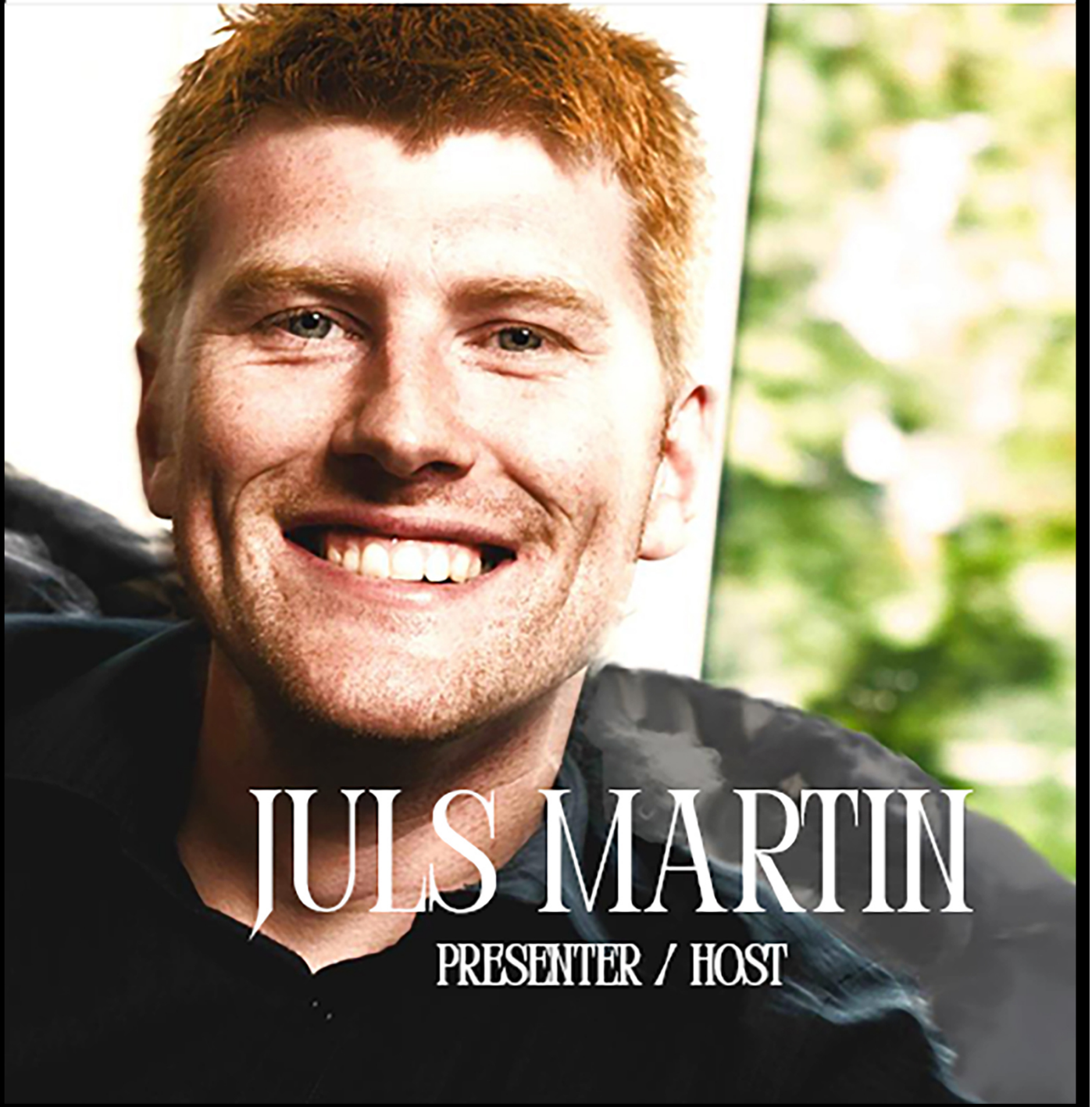




Issue 2

3-in-1 THE VOICE

FREE CHRISTIAN E-ZINE



JULS MARTIN

PRESENTER / HOST



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3-in-1 THE Voice

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editor's letter



KARIN McBRIDE-CHENOWETH

Editor-in-Chief

HELLO AGAIN!

Welcome to the second edition of 'The Voice' and the feedback is very encouraging. Already many thousands of you have been hitting the website and many of you have been downloading 3-in-1 The Voice at www.3in1publishing.co.uk. We are just delighted to be able to raise God's name and show the work he has done and is doing in people's lives. In this edition we are delighted to welcome back Lorraine Wylie as our new regular columnist. Lorraine has made a great impact on our readers and continues developing the short story section with some food for thought. 'In Focus' this edition features broadcaster JULES MARTIN U105 and UCB. Jules tells us what Christian Terrestrial radio means not only to him but to the listener.

Melanie is our regular 'time traveller' with her column 'The Gate' exploring the various biblical sites of the Holy Land. Her current series about the Gates of Jerusalem looks in this issue at The Zion Gate, and provides a roadmap into the city itself via the gates. The gates were the only access into the city of Jerusalem as it was heavily fortified against attack from various armies throughout history. As well as historical facts Melanie will highlight the biblical truth and stories within Scripture of these Holy sites. Ruth is taking a break this issue but will be back in one of the November issues for some exciting developing news about NIICCA.

Brigid our Missionary editor continues to take us on her journey to India and this issue she describes the shock of the poverty and living conditions that 'greeted' them on arrival and the contrast of the great move of God and presence of the Holy Spirit at the Church service in the evening. Cameron continues to give valuable tips on poetry writing...and another first we are delighted that he has also given permission to publish one of his poems in this issue! In the Heroes Section the topic is George Frederick Handel one of the greatest composers of all time and one of my personal favourites. 'Messiah' is one of his best known and best loved works of course, however there are some very interesting facts that Lianne has unearthed that you may not have known before about this great hero and this phenomenal work he composed...

Finally I have had the privilege to interview some very interesting people from various genres for our 'In Focus' section and who are household names, (you have probably read our breaking news section on the website). It is all very exciting, read how they have become such a blessing to the kingdom with their extraordinary, unique testimonies in 'In Focus' in forthcoming issues – join our mailing list today.

May God Bless all of you and remember what Jesus Said "Come to Me...and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

KARIN McBRIDE-CHENOWETH



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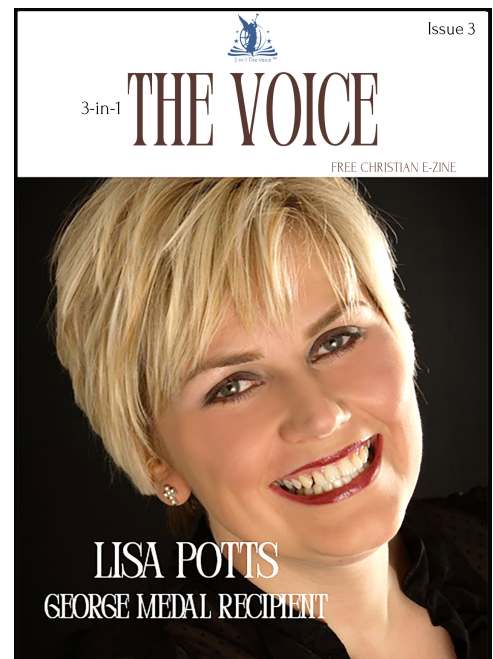
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Missionary News

Missionary Section



We are delighted welcome back Brigid Kerr, our new Missionary Editor. Brigid continues her story about her trip to India last year...

Part 2

"Oh give me a passion for souls"

After a nine hour flight, we arrived, early in the morning at Kolkata airport to be greeted by our missionary friends. I sensed the deep love they had for everyone and the passion they had for Kolkata even after a few minutes of meeting them. I am smiling now as I remember the sights, sounds and smells I was greeted with, as we made our way out of the airport. My heart leaped with a longing to get out into the streets. I am sure if you asked the rest of the team, they would tell you that I was actually very quiet when I first arrived. That did not mean I was unhappy, on the contrary, I just thanked God for bringing me to Kolkata and all I wanted was to soak everything in.

We travelled by taxi through the bustling lanes of traffic, noticing the sacred cows ambling amongst the cars and bikes and people. As we drew up by the side of the slums and piles of rubbish, I felt so sad. Suddenly, all my complaints in life seemed very insignificant and I was humbled. That first morning, we worshipped God at the Assembly of God Church. I saw the passion and love for God so clearly in our brothers and sisters in Kolkata as they worshipped Him. It was very humbling when one considers the persecution and hardship these people face daily and on a level I can't begin to comprehend and yet, their light for Christ shone so brightly.

I remember so clearly the first time we met the street children at the day centre at Howrah. Stewart and Monique operate a centre that the kids are able to visit every morning. They are helped by Unup, Anthony, Jamuna and Chandra and several others. Each of these faithful brothers and sisters have an amazing testimony and a very evident love for the children they minister to. Unup actually travels two hours every day from his home town to minister to these children and then two hours back again in the evening. Chandra and Jamuna both faithfully come down to the centre and give out maternal love and care to these children too. Anthony was once a street child himself. Like many of these children he grew up with violence in his life and a dependence on drugs/solvents. God delivered him from this life but he loves these kids and ministers to them down by the train tracks where they live.

It was heart breaking to discover that many of these children are too scared to sleep when they are down by the tracks due to fear of being drugged and abused by others. Many will resort to sniffing glue or solvents to block out hunger pangs and whatever inward fears they have. Sadly correction fluid is maybe a couple of rupees whereas a daily meal would be as much as twelve rupees; as the latter is unlikely for them to obtain, many of these kids will opt for the correction fluid or rags soaked with heavy duty glue. Thankfully, God has provided for these kids through Stewart and Monique's ministry.

On entering the Centre, they are given the chance to get at least one square meal a day and snacks too. My heart broke when I saw them sticking the left over loaves of bread they had been given up their shirts. Whilst we were there, we saw them make the most of the opportunity of having undivided attention and like any child would, asked us with actions, to butter the bread for them; it is an everyday simple task mothers often do, but many are without loving parents or if they have family, they do not have the food to provide.

Every morning we visited, I saw some of these kids lay down and sleep as it was the only place they felt safe. The others were hyper and excitable but in all of their eyes, I saw the longing for a demonstration of love. Monique told us when we first arrived that she had felt God say that it was important for us to "just be rather than do". Therefore, we just reached out in our individual ways, and tried our best to show all the love we could for the short space of time we had. I will never forget the day one of the boys crawled over to me and setting his head on my knee, curled up and rested against me. I sensed Jesus' loving presence in that room as he gave us the strength to minister to them in this way.

Although my heart was filled with compassion for these children, I found that I could not cry. This disturbed me for a good while because I felt that not to cry seemed wrong and cold. However, God showed me that we all deal with issues like this in different ways. The tears came a week or so after we left Kolkata strangely enough through a film. I was watching Stuart Little of all things, then it came to the bit in the film when Stuart has been adopted by his new family and is being tucked in to his new bed by a loving mother. Suddenly, I felt the pain these children must have when they miss not having this love in their life. Finally the tears flowed for a good few hours, but out of this sadness comes hope.



These children may not have loving earthly parents but they have a very loving Heavenly Father and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who is with them at all times...



The Menorah

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - THE MENORAH

Messianic Moment

Food for Thought

The Menorah

Menorah (Hebrew: מְנוּרָה), is a seven-branched candelabrum which has been a symbol of Judaism for almost 3000 years and is actually the emblem of Israel.

It was used in the Tabernacle and the ancient Holy Temple in Jerusalem, some say the lamps represent the days of creation, others that it was God's way of telling His people he wanted to communicate with them everyday not just Shabbat. Instructions for construction of the menorah can be found in Exodus 25:31-40.



It is important to note that the Menorah is considered a vessel like the other 'vessels' in the Tabernacle and this particular vessel gives light – I found it interesting whilst reading that the lampstand was to burn continually in the Tabernacle and give light continually and that it was fuelled by Olive Oil - the product of the pressed olive.

"Command the children of Israel that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually"
Leviticus 24:2

There is a lesson here as Jesus tells us in the New Testament

"Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house".
Matthew 5: 15

In the Torah God stated to Moses:-

"The Israelites shall make Me a Tabernacle in which I will live among them." In this tabernacle gifts were to be brought – purely voluntarily.

Question: Are the gifts of the Spirit in the New Testament the new way to fulfil this and communicate with God, as our bodies are the new temple for God? As it is written...

"However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands..." Acts 7:48



POET'S CORNER

By
Cameron McIntyre

3-in-1 Publishing welcome to 'The Voice' Mr Cameron McIntyre as our guest columnist. Cameron has had over the years used his gift of writing to help many charitable causes with over 6 books published, 2009 saw Cameron move genre and have his first ever short story published. Please find this week a poem of Cameron's from his book 'A Plumber's Calling'....more from Cameron next time

Thank You God

Thank you God for life
And the soul I was given
Thanks for your love
For everyday I'm living
Thank you God for feelings
And displaying a voice
Thanks for watching over
Yet having a choice

Thank you God for memories
Ample times that linger
Thanks for the tears in my eyes
For the sentimental singer
Thanks be for the music
Sounds that meditate
Thanks for each stimulating season
Were a mind can abandon fate

Thank you God for wisdom
As life journeys by
Thanks for the wandering weather
For the sea, the sun, the sky
Thanks to God I have a heart
That's righteous and merciful
Thanks to the word of God I believe
And please forgive me if I were a
handful

Cameron McIntyre

IN FOCUS



IN FOCUS

Juls Martin

Presenter / Host

Juls Martin hosts two Christian Radio shows one on U105 Sunday mornings and the other on UCB weeknights. We are delighted at 3-in-1 Publishing that Martin was able to take some time out of his busy schedule to answer some questions about why he feels that radio is such an important way to communicate the Word of God.

Q1 Hi Juls, what defines your shows on U105 and UCB?

Friendliness and interactivity... I think there's a lot of slick high-paced radio out there that sounds brilliant, but lacks warmth. Perhaps sometimes the presenters are very professional, but the listener doesn't feel a connection. There are loads of people who just want a bit of banter and fun and to feel that you can be easily reached and contactable directly. I'm 'normal', down to earth and easy-going and I think that comes across. I would listen to a radio station for the personality of the presenter and I think others look for that too.

Q2 As a presenter what is the most interesting interview you have conducted thus far and why?

Oh! It's really difficult to narrow it down to one! Everyone has an interesting story to tell and there are so many people who really surprise you, because the interview can take an unknown turn or twist and we end up talking about stuff that I didn't have on my notes and they probably didn't intend to talk about. I was told by one guest that I have a knack of putting people at their ease to the extent they forget they are on the radio and open up and chat too openly as if to a friend casually! I took that as a great compliment.

Queen of Celtic music, Moya Brennan opened up and talked very honestly about her past which I was very surprised at and impressed at her openness. I was expecting Michael W Smith to be a distant person who wouldn't be very chatty and found him very open and friendly and we got on really well. Likewise with Jaci Velasquez, Ginny Owens and Third Day too. Franklyn Graham I expected to be charismatic and bubbly and I found him very shy and retiring and not that chatty, so it's amazing how people can surprise you.

Q3 What is your favourite Christian music genre?

Well I like the more up-beat pop / dance styles myself, but in this game you have to play what the listener wants and not what you prefer, so there's very little I don't like. Thrash metal and country gospel would probably be my least favourite, but that's not to say I can't appreciate talent even in the areas that aren't to my taste.

Q4 What do you think is the most influential film of the last 20 years?

Well I went with the U105 Sunday Team to see Amazing Grace and felt it was really thought provoking, and challenging. I get tickets to all the premieres a couple of weeks before they open to the public so go to see loads of films, but love a good thriller with a strong plot line. I was praying about spiritual warfare and then saw Kung Fu Panda... (I know, you'll laugh at this!) I was wondering how God could ever use someone like me or how I could ever be an effective spiritual warrior. Kung Fu Panda is the story of the Dragon Warrior, a fierce character able to defeat all his foes... but then this over-weight clumsy, forgetful panda shows up as the

candidate! (Well I'm not overweight or a panda, but there are similarities!!) but it basically went on to show that anything is possible if you believe! That showed me a thing or two!

Q4 How important is it for you to connect to the listener and why?

VITAL! If you don't, you may as well go home and look for another job... Radio is a VERY powerful medium- more powerful I think than any other. You can build up what the listener feels is a personal one-to-one relationship in a way that just doesn't work with other forms. It's more instant and interactive too. With listener relationship building where people relate to you, over time you eventually build to a position of trust and you can say things and they will immediately believe what you say as being fact. That's a very sobering thought!

Radio is very flexible as well- you can be concentrating on something else with the radio on in the background yet it's company or at the other extreme, focus on it directly and depend on it as a friend.

Even if it's on in the background the message can be got across. They did research years ago into "backtracking" where in the 70's bands put hidden messages backwards into their songs. These weren't audible or understandable, but they were able to show that the message still came across subconsciously! So if someone in earshot of a radio listens while they are doing something else, even if they aren't aware of it, that message will still be got over subconsciously. Amazing! How powerful is that?!



"I think keeping it relevant and down-to-earth means that no matter who they are, they can listen and enjoy Christian Radio"

Q5 How important in your opinion, will the influence of UCB and Christian radio be in the future within our communities?

Not long ago I would have said minimal as Christian Radio is radio for Christians, preaching to the converted... This influenced my work significantly as I believed that the best mission-field is for Christians to be on secular radio, seed-sowing. I still believe this to be vital as it will reach those who would never consider listening to all that "good-living" stuff! However, since joining UCB at the start of 2009, I've discovered an amazing cross-section of people listening. I think keeping it relevant and down-to-earth means that no matter who they are, they can listen and enjoy Christian Radio. I did say before taking the UCB job that I didn't consider myself "holy" enough to work full-time in the Christian media and that I'd not feel confident "giving a wee word" or praying on-air. I then realised that this wasn't an essential part of it, but building a relationship with the listener was the key. So if Christian radio can be relevant and non-religious, tackling real-life issues and connecting with people in many walks of life, I think its influence can be huge! ☺

Juls is available for interviews, as M of C etc by contacting
[Agence Demilo](#)



HEROES

HEROES



'No one else could handle it!'

By
Lianne Henderson

"Whether I was in the body or out of my body when I wrote it I know not"
George Frederick Handel on his work 'Messiah'

George Friederich Handel was a great composer unlike anyone that the world had seen or heard. Just like many great people who achieve success he had great struggles throughout his musical career, but his career was soon to be resurrected through the greatest and most recognised musical masterpiece 'Messiah'. This is his story about how he brought scripture into the theatre.

George Friederich Handel was born in the 23 February 1685 at Halle Germany he was unlike his fellow countryman and contemporary Johann Sebastian Bach as he didn't grow up in a musical family. His father was a "Surgeon Barber" who wanted Handel to go into law, which Handel agreed upon. When Handel started to have an interest in music he persuaded his father to allow him to take lessons; it was there that Handel found his calling. Handel's gift in composition was discovered at the age of 12 where he was substituting for his organ teacher and wrote his first composition.

EARLY CAREER

When Handel was 17 he was appointed organist of the Calvinist Cathedral, but a year later he left for Hamburg Germany. After the death of his father Handel wanted to explore his musical talents further, he visited Italy as well and learned more about the world of opera and composing. Handel left Italy early in 1710 and went to Hanover, where he was appointed Kapellmeister (the leader or conductor of an orchestra or choir) to the elector.

However things would change as he impulsively once took an invitation to London, where his opera Rinaldo was produced early in 1711. While he was there he began to indulge in his passion for writing opera, his timing could not be any worse as opera and musicals were diminishing as an entertainment format in England. The audiences were getting smaller and smaller at the concert halls where his operas were being performed. Handel jokingly said to his worried friends that an empty venue has better acoustics.

Handel returned to Hanover after his first trip to London. The response that England had to his music made him determined to stay there to relight the passion of opera. He returned to London in autumn 1712. In 1718-19 a group of noblemen tried to put Italian opera in a more permanent place in London. They set up a company with royal patronage, "The Royal Academy of Music" and Handel was appointed musical director. Handel at that time went to Germany visiting Dresden and hiring several singers for the Academy, which opened in April 1720.

SETBACKS

Handel's career grew more and more, with compositions such as Radamisto Ottone, Tamerlano and Admeto. However his success was due to be short-lived, public support was variable and the financial basis for the Academy was insecure that in 1728 the venture collapsed. This was disappointing to Handel the previous year he had been appointed as composer to the Chapel Royal in 1723. He had composed four anthems for the coronation of George II and had taken British naturalization. Opera remained Handel's central interest and despite his setbacks he refused to get discouraged.

HANDEL ACCUSED

1732 Handel's friends performed Handel's next opera "Esther" at a London musical society. Handel had prepared to put it on at the King's Theatre, but the Bishop of London banned a stage version of a biblical work as it was considered blasphemous. At that time period the bible being interpreted in theatre or opera was considered blasphemous.

Handel then began to face rivalry from many composers who grew

"I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself."

George Fredrick Handel on "Messiah"

envious of his work he put on Acis in response to a rival venture. Meanwhile, a second opera company ('Opera of the Nobility', including Senesino) had been set up in competition with Handel's and the two competed for audiences over the next four seasons before both failed. During the rest of the 1730s Handel moved between Italian opera and the English forms. In 1739 devout Christians who disrupted Handel's performances tore down Handel's advertisements for 'Israel in Egypt'. Handel, a devout Lutheran, was outraged saying that he knew the Bible as well as any bishop. Financially, it did him little good he was being threatened with debtor's prison.

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH" COMES TO HIS RESCUE

In 1741 opera composer George Friederich Handel was now a failure his musical company went bankrupt; he suffered a mild stroke, insomnia, depression and had physical pain from rheumatism. Handel thought that his days of writing music were over. However his luck was about to change when his friend Charles Jennens brought him a biblical text that needed orchestration. The biblical text was about the life of Christ and the

work of redemption. Handel was inspired once again and saw this as a challenge to the deists. The man who Londoners now called "the German nincompoop" was about to produce the greatest work of his life and in the history of opera. Handel estimated that his new task "Messiah would take less than a year to complete.

A group of Dublin charities offered Handel a generous fee to compose a new work for benefit performances one cause was to free men from debtor's prison. Handel being threatened with debtor's prison a couple of years ago did not waste time when composing "Messiah". On August 22, 1741, he began composing Messiah with Charles Jennens who selected the texts. Messiah focused on the central beliefs of Christianity, from the Old Testament prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, the Nativity and crucifixion of Jesus, the Resurrection and Ascension. The piece was finished with the belief in final victory over sin, death and decay. Even though Messiah is said to be a Christmas composition it was originally associated with Easter. Handel completed 260 pages in less than a month. Many people call "Messiah" "The Messiah" however this is not the correct title.

Handel's first performance of Messiah was one of many charity concerts at Dublin that he was to perform in. Messiah was specifically written for the charity events. Dublin in the 18th Century was one of the important musical centres of Europe and performing there was a huge honour and a great way to get "Messiah" out. Once again controversy surrounded the performance of "Messiah". Church authorities disapproved of the opera Messiah and Handel ran into sea of Church protestors on his arrival to Dublin. Handel had planned to give his new oratorio "Messiah" its first performance at the New Musick Theatre in Fishamble Street. But the Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dr Jonathan Swift (author of Gulliver's Travels) initially came out against him.

On 13 April 1742 with 26 boys and five men from the cathedral choirs participating, debut "Messiah" with an over-capacity crowd of 700 people. Messiah was a great success, and the fact that it raised money for several charities (debtors' prison, a hospital, and so on) helped to bolster Handel's reputation in Ireland. "Messiah" raised enough money to release 142 men from debtor's prison. One reviewer called it "the most finished piece of music ever written". Handel remained in Ireland for eight or nine months, and that stay was a great help to him in building up his bank balance. He no longer was bankrupt when he came back to London

It took nearly a year for the oratorio to advertise "Messiah" as "A New Sacred Oratorio," in England. When Handel returned to London after success in Ireland the first London performance of Messiah took place at the Covent Garden Theatre (now the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden) on 23 March, 1743, in the presence of the King, George II. When the King heard the words, 'The kingdom of this world...' the King rose to his feet and remained standing until the end of the number. As a matter of protocol, no-one could remain seated while the King was standing, so the whole audience stood throughout. The tradition remains to this day of the audience standing for the 'Hallelujah' chorus.

When the great composer Joseph Haydn heard the 'Hallelujah' Chorus in Westminster Abbey, he also stood with the rest of the audience, exclaiming with tears in his eyes 'He is the master of us all!' Many other 'Hallelujah' Choruses were a normal feat in opera but Handel's outranked them all. Handel confided to a friend that

while writing it, he had a religious vision in which, he said, 'I did think I did see all Heaven before me - and the great God himself.'

Until his death in 1759, Handel conducted 30 performances of Messiah (none at Christmas time, for Handel considered it an Easter piece), only one of which was in a church. Messiah was dedicated from its first performance to charitable purposes, and

as stated by Handel in his will to an institution for the relief of poverty. All over the world it has given enjoyment, and been responsible for raising enormous sums of money for worthwhile causes, ever since.



Pictured – George Frederick Handel

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 10:32 *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven"*

Psalms 96:3 *"O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare His Glory among the heathen, his wonder among the people"*

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 ZION GATE

In the Previous issue, we looked at the Dung Gate. Next, in the map above, we will take a tour to discover the historical and magnificent Zion Gate and Mount Zion itself.

The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. **Psalm 87:2**



1540.

Suleiman the Magnificent was the tenth Sultan of the Ottoman Empire (the Turkish Empire.) and he was the longest reigning. Located in the south side of the Old City, which faces Mount Zion and Hebron, the Zion Gate leads to the Armenian and the Jewish Quarters.

Zion Gate is also known as **David's Gate** as King David's burial tomb is believed to be on Mount Zion. By 1948, during the Israeli War of Independence, the Palmach unsuccessfully battled for control of the Jewish Quarter at the entrance of the Zion Gate. This had left the stones surrounding the gate marked by weapons fire and bullet holes which you can still see today. The last British troops that were leaving Jerusalem on May 13, 1948 presented Mordechai Weingarten who was a Jewish Community leader in Jerusalem during the time of the British Mandate, with the key to the Gate.

Here we have the Zion Gate. The Zion Gate is one of the eight gates built into the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. This gate has a very sharp angle for the purpose of stopping any enemy attack on it, and it is built in a tilted way. It was built for Suleiman the Magnificent in

The gate, which had separated the old city of Jerusalem, was under the rule of Jordan and the Zion Mountain, or as we call it today Mount Zion which under the rule of Israel, remained officially closed until the year 1967. The gate was opened after the Six-Day War. To this very day, both pedestrians and vehicles still use the gate; although manoeuvring is difficult as it has an L-shaped passageway.

MOUNT ZION

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. **Psalm 125:1**

Mount Zion is a large hill in Jerusalem, Israel, which is just outside the walls of the Old City. The Jewish scriptures apply the term "Mount Zion" to the Temple Mount and the City of David. The term "Zion" refers to the entire city of Jerusalem and the Land of Israel.



Church of St. Peter the prison of Christ,
Peter denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed

The picture above shows where Jesus was held prisoner after Peter denied Him three times. The church is located on the eastern slopes of Mount Zion in Jerusalem. This church was built in 1931, for the Assumptionist Fathers to commemorate St. Peter's triple denial of Jesus "before the rooster crows" and his remorse. (Luke, 22:54-62, Matthew, 26:69-75, Mark, 14: 66-72). The church of St. Peter is thought to be located over the ruins of the palace of the high priest Caiaphas, where the incident took place.

Beneath the church is a series of chambers dating back from the Second Temple period (which is the 1st century AD). Some say that Jesus was imprisoned in one of the chambers. A Byzantine basilica dedicated to St. Peter was built here in the 5th century and it was later destroyed by the Moslem invaders. The Moslem invaders were believers or followers of Islam.

This was then rebuilt by the Crusaders, and they gave the name St. Peter's in Gallicantu ("Galli-cantu". In Latin this means, 'cock crow'). A golden rooster was placed over the church's roof in memory of the biblical story. The inside the church is colourfully decorated with mosaics to represent the Last Supper, Jesus' interrogation and some other New Testament scenes.

Next time Jaffa Gate...

SHORT STORY SECTION

The Best Gifts



By Loraine Wylie

As Christmas approaches, most of us spend our lunch hour trawling round the high street searching for the perfect present. For me, choosing something to give great Aunt Maud or ninety year old Uncle Charlie is a perennial problem. Apart from originality, it's hard in the current economic climate, to combine the originality factor with cost. But as I recently discovered, there are some things that money simply cannot buy.

According to an ancient proverb there are two gifts we must give our children. The first is roots and the second is wings. I had no problem with the former. But like, many mums, the latter proved both emotionally expensive as well as painful. No doubt women like Jocabeb, mother of Moses, also found it costly to part with her son long before their relationship had time to mature. Rebekkah, little more than a teenager, left her family home with the maternal plea to postpone the trip a little longer, ringing in her ears.

The day I met our future daughter in law, launched me on a roller coaster of emotion.

Maybe it was the diamond stud glinting at the side of her nose that ruffled my conservative feathers. It may have been the confidence of youth that she draped around her like a cloak. But if I'm honest, my feeling of dislike for the young woman with the blonde locks and glittering jewellery had a much deeper origin. Some primeval, matriarchal intuition warned me that this girl was about to change my life forever. She was taking something precious and as all mums know, a son is a very precious commodity!

Of course, I had always known that this day would come. But it had always seemed an eternity away. Even when the thought did arise, the daughter in law of my imagination was without substance. A shadowy figment with neither opinions or beliefs, or if she had, they concurred exactly with mine! Reality was very different. The woman my son chose for his

wife has the same independent, opinionated streak that I once valued so highly in myself.

While the bride and I struggled to construct a relationship, my uppermost emotion was an aching sense of loss. For weeks before the wedding I pored over old baby photographs looking for some sign that time was slipping away. I just couldn't make the connection between the child that laughed at the camera and the young man he'd become.

As the wedding day drew nearer, my depression deepened. I had reached the first major milestone in life. My role was changing and I didn't like the script. As for Christian virtues such as acceptance and unconditional love, I'd either been short-changed or lost my original quota.

The morning of the wedding dawned bright and crisp. Just like the day he'd been born, in fact it was November 16th, the day before his birthday. The church was a riot of colour with flowers at every pew. The sun streamed through the stained glass window; its brilliance casting a golden glow over the altar. It seemed that even nature was in celebratory mood. But not even the sun could compare with the ray of happiness that emanated from our son as he turned and saw the woman he loved enter the church. As the bag pipes wheezed then roared into life, the young piper proudly led the radiant bride to her groom. A new chapter in their lives was about to begin. It was then that my heart, not only began to melt, but reached out to share in his happiness. As they exchanged vows, my husband squeezed my hand. Wasn't this what it was all about? We had dug the roots deep; it was time to do what all parents must. Trust them to God and 'Let go'!

It's been three years since Chris and Jane's wedding day. The presents have been unwrapped, used and re-used. Their brand new house has been redecorated, twice! Things have been broken and replaced. The 'newness' has faded and the couple have imprinted their style and taste in every room. In fact their house has become their home.

Yet, there is nothing jaded about their smiles or the obvious contentment at being together.

As for the family as a whole, it is certainly different. The dynamics have changed irreversibly. My role has altered but no longer feels strange or uncomfortable. Loosening, for it is impossible to sever, the emotional cord has an unexpected bonus. It isn't only our children who benefit. We too can spread our wings and enjoy a new burst of freedom. Now, instead of diminishing, our family circle has widened to include a lovely daughter-in-law who brings so much joy to our home, not to mention the fact that she's a dab hand at Christmas pudding!

*

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The Word of God

Inspirational verses to meditate on...

NOVEMBER

1st

He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer; my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me Psalm 144:3

2nd

You will be protected from the lash of the tongue, and need not fear when destruction comes. Job 5:21

3rd

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah Psalm 24:7

4th

Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me. Psalm 40:11

5th

They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD Jeremiah 1:19

6th

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Rom 12:21

7th

"...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 1 John 5:4

8th

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 5:4

9th

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ^abecause you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1:2

10th

You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Revelation 2:3

11th

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance? 2 Thessalonians 1:4

12th

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Isaiah 12:2

13th

If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 2 Corinthians 1:6

14th

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, Eph 1:13

15th

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness" Exodus 34:6

16th

Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. Lamentations 3:32

17th

The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love Ps 147:11



18th

The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace Num 6:26

19th

The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace. Psalm 29:11

20th

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Isaiah 26:3

21st

But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief. Job 16:5

22nd

And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:7

23rd

Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

Psalm 9:10

24th

They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed. Psalm 22:5

25th

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; Proverbs 3:5

26th

The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, Nahum 1:7

27th

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. John 14:12-13

28th

And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling. 2 Corinthians 7:15

29th

This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 1 John 3:19-20

30th

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

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