

3-in-1

The

Voice

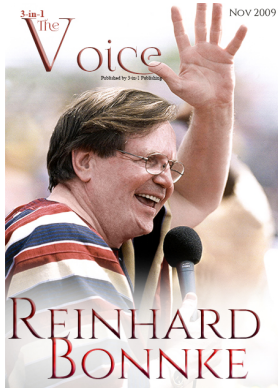
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REINHARD
BONNKE

3-in-1 THE Voice



ON THE COVER Reinhard Bonnke
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editor's letter



KARIN McBRIDE- CHENOWETH
Editor-in-Chief

WELCOME!

Hello again and welcome to our forth edition of 3-in-1 The Voice. In this edition we are delighted to publish a special 'In Focus' feature on International Evangelist **REINHARD BONNKE**. We examine this amazing ministry and Cfan (Christ for All Nations), which has reaped many souls for Christ in its 35 year history – 52 million to be exact, with signs and wonders following the preaching of the Word.

We are delighted to launch a new section called 'My Story' and this issue will highlight the testimony of Sylvia Reeve whose personal story of how God has touched her life will truly inspire you...Sylvia has also joined the team here as our latest regular contributor with her column called 'The Grapevine'...In December we will have two issues coming up including a Christmas Special – definitely not to be missed and there is something very special indeed to kick off the New Year – more later...

Brigid is back! She continues her journey to India this time to Khaligat where she and the other missionaries met and ministered to the ladies involved in the horrendous sex trade as well as visiting Mother Theresa's Home for the Destitute, both humbling but powerful experiences. Lianne continues her fascinating revelations about CS Lewis and Melanie continues with her series on The Gates of Jerusalem. Lorraine has provided us with a very humorous short story but with a great message.

We are delighted through 3-in-1 The Voice to be able to demonstrate the diversity of the different ways that God expresses Himself through the body of Christ with the different contributions to the the E-Zine. Thank you all for your kind words and encouragement and may...

'The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.'
Num 6:26

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Missionary News

Missionary Section



We are delighted welcome back Brigid Kerr, our new Missionary Editor

KALIGHAT

Part 1

The other ladies on Monique's heart are the ladies who work in the sex trade around Kalighat. Her ministry is to reach out to show these ladies how precious they are to God. Many of these ladies see this demeaning work as the only way they are able to get money or they have been sold into the sex trade at a young age to pimps who control and abuse them. Monique and her female colleagues visit the brothels on a daily basis to reach out and show these women the love they so deserve. God has also provided Stewart and Monique with a premises in which to set up a jewellery business. With this business they hope to give these ladies a chance to escape the sex industry and to build their self esteem.

The first time we visited this area of Kalighat was for a much needed prayer walk. Firstly, the whole team walked around the area by the Kali Temple while Stewart explained the meaning behind it. The goddess idol worshipped in this temple is Kali the goddess of death and destruction. Sacrifices of goats and sheep link to more knowledge about Kali, take place in this temple and at times in the past there have been reports of child sacrifices too.

This was very shocking and saddening to us and I thought "if only these people could know Jesus, who sacrificed Himself for them." During our time in Calcutta Hindus were celebrating the festival of Diwali. Everywhere we turned we saw stalls of idols and statues of Kali, being carried around. There was a sense of frenzied excitement but instead I felt a sense of dread.

We also visited Mother Theresa's home for the destitute and dying. It was a very humbling and emotional experience seeing people lying there sick and dying in beds, ministered to by the nuns and the same foreign volunteers. Seeing the look of desperation in their eyes as they watched us file past was heartbreaking. Once outside we were greeted again by the sights of people lying on rags outside the home waiting for the chance to get a place.

Quietly and deep in thought and prayer, we moved on to visit Monique's office of "At the Well Ministries" which was ironically nestled between the stalls of idols. Jesus showing



Mother Theresa who established the home for the Destitute & Dying in Kalighat, were Brigid visited.

a bright light amongst darkness through it we then visited the building set aside for the jewellery business. Stewart,

Andrew, Peter and John were tasked to do some work on this building whilst Monique took Eileen, Ingrid, Clare, Joanne and I to meet the

ladies she ministers to. As we walked around and met some of these ladies, we

felt the need to show them sisterly love and respect so we smiled, reached out shook hands and embraced if welcomed. Behind these masks of heavy make up, eyes betrayed their lack of hope and self-esteem. I walked around feeling a heavy weight on my chest, feeling the spiritual darkness. The Lord filled me up once again with compassion for these ladies, and a longing to show them how important they are to the Lord.

During our time with the ladies we were invited to lead a Bible study for them. Claire and Eileen choice the book of Ruth to demonstrate in love that like Ruth, they could be women faithful to God, and that God is faithful and has plans for them. Back in our room later that evening, Joanne and I started to discuss the next bible study. We had already planned to carry on with the study on Ruth, however, the Lord had different plans...

Standing in Prayer

For all the families who are suffering in the floods across England at this time - our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time...

If you are a missionary please forward to Brigid your story at: info@3in1publishing.co.uk

Part II Next issue...



The Feasts

Messianic Moment

Food for Thought

The Feasts of Israel – Part 1

Passover (Heb: *Pesach*)

The kiddush: "Blessed are you, O Lord our God, . . . who has created the fruit of the vine. . . . Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to enjoy this season."

The term 'feasts' in Hebrew literally means "appointed times." They were given to the Hebrew (Jewish) nation of Israel by God as a covenant and occur in the Jewish Calendar months. The first Feast we will look at is Passover... Most Christians know Jesus The Christ observed the Passover but how many of us really know the significance in this feast and how it relates to Christ. This is only a small part of something much bigger and the author hopes you will seek out more answers from further reading...

Firstly Passover observes the 'passing over' from bondage into deliverance by a 'deliverer' (Moses). The night God would send out His angel of death God told Moses His people would be spared if they followed certain instructions this, Moses did as recorded in Exodus 12:8. Firstly God required three symbolic foods to be eaten on Passover night: the lamb, matzah (unleavened bread), and bitter herbs (called "maror" in Hebrew). The sacrifice was to be a young lamb, depicting innocence. It was to be roasted with fire portraying the judgment that would befall on Egypt instead of on their own firstborn. Matzah was to be eaten symbolising the purity of the sacrifice since leavened bread, with its souring characteristic, was often a symbol of sin (I Corinthians 5:6-8). In addition, bitter herbs were to be eaten as a reminder of the suffering of the lamb, and wine symbolising the lamb's blood on the lintels of the doors so that the angel of death would pass over their doors and their first born would be spared. This indeed occurred in Egypt that first 'Passover' night every home without the blood of the lamb on the lintels, the firstborn was killed, including the Pharaoh's son. The people were freed!

Prior to his death Jesus instructed his disciples to set up the Passover feast. However, when it came to dividing the bread and drinking the wine Jesus signalled a new covenant between God and His people, the broken unleavened bread was to become Christ's broken body and the wine, instead of the lamb's blood was to be a symbol of Jesus' precious blood, therefore He Himself would become the sacrifice.

'And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me". Likewise He also took the cup after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you..." Luke 22: 19 & 20

Therefore there are only two items of the Jewish Passover carried forward to the new 'Passover' the bread and the wine. I believe that this is God's provision, that this New Covenant would not only be available and recognisable to Jew but available to the gentile.

"Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying "Drink from it, all of you." Matt 26:27

When writing this there is so much in this feast that is of spiritual significance to the believer in Jesus The Christ - the sinless pure lamb, sacrifice, judgement, passing over (escape) from death by the blood, deliverance from bondage into freedom...

Pause for Thought... Passover lambs were slain between noon and 3 p.m. on Nisan 14 (recall that there were three hours of darkness, from approximately noon to 3 p.m., when Jesus was on the cross [Mark 15:33]. When Jesus died, the temple curtain was torn in two, from top to bottom [Mark 15:38]—right when the last of the lambs would be on the altar in front of the sanctuary!



POET'S CORNER

By
Cameron McIntyre

Hi folks

What a great time it is coming up for Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus but it is also a great time for families to share their love for each other and for man to share his love for his brother . It is also a wonderful time for all you budding poets to write about stuff, from tinsel to turkey from snowmen to the three wise men! It is of course Christmastime, a time to reflect on the past year; a time to have fond memories of a loved one a time to visit that person who is lonely and all by themselves and a time to be charitable. It is also a time that I would write a lot of poetry about the dark cold nights of winter about the dazzling lights that seem to be so colourful to the eye and especially about all the characters that I meet sober or drunk. I do hope that you are sticking to your guns and jotting down little ideas as they come to you. You can always go back to your poem anytime and rearrange the words or add too this is a poem I wrote is in my latest poetry book

JESUS *Not just for Christmas*

A night of frost and starry skies
And somewhere out there a baby cries
The winter's sun just comes and dies
And then Christmas comes with lovely eyes

A time of love, a time of giving
When Jesus was born and living
In a stable for a King not really befitting
But in Heaven the bells are ringing

But on earth there's less fortunate to remember
So we ebb and flow away December
With fairy tree lights of white, blue and amber
A fire still burns low and leaves just ember

The chilling winds the snow makes us shiver
Of joy swell the smallest river
And the harmony that peace can deliver
Jesus not just Christmas but forever and ever...

IN FOCUS



IN FOCUS SPECIAL EDITION

Reinhard Bonnke
International Evangelist

Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke is principally known for his Great Gospel Crusades throughout the continent of Africa. The son of a pastor, Reinhard gave his life to the Lord at age nine, and heard the call to the African mission field before he was even a teenager.

INTRODUCTION

I have often pondered that after World War II and all the horrors that had been revealed going on in Germany during those years; that God would raise up a child of God with such an anointing and from the ashes of that very same country. This 'child' would indeed have a message for the world, however this time a very different one than the one before - the message would be one of salvation, hope and healing...

The statistics of people coming to the Lord through, firstly, the tent missions and then the famous Worldwide crusades are staggering to say the least and it is safe to determine therefore, that after 50 years of committed ministry Reinhard Bonnke has become one of the world's foremost evangelists.

I consider to have been very fortunate to have heard him expound the Word of God, first hand. It was in Belfast many years ago and the analogy he used that night was simple but powerful. The Blood of Jesus was like soap that would wash you clean from the top of your head to the soles of your feet both spiritually and physically – what a promise! I have never forgotten the anointing that fell that night in the arena, nor that particular concept. Indeed it really helped me as a believer to really understand what the power within the blood of Jesus was doing in my life and would continue to do on a daily basis. In turn I felt I had been pulled even further into the Kingdom, indeed many people that night in Belfast chose to come into the Kingdom for the very first time and were healed physically as well!

3-in-1 The Voice is delighted to be able to highlight the way God has developed the ministry of this man of God, who began as a missionary all those years ago, and who continues to be the voice crying in the wilderness - offering a new hope to many who have never heard the gospel before...



'Reaching the masses' - Crowds attending a Reinhard Bonnke service

EVANGELIST

Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke is principally known for his Great Gospel Crusades throughout the continent of Africa. The son of a pastor, Reinhard gave his life to the Lord at age nine, and heard the call to the African mission field before he was even a teenager. After attending Bible college in Wales, he became a pastor in Germany for seven years and then went on to start mission work in Africa. It was there, in the small mountain kingdom of Lesotho, that God placed upon his heart the vision of 'the continent of Africa, washed in the precious Blood of Jesus' – an entire continent, from Cape Town to Cairo and from Dakar to Djibouti that needed to be reached and to hear the proclamation of the signs-following Gospel.



He began holding meetings in a tent that accommodated just 800 people, but, as attendance steadily increased, larger and larger tents had to be purchased, until finally, in 1984, he commissioned the construction of the world's largest mobile structure – a tent capable of seating 34,000 people! Soon, attendance at his meetings even exceeded the capacity of this huge structure, and he began open-air Gospel Campaigns with an initial gathering of over 150,000 people! Since then, he has conducted city-wide meetings across the continent with as many as 1,600,000 people attending a single gathering using towering sound systems that can be heard for miles.

It has now been some thirty-five years since Reinhard Bonnke founded the international ministry of Christ for all Nations (CfaN), which currently has offices in the United States, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, Africa, Singapore, Australia, and Hong Kong. Since the start of the new millennium, through a host of major events in Africa and other parts of the world, the ministry has recorded some 52 million decisions for Jesus Christ.

As part of the discipleship-training program, 189.1 million copies of CfaN literature have been published in 103 languages and printed in 54 countries. Millions of books have been printed and freely 'seeded' in nations around the world. All this is in addition to the 'Reinhard Bonnke School of Fire,' an online, self-study course, aimed at inspiring others to Holy Spirit Evangelism and leading to either a certificate or university credits. Reinhard Bonnke is also recognized for hosting 'Fire Conferences' in many different countries of the world, events that are aimed at equipping church leaders and workers for evangelism; for distributing over 95,500,000 copies of *Minus to Plus*, a profound salvation message, to homes around the world; and for seeking every opportunity to reach and to save the lost.

More recently 'Bonnke', as he is known as in Africa, has spent several years developing the 'Full Flame Film Series,' a series of eight inspirational films aimed at inspiring and challenging the church to Holy Spirit Evangelism. He is known as one with a burning passion for the Gospel, a vision for Africa and a message for the world. Evangelist Bonnke is married to Anni, father to Kai-Uwe, Gabrielle, and Susie, and grandfather to eight grandchildren.

DANIEL KOLENDA



Co-Evangelist for Reinhard Bonnke - Daniel Kolenda

Daniel Kolenda is now part of the Christ for all Nations team, serving as Reinhard Bonnke's Co-Evangelist .

It was at one of Reinhard Bonnke's Great African Crusades, that Daniel first saw the massive crowds of people being saved, healed and filled with the Holy Spirit. And it was there that the Lord renewed the burden in him to take the Gospel to the nations.

In obedience to God's voice, Daniel launched out into full-time, evangelistic ministry through International Gospel crusades and conferences. . He preaches and ministers at his side at the Gospel Crusades and Fire Conferences around the world. Daniel's ministry is marked by a powerful evangelistic anointing, with miracles following the preaching of the Word.

Cfan and Reinhard Bonnke's ministry has diversified with time though the message is still the same of course. Utilising resources such as Facebook is one of them...I found the latest entry by Reinhard Bonnke in Facebook very interesting (Oct 09), especially in these days when every time we switch on the news we hear the term 'New World Order' when there is nothing but disorder in the world!

A NEW ENTRY IN FACEBOOK!

'The resurrection of Jesus Christ changed "old creatures" into new people, a new order! We hear about evolution and revolution, but Christianity is regeneration and resurrection. Christians say they are "a new creation". A higher order than the human biological is in existence: we are children of God, born from above. When God made Adam, He did not ask Adam's permission.

Nobody is asked if they want to be born. But it is up to us whether we want to belong to the new order. Now is the time to choose—to be "born again". John 1,12. The early Christians astonished the Roman world: It could not destroy them; it multiplied them. The Romans gloried in strength—The Christians gloried in their weakness. The Romans believed in hate and revenge—The Christians believed in love and forgiveness. The Romans believed in imperial authority—The Christians said: Jesus is Lord!

The Romans believed in the sword—The Christians said they would conquer the world with love. The Resurrection is a Now-Event: Resurrection is Jesus at work recreating human lives, making them clean, purposeful and happy. Agreed? Please tell me.' Reinhard Bonnke.

FINAL FOOTNOTE

It has long been debated by mankind, that to crave materialistic success and inanimate objects will satisfy the soul, however it would appear by these statistics and the expounding of the Word of God by Reinhard Bonnke and those like him, we can find that there is a sort of justice in the world going on, in that the people who have the least in this life are showing those who appear to have the most the way forward. And that the receiving of the gifts that are unseen are indeed the most beautiful - the most precious of all being eternal salvation...



Click on image above to find out more about Christ for All Nations



Click logo above to access more of Reinhard Bonnke's messages



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Introduction & Final Footnote - Karin McBride

Next time - Beverley Trotman - X Factor Finalist

HEROES

HEROES



"Surprised by Joy"
The Testimony of CS Lewis
By
Lianne Henderson

PART II

During World War I, Edward Moore was a fellow Irishman with whom Lewis served. The two young men made an agreement that if either of them did not come home, the other would support his family. Lewis was sent home with shrapnel wounds, however, Moore was killed and was survived by his mother Janie and sister Maureen.

True to his word, Lewis lived with Mrs Moore and supported her until her death. Over the years people mistook Lewis & Mrs Moore's relationship, he viewed her more as a maternal figure. His own mother had died while he was young and Mrs Moore was willing to be a surrogate mother, after all she had lost her son and Lewis his best friend. Albert his father disapproved of Lewis's relationship with her, and may also have been a little hurt by the implication that his parenting skills may not have been enough for Lewis. It is safe to say that Lewis, in his letters home was not entirely honest about things for example he persisted that he was a Christian when in fact he was not.



Lewis and the Moore's family stayed in a series of rented houses in Oxford while he attended university. Lewis was worried about money as he was receiving very little money from his own father. He was concerned that the lack of support meant his father would cut him off as their relationship was strained. Even though Lewis was poor Mrs Moore had a positive influence on Lewis, teaching him generosity and giving him a taste of normal family life.

After four years of study Lewis ended up with three first-class degrees from Oxford: Greek and Latin Literature, Classical Philosophy and English Language and Literature. His father sponsored him to continue his studies because it was difficult for classics students to find a job.

At Oxford the graduate Lewis met Owen Barfield, who formed a literary discussion group called The Inklings. The members, who included Lewis himself, J.R.R. Tolkien, Adam Fox, Hugo Dyson, Charles Williams and Lewis's brother Warren. Many of them were Christians; some were

atheists; some were followers of Anthroposophy (a philosophy that was quite popular at the time). The purpose of the group was to hear and criticise members' writings-in-progress. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings stories were first aired at Inklings meetings, as were some of Lewis's stories

RETURNED TO GOD

Inspired by his own readings, Lewis's personal philosophy had been slowly approaching theism (belief in a god) under another name: he came to believe in a universal spirit without yet calling it 'God'. He knew that his position was confused. In "Surprised by Joy" he likens the following process to being hunted down by God, or even being defeated by him in a game of chess.

"When we set out I did not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and when we reached the zoo I did." CS Lewis

Lewis had several Christian friends at Oxford, including Hugo Dyson and J.R.R. Tolkien, with whom he often argued and debated philosophy and religion. Weldon, known for his sarcasm thought that the evidence for Jesus' life and resurrection was remarkably good. This chance remark caused Lewis to rethink his status on Christian beliefs. Lewis read the Gospels and was struck by this thought - they did not sound like fiction. The writers seemed too unimaginative to have made the whole thing up; the Gospels read more like reports than stories. Albert Lewis died in 1929. His death caused Lewis to feel guilty about deceiving him that he was a Christian and he also believed he could feel his father's spirit even after his death. At this time Warren and Lewis were both thinking of converting to Christianity, although the idea of churchgoing was still unappealing to Lewis and he did not approve of many aspects of the Christian theology.

On September 19, 1931, Lewis, Dyson and Tolkien took a night-time stroll and began a conversation about myth. They walked and talked until morning. Tolkien convinced Lewis that myths were God's way of preparing the ground for the Christian story. The stories of resurrection throughout history were the forerunner to Jesus' true resurrection: Christianity was the completion of all the mythology before it. Dyson's contribution was to impress upon Lewis how Christianity worked for the believer, liberating them from their sins and helping them become better people. Lewis' remaining arguments against Christianity were being demolished, he had met his match!

The final stage in Lewis's conversion to Christianity took place three days later and was typically unconventional. He and Warren were travelling by motorcycle to Whipsnade zoo: "When we set out I did not believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and when we reached the zoo I did!"

Lewis realised that his old experiences of 'Joy' had been pointers, reminding him that he was made for another world: he now reinterpreted them as longings for heaven, for God. It was after his conversion that Lewis began writing his Christian apologetic books. Lewis wrote a book called "The Pilgrim's Regress" that told the story of his conversion in symbolic form.

BIBLE - QUOTES

'All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.' Isaiah 53:6

'How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?' Matthew 18:12

Lianne is Design Consultant for 3-in-1 Publishing and AKR Promotions Events - www.lchenderson.com



My Story

My Little Black Box or God?

Testimony of Sylvia Reeve

It was five and a half years ago that I heard the words, 'I'm sorry, but you have a progressive disease in your right lung.' I'd been in hospital for two weeks with severe pneumonia, and after a series of blood tests, scans, x-rays, and lung function investigations; the diagnosis was shattering news. I was immediately put on medication, which included steroids and an immuno-suppressant, which, I was told, would mean that I would have to have a blood test every four weeks, as these tablets can cause liver failure. Did I need this extra bombshell? Why was I being given a tablet that might help my lungs, but could possibly cause me to have a fatal liver problem? Apparently the first reason was the better option, as long as I was monitored. I couldn't explain why, but I completely trusted my consultant's advice, (I found out later he was a Christian) although for several months I lived in fear every time I waited for my blood test results.

Over a period of eighteen months following my diagnosis, (which I had been told I had been suffering from for at least a year before I had that bout of pneumonia,) I was frequently admitted to hospital with chest infections. In addition the strain on my heart caused me to have angina, resulting in yet more hospital admissions. I was provided with oxygen to use at home when I became short of breath. Further tests, revealed that the disease had spread into my other lung, and the stress on my heart meant that I needed a stent. Because my oxygen levels were so low during the night, and I was also suffering from sleep apnoea, my need for oxygen all night was essential. I was linked with a respiratory nurse, who gave me a small booklet providing information on my condition. Until that time, I had taken what had been thrown at me, with a mixture of anger, and - why now Lord, just when we have bought a new home to retire. And, of course, what have I done to deserve this? All negative feelings, even though I wanted to accept everything quite calmly. However, as I opened the book and read the introduction on the first page, my heart sank. It was written by the widow of someone who had, a year earlier, died of the same condition. For the first time I learned the prognosis for the condition I had. A fifty percent survival after the first five years; a maximum of ten years before the disease would finally become fatal.

I tried to remain positive; I told my consultant, I was not going to be one of those first fifty percent. But my condition worsened, my medication was stepped up, and I now needed oxygen for around twenty hours a day. This was proving to be rather more inconvenient as time went on, especially when we were planning holidays. I was now unable to fly, but that wasn't a major tragedy, there are other places we could go. In the UK, I was able to order oxygen tanks locally to where I was staying. But I was a bit disappointed when I learned it would cost me in the region of one thousand pounds, for oxygen to be supplied to me in Europe. Then I had some good news when my concentrator was being serviced. I asked the technician if there was a portable concentrator on the market. He gave me an address and

telephone number, and I immediately contacted the people who sold this wonderful machine. In short, although it cost over three thousand pounds, the benefits, and my quality of life, were priceless. Instead of having the inconvenience, and worry of ordering oxygen abroad, I can now go anywhere in the world with my little black box, spare battery, power and charging leads.

I am in my seventh year now of this disease, and for the last two years, my condition has been stable. I have holidayed in France several times, spent three weeks in the Caribbean last winter, and recently a week cruising in Norway. Something I could never have done without my little black box. I looked on it as my lifeline, until, during a Bible study, we were asked to write a short piece of prose, on the most important thing in our life.



...and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.' Ex 19:4

I didn't hesitate; it was obviously my little black box. But as I wrote, my heart thudded; how could I have got it so wrong? My pen flew across the page, as I wrote:-

'Little black box, you are with me everywhere I go; sometimes silent, but most of the time emitting a gentle hum, assuring me that you are there. Last night you screamed; telling me something was wrong. Your tentacle, long and supple like an umbilical chord, was trapped-cutting off to me every surge of life-giving breath. I released you; you resumed your gentle hum. When you scream because you are malfunctioning, or I am because I forget to breathe, I thank you for saving my life. Overall you are my Redeemer, and serve only to keep me alive with your power. But you are just a little black box; also needing power in order for you to come alive. Without you I would probably die; and yet there is One far more powerful, than you.

Without Him I could not live, and have eternal life. He is my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, son of the living God.

Sylvia Reeve lives and writes in Derbyshire, England and has just joined the team of 3-in-1 The Voice as a regular contributor - if you would like to contact Sylvia please do so at

info@3in1publishing.co.uk

SHORT STORY SECTION

Skinny Mirrors!



By Lorraine Wylie

It doesn't matter whether it's the old fashioned pounds and ounces or the modern equivalent of kilos and grams, the result is the same. Nothing fits! Where the extra flesh comes from I have no idea. It could, along with crow's feet and laughter lines, be part of the aging process. Or, it might simply be the Friday night take away and extra dollop of cream on the apple puffs. Anyway, whatever the reason, being overweight can damage more than your heart. It can play havoc with mental stability not to mention the eye sight.

Of course, most of us suffer a few extra bumps here and there with no problem whatsoever. After all, baggy t-shirts can cover a multitude. But, there's nothing like a special occasion to make the multitude quiver! For me it was an invitation to my nieces wedding and the realisation that I had absolutely nothing to wear. At least nothing that hadn't 'shrunk' with the passing of time. The subsequent shopping trip revealed how badly those extra pounds or kilos had affected my mental judgement as well as my vision.

As soon as I reached my favourite shop, I headed straight for the rack of size tens. When the skirt wouldn't go over my hips, it still didn't occur to me that it had anything to do with my shape. Instead I reasoned that the modern brand used less material and produced smaller sizes. When size twelve proved no better and size fourteen was just about okay, provided I didn't breathe all day, then I was forced to take a good look in the mirror. There was nothing else for it, I had to admit, the fish suppers and huge portions of fried rice had taken their toll.

Instead of searching for a healthy eating plan, I did what many women do; I began the hunt for the magic dress. That elusive outfit that will, no matter our shape, add height, reduce weight and knock years off.

It took three hours tramping Belfast's High Street, a blistered heel and a row with a bored husband before I gave up. Then, as we headed for the bus, I saw just the thing. In the window of a discreet but very expensive shop was the dress of my dreams. Common sense told me that the huge floral pattern would do nothing for my five foot frame. Yet, within a few minutes I was standing before a mirror that reflected a slightly taller, much slimmer and more elegant me! For a moment it was tempting to believe my eyes. But when my husband moved into my line of vision, I knew something was wrong. He is definitely not that skinny. Deflated but also inspired to lose weight, I put the dress back and headed for the bus, although we did stop off for a cup of tea and a fruit scone.

The above is nothing more than an amusing anecdote but it did remind me of the time when my spiritual condition was



both delusional and distorted. Somehow I had the impression that, in God's sight, I wasn't too bad. After all, I'd never done anything really terrible. My sins surely weren't that awful. Even if there were a few less than perfect bumps, they could easily be sorted with a couple of bible verses, a prayer and

maybe a visit to the local church. Like many today, I had my own version of a spiritual 'skinny mirror', yet no matter how many ways I justified and reasoned, I was still a sinner before God. The bible says that 'ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,' there was no way I could measure up to His standards.

But, once the Spirit of God revealed the truth, I began to understand my true position. No amount of religious camouflage would change the reality of my situation. I was lost. Even at my best, I was dressed in nothing but filthy rags. But thank God He had already provided my perfect attire. Neither are they made with the dross or fabric of this world. They were bought at a price, it took nothing less than the crimson blood of Christ to purchase and clothe me with garments that make even the purest snow pale in comparison.

Whatever my shortcomings in the natural form, my spiritual covering is both precious and perfect.

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The Gate

Melanie Henderson

3-in-1 Publishing welcomes regular columnist Melanie Henderson to The Voice. Melanie will explore the Holy Land in this series. She will explore the different biblical sites throughout Israel.



Click on image to see more detail



The New Gate

Here we have the New Gate. The New Gate is the newest gate in Jerusalem's Old City Walls. It was built in 1898 in order to provide direct access to the Christian Quarter for the visit of the German Emperor William II.

It is also called the Gate of Hamid after the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II. Sultan Abdul Hamid II was the 34th sultan of the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire also known the Turkish Empire, or Turkey. Hamid oversaw a period of decline in the power, and the extent of the Empire, which ruled from 31 August 1876 until he was removed from his position on 27 April 1909. Abdülhamid II was the last Ottoman Sultan to rule with absolute power, and he was succeeded by Mehmed V. Mehmed V was the 35th Ottoman Sultan.

The gate is located in the north-western part of the wall and it faces north. During the time of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, when Jordan captured East Jerusalem (which includes the Old City of Jerusalem), it was sealed off. It was then reopened again in 1967 after Israel's capture of East Jerusalem during the Six-Day War.

ATTRACTIONS

The Russian Trinity Cathedral, Jerusalem



The Holy Trinity Cathedral, Jerusalem

During the mid-19th century, the Russian Orthodox Church began to expand its influence in the Holy Land. This encouraged waves of pilgrims to make the journey to the holy places.

The Holy Trinity Cathedral sits in the Russian Compound, which is alongside buildings which were once used as a pilgrim's hostel (this also includes the present police station).



This spectacular Cathedral has recently been restored and it has beautiful golden doors of the iconostasis. The iconostasis is the partition, or screen, on which icons are placed, which separates the sanctuary from the main part of the church, from the stunning icons on the pillars, to the carpeted floor. A small gift stand offers posters, Russian rosaries and prayer books, and souvenir crosses with water from the Jordan River.

Next time The Damascus Gate...

The Grapevine



3-in-1 The Voice is delighted to welcome our very latest edition to the team – Sylvia Reeve.

A Christmas Anecdote – Part 1

By
Sylvia Reeve

Having just few days ago watched and shared in the very moving Armistice Day commemorations, it dawned on me that usually by this time each year we had received at least a couple of Christmas cards. These would have come by surface mail from Australia. But that will not be happening this year, because, *this year* - they will be coming by satellite! Some time ago, we made a conscious decision to reorganise our annual Christmas card ritual. Every year we would be writing the cards at the very last minute, hurriedly getting them in the post, only to gradually discover who we had missed out.

Well that is a thing of the past we are in the 'age of technology'; I am now officially *e-literate*. My youngest son asked hadn't I always been illiterate? (*Must remember to cross him off my Christmas list!*)

Several months ago I wrote to as many people on my list, - the e-way naturally where possible, advising them that we would not be sending cards through the post this year, and requested they do the same. Those I couldn't e-mail, I phoned; thankfully all my calls are free. Most people thought it was a good idea, but some asked what had made us come to this decision. I just replied that there were a number of reasons;

1. I was saving the environment. (Not bad that one)
2. I would have more time for other things, without all the stress of getting them in the post on time. (That sounded a bit weak)
3. In respect of the post, it costs more for one stump than 4 half a dozen cards. (Am I really that stingy?)
4. I will be giving all the money I would have spent - to charity. (Now that's more like it.)

I had a few practice runs, sending my grandchildren funny e-cards, which they thought was hilarious. Then I set to in my spare time designing personalised cards, which said what I wanted to say, hopefully portraying my feelings to each recipient. No more picking one ad hoc from the box, writing best wishes inside, and sticking a printed label on the envelope. All I need to do now is on the right date, as long as I remember, (*must put a reminder on my computer*) is press the send button and whoosh-lots of happy people I hope, will receive my Christmas message.

Having requested for cards not to be posted to us, here I was able to justify, saying that we would be away for most of December is until the beginning of January.

"But Christmas is a time of goodwill." I was reminded by one of my disgruntled, - well I won't say who, except to say she finds any changes in her routines difficult to cope with.

"But I *am* sending goodwill; it's just not coming through the post." I tried to make her understand.

"But why are you going away, Christmas is a time when you should be with your families?" Again I was challenged.

Smiling I couldn't resist saying that if she had four children, sixteen grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren as we had, wouldn't she go away? And in any case our families are fine with it. She tried desperately to redeem herself.

"That's as well may be, but Christmas is also a time of Fellowship, getting together and all that kind of stuff?" How could I tell her that it was *all that kind of stuff* that I didn't like? Rushing from one family to another, making sure we didn't leave anyone out; repeating the present opening, playing the party games and eating far too much.

"But we will have times of Fellowship; we will be sharing three weeks on board a cruise ship, and from previous experiences we will share, and celebrate Christian Fellowship with about 600 people on each Sunday we are at sea and especially on Christmas morning. They will be our family, we will share Fellowship with each other and I pray that by the time cruise ends, we will have swelled that number, by sharing and showing, our love of Jesus with people who don't know Him." This time her challenge was accompanied by a half smile.

To be continued...



The Word of God December

1st

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful

Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace [Is 9:6](#)

2nd She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. [Matt 1:21](#)

3rd And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth [Luke 1:14](#)

4th How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. [Ps31:19](#)

5th They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. [Ps145:7](#)

6th All kings shall pay Him homage, all nations shall serve Him. [Ps 72:11](#)

7th

"Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name. [Philippians 2:9](#)

8th

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [John 3:16](#)

9th

The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. [Exodus 15:2](#)

10th

He will guard the feet of his saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness. "It is not by strength that one prevails. [Samuel 2:9](#)

11th

It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. [2 Samuel 22:33](#)

12th

The LORD bless you and keep you [Numbers 6:24](#)

13th

But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief. [Job 16:5](#)

14th

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. [Thessalonians 5:11](#)

15th

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. [Hebrews 3:13](#)

16th

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. [Hebrews 10:25](#)

17th

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. [Psalm 5:11](#)

18th

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" [1 Chronicles 16:31](#)

19th

"but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming". [Psalm 37:13](#)

20th

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones" [Jude 1:14](#)

21st

You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. [James 5:8](#)

22nd

But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. [Psalm 3:3](#)

23rd

My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart. [Psalm 7:10](#)

24th

But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear Him, and his righteousness with their children's children [Psalm 103:17](#)

25th

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. [Proverbs 3:3](#)

26th

May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us. [1 Kings 8:57](#)

27th

Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. [Jeremiah 31:13](#)

28th

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. [Psalm 145:18](#)

29th

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. [Isaiah 55:6](#)

30th

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. [Philippians 4:5](#)

31st

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. [John 14:6](#)

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