thank you for praying for me!”

I was humbled, and quite frankly, a little ashamed. I had been so consumed by what other people thought of me. Many times I hadn’t prayed with people, especially for healing, because “what if nothing happened?” But God showed me how that is not my job! My job is obedience, leaving the outcome to Him.

Over the following months, I gradually learnt to pray with anyone the Lord led me. It was not an overnight transformation. Even now, when the Lord places someone in front of me, I still have to remind myself that it is the ministry of Jesus in me. Since then I have seen God’s faithfulness over and over again. Many times the person I have prayed with has not been healed immediately, but often that comes later, as with the ten Lepers.

‘For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.’ Romans 1:16

7.
8. You have not been Forgotten.

You believed God promised something, but it did not happen.

You had high expectations, but they came to nothing.

Now you wonder if it will ever come to pass?

However, just because it has not happened yet does not mean that it won’t happen. You cannot see what the Lord is doing. It is not yet His appointed season. It is too soon. You are not yet ready. Other circumstances have not yet fallen into place. But the time is coming.

In Genesis 40 God gave Joseph a promise in a dream. His parents and brothers would bow down to him. So in prison we read that Joseph enlisted the help of the Cupbearer. But the Cupbearer did not remember Joseph. God does not need our help to achieve His purposes. So Joseph spent two more years in prison before Pharaoh had a dream. Suddenly the Cupbearer remembered Joseph. Overnight he was promoted to being Governor of Egypt. His appointed time had come.

Similarly, in the coming days, people will need what you have. Your gifts that have been hidden will be recognised. Your abilities will be valued.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE. YOU ARE NOT FINISHED.
YOU HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN!

‘No purpose of God can be thwarted.’ Job 42:2.
9. Faith, Hope and Charity

The Testimony of Hylton Murray-Phillipson after spending twelve days in hospital fighting for his life.

I write this on Easter Sunday 2020, sitting comfortably at home, recovering from my brush with Covid-19. I came out of hospital nine days ago, so I thought it might be useful to share three aspects of my journey: Faith, Hope and Charity.

To begin with, Faith. Of all the images that came to me in intensive care, the strongest of all was that of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee. If I coughed, I was unable to breathe in, as my lungs were full of infection. I was being kept alive by a respirator forcing air into my lungs through a pipe inserted into my throat.

This inability to breathe quickly turned to panic. I would reach out and clasp the side of the bed, or the hand of the nurse, as panic set in. The appearance of Christ rising from sleep in the bow of the boat to calm the waters was just what I needed to calm the storm in my throat. Jesus didn’t speak to me, but I felt His peace radiating out from the boat towards me. My storm abated.

Next was the importance of Hope. By day four of the struggle, I started to feel physically exhausted and doubt began creeping in. For how much longer could I hold out? I never actually contemplated dying, but the temptation to call it a day was certainly there. Various things kicked in to keep me going. Hope was one of them. Hope to see my two boys grow up and to plant some walnut trees for my dear Father, who died the day before I was taken into hospital.

Finally, Charity. I have never witnessed compassion being lived, day in day out, as it is lived by the doctors and nurses of the NHS. When you are as ill as I was, you return to a childlike state of total dependence on the kindness of others. I would not be here without the professionalism and dedication of the staff of the NHS. But my abiding memory of that time is of human kindness and compassion. A nurse bringing a cup of tea in the middle of the night; giving me a shave on my birthday; whispering in my ear, ‘It’s going to be OK’. As I reached out, I found the hand of the NHS, and of Jesus, holding mine.
10. A Drug Dealing Thug Transformed

*Ashley Nixon gave his story to Rachel Matthews of Premier Radio*

I grew up near Coventry where by the age of sixteen I had been expelled from school and prosecuted for burglary, arson, criminal damage, theft and handling stolen goods.

In prison another prisoner told me I needed God. Then, walking down the corridor, I saw a notice to sign up for Chapel. I tried to walk away from it but something drew me back. So I signed up and immediately experienced a peace I had not known before.

I started to go to Chapel and learnt more about this incredible God who died for sinners like me! But after leaving prison I slipped back into drugs and fighting, although when I got home I read my Bible. I could not understand my behaviour.

After ten months of double minded behaviour, I was contacted by a girl who had been set free from drugs. I went to her Church and experienced the love of God there that blew me away.

So finally I committed my life to Jesus and experienced the new birth of the Holy Spirit. I had met God in prison, but it took the revelation of all Jesus did for me on the Cross to break the hold of darkness on my life.

Today I am seven years clean of drugs, married to an incredible woman, and have a Theological Degree as I train to be a Minister in the Elim Pentecostal Church. What has happened to me can happen to you if you look for God.

I even became Midlands Light Weight Boxing Champion. This may seem like an ungodly sport, but it gave me the discipline I needed and has opened doors for me to reach people with the Gospel.
11. Angels on Duty

As reported by the BBC

Nadim Ednan-Laperouse, a successful business man, was on a holiday flight to the South of France with his teenage daughter Natasha and her friend Bethany.

At the airport Natasha bought a sandwich that contained sesame seeds, although this was not mentioned on the label. Natasha was sensitive to sesame seeds. On the flight she became very ill with skin rashes and could not breath. A doctor on board desperately gave her CPR, but Natasha died.

Her father Nadim had a non-practising Muslim father and a French Catholic Mother. He did not believe in God, but had taken Natasha to Church where she was baptised. He described himself as an arrogant Atheist who believed that he alone could achieve success by his own efforts.

But when confronted by his dying daughter, something extraordinary happened. Those trying to help Natasha were surrounded by a brilliant but soothing yellow light. Then Nadim, but no one else, saw five angels with wings like butterflies floating around Natasha. The angels themselves, in his description, were about 8 inches tall, sexless, expressionless, not flapping their wings but floating. They had come to do a job.

Nadim was angry with God for taking his daughter, but realised that her departure had opened up a new outlook on life. He became a believer in Jesus Christ and now attends the Church where he used to take Natasha.

Another good outcome has been an almost impossibly quick change in the food labelling laws that has been named, ‘Natasha’s Law’.

As Jesus died to give us life, so it was with Natasha; she was used to give her Father life. When we come to Christ we also die, that He might live in us and do the things that He did. We can pray that Nadim’s life will now be fruitful.
12. Benjamin’s Dream
The experience of Will and Dehavilland Ford’s son Benjamin, aged seven.

For seven consecutive nights, at the end of April 2020, Benjamin had the same dream. In the dream he saw, ‘A tall green plant with a crown’, squeezing the life out of the world and getting new tentacles and strength as it did.

Then the Lord appeared as a lamb with a lion's face who shredded the crowned plant. Benjamin then saw, during the last few nights of the dream, that the "crowned plant" was progressively getting smaller and weaker. Every dream ended with the words, ‘This ends April 30th’. The Passover Lamb is also the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and this is the "face" He is now revealing to us.

Shattering the Crowned Virus

It is significant that God gave this dream to a boy named Benjamin, which means, ‘son of my right hand.’ It is a dream of God’s right hand of power shattering the enemy. It is significant that he is seven years old and that he had the dream seven times. Seven is the number of fulfillment and completion. Seven times they marched around the walls of Jericho and the walls came tumbling down. Benjamin didn't know that the word "corona" in coronavirus means "crown." His father, Will Ford, revealed to him that in his dream the crowned virus of fear and death is being shattered.

What was God saying through this dream? Maybe that He has stopped this plague, sent to wake up an unbelieving world and a lukewarm Church, to get our attention. If there is repentance, He has always promised to heal our land. If not, further judgement will follow as promised in Deuteronomy 28: 15-68.
13. A Promise for Israel

Revelation 7:7-8.

The sealing of God’s Servants, re-arranged in a new order, and excluding Dan and Ephraim, contains a hidden promise.

Judah: Praise the Lord,
Reuben: He has looked on my affliction
Gad: good fortune comes
Asher: happy and blessed am I
Naphtali: my wrestling
Manasseh: has made me forget my sorrow
Simeon: God hears me
Levi: has joined me
Issachar: rewarded me
Zebulun: exalted me
Joseph: adding to me
Benjamin: the Son of His right hand.

The hidden message is therefore:

‘Praise the Lord. He has looked on my affliction [and] good fortune comes. Happy and blessed am I. My wrestling has made me forget my sorrow. God hears me, has joined me, rewarded me, exalted me [by] adding to me the Son of His right hand.’

If the tribe of Dan had been included or Ephraim added instead of Manasseh, or if the tribes had been listed in birth order, this message would not have been the same.

This is a great word of encouragement for our present generation of End Time Saints. Our perseverance through hardships will be rewarded!

The Hebrew language is understood on many levels, literal, pictorial, numerical and hidden. It is a gold mine worth digging into!
Christians Escape Firing Squad.

From the Barnabas Fund

Seventy-six Christian men and women from a Muslim background were captured by Boko Haram in Nigeria. They were taken to the terrorist’s camp where four men were told to renounce their faith. They refused and so were shot dead in front of their families.

The following week the wives of the four martyred men were told to renounce their faith or their children would be shot also. But as they struggled with this terrible situation, their children ran in to say that the Lord Jesus had appeared to them and said, ‘all will be well’. The Lord Jesus then appeared to all of them and again told them not to fear.

The next morning the children were lined up against a wall to be shot. Their mothers were given one last chance to renounce their faith. Suddenly the firing squad grabbed their heads and cried out, ‘snakes, snakes.’ Some dropped dead and some ran away. A Christian picked up a fallen rifle to shoot at them, but a child put her hand on his arm and said, ‘You don’t need to do that. Can you not see the men in white fighting for us’?

All seventy-two survivors now live in a safe part of Nigeria. When their Pastor was asked why Jesus appeared to them and not to others, he replied, ‘He does not need to. You have many people to explain the Bible to you, these people don’t’.
One morning I was waiting on God, seeking His presence. I was fighting to shut out invasive thoughts, seeking His face, wanting to hear His Voice. Eventually He said, 'Read Daniel 10:19.'

So I looked, providentially, in my Hebrew Concordance Bible, as this had the deeper truth.

'O man, greatly beloved, Fear not. Peace be with you! Be strong! Yes, be strong! And when he had spoken to me, I was strengthened and said, Let my Lord speak, for you have strengthened me' Daniel 10:19.

Then there was a note. The Hebrew word for 'Fear Not' is Chazaq. It means to be strong, courageous, conquer. It is used especially in battle scenes. The Hebrew word has no direct English equivalent. It is even stronger than to say, 'Do not even dare to think about...' It is a call for faith in God to replace fear and anxiety. To be so in awe of the power of God that we are not in awe of the strength of all that is against us.

Our awesome God can turn the situation round, as He did for Joseph, Shadrach in the fiery furnace, Jonah, St Peter in prison and many more!
16. The Years the Locusts have Eaten

As reported in the April/May 2020 issue of HEART Christian newspaper

Marianne Gaston was a popular actress in secular and Christian Theatre in UK, Australia and New Zealand. But in 1997, after feeling unwell for several months, she could not get out of bed. The Doctors decided that she had ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome), but later diagnosed it as Lyme Disease.

Her devoted husband Leslie gave up is job to look after her. Unable to eat properly, she lived on health drinks and her weight dropped to six stone. But friends were praying for her, and she never felt that God had forsaken her.

One morning Marianne woke up at 2.55am in great despair with no hope for the future. Then she sensed a presence in the room. In the corner was a huge shadow with warmth coming from it. When she whispered, ‘Who are you?’ a soft voice replied, ‘I am Meshuel, your Guardian Angel. Do not be afraid, I have been sent to comfort you.’ Then the shape disappeared, leaving Marianne with a great sense of peace and of God’s love.

Despite this heavenly encouragement, Marianne saw no improvement in her condition. But, as the years passed, the same verse kept coming to her, ‘I have taken away the years that the locusts have eaten.’ Eventually Leslie, who had been taking a visiting Bishop Yousef Nadeem from Pakistan on a tour of the Cotswolds, brought him to see her.

When Bishop Yousef entered the room, she felt as if ‘God’s light’ was shining from him. He asked permission to place his hands on her head and prayed in Urdu and in tongues. Marianne recalls, ‘What I can only describe as a lightning bolt when through my body. I felt full of the joy of the Lord and could not stop laughing. Ten years after my illness began I was totally healed.’

Since then Marianne has been touring in UK as the wife of Charles Dickens in, ‘My dearest Kate,’ by Ellie Dickens. She and Leslie have also been able to liaise with the Home Office for Bishop Yousef and his family to get Asylum in UK after they had death threats from the Taliban.
17. Mourning into Dancing!

*The patience and healing of Christina Bailey – Easter 2020*

For over two years now I have had chronic pain, all day every day – there was never a moment where my whole body didn’t hurt. I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia and gradually my condition worsened. I was on very strong pain medication. Up to Easter weekend I could hardly walk, I couldn’t get up and down the stairs without a stick. There were days I couldn’t get out of bed, and days I couldn’t walk at all.

But on the Thursday of Easter week I was with my husband and I will never forget the time. It was 3.50 pm. I just said “Ian, all the pain has gone”. It felt so strange, because for so long it was all I had known, all I knew was pain.

My family and friends have been praying for me for so long and I knew God could heal and I trusted that in His time it would be my turn. Now it has happened. I have a wonderful God. *So, please, never give up!* God will always hear us when we cry out to Him. Spend time in His presence, let Him minister to you.

There have been so many times I have been in tears not knowing what was happening or why. So many nights I have cried through the night. When I didn’t know what to pray He saw my tears and *He turned my mourning into dancing* and He promises that joy will come in the morning!!

Now, another miracle has happened. Before I was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, I was diagnosed with Dupytren’s Contracture. This is a condition which caused my hands and fingers to be painful and I had new lumps growing all the time. Again things I took for granted like writing and playing the guitar and piano were painful for me. Today I was out walking with my husband and I said “Ian, come and feel my hands, the lumps have all gone”! How amazing is our God? What grace He pours on our lives day by day?

Our time is in His hands and when He starts something He is faithful to complete it.
18. Kisses from the Lord.
‘Let Him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth’
Song of Solomon 1:2.

I have found that while we wait, possibly many years, for a husband, a healing, a vindication, God eases our journey with His kisses.

I have been waiting twenty-six years for Justice. But coming back from the Shetlands I had many kisses of encouragement. I sang (from Jesus in me) to Jane, a sales lady at Aberdeen Airport, ‘You were meant for me, and I was meant for you.’ The Holy Spirit touched her and she prayed to receive Jesus as her Bridegroom. There were many other good conversations on the journey.

Back home I had to return a small torch taken by mistake from Shetland. A packet arrived in the post with the stamps un-franked. What a gift I thought, but then realised it would be stealing from the Post Office to use it. So I put fresh stamps on the packet to go to Shetlands.

At Sainsbury’s there was a Police car so, as the Founder of The StoppaCoppa Society, I said to two young Officers, ‘Excuse me Officer, I just want you to know that we appreciate you; without you we would have chaos. Live up to your high calling!’ I then gave them a Voice Magazine with a Policeman’s story and asked them to a Full Gospel Business Men’s dinner.

Then they told me that another Police Car was arriving, and that I should go after them, which I did. Fortunately I had their Superintendent’s card in my wallet, so they treated me with great respect. I suggested they might ask for back up as they had met a very dangerous gentleman. Hoots of laughter!

Then the Car Wash for my wife Susan’s car was not working. However, I talked to John, the Engineer, a strong Catholic believer whose parents had had a very frightening experience with a Ouija Board. He got Voice and an invitation to dinner. Then, having mended the Washer, he gave me a free car wash!

I think this was God’s blessing for buying postage stamps!
19. Hope in the Midst of Despair
From The Message: Lamentations: 3:19-33

I’ll never forget the trouble, the utter lost-ness, the taste of ashes, the poison I’ve swallowed. I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—the feeling of hitting the bottom. But there’s one other thing I remember, and remembering, I keep a grip on hope:

God’s loyal love couldn’t have run out, his merciful love couldn’t have dried up. They’re created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I’m sticking with God (I say it over and over). He’s all I’ve got left. God proves to be good to the man who passionately waits, to the woman who diligently seeks.

It’s a good thing to quietly hope, quietly hope for help from God. It’s a good thing when you’re young to stick it out through the hard times. When life is heavy and hard to take, go off by yourself. Enter the silence. Bow in prayer. Don’t ask questions: Wait for hope to appear. Don’t run from trouble. Take it full-face. The “worst” is never the worst.

Why? Because the Master won’t ever walk out and fail to return. If he works severely, he also works tenderly. His stockpiles of loyal love are immense...!

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HOPE!
An inspired poem given to Sarah McCrum

What is hope? It is beyond the present.
Hope is sure of an unseen future.
Hope is established by faith
Hope carries strength with it to overcome, to forbear.
Hope is what God holds out to us.
Hope makes us steady and determined.
Hope gives us stillness in the chaos
Hope gives us peace in the darkness
Hope is dressed in love and kindness
Hope takes us from the present to the future
Hope fills us with joy, God’s joy.
20. The Obedience of Faith

A 15-year-old Christian boy was on a bus in Africa when he felt The Holy Spirit prompting him to give a message from God to the passengers on the bus.

The prompting would not go away. So eventually, very embarrassed, he got up and said to the Passengers that the coming of the Lord Jesus was close. A man at the back of the bus shouted, ‘Shut up, you don’t know anything, and anyway Jesus doesn’t even exist’.

The boy was embarrassed and sat down. But God kept bothering him to rise again and keep talking about the coming of Jesus. So he obeyed the voice of God and kept saying, ‘Jesus is coming back, so we must all repent of our evil ways and accept Him as our Saviour’.

Eventually, the angry man rose, carrying his child, to silence the Christian boy. But his child said to him, ‘Do not hit him Daddy, he is a sent from God’. Strangely, this brought the angry man to his knees and he began to cry.

The Christian boy asked him, ‘Why are you crying’? The man replied, through his tears, ‘My son has always been mute, but now he is talking’.

God is faithful to honour the obedience of faith. Yeshua is on his way back...sooner than we think!

Hallelujah!
21. Paracetamol or Prayer?

I was at our Printers talking to young Matt who runs the business with Will, his Father. Matt told me he had a cracking headache.

What was one to do as a sober Anglican business man? Express sympathy and say I hoped he had some Paracetamol? Even offer to go and get some for him?

But we are called to walk as Jesus walked and to do the things that Jesus did.  
**I John 2:6.** Are we not also told to lay our hands on the sick so that they will be healed? Did not Jesus say that when people receive you they receive me?  
**Matthew 10:40.** So I asked Matt if I could pray for him?

Matt agreed; he was also happy for me to put my hand on his head. So I rebuked the headache in the name of Jesus Christ and told it to go. Then I asked Matt how he was. He shook his head backwards and forewords, looking astonished. ‘*It has gone*’, he said.

I asked him if he wanted to receive Jesus as his Saviour there and then, but he wanted time to think about it. The next day, however, when I called back, he prayed to be born again. It was the Lord’s doing, and marvellous in my eyes!

The problem with exercising the gifts of the Spirit is that we have to jump out of the boat and trust God to show up. We will not die of embarrassment! If people are not healed immediately that is no problem, as results often come later. It is a team effort; we are called to pray and to trust God to heal.
22. The Plagues of God

1. God sent plagues of boils, frogs, gnats, locusts on Egypt.  
   Exodus 8-10.

2. The Lord struck the people with a plague because of their sin.  
   Exodus 32:35

3. 14,700 died of the plague until Aaron made atonement and the plague stopped.  
   Numbers 16:46-50

4. 24,000 died of the plague until Phineas brought atonement.  
   Numbers 25:6-9

5. 70,000 fell dead of a plague sent by God when David sinned.  
   2 Samuel 24:15-25 & 1 Chronicles 21:14

6. The Lord will strike Egypt with a plague, He will strike and heal them.  
   Isaiah 19:22

7. When King Zedekiah sinned, God sent a plague upon Jerusalem.  

8. Because Israel was rebellious, a third would die of the plague.  
   Ezekiel 5:12

9. ‘Plague went before Him, pestilence followed His steps. He (God) stood and shook the Earth, He looked and made the nations tremble’.  
   Habakkuk 3:5-6.

10. ‘This is the plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem’.  
    Zechariah 14:12.

11. These men (the two witnesses) have power....to strike the Earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.  
    Revelation 11:6

12. ‘And they (mankind) cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.  
    Revelation 16:21

Sin, whether by an individual, a company, or a nation, will always attract God’s eventual judgement, as a magnet attracts iron filings. But there is an answer.  
‘If my people, who are called by my name, humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.’  
2 Chronicles 7:14.
23. Rome saved from a Plague by Prayer

The story of Castel San‘Angelo, Rome

The truth, that so many find unacceptable, is that God is as much with us now, in the midst of this Coronavirus Pandemic, as he has ever been. He longs to help – He hates to see our suffering. But we need first to repent of our treatment of Him, and our behaviour. Only then can we to ask Him to intervene.

The story is told how, in 590 AD, Rome was suffering from a terrible plague that left vast swathes of the population dead. Understandably, the populace was terrified, so Gregory VII, Pope at the time, led the city in prayer, calling out to the angels for help to deliver them.

On April 25th, as the people processed round the city in prayer, the Archangel Michael was reportedly seen standing at the top of the castle of Crescentius – a short walk from the Vatican – wiping a bloody sword, before sheathing it at his side. And from that moment, the story goes, the plague was over and the city was free.

In thanks for their deliverance, the castle was renamed the Castle of the Holy Angel – Castel Sant‘Angelo, as it is still known today.

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David saw an Angel with a drawn sword sent to destroy Jerusalem.
But after David repented and made a sacrifice,
God commanded the Angel to put his sword back into its sheath.

1 Chronicles 21: 16 & 27
Rap star Kanye West has spoken candidly about his renewed relationship with Jesus Christ and the profound impact his faith has had on his life and career. It hasn’t always been so, however.

With his previous records, Kanye became known for his vulgar language and bizarre behaviour. "When you’re not in service to God, you can end up being in service to everything else," he said. "To live inside of sin, it’s going to cost you more than you can pay. You don’t want to continue to sin with no repentance".

He said one simple conversation with a pastor changed everything for the multi-award-winning artist. He explained: "I rapped for the devil so long that I didn’t even know how to rap for God. Then one of my pastors told me, ‘My son just said that he would like a rap album about Jesus from Kanye West.’ He didn’t say, ‘Kanye West, you should do this.’ He just told me something that a child said. That one thing made the difference."

When asked about what it was that really transformed his spiritual life, Kayne referenced his "Sunday Service" gatherings in California -- a collection of musicians and friends who came together most weeks to worship the Lord through songs and a sermon.

"The greatest thing for me, as someone who’s given their life to Christ, is knowing that other people have that as an anchor and a form of healing."

For anyone who has listened to ‘Jesus is King,’ the strong Christian revelation is undeniable and unashamed. "I’m expressing my personal relationship with Christ," Kanye declared. "That’s not going to stop...I’m going to keep on expressing what God has done for my life."
25. The Power of Providences

In the Sauna at Bannantyne’s Gym on 2 January 2020 I spoke to a young man called Robbie who was a bricklayer. This was a blessing, as I had once been a brick maker! I told him the story of Ian McCormack being killed by a jellyfish off Mauritius, who then experienced hell and heaven. Jesus then sent him back, after being dead for half an hour, to become Pastor of a Church.

Leaving the Gym I ‘bumped’ into Robbie again and was able to give him the Christmas Story of how an atheist farmer became a Christian. Half an hour later, at Sainsbury’s, I ‘bumped’ into Robbie again. He was amazed and knew, from all these providential meetings, that the Hound of Heaven was after him!

Before leaving the Gym I passed two ladies, in their thirties, having a snack. I felt prompted to go back and kneel down, as a good Anglican, to ask if anyone had sung them a love song today? Apparently not! So I was asked to sing a love song and got the usual response, ‘You have made our day!’

I then explained that it was Jesus in me singing to them just to say that He loved them. However, they were quite safe, as I was appointed by former Archbishops of Canterbury and York to sing divine love songs to ladies. It then turned out that one of the girls, Grace, was a Christian from Soul Pentecostal Church in Norwich. She had been praying for her friend, Vicky who received the Christmas Story. This was the answer to her prayer!

Finally, I had been asking the Lord to send an Angel to restore my lost hearing aid, as has happened before. Just before supper I felt the Lord tell me to look in my pocket, and there it was!

What a happy day, so full of providences!
26. The Man in White

From Wycliffe Bible Translators. March 2020

Sani, a former Muslim, was working on translating the Bible in a West African country. One day he received a call from a Leader of a Muslim Militant Group.

The man said that he and the four other Leaders of their 2,500 strong group had had an extraordinary experience.

While moving to make an attack, the five leaders of the group had been confronted by a vision of a man in brilliant white. So the group returned to their camp.

There the man in white appeared again to the five leaders. The man held out His hands, showing holes in His palms, and proclaimed, ‘I am Jesus. I have come that you might have salvation and bring salvation to others’. The militant leaders immediately accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.

They then discussed what they should do and remembered there was a man called Sani who talked about Jesus in their own language. So they invited Sani to come and see them. After much prayer, Sani went.

There Sani simply read to them the first four chapters of James in their own language. He then invited them to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Amazingly all 2,500 responded!

Jesus will not return until every tribe and tongue have heard the Gospel. Wycliffe Bible Translators are helping to make this possible.
27. The Message of the Stones

As reported by ‘Hope for Jesus’

Joshua placed twelve stones on the far bank of the Jordan as a memorial that God had opened the waters before the Ark of the Covenant. But why did Joshua also place twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan? Joshua 4:6-9

The 12 stones perished in the waters of the Jordan, just as the Egyptian army perished in the waters of the Red Sea. They were a memorial of God’s Justice upon all people who reject the salvation that God offers. They have not been delivered. They have not “crossed over” and received the grace of God. They remain under the waters; they have not entered into the Promised Land.

Throughout the Bible, water is a picture of the judgement of God, as at the Flood and Jonah going under the waters. Even the name of the River Jordan means, ‘spread judging.’ Again God says, ‘Then the swollen waters would have gone over our soul.’ Psalm 124:1-5. Likewise Jesus’ commissioned His disciples to be “fishers of men’ Matthew 4:19. They were to preach the gospel and God would fill their nets with “fish from out of the waters (of judgement).”

Those 12 stones in the Jordan are a warning about death and judgment! They represent the unredeemed, who have rejected Jesus and receive the righteous judgment of God. There is no redemption after judgment.

What’s the BIG Lesson in This?

Those who do not belong to Jesus will perish. We do not want anyone to be covered by the waters of God’s judgment. Jesus, in His mercy, is holding back judgment, but at death it will come, and this may be unexpected.

So please share the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ with all who do not know Him before it is too late. Tell them how they can be saved from the waters of judgment. Then they can be a memorial stone of remembrance of God’s saving grace on the far bank in the Promised Land.

Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. 1 Chronicles 16:23-24
28. Jesus held my Hand.
The testimony of Pastor Mark McClurg from Premier News.

Mark McClurg from Ards Elim Church, Northern Ireland, fell ill and was admitted to hospital after suffering breathing difficulties. There he was treated in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) after testing positive for Coronavirus. There Mark says he encountered God in a way he never had before.

"In the middle of ICU, something powerful happened," he said. "I prayed, 'Lord, help me'. I'd never heard the audible voice of Jesus - but he spoke to me that night and said, 'Son, you are more than a conqueror'.

"I didn't realise that night that, 'more than a conqueror' meant there was more than one battle. That night was so hard. It was so hard to breathe. I was so weak. I had no energy left to breathe. I just knew, even though I was going to the brink of death, I was going to live, but it was going to be a battle."

"The nurses were saying, 'Mark, breathe, breathe deeply'. All I could do was to say 'Lord help me'. I felt the Lord come into that room, and he held my hand. I have never had experiences like this before, but I was brought back from the depths of death. Jesus never left me nor forsook me."

Mark now believes God saved him for a reason.

"I thought about Joseph and I thought about his life and how Joseph was taken from a pit, and how he came from nothing to do something. Joseph in Egypt was at a time of famine, but also a time of fear - people were fearful for their lives but he brought a message of hope. So I prayed that day, 'Lord, would you make me, a voice of hope, in the United Kingdom.' I've never prayed a prayer like that before."

But within a couple of days, so many people on the Internet knew about what had happened to me. The Lord wants Christians to spread hope, the good news that Jesus Christ is the answer and Jesus Christ is the way.

Pastor Mark's story has now been heard all around the world. His social media videos shared from his hospital bed and have received millions of views. He is now hoping to turn that media attention into daily online prayer meetings.
29. Witnessing at Waitrose

On my way to Waitrose to get the milk, I passed at a road intersection a man in a motorised dustcart. I stopped to thank him for keeping the roads clean, gave him a *Voice Magazine* of Christian testimonies from the Full Gospel Businessmen’s Fellowship (FGB), and invited him to a dinner with the FGB. He was interested and glad to be thanked.

At Waitrose car park there was a pretty young mum who parked in a narrow space. I congratulated her on her skill, she was not interested in God, but she received my testimony and *Voice* – help, Lord!

A young lad called James was selling *Norwich Evening News*. I asked him if he would do a swap with *Voice*? He was an atheist. We had a good talk and he accepted Voice and an invitation to and FGB dinner.

In the queue at the check-out I talked to Tracey behind me. I apologised for not putting down the bar behind my purchases. Then said that I taught Christians to talk to strangers in ‘captive audiences’ like Waitrose queues. Hoots of laughter as I warned her to avoid people who were ‘born again.’ She was invited to dinner and took *Voice*.

Back in the car park, I saw a lady sitting in the sun and felt I should speak to her. ‘Madam’, I said, ‘Can I get you some sunburn cream?’ Heather replied, ‘*God says that the sun shall not burn me by day nor the moon by night, so I am OK.*’ I was naughty and challenged her, ‘*You don’t believe in God, do you?*’ Heather stood up for God, and turned out to be a Church Warden at Bracon Ash. She had helped chose their new Vicar, my friend Adrian Miller. JOY!

All this in half an hour! Conversations started with a ‘thank you’, a ‘congratulation’, a ‘question’, an ‘apology’, and an ‘offer of help’. Anyone, set free from fear, can do this. It makes God smile!
30. Walking on the Water

*As reported in Prophecy Today UK*

An Iranian family thought that they had lost their three year old daughter when she fell off a crowded refugee boat heading for the Greek island of Lesbos. She could not swim and there seemed to be no hope!

However, the parents fell to their knees, crying out to God for help. When they looked up, they were amazed to see their daughter, back on board, coming to them. She said that as she was sinking she saw a man in white walking on the water who rescued her.

When they landed at Lesbos they were met by Christian volunteers who provided them with food, clothing, shelter and the Gospel. When they heard the story of Jesus walking on the water, (John 6:15-21), the little girl cried, ‘That is the man who rescued me!’

Her Muslim parents dedicated their lives to Christ and went on to found a Farsi speaking Church in Athens.

*Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and for ever!*
31. The Angel at Schiphol Airport  
*The testimony of Ken & Hazel Polson*

On 21st December we flew from Norwich to Amsterdam Schiphol. During the descent, the captain announced that freezing fog was about to shut Schiphol; passengers with connecting flights should go to the Transit Desk. Ken had arranged a 50th birthday dream trip for me and this wasn’t part of his plan!

In the Transit concourse hundreds were arriving every few minutes, pressing into and around the service desk area. I found a ticket machine for service, but it was out of order. I left Ken and squeezed through the crowds to get help at the Transit Desk, but the crowds made it seem impossible.

Fighting despair, I returned to Ken with the bad news. Then suddenly something curious happened: from deep inside me a great flood of worship and praise arose. I praised the Lord loudly, joyfully; and then Ken joined in. We told God we trusted He knew exactly where we were, what we needed, and that He’d help and look after us whatever happened.

Seconds later a door behind the Reception Desk opened revealing an immaculate KLM hostess. Looking straight at us over the heads of everyone around us, she stepped down. She walked up to us, looking neither to right nor left, smiled and said, "Good afternoon. How can I help you?" Incredulous, Ken explained our predicament. "Give me your boarding cards and passports. I won’t be long." she said. As she turned, the crowd parted, she entered the door and closed it behind her. It then struck us both that we had perhaps foolishly parted with our passports and boarding cards! We waited ...

Soon she reappeared, smiled broadly and handed us our documents. "Fresh boarding cards for you. You are boarding Gate 29 at 1710hrs. Have a good flight!" She beamed, retraced her steps, acknowledging nobody else, and closed the door.

Laughing and breathless with astonishment, Ken said, "THAT was a MIRACLE! The Angel of Schiphol!" Intrigued, Hazel said, "I must find her again!" She pushed through to the Transit Desk, but the lady had vanished. Our flight left on schedule, as the fog lifted. So our Dream Trip was restored!
32. Generosity is at the heart of God

It was a cold, wet Friday evening in February as I walked down the King’s Road, Chelsea. An old man was packing up his flower stall, so I moved in for a bargain. It was easy to beat the poor man down from £6 to £4 for a bunch of Chrysanthemums for my elderly mother. I felt quite pleased with myself.

But then, as the old man wrapped up the flowers, the thought came to me. ‘Is that how I told you to love people’?
Deeply convicted I could only ask, ‘Lord, what must I do?’
‘Pay him the full price and a £1 penalty on top for your lack of charity.’

So as the old man handed me the flowers I said, ‘My Father has just been speaking to me.’
‘Your Father, guv?’ said the old man, looking past my shoulder.
‘My Father in heaven,’ I said.
‘Oh’, he said, his look acknowledging that I was a ‘nutter’ but probably harmless.
‘He told me to give you the full price’
‘Oh, Guv. thank you.’
‘And a pound on top to show that He loves you’

The old man was clearly moved by this strange experience. As I paid him, the now beaming old man was wide open to receive a Voice magazine with stories of men who had discovered the generosity of God. The only trouble is that when I buy flowers now I have to tell this story to the flower seller. It does cost me an extra £1, but it is worth it.
33. Out of my Comfort Zone!

The testimony of Pastor Francis Chan, Hong Kong.

Pastor Francis Chan has admitted that for many years he did not believe in miracles. Speaking at the virtual International Association of Healing Ministries conference, the missionary said he really struggled with charismatic Christian practices, including speaking in tongues.

"What I do know is for many years I didn't believe in healing, I didn't believe in miracles, it was pretty much what I was taught in seminary," he explained, before noting that he, "used to ridicule people who spoke in tongues or prophesied or believed they could heal, even though when I read the Scriptures, I saw this was available."

Francis, who now lives as a missionary in Hong Kong, said it "took years" for him "to be honest with what I saw in Scripture and start pursuing these gifts of the Spirit." He added: "I'm still somewhat on that journey."

The former California megachurch pastor, who resigned from his role back in 2010 and founded a house church movement in San Francisco, admitted that he has "been praying for gifts of healing for years" but that it "was only a few months ago that I saw healing for the first time."

But during a recent mission trip to Myanmar he saw many miraculous healings. "Every person I touched was healed," he said. "This is craziness to me. I have never experienced this in 52 years. I was talking to a little boy and a little girl who were deaf. We lay hands, she starts crying, and she’s freaking out. And we’re like ‘lay hands on your little brother’. We lay hands on him and he starts hearing for the first time. You guys, this is out of my comfort zone. This is stuff I’d read about but, man, it happened. It happened.

“I thought I had faith. But my faith was at another level...I think there are some things that contributed...some of it was just faith in His word, that when Jesus says, ‘I am in you and you are in Me,’ to take that literally.”
Chris van der Burgh, a 32-year-old Christian filmmaker from KwaZulu-Natal, had a 45-minute vision in the early hours of Monday 11 May with a message from the Lord about a coming, great revival. Van der Burgh is described by his Pastor as an unassuming person of integrity who loves the Lord and His Word.

‘I woke up at about 1.50am with my body shaking and the name, ‘Adonai’, being spoken from my Spirit as the presence of the Lord came upon me. Then I found myself crying with increasing intensity, ‘The Lord’s Revival’, and saw this was coming to the BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa – starting 19th May. I saw a great Sword of Revival stuck in the ground like Excalibur, and knew that only Jesus could release it.

Then I was taken to the Garden of Eden and saw Adam placing the fruit back on the tree as a Sign that God was calling for righteousness to be restored to the nations. Then I was taken to heaven and saw Jesus, full of love and grace and peace, so excited at the final harvest. He said, ‘Go – Go – Go’ to thousands of Angels who started chanting, ‘King Jesus’ as miracles started to happen like never before.

There is nothing we can do to make this happen. We are simply called to have soft, obedient hearts that God can use.

‘In the last days I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and young men see visions.’
35. The Berisheet Prophecy
Released in 2018 to be seen on Google

‘I am God, there is no one like me,
Declaring the End from the beginning
And from ancient times things not yet done……
I have spoken it, and will bring it to pass,
I have planned it and I will do it…..
I bring near my deliverance, it is not far off,
And my deliverance will not tarry’.
Isaiah 46:9-13

The first six letters of the Bible are: Tav, Yod, Shen, Aleph, Resh & Beyt, ‘In the beginning God’, contain a hidden message in code that can be understood when you look at the four levels of meanings that the letters have. They agree that the generally accepted dates of the birth of Jesus in 4 BC and crucifixion in 30 AD are correct.

Working backwards, they again agree that Creation happened in 4004 BC, as calculated by Bishop Ussher, that Adam sinned in 3970 BC, that Jesus was crucified in 30 AD, 4000 years after sin entered mankind. They then show that the Rapture, the Day of the Lord, the timing of which only the Father knows, will happen at any time up to 2023, probably at the Feast of Trumpets, after which comes Daniel’s 70th week, the seven year Tribulation, starting with a seven year treaty between Israel and possibly Turkey heading a restored Ottoman Empire, with Jesus returning in Glory to destroy Anti-Christ in 2030.

While there is a received wisdom never to name a date, this should not refer to the Second Coming, but to the Rapture. Meanwhile today the urgent need for unbelievers and unconverted Churchgoers is to repent and be born again. Also for Christians to be Holy and make sure of their calling to be raptured as the Bride.
36. A Muslim Finds Christ

As reported by Open Doors

‘I won’t kill you,’ Isam’s brother said to him. It was meant to show mercy. His brother added, ‘In Islam, you should be killed for this. If someone does kill you, I won’t avenge your death.’

Isam’s offence was converting to Christianity. He was so excited that he couldn’t keep quiet about it. ‘I was crazy enough to tell everyone immediately. I was so open that people didn’t really believe me. I was born into a committed Muslim family and from the age of seven I visited the mosque, but when I grew up, I started to ask questions and was not satisfied with the answers.

Ironically, it was his father who first introduced him to the Bible. His father had a construction job at a Catholic church, and brought home a New Testament. ‘The book attracted me. I thought, Jesus had wonderful ideas, but no one can put them into practice!’ He was particularly struck by the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus says that, ‘anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.’ (Matthew 5:28).

After university, Isam had a chance encounter with a foreigner in a coffee shop, who invited Isam to church. Isam wasn’t sure – but in the end he decided to go. ‘From that day to this, I have never left the church.’

After a while, he began to realise the truth of who Jesus is. Though miracles are attributed to Jesus in the Quran, He is not recognised as God. ‘To me, it wasn’t easy to understand who Jesus really is,’ remembers Isam. ‘It took me a few months to see that Jesus indeed is the Son of God – that He is God.’

His family hoped they could pressurize Isam to turn back to Islam. But Isam felt secure with Jesus: ‘I keep going because I know my future, I have hope. Having that certainty is more precious than the pressure.’ Praise God, his family are much less antagonistic now. One of his sisters is even exploring the Bible!

Now Isam works for his Church discipling new believers across the country. With travel restrictions, Open Doors is helping on line discipleship Courses.
37. A Present Help in Trouble

My wife needed a spare car key so I called the local dealer. “Yes” they had a key cutting machine at their spares department so I went round.

Talking to Ivor and George behind the counter about Jesus, I waited for their mate Daniel who had gone off to cut the new key. They were very tolerant of my enthusiasm - after all, customers are always right!

Eventually Daniel came back. “I am sorry” he said “but the machine has broken down. Could you come back later when we have got it fixed”? Quite unexpectedly I heard myself saying, “I see you don’t know that God is a very present help in trouble. Go back and try again and I will pray!”

At this remark it was clear that they all thought I was more than a bit nutty but nevertheless Daniel went back to try again while I prayed loudly in tongues.

It was not long before Daniel returned. He was looking rather bemused. In his hand was a sparkling new Rover car key which fitted perfectly into the ignition and started the engine. The key cutting machine – with the help of ministering Angels – had worked perfectly!

It was then very easy to give Daniel a Voice magazine and to ask him with his friends to come to our next Full Gospel Business Men’s dinner.

And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the Word by the signs that followed. Mark 16:20.
38. An Awesome Encounter

A Scottish farmer did not believe in the Christmas story. The idea that God would become a man was absurd. His wife, however, was a devout believer and had raised their children in the faith. The farmer sometimes gave her a hard time, mocking her belief in the incarnation of God in the Baby at Bethlehem. ‘It’s all nonsense’, he said, ‘why would God lower himself to become a human like us? It is such a silly story.’

One Sunday evening, just before Christmas, his wife took the children to Church while the farmer relaxed at home. Then the weather deteriorated into a blinding snow storm driven by a freezing north wind. He heard a loud thump on the window. Then another! He ventured out to see a flock of grey geese, disoriented by the storm, that had landed in his farmyard.

The farmer had compassion on them. He wanted to help and realised they needed the shelter of his barn. He opened the barn doors and hung up a lamp but they would not go in. He laid out a trail of bread but still they would not go in. He tried to shoo them in, all to no avail. Nothing he could do would get them into the warmth and shelter of the barn.

Utterly frustrated, he exclaimed, ‘Why don’t they follow me? Can’t they see this is the only way to survive the storm?’ Then he thought, ‘How could I get them to follow me? They will not follow a man. If only I could become like one of them, then I could save them.’

At that moment he stopped and realised what he had said. The words reverberated in his head, ‘If only I could become like one of them, then I could save them.’ At last he understood God’s heart towards mankind. He fell on his knees in the snow and worshipped Him. When he looked up, to his amazement, he saw the grey geese entering the barn, and a white goose was leading them.

*The White Goose is the Celtic symbol of the Holy Spirit!*
39. The Signs of the Jewish Feasts

*Arno Lamm and Emile Vanbekevoort, in their book Wake Up!, explore the End Time significance of our Jewish roots.*

There are seven Jewish Feasts representing the progress of our spiritual lives. New birth at Passover on Thursday of Easter week; the next day a leaven (sin) free life at the Feast of Unleavened Bread; the Rapture at the Feast of First Fruits on Easter Sunday when the Barley is separated from the chaff by being thrown into the air; then after seven weeks (representing the seven year Tribulation period) comes the wheat harvest when the grain is separated from the chaff by being rubbed between Tribulum boards; then the long dry summer period representing the testing in our lives before the fruit harvest at the Feast of Trumpets. This is when the Bridegroom comes to collect His bride who has been preparing herself with forty days of repentance; then the Day of Atonement when the books are closed and all sins forgiven for those in the Book of Life; finally the celebration at the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb at the Feast of Tabernacles before Jesus destroys Ant-Christ. Revelation 19:11-21.

So there may be Christians with oil in their lamps who will be raptured (the barley harvest), and others who are lukewarm (the wheat harvest) who will have the opportunity in the Tribulation to repent, maybe as martyrs. In Revelation 3:21 those that conquer sit on the throne of Jesus, whereas the Tribulation Saints are before the throne in Revelation 7: 14-15. So there are two groups, the barley and wheat harvests, within the saved Body of Christ.

The Jewish wedding is a type of the return of Christ for His bride. After the betrothal the bride (those with oil in their lamps) belongs to the Bridegroom. He then goes off to prepare a home for them, and returns when His Father decides that the home is ready. They remain hidden for seven days, suggesting the seven year tribulation period, before the wedding banquet. Surely the Father will not allow the bride to go through the Tribulation.

But we need to be faithful Brides who will qualify in holiness to hear Jesus welcome us with the words, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant.’
Fear and pity help us in our return to obedience and charity; this is not to be doubted. Everyone has experienced the effect of pity in making it easier for us to love the unlovely – that is to love men not because they are in any way naturally agreeable to us but because they are our brethren.

The positive outcome of fear most of us have learned during the period of “crises” that led up to the present war. My own experience is something like this. I am progressing along the path of life in my ordinary contentedly fallen and godless condition, absorbed in a merry meeting with my friends for the morrow or a bit of work that tickles my vanity today, a holiday or a new book, when suddenly a stab of abdominal pain that threatens serious disease, or a headline in the newspapers that threatens us all with destruction, sends this whole pack of cards tumbling down.

At first I am overwhelmed, and all my little ‘happinesses’ look like broken toys. Then slowly, reluctantly, bit by bit, I try to bring myself into the frame of mind that I should be in at all times. I remind myself that all these toys were never intended to possess my heart, that my true good is in another world and my only real treasure is Christ. And perhaps, by God’s grace, I succeed, and for a day or two become a creature consciously dependent on God and drawing its strength from the right sources.

But the moment the threat is withdrawn, my whole nature leaps back to the toys. I am even anxious, God forgive me, to banish from my mind the only thing that supported me under the threat because it is now associated with the misery of those few days. Thus the terrible necessity of tribulation is only too clear. God has had me for but forty-eight hours and then only by dint of taking everything else away from me. Let Him but sheathe that sword for a moment and I behave like a puppy when the hated bath is over – I shake myself as dry as I can and race off to reacquire my comfortable dirtiness, if not in the nearest manure heap, at least in the nearest flower bed.

And that is why tribulations cannot cease until God either sees us remade or sees that our remaking is now hopeless.
41. The Power of Forgiveness

As reported by a Hospital worker

Catherine was a delightful Catholic woman in her thirties who had been admitted to hospital with breathing difficulties. Despite all the tests, the doctors were unable to establish the cause of her problem.

We struck up a conversation and before long I saw the key to her problem. The greatest trauma in her life began as a child when her father announced that he and their mother were getting a divorce and that there was going to be a new mummy in her life. Her world was turned upside down.

I asked Catherine if she had a relationship with Jesus which she confessed she didn’t. So I shared the Gospel and like a ripe plum she agreed that she needed to be born again and confessed that she believed that Jesus had risen from the dead. So as we held hands, she asked Jesus to forgive her sins and be her Lord.

I explained that, as Jesus has forgiven us for all our sins, we need to extend that forgiveness to others so that we can be set free. The Lord’s prayer, reminds us that we can only ask our heavenly Father to forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have “sinned against us” and hurt us.

“Would you be willing to forgive your step-mother?” I asked. Her willingness surprised me. So I led her in a prayer of release and forgiveness towards her stepmother. After a few minutes, I noticed a change in her breathing, so I asked her how she was doing.

She opened her eyes wide with surprise and said that, she felt her breathing become free. On top of that she was feeling that God was doing something inside her body; she felt a bubbling up inside and all over her. I explained, “This is the Holy Spirit; the rivers of living water flowing out of you”

Amazing God! He set her free and the key to her healing was forgiveness. She was totally free and breathing normally. How we praised God together! When we forgive, God sets us free, and physical healing follows.

As St Augustine said, “To withhold forgiveness is to take poison!”
42. The Testimony of a COVID Nurse

On Saturday I had to look after a man who was Covid positive. He was really poorly. Whilst the team of doctors present were all doing their best, none of them expected him to recover.

The doctors left me in the room with this man who was barely conscious. I held his hand as I worked for him. A spontaneous song came to me and I sang under my mask and interceded for him, singing, ‘Life, grace, mercy’. I felt that I should plead the blood of Jesus over him and declare he would live and not die. I rebuked spirit of death, told it to leave the room and asked Jesus to come to the room. Whilst I held his hand he breathed better and was peaceful, but if I let it go to do anything else, he got restless. I managed to finish the procedure and blessed him under my mask. Every one said he was dying but I kept saying he will live to testify to the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

On my way home I kept singing for this man.
At work the next morning, the first thing the manager said was,
"Well done, that patient you worked with has made a miraculous recovery."
So I sent a text to the Doctor in charge.
‘How is the patient I was with on Saturday doing’?
‘Doing well. Sitting up and talking. Having breakfast’. And later
‘He has had three cups of coffee and a whole plate of cottage pie’.
‘Taken off EOL’. (EOL means 'end of life.')

They are all baffled by this. He has had a miraculous recovery.
I am so happy. God is so good. He is faithful. He is the healer. When He says, ‘Yes’ no one can say, ‘No’. He brought this man back from death’s door. Praise the Lord! God is at work. We have authority to speak the name of Jesus.

This man will live to testify of the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
43. The Counterfeit Coin

The booklet called, ‘Hell or Heaven in the Last Days’ gives the testimony of Ian McCormack which can be seen on YouTube as ‘A Glimpse of Eternity.’ Ian was killed by the Cubo-Medusan Box Jellyfish diving off Mauritius. He experienced the horror of hell and the joy of heaven before being sent back to remind the Church that there is no good news without bad news.

This caused some upset. ‘You must not mention Hell’, I was told. ‘You must preach about a God of love and grace and mercy.’

As I meditated on this I saw a gold sovereign. On one side was the sovereign’s head speaking of grace. But the reverse was blank. I felt the Lord ask me what sort of a coin this was. Obviously it was a counterfeit because it was not complete. Then I realised that the coin needed a tail on the reverse that spoke of judgement.

Later I saw it confirmed in the Bible when I read:

‘But woe to you, Pharisees! For you tithe the mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect judgement (Hell) and the love of God (Heaven); it is these you ought to have practiced, without neglecting the others.’ Luke 11:42.
44. A Prophetic Word to the United Kingdom

Given to David Noakes and tested by the Elders. 30.3.2020

‘Beloved, I speak, but who is willing to listen; I call, but who is willing to hear? My people are hardened like barren soil in drought, baked hard by the continual beating down of the heat of deception, so my words do not take root and righteousness does not result.

Yet I have a remnant who grieve over the state of the world in which you find yourselves, and it is to you that I now speak, you whose hearts are humble and open towards me, and who tremble at my word. To those who have ears to hear, I am shouting a warning, for the great and terrible day of the Lord is not far off and the time to repent is short.

I have sent fire and floods, earthquakes and famines in many places, but who has wanted to know the reason? Men, even the leaders of my people, are deceived and believe the lie that these so-called natural disasters are caused by the actions of men and can be resolved by the skilled remedies of men.

Therefore I have released a curse, a global scourge of sickness for which men have no remedy; and no nation will escape unscathed. For the whole world is turning in rebellion against Me, and in my grief and out of my great love for all mankind whom I have created and desire to save, I have released the scourge of sickness in the hope that in their despair, men will turn to Me for deliverance and salvation.

The nations of the world, the whole earth, are now as it was in the days of Noah, when violence and corruption brought my anger in the form of a worldwide flood; and as in the days of Lot, when greed and corruption and perverted sexuality brought my destruction in the form of fire and burning sulphur. Even so, this is now the condition of the nations, and I have been watching in horror.

Where is the fear of God among the nations? Where is the fear of God among the leaders of my people who are called by my Name? Everywhere I am rejected and mocked and blasphemed, I who created the heavens and the earth and who sustains them by my word of power
Beloved, you whose hearts and ears are turned to me when I call, hear my cry; for it is a cry not only of anger, but also of deep sorrow and love for all men whom I have created in order that they may worship me, the one true God, and live in fellowship with me through my Son who gave his life so that all who call upon me might be saved and live under my hand of blessing and protection.

My grief is very great, for I look upon the nations of the world, who have embraced deception rather than the truth of their own eyes, and rejected me as Creator. I am angry, but I am also deeply wounded and in great distress at the destruction which they are bringing upon themselves through their pride and rebellion, for they do not know, and are not willing to hear, that it is the god of this present world-system who is deceiving them and luring them into a trap of destruction.

Men have rejected the everlasting covenant which I made with Noah. Everywhere I see violence and corruption and greed, and the shedding of innocent blood – millions of unborn children who are the work of my hands in this creation and for whose lives I had a purpose on this earth.

Now even the very sign of the covenant which I made with Noah, the rainbow of permanent testimony to my love and faithfulness to keep my word, is made a cause of offence to me, a stench in my nostrils, by being taken as the proud symbol of rebellion, of perversion of my created order of male and female.

Beloved, do not be deceived. God has been watching while the cup of iniquity of the nations of the earth is coming near to fullness. In my love and concern I am shouting a global warning through this present scourge of sickness, in the hope that even at this late hour many will repent and turn to Me, before the final judgments of irretrievable disaster, the outpouring of my pent-up anger, begin to be released, for then it will be too late and I will not turn back from doing all that is prophesied in my word.

Before that day arrives, I desire to purify and equip you, My remnant people, by my Spirit, to declare my love, the gospel of My Son’s sacrifice sealed in his own blood, to those who are destined for the awfulness of my wrath. Who will hear and respond to my call to declare the truth, for this is a day of decision?
45. Signs of the End Times from the Bible.

1. Wars and rumours of wars
   ‘And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place but the end is not yet’. Matthew 24:6.

2. Famines and earthquakes
   ‘For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in places.’ Matthew 24:7.

3. Signs in the Heavens and Tsunamis
   ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon and the stars and on earth distress amongst the nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.’ Luke 21:25.

4. An increase of wickedness as the love of many grows cold.
   ‘Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of many will grow cold.’ Matthew 24:12.

5. The Gospel preached throughout the world.
   And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14.

6. False Messiahs and teachers with great signs will appear.
   For false Messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24.

7. Sexual promiscuity
   Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their heart to impurity, to the degrading of their bodies among themselves. Romans 1:24-26.
   An executive agency of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office has urged the reinterpretation of scripture to make it compatible with LGBTI unbiblical understanding of sexual morality. 1 Cor.6:9-11.

8. Every kind of wickedness.
   They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, they are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Romans 1: 29-31.
9. Strange diseases
There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues.
Luke 21:11. The Chief Medical Officer reports that there are 700,000 deaths pa globally due to treatment-resistant infections. Now the Corona Virus.

10. A form of godliness with a denial of its power.
‘Holding to the outward form of Godliness, but denying its power’.
2 Timothy 3:5. Some Church Leaders are resisting the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and His gifts, and bowing down to worldly values.

11. Persecution of the saints.
‘Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted’
2 Timothy 3:12. Christians are being prosecuted for street preaching in UK.

12. Increase of travel and knowledge.
‘But, you, Daniel, keep the words secret and the book sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be running back and forth and knowledge will increase’. Daniel 12:4.

‘Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot: they will be eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day that Lot left Sodom, (A type of the Rapture), it rained fire and Sulphur from heaven and destroyed all of them. It will be like that when the Son of Man is revealed.’

14. Days of great suffering cut short for the sake of the elect.
For that time there will be great suffering, such as has not been seen since the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect (the Tribulation Saints), those days will be cut short.
Matthew 24:21-22.

Reprinted from, ‘Signs of the End Times’ published by The Branch Press
46. A Trial of Faith

Marty Tharp is an American Evangelist. He travels to Norfolk, England each autumn with his family in a big van. One August, as they were preparing to set out, Marty had a massive heart attack. He was in hospital when God spoke to him. ‘This is not from me. Go to Norfolk and I will heal you!’

So Marty pulled all the wires off his chest and got out of bed. They would not let him go until he signed a document exonerating the hospital from the likely dire consequences of his departure. Medically speaking, it was sheer folly.

They arrived in Norfolk where Marty had a stroke. His right arm was paralysed but, with physiotherapy, movement was restored. This was necessary as only Marty could drive the van. Everyone told him he was a fool to continue.

With the mission to Norfolk completed Marty and his family set off across England to catch the Irish Ferry at Anglesey. He felt terrible and was only too well aware that if he died at the wheel he might cause a major accident in which other people and his family would be at risk. Then his Pastor from America called him on his mobile.

‘Marty, we love you. Be wise. Come home and have an operation and get well for next year. We will pay all your costs. Please come home’!

Marty got out of the van and sat on the roadside. Had God really spoken to him? They were coming to the M1 where they had to turn left to go home or right to go to Anglesey. Marty tried to turn left but the wheel would not turn! So they turned right and carried on to Anglesey.

When he had driven the van onto the ferry, Marty had to climb six flights of steps up to the saloon. At each step he had to rest from the acute angina pain. He was sweating and knew he could die at any moment. The ferry was half way across to Belfast before Marty made it to the saloon and collapsed into an armchair. Then the power of God fell on him and he was completely healed!

I heard Marty give this testimony a week later at the Irish Convention of the Full Gospel Business Men. When he finished there was not a dry eye in the room. It is one of the greatest trials of faith I have ever heard.
47. The Lost Spectacles!

The Testimony of Andrew & Sarah Harmsworth

‘A few years ago I spoke to our Shetland Fellowship about the importance of being sensitive to the Spirit to notice and follow the small signs the Lord often gives us. As He says, ‘I will guide you and show you the way you should go!’ Psalm 32: 8.

So Moses recognised the presence of God in the burning bush and Elijah recognised the voice of God in a cloud the size of a man's hand. If we ask and are expectant, we may often see small signs which lead to answers.

So I spoke about the little arrow you sometimes find on food wrapped in plastic that helps one to tear off a strip to open the box. If you find the very small arrow it provides the answer. And so with situations in life that seem so locked up, the Lord may well give us a little arrow or clue. Then, when we follow His guidance, the problem is solved and God smiles!

Well...two days later, Sarah and I went on a New Year visit to a family who lived on the nearby Island of Burra, which is connected by three bridges. It was a rather typically dark and windy Shetland night, and as Sarah stepped out of the car her glasses were blown off her face by the gale and disappeared into the darkness of the hill.

The next day we drove back to search for the specs. The hill was very wet with plenty of puddles, bogs and heather - all about the same colour as the missing glasses! Then I noticed a discarded car number plate which had the letter "V" still visible.

Thinking back to the Word to our Fellowship, I followed the direction shown by the "V" and there about five metres away I saw one of the arms of Sarah's specs just visible above a muddy puddle. We might never have found them without that God-given sign, and I hope that it has taught us to watch out for, and to listen to, God's little arrows and gentle whispers that are there to help us. What a blessing and a boost to faith when His purposes and blessings are released in all their life-giving glory. In Sarah's case, it led to restored vision!
48. The Half Inch Spanner

The Testimony of Lennie Fisher

I was in business in Florida. One morning I set off to do some work on my boat. It was a simple job. All I needed was a half inch spanner. After that I had a very important lunch with the most influential business man on the coast. This lunch, I knew, would make all the difference to my prospects.

On the way down I passed a tramp. It was getting hot and I felt sorry for him. When I got to the boat I found I had left behind the half inch spanner. So, on the way back, I saw the tramp again. A thought came to me. ‘Pick him up.’

I reckoned there was time to take him to the next town and still make my lunch date, so I did a U-turn and picked him up. Coming into the town there was a restaurant and another thought came to me. ‘Give him a meal.’ This was not reasonable. If I did that I would miss my lunch date. But God is not reasonable. I had to call my friend and apologise for my absence. Over coffee I said to the tramp, ‘You must have a story.’ ‘Well, Yes,’ he said, ‘I suppose I do’.

‘I was a shift foreman at an engineering works. My one ambition was to have my own pick-up truck. Eventually I was able to buy one. One evening I was asked to do an extra night shift. There were a lot of roadworks which would have messed up my pick-up. So I asked my wife to put our two kids in the back of her car and take me down to the Plant. She agreed and off we went.

On the way back a big juggernaut lorry ran into my wife and killed her and our two kids. When I eventually got home I saw my pick-up, gleaming and spotless in the lamp light. I put one foot on the threshold of my empty home and could go no further. I turned round and started walking. I have been walking ever since. I have come to know Jesus and try to bring his love and forgiveness to all the hobos, winos, and drop-outs that I meet on my travels. I guess I know every doss house and railway arch in three states. That was thirty years ago.

Outside, as we said goodbye, he said to me, ‘You have been very kind. On the road I see things and pick them up. I would like to give you a present’.

He felt in his pocket and presented me with – a half inch spanner!
I grew up in a criminal family where prison and violence were the norm, with my Dad in and out of prison. My Mum struggled to cope with four wild and uncontrollable children. When I was 11, Mum and Dad returned home arguing which quickly escalated into violence. My Mum was dragged upstairs by her hair. As I peered through the crack of a barricaded doorway, I saw the carpet covered with blood from my Mum's lifeless body. In that moment, my whole world changed; my Mum was dead, and I lost my Dad to prison.

From then on, my life consisted of truancy, running away, crime and drug-taking. From the age of 17 to 24, I was a full-blown alcoholic, heroin-injecting addict. In 1999, in Durham prison, I couldn't take my life any longer. I prayed and asked Jesus, if he was real, to take my heroin problem away. From that moment the desire for heroin left me, I was supernaturally delivered by Jesus! Since then I have married Joanne, a Christian girl, and together we have started a ministry to help people coming out of prison called Junction 42. The name is from Isaiah 42:6-7, ‘I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness...to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.’

If you want to see the same change happen in your life, all you need to do is confess the wrong things you have done to God, ask Him to come into your heart and believe. Just as God raised Jesus from the dead, He will give you a brand-new life and you will become a new creation. Remember, I prayed in a prison cell and Jesus came into and transformed my life.

The Bible says whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13. Jesus promises to give you the Holy Spirit. John 14: 15-17. When He comes into your life, you become a temple of the Spirit and He gives you the power to live as a Christian and transform your life. Give the Holy Spirit five minutes of your time right now. Ask Him to fill your life and dwell inside you. Wait for Him and believe that, He will change you - even in a prison cell - from the inside out.
I had been preaching in South Wales. After the Service I was taken off to a Prayer Meeting. It must have been after 12.00 midnight when I cannot possibly describe exactly what happened - it defied even the most gifted to explain. Let me simply say that in this early hour of the morning, God came among us!!

I suddenly felt great waves of awesome awareness of God's utter holiness. My breath came panting like a runner in a race, my whole body trembled exceedingly and I was aware of my sin in such a manner that I could only cry for mercy. Things that I never counted as being contrary to the Lord became black and ugly. Things I hardly thought about became enormously wrong, whilst major sins I knew about but still did, totally overwhelmed me.

The worst thing of all was that I had lost the use of my legs, I seemed to be paralysed from my waist down. I, the preacher, was in total turmoil. I could only cry to God for mercy again and again. But I was a Christian, I was saved, born again, how could this happen?

The scriptures came into my mind "who shall stand when He appeareth, for He is like a refiners fire". Malachi 3:2.

I understood, even in my sad and sorry state, at the moment when God came upon us that I was covered and protected by the garment of my Savour's righteousness. But God is so Holy that any action of mine would be tested in the fire of His perfection. That, I realised, was why people so needed to be saved and become a child of God.’
If to be a Christian is worthwhile, then the most ordinary interest in those we meet should prompt us to speak to them of Christ.

If the New Testament be true, who has given us the right to place the responsibility for soul winning on other shoulders than our own?

If they who reject Christ are in danger, is it not strange that we, who are so sympathetic when the difficulties are physical or temporal, should apparently be so devoid of interest as to allow our friends and neighbours and kindred to come into our lives and pass out again without a word of invitation to accept Christ, to say nothing of sounding a note of warning because of their peril?

If today is the day of salvation, if tomorrow may never come and if life is equally uncertain, how can we eat, drink and be merry when those who live with us, work with us, walk with us and love us are unprepared for eternity?

If Jesus called his disciples to be fishers of men, who gave us the right to be satisfied with making fishing tackle or pointing the way to the fishing banks instead of going ourselves to cast out the net until it be filled?

If Jesus himself went seeking the lost, if Paul the Apostle was in agony because his kinsmen, according to the flesh, knew not Christ, why should we not consider it worthwhile to go out after the lost until they are found?

If I am to stand at the judgment seat of Christ to render an account for the deeds done in the Body, what shall I say to him if my children are missing, if my friends are not saved or if my employer or employee should miss the way because I have been faithless?

If I wish to be approved at the last, then let me remember that no intellectual superiority, no eloquence in preaching, no absorption in business, no shrinking temperament, no spirit of timidity can take the place of, or be an excuse for, my not making an honest, sincere, prayerful effort to win others to Christ.


J. Wilbur Chapman (1859-1918) was one of America’s outstanding evangelists. His ministry at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was interrupted by a revival campaign in Boston that led to an evangelistic ministry that took him around the world.

53.
How to Witness to Strangers by John Wright
Available on Youtube. Seen by over 3,700 Churches and House Groups

‘This is typical John Wright. He talks about what most of us are frightened of doing with humour and a fund of stories. These show how God can open up opportunities to speak for him in all sorts of situations. John has his own way of doing this, but there are simple principles here that all of us need to heed.’

Rt. Rev Gavin Reid    Former Director of Mission England

‘This DVD is full of helpful tips and advice and encouragement on speaking about Christ to those we meet who are strangers. I commend it to you.’

Canon Roger Simpson    Former Archbishop’s Evangelist

‘John Wright is an original and watching this DVD will make you feel uncomfortable. But I hope it will inspire you to see your responsibility in conveying and communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ to others, regardless of how inconvenient it may feel.’

Canon J. John

‘John Wright is an excellent communicator of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and has a humorous way of expressing his faith which is infectious. The Lord has gifted him as a prophetic evangelist and he sees amazing results. Watching this DVD will help all of us to get out of our comfort zones and share our faith whenever and wherever.’

Terry Baker    Former Senior Pastor, River of Life Church, Felixstowe.

‘Wow, what a challenge! Renewed Catholics will be mightily equipped and fired up by this humble but very persuasive message.’

David Payne    Director of Catholic Evangelisation Service.

This DVD gives practical teaching on how to share the joy of knowing God with those we meet - just like Jesus did! John's clearly explained experiences authenticate and bring vibrancy to the message he shares. I highly recommend it to motivate God's people.’

David Adams Former Pastor at Witard Road Baptist Church, Norwich.
FAITH BUILDING MINISTRIES
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Muslim terrorist, now a Christian, revealing the role of Islam in the Last Days.
The Almond Rod by John Wright. Prophetic pictures for Christians today.
Waiting for God A Precis by John Wright of Andrew Murray’s Masterpiece.
A Way beyond Death by Jemimah Wright. Brazilian missionary up the Amazon.
YOUR JOURNEY INTO LIFE

If this booklet has given you a desire to be found by God, to be given a purpose in life and peace of mind about the future, you may wish to say this prayer, preferably on your knees.

“Heavenly Father, you know I have sinned and am not worthy to be called your child. But I believe you are a God of mercy and that you sent your Son Jesus to die on the Cross for my sins.

So I turn to you, Lord Jesus, with great thankfulness. I surrender my life to you. Please forgive me for the past, please cleanse me from all my sins, and give me the Holy Spirit to live within me as my Teacher and my Friend.

I reject Satan and every evil Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ and declare the Word of God, ‘If the Son has set you free you are free indeed.’ I declare that Jesus has set me free today from all my sins, from every bondage of Satan. I have been born from on high, I am a child of God, I am a new creation, I have eternal life, in Jesus mighty name. Amen. Hallelujah!”

If you have prayed this prayer sincerely from your heart, it will become real when you tell someone you have become a real, born again, Christian. Please don’t delay. Then the joy will come!

It is also vital to go on an Alpha Course by calling: 0207 052 0200 alpha@slkt.org.uk This will help you grow up as a Christian and you will meet nice people.

You may like to follow me telling miracle stories on Instagram at: Walking_as_Jesus_walked

God bless you!

John Wright
‘Testimonies of God’s love and interaction with people are always a good read! We have seen many of the things described by John at Filling Station meetings over the years. I love what John has done here in this latest ‘Road’ book. The Spirit is on the move to bring many to new life and to know the Father!’

Rev. Richard Fothergill
*Founder and Director of the Filling Station network.*

‘This is John’s best ever collection of stories to encourage Christians to be enthusiastic! It is perfectly timed at a moment of world crisis which has arisen yet again as a result of our own lack of love for God and all that He has created. Now, more than ever, do we need to walk with Jesus, proclaiming in our own unique ways the joy of the Gospel of Eternal Life – wasting no opportunity!’

**Dr Robert Hardie FRCS and Secular Catholic Franciscan**

‘Where John Wright goes, the Spirit goes. Some of these Antioch stories are John’s, some the testimony of others; some are with 2020 vision, others are older. Yet each one speaks of the same God who since ancient times has manifested His Power through His People in extraordinary ways. John’s vignettes always make me ask myself “Are these miracles, or just the way The Lord works day by day, super-naturally, above the realms of nature?” Fasten your seat belt for a great ride.’

**Richard Meryon**
*Former Director of the Garden Tomb, Jerusalem.*
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