

EVANGELISTS MAGAZINE

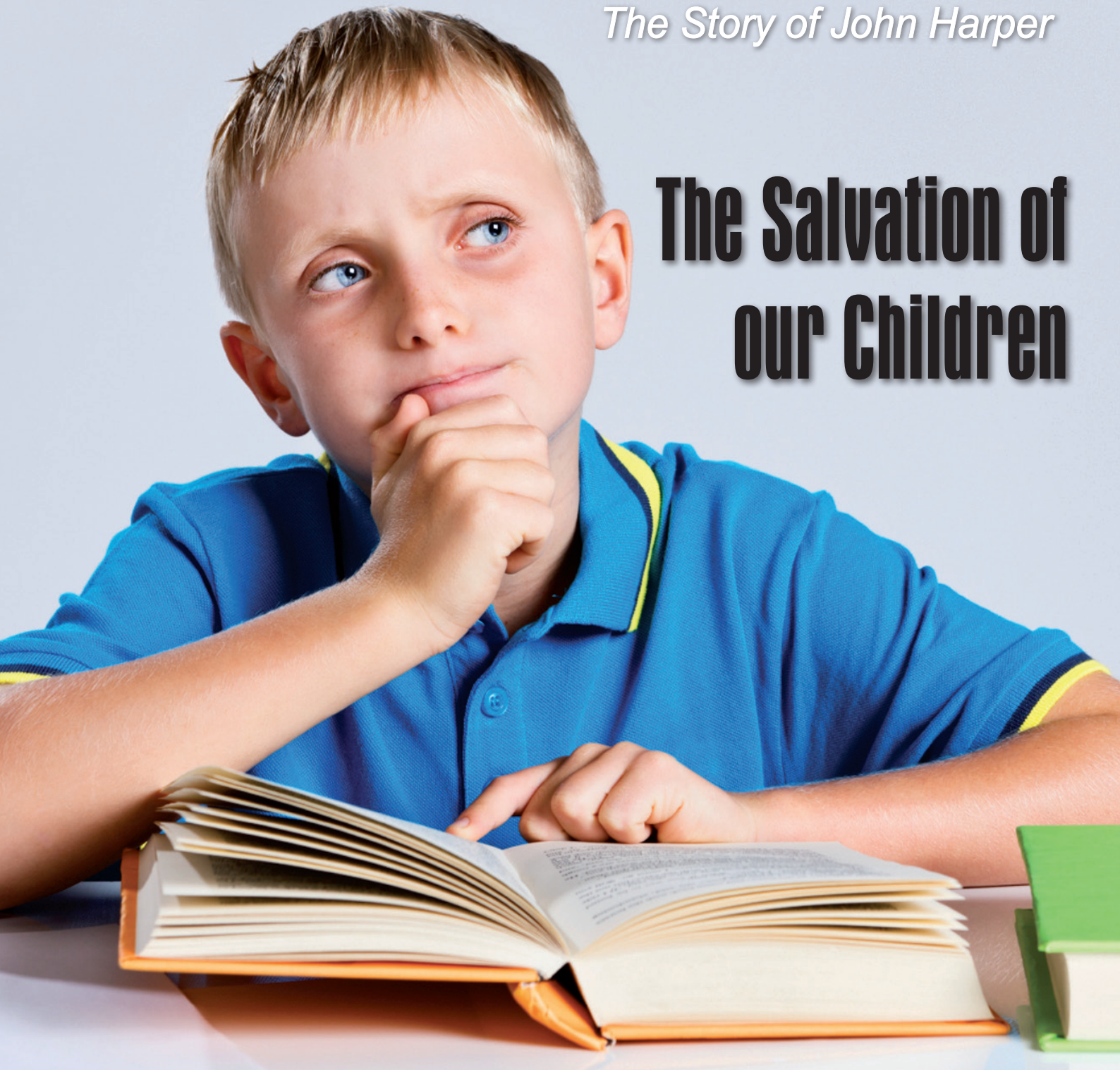
Issue 11 June - November 2012

What is the Gospel?

Titanic's Last Hero

The Story of John Harper

The Salvation of our Children



The Commission

THE EVANGELISTS MAGAZINE

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Issue 11 June - November 2012

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Soldiers of the Cross, founded by Tim
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evangelising the lost and seeing the
church become the mighty, mature and
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to be, in a war that has already been
won through Christ's atoning death and
resurrection.

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Soldiers of the Cross

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◆ Tim Knowing

*"For the preaching of the cross is to them
that perish foolishness. But unto us which
are saved it is the power of God."
1 Corinthians 1:18*

I recently saw a so-called humorous
card which had a picture of two Roman
Catholic nuns on the front with the cap-
tion "Jesus has forgiven your sins" written
on it. Curious as to what was on the inside
I opened it to find written "So you might as
well enjoy them (sins) anyway".

A newspaper writer in a "opinions" column
recently was taking the church to task on
being a moral voice on the subject of ho-
mosexual marriage, stating that we should
leave it to God to judge. Such people fail to
understand why we warn sinners. We warn
because we know "it is appointed unto men
once to die, but after this the judgment"
(Hebrews 9:27). Those who are still in their
sins on that day will be eternally damned.

Such is the ignorance of the world with
regard to sin and its consequences, of
the character of God and the duty of the
church. Unfortunately, we (the church) have
in some cases offered a message of ap-
peasement instead of the ultimatum that
we read in scripture (see Acts 17:30-31).

Charles H. Spurgeon in a lecture titled
"What is it to win a soul?" made no such
compromises. He stated the case clearly.
"The withholding of the doctrine of the
total depravity of man has wrought serious
mischief to many who have listened to a
certain kind of preaching. These people do
not get a true healing because they do not
know the disease under which they are suf-
fering; they are never truly clothed because
nothing is done towards stripping them.

"In many ministries, there is not
enough of probing the heart and
arousing the conscience by the
revelation of man's alienation
from God, and by the decla-
ration of the selfishness
and the wickedness of
such a state. Men
need to be told
that, except
divine
grace
shall

bring them out of their enmity to God, they
must eternally perish; and they must be
reminded of the sovereignty of God, that
He is not obliged to bring them out of this
state, that He would be right and just if He
left them in such a condition, that they have
no merit to plead before Him, and no claims
upon Him, and that if they are to be saved,
it must be by grace, and by grace alone. The
preacher's work is to throw sinners down
in utter helplessness, that they may be
compelled to look up to Him who alone can
help them".

Spurgeon wrote elsewhere "If sinners are
to be damned, at least let them leap to
hell over our bodies; and if they will perish,
let them perish with our arms about their
knees, imploring them to stay, and not
madly to destroy themselves. If hell must
be filled let it be filled in the teeth of our
exertions".

Over a hundred years ago there lived
another man who also held these strong
convictions. His name was John Harper, a
Baptist minister, who was a passenger on
the Titanic's ill-fated voyage in April 1912.
We thought it fitting, since this year was the
100th anniversary of that event, to share
the story of the man who was the true last
hero of the Titanic.

On page 10 we hope to help those who are
wanting to reach the lost by answering an
important question "What is the Gospel?"
In this issue we also have an article, "Per-
sonal Witnessing - How Jesus did it" which
we hope will give people a Biblical example
for sharing the gospel One on One.

We would also like to thank John Alley who
as a first time contributor brings light to our
readers and particularly those with young
family members on the subject of 'The
Salvation of our children'.

Just a note to our regular read-
ers. As Tim and Leah recently
welcomed the birth of their
third child, Sarah Joy,
this issue will cover six
months, instead of
the usual three.
Until then,
Blessings
to all.





Blessed by Magazine

Greetings in Jesus Name, thank you very much for the The Evangelists Magazine, really I was blessed with the magazine and really I felt very happy with your great effort for India.

Dear brother yes, I am doing wonderful gospel work in India, my strong desire and aim is Make disciples according in Matthew 28:19-20. Dear brother I am working for this, regularly I am conducting the pastors and leaders conference, I am conducting rural area crusades in my place.

K. Kumar
India

If you have been encouraged by this magazine, or have a testimony to share of how God is using you in His harvest field, please let us know, that others may also be encouraged.

Write or email us at the contact details on page 2.

Excellent 'Meat' to digest

We received your magazine just today – great in appearance and excellent 'meat' to read/digest.

C. Magarey
South Australia

Thanks for Magazine

Thanks for sending me THE EVANGELISTS Magazine!

H. Sikkema
Western Australia

Enjoying receiving the Magazine

Thanks for your magazine. Always enjoy receiving it.

We had someone contact us last week after reading it.

C. Sandford
One Million Tracts Australia
www.evangelism.com.au

Call to Prayer for Persecuted Christians everywhere

Recent persecution of Christians in African countries, such as Kenya, Nigeria and Egypt, should awaken the church to the very real battle we face both in the natural and in the spiritual.

Can we encourage you to remember to pray for two very important points:

1. Pray for those who are being persecuted
2. Pray for your own government, as you could be next

Encouragement from Kenya

Efforts are appreciated

Greetings from Kenya. I wish to inform you that we are so happy to receive the Evangelism Magazine that you send us and we appreciate your efforts. The Magazine is so inspiring and we thank God it is an encouragement to us here.

Pastor P. Masikana
Kenya

Magazine a blessing

Thank you for your magazine. I received it and is a blessing to me and others.

Pastor N. Munyao
Kenya

Life transformations to churches in Kenya

You've been always a blessing and a mentor to my life and the ministry God had put in me and God is using [you] through the biblical teachings I got from SOTC and SOBE to bring great impact and life transformation to many churches and ministries in Kenya.

The teachings are sound and very [a]live as [if] Christ himself was speaking to the church in this latter days. Last week we really had a fantastic time with a couple of pastors as we were watching the 180 movie through the internet, it was so real and almost brought us to the point of shading tears. God bless you so much Rev. Tim and Leah for the transformation you are bringing in the body of Christ through you[r] revelation and inspirations that comes by the help of the Holy spirit.

Pastor N. Onyango
Kenya

TITANIC'S



If you were given the choice to save yourself and see others perish, or to risk your own life, that others may be saved, which would you choose? What if you knew that some of those you would try to save didn't want to be saved. Would you still choose to risk your own life to try to save them anyway?

These are the questions that went through the mind of at least one man on the sinking ocean liner, RMS Titanic, that fateful morning in 1912. One man made the choice to risk it all. His name - John Harper. This is his story.

John Harper was born to a pair of solid Christian parents on May 29th, 1872. It was on the last Sunday of March 1886, when he was thirteen years old that he received Jesus as the Lord of his life. He never knew what it was to "sow his wild oats." He began to preach about four years later at the ripe old age of 18 years old by going down to the streets of his village and pouring out his soul in earnest entreaty for men to be reconciled to God.

As John Harper's life unfolded, one thing was apparent - he was consumed by the word of God. When asked by various ministers what his doctrine consisted of, he was known to reply 'The Word of God!' After five or six years of toiling on street corners preaching the gospel and working in the mill during the day, Harper was taken in by Rev. E. A. Carter of Baptist Pioneer Mission in London, England. This set Harper free to devote his whole time and energy to the work

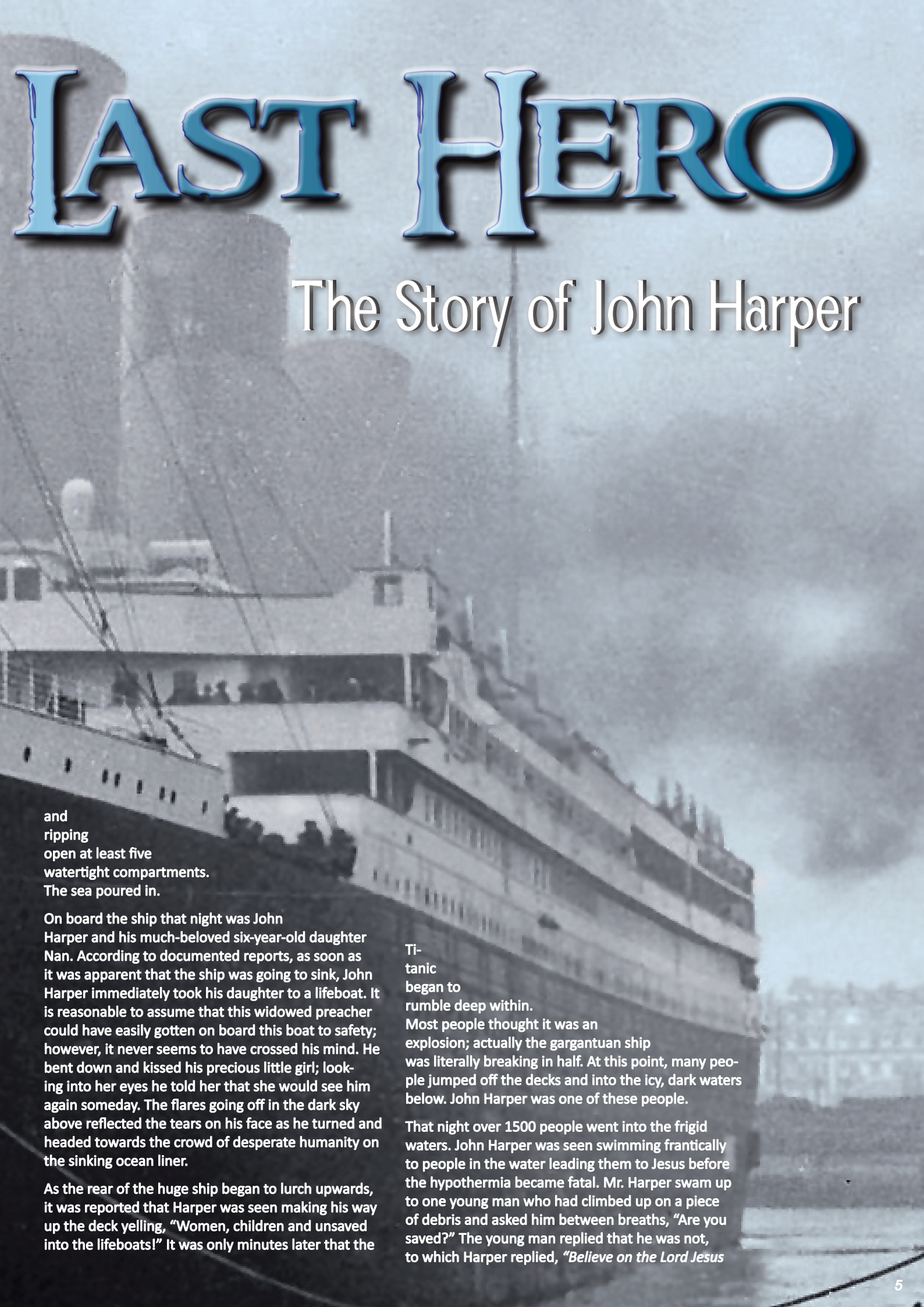
so dear to his heart. Soon, John Harper started his own church in September of 1896, (now known as the Harper Memorial Church). This church, which John Harper had started with just 25 members, had grown to over 500 members when he left 13 years later. During this time he had gotten married, but was shortly thereafter widowed. However brief the marriage, God did bless John Harper with a beautiful little girl named Annie (Nan).

Ironically, John Harper almost drowned several times during his life. When he was two and a half years of age, he almost drowned when he fell into a well but was resuscitated by his mother. At the age of twenty-six, he was swept out to sea by a reverse current and barely survived, and at thirty-two he faced death on a leaking ship in the Mediterranean. Perhaps, God used these experiences to prepare this servant for what he faced next.

It was the night of April 14, 1912. The RMS Titanic sailed swiftly on the bitterly cold ocean waters heading unknowingly into the pages of history. On board this luxurious ocean liner were many rich and famous people. At the time of the ship's launch, it was the world's largest man-made moveable object. At 11:40 p.m. on that fateful night, an iceberg scraped the ship's starboard side, showering the decks with ice

LAST HERO

The Story of John Harper



and
ripping
open at least five
watertight compartments.
The sea poured in.

On board the ship that night was John Harper and his much-beloved six-year-old daughter Nan. According to documented reports, as soon as it was apparent that the ship was going to sink, John Harper immediately took his daughter to a lifeboat. It is reasonable to assume that this widowed preacher could have easily gotten on board this boat to safety; however, it never seems to have crossed his mind. He bent down and kissed his precious little girl; looking into her eyes he told her that she would see him again someday. The flares going off in the dark sky above reflected the tears on his face as he turned and headed towards the crowd of desperate humanity on the sinking ocean liner.

As the rear of the huge ship began to lurch upwards, it was reported that Harper was seen making his way up the deck yelling, "Women, children and unsaved into the lifeboats!" It was only minutes later that the

Ti-
tanic
began to
rumble deep within.

Most people thought it was an explosion; actually the gargantuan ship was literally breaking in half. At this point, many people jumped off the decks and into the icy, dark waters below. John Harper was one of these people.

That night over 1500 people went into the frigid waters. John Harper was seen swimming frantically to people in the water leading them to Jesus before the hypothermia became fatal. Mr. Harper swam up to one young man who had climbed up on a piece of debris and asked him between breaths, "Are you saved?" The young man replied that he was not, to which Harper replied, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus*

Christ and thou shalt be saved". Later, the current brought Harper back to the young man where he once more asked him if he was saved, to which he again replied "No". Again, John Harper repeated the words of Acts 16:31, before succumbing to the icy waters below. That young man was indeed saved, in this life and for the life to come.

Of the over 1500 people that went into the water that night, very few were rescued by the lifeboats. One of them was

this young man on the debris. Four years later, at a survivors meeting, this young man stood up and in tears described what had happened and testified that he was John Harper's last convert. Mr. Harper's last convert was won by his last words, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"*.

When the Titanic began her voyage there were three classes of passengers: first, second, and third class. When she came to her abrupt end, there were only two

kinds: those who perished and those who survived. In God's Kingdom there are also only two kinds: we are either eternally saved or eternally lost.

While others selfishly tried to save their earthly lives, John Harper gave up his earthly life so that others could be saved for eternity. Truly Titanic's last hero!

Source:

- *The Titanic's Last Hero* by Moody Adams

- www.britannica.com/titanic

The Lesson of Titanic

◆ Leah Knowling

The true-life story of the sinking of the Titanic and John Harper's final 'labour of love' is a perfect analogy of the call and commission of every Christian to seek and save the lost.

Recently I saw a cartoon of the Titanic, which had a group of people in a lifeboat, with the Titanic sinking in the background. Surrounding the lifeboat were the arms of drowning people reaching out to be saved. However, in the lifeboat, everyone was sitting cosily doing nothing and one man says 'Hey, aren't we happy?'

While this cartoon is meant to be humorous, it carries a very sobering message; one which I hope will penetrate to the very depths of every Christian's heart. And the message is this: How could anyone be happy sitting in a lifeboat, while all around them people are drowning? It shows such a selfishness of heart that few would admit to. For a Christian, the analogy, I trust, is clear.

How can we, as Christians, be happy sitting in the lifeboat of church, week after week, joyfully singing songs that we are saved, when multitudes around us each day - family, friends, neighbours, work-mates and the strangers we see in our daily lives - will perish and go to Hell because we haven't told them the life-saving message of the Gospel?

Romans 10:14 says *"...How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear, without someone preaching to them?"*

Now, some do have a pang of conscience and pray for others to be saved, but very, very few actually reach out or even get out of the lifeboat to try to save those who are perishing. And yet, that is precisely what Christ commanded us to do. How can we call Him our Lord, and not do what He commands?

Charles Spurgeon put it this way, "Have you no wish for others to be saved, then you're not saved yourself. Be sure of that."

I believe most Christians are not so selfish and callous of heart, to not wish for others to be saved. I just think most Christians want someone else to do the work. After all, those who do attempt to be a witness for Christ risk persecution in the form of rejection, looking foolish, being labelled a 'radical' or 'Jesus freak', or even physical violence, possibly to the point of death. Unlike John Harper, most Christians simply don't want to put themselves at risk.

But at what cost - to both the Christian and the lost?? Jesus said *"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."* Matthew 16:25. The book of Ezekiel spells out the truth in Ezekiel 3:18-21, that if we don't warn the lost, and they die in their sin, God will hold us accountable for their blood. It is very sobering.

For the lost, it is even more tragic. Perhaps God has put you in a certain place, job or neighbourhood for such a time as this, to be His witness. If you do not tell them and at least give them the opportunity to see their sin and hear the message of God's grace towards them, they will perish and go to Hell.

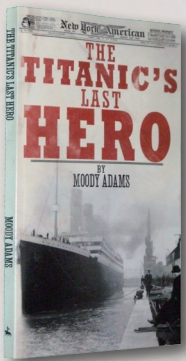
Don't be deceived. They can't save themselves. Sure, some might try to cling to some hope of self-righteousness and that God will overlook their sins, but this will not save them, anymore than those who tried to cling to broken bits of the Titanic could save themselves. If they remain there, the icy grave of sin and death will eventually overcome them.... unless, of course, someone comes to their rescue. But to do that, we have to either get out of the boat, or take the boat to them.

Out of over 1500 people who went into the water as the Titanic sank that night, only a handful were rescued. Thanks to John Harper, a number who did go to their watery graves at least died with the hope of eternal life.

If you had been on the Titanic that fateful night, what would you have done? Clamoured for a lifeboat and saved yourself, only to see others perish; **or** given your life, so that others might be eternally saved. What will you do about it today?



The Titanic's Last Hero



One hundred years ago, an unsinkable luxury liner sank on its maiden voyage. More than 1,500 men, women, and children tragically lost their lives after the RMS Titanic struck an iceberg on the night of April 14, 1912.

Shockingly, many who perished refused to board the lifeboats at first, believing the ship to be truly indestructible! From that dark disaster shines an inspirational love story - the true story of one man's great love for his Saviour and for humankind.

This is the story of John Harper, the Titanic's last hero, who set his only child in a lifeboat before setting his sights on the salvation of the lost souls around him. Relive John Harper's last hours as the ship took on water and passengers swarmed the decks. *'Let the women, children, and the unsaved into the lifeboats!'* was Harper's cry. Discover, through the testimonies of those who knew him, what inspired this man to go down with the ship and flounder in icy waters as he searched for doomed souls who needed his message of love and salvation. **The Titanic's Last Hero** presents a hero whose courageous story you will never forget.

Available at your local Christian bookstore.

THE WAY OF THE MASTER - SEASON 4

In Season Four of The Way of the Master TV program, join Ray Comfort and his faithful team as they travel across thirteen countries in just thirteen days, witnessing to individuals and preaching open-air to crowds in each country. You will be captivated as you see members of the team being held by Italian police, as they preach outside the famed Notre Dame in beautiful Paris, and as an angry and drunken crowd becomes unruly when they hear the gospel in Belgium.

Watch as the team witnesses to the lost at Germany's infamous Oktoberfest and in the bars of liberal Amsterdam. This unique and exciting adventure across the nations of Europe is hosted by Kirk Cameron. Episodes: London Brussels Luxembourg Amsterdam Paris Monaco Milan Zurich Munich. **Available from livingwaters.com, or in Australia, www.evangelism.com.au**



'180' Baby Gospel Tracts



These tracts are designed to be used in conjunction with the '180' Baby Replica (available at www.livingwaters.com). To start conversations with those considering abortion, show them the '180' Baby Replica, then leave them with a pro-life gospel message to save both lives and souls. To encourage people to accept a tract, the '180' Baby tract presents the facts of fetal

development from a secular source, which the lost may find more credible than a typical pro-life source.

The tract includes the gospel, a QR code to 180movie.com (so readers can immediately view it on their smart phones), and testimonies of pregnant women who changed their minds after viewing '180'.

Use the Code: **EVANGELIST** to receive a 10% discount on these tracts at www.evangelism.com.au.

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THE EVANGELIST
MAGAZINE
Issue 10 March - May 2012

It's Harvest Time

Personal Witnessing

How Jesus Did It

Ray Comfort



In John 4:7-26, the Bible gives us the Master's example of how to share the gospel. Notice that Jesus spoke to the woman at the well when she was alone. When witnessing, we will often find that people are more open and honest when they are alone. So, if possible, pick a person who is sitting by himself.

From these verses, we can see four clear principles to follow. I call this the RCCR method of evangelism, which consists of Relate, Create, Convict, and Reveal. Let's see how Jesus put these into practice.

Relate:

Jesus began by relating to her in the natural realm (v. 7). This woman was unregenerate, and the Bible tells us "the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:14). He therefore spoke of something she could relate to—water. Most of us can strike up a conversation with a stranger in the natural realm. It may be a friendly "How are you doing?" or a sincere "Good morning!" If the person responds with a sense of warmth, we may then ask, "Do you live around here?" and from there develop a conversation.

Create:

Jesus created an opportunity to talk about the spiritual realm (v. 10). He simply mentioned the things of God. This will take courage. We may say something like, "Did you go to church on Sunday?" or "Did you see that Christian TV program last week?" If the person responds positively, the question "Do you have a Christian background?" will probe his background. He may answer, "I went to church when I was a child, but I drifted away from it."

Another simple way to swing to the spiritual is to offer the person a gospel tract and ask, "Did you get one of these?" When he takes it, simply say, "It's a gospel tract. Do you come from a Christian background?"

Convict:

Jesus brought conviction using the Law of God (vv. 16-18). Jesus gently spoke to her conscience by alluding to the fact that she had transgressed the Seventh Commandment. He used the Law to bring "the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:19,20).

We can do the same by asking, "Do you think you have kept the Ten Commandments?"

Most people think they have, so quickly follow with, "Have you ever told a lie?" This is confrontational, but if it's asked in a spirit of love and gentleness, there won't be any offense. This is because the "*work of the Law [is] written in their hearts*" and their conscience will also bear witness (Romans 2:15).

Jesus confronted the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-21 with five of the Ten Commandments and there was no offense. Have confidence that the conscience will do its work and affirm the truth of each Commandment. Don't be afraid to gently ask, "Have you ever stolen something, even if it's small?"

Learn how to open up the spirituality of the Law and show how God considers lust to be the same as adultery (Matthew 5:27,28) and hatred the same as murder (1 John 3:15). Make sure you get an admission of guilt. Then ask the person, "If God judges you by the Ten Commandments on Judgment Day, do you think you will be innocent or guilty?" If he says he will be innocent, ask, "Why is that?" If he admits his guilt, ask, "Do you think you will go to heaven or hell?"

From there the conversation may go one of three ways:

1. He may confidently say, "I don't believe in hell." Gently respond, "That doesn't matter. You still have to face God on Judgment Day whether you believe in it or not. If I step onto the freeway when a massive truck is heading for me and I say, 'I don't believe in trucks', my lack of belief isn't going to change reality." Then tenderly tell him he has already admitted to you that he has lied, stolen, and committed adultery in his heart, and that God gave him a conscience so he would know right from wrong. His conscience and the conviction of the Holy Spirit will do the rest. That's why it is essential to draw out an admission of guilt before you mention Judgment Day or the existence of hell.
2. He may say that he's guilty, but that he will go to heaven. This is usually because he thinks that God is 'good', and that He will, therefore, overlook sin in his case. Point out that if a judge in a criminal case has a guilty murderer standing before him, the judge, if he is a good man, can't just let him go. He must ensure that the guilty man is punished. If God is good, He must (by nature) punish murder-

ers, rapists, thieves, liars, adulterers, fornicators, and those who have lived in rebellion to the inner light that God has given to every man.

3. He may admit that he is guilty and therefore going to hell. Ask him if that concerns him. Speak to him about how much he values his eyes and how much more he should value the salvation of his soul.

Reveal:

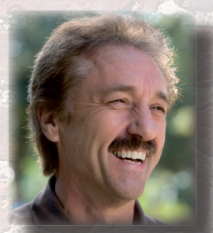
Jesus revealed Himself to her (v. 26). Once the Law has humbled the person, he is ready for grace. The Bible says that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). The gospel is for the humble. Only the sick need a physician, and only those who will admit that they have the disease of sin will truly embrace the cure of the gospel.

Learn how to present the work of the cross - that God sent His Son to suffer and die in our place, and that Jesus rose from the dead and defeated death. Take the person back to civil law and say, "It's as simple as this: We broke God's Law, and Jesus paid our fine. If you will repent and trust in the Savior, God will forgive your sins and dismiss your case."

Ask him if he understands what you have told him. If he is willing to confess and forsake his sins, and trust the Savior with his eternal salvation, have him pray and ask God to forgive him. Then pray for him. Get him a Bible. Instruct him to read it daily and obey what he reads, and encourage him to get into a Bible-believing, Christ-preaching church.

Taken from 'The School of Biblical Evangelism' Lesson No. 17 with permission. Available from www.biblicalevangelism.com

Ray Comfort is a New Zealand born Evangelist who along with his wife Sue lives in Southern California where they have three grown children.



A Christian since 1972, Ray founded the ministry of 'Living Waters' in 1974, which started by producing a free evangelistic newsletter and gospel tracts. The author of more than 60 books, he is perhaps best known for a message he started preaching 30 years ago called "Hell's Best Kept Secret".

In 1989 Ray was invited to base the ministry in the USA. Since then the ministry has grown to include the 'The School of Biblical Evangelism' which has over 11,000 students and 'The Way of the Master' television program. For more information about this ministry, go to www.livingwaters.com.

◆ Andrew Hsu

"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

John 3:16 has to be one of the most quoted verse in the Bible. It does appear to capture the essence of the Gospel quite well. It contains a positive message of love, forgiveness and self-sacrifice on the part of God. Who wouldn't like to know that God loves them and has nothing but divine well wishes towards them.

"The love-driven, sinner-centred message is not the Gospel message of the Bible"

You would think Jesus Himself intended for John 3:16 to be the catchy slogan and mission statement for His ministry. At least many Christians think so.

They see evangelism as the sharing of divine love, and their God-given mandate is to tell a world who are ignorant of God's affection towards them.

God is very much like the shy school boy who has his heart set on the prettiest girl in his class, and Christians are his best mates trying to help out a God who is so madly in love with the sinners. Well-intentioned Christians help Him write sonnets, draft love letters on His behalf and try to capture the wayward sinner's attention. Many desperately try to secretly meet her felt needs and give the credit to all powerful, all knowing God.

The ever more popular approach is to attempt to persuade the sinner how their lives will be much better and more

fulfilling than it is now if they decide to 'accept Jesus into their heart'. All the efforts and energy swells into a climatic proclamation designed to woo and swoon the love of God's life into submission and surrender. It's diced and sliced a thousand different ways, it's all called evangelism and it's all about love, sweet love. Surely nothing can be wrong about such a lovely, positive and uplifting message, can it?

Unfortunately it can, and the love driven, sinner-centred message is not the Gospel message of the Bible. Even our beloved verse of John 3:16 itself gives us a vital clue:

"...whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life..."

Have you considered this all important question: perish from what?

Never Read a Bible Verse

One of the worst things a Christian can do is to read a Bible Verse. When we single out a verse and take it out of context, well, let's just say that's one of the quickest way to 'step onto the slippery slope of false teaching' (Proverbs 14:12). So let us look at John 3:16 in context.

A Pharisee named Nicodemus came in the middle of the night looking for Jesus. The teacher of the law,

intrigued and impressed by the teaching of Christ, came seeking further enlightenment from whom he considered to be a prophet from God. Jesus instead of indulging in a theological discussion, turns the whole discussion into a witnessing encounter. Jesus first confounds Nicodemus by the straight forward declaration that the Kingdom of God only welcomes those who are "born again" (verse 3-8). Nicodemus, now both confused and intrigued by Jesus, pleads with him to explain "How can these things be?" (verse 9). And here is Jesus' answer:

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not



these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be re-proved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God” (verses 10-21).

In light of everything that Christ said, the message of love disappears into the back drop of a message of confrontational rebuke!. He points out Nicodemus’ ignorance.

rance of God’s word and his stubborn unbelief. While Christ said that He is not here to condemn the world, our Master lovingly and boldly proclaimed that the world is **ALREADY CONDEMNED**.

Furthermore the Saviour goes on to define the reason of the world’s condemnation: They are evildoers; they hate God, Who is the light of the world and they refuse to come to God for forgiveness. This is hardly a ‘God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life’ message. Christ, here in John chapter 3, and throughout the Gospel account, is more interested in pointing out to men and women what they are perishing from, rather than the Love of God.

All You Need is Love

The typical evangelical Gospel message makes very little sense to the unsaved. Without mentioning the reason why people are perishing, their love of evil, their outright hatred for God and their rejection of God’s mercy - in a word, sin - the sinner would have no motivation to abandon their sin and run towards the Saviour. Most of them don’t even know that they are in danger of God’s judgment. Perish from what? An unrepentant sinner will have to face God on Judgment Day and it will be the holy and righteous God who will punish all evildoers and cast them into an eternal hell. An unrepentant sinner will perish, ultimately, in the hands of an angry God.

By taking away the punch of the Gospel - sin, judgment and God’s Holiness - we are left with a squishy message that’s no different than any other self-help religion in the market place of ideas. In the Bible, God’s love always shines on the darkened backdrop of our sorry sinful state. When

Christ said *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”*

(John 15:13) and He did by laying down His life for us on the cross, it points to the fact

that we do need someone to take away our sins by dying on the cross.

So often we say to our unbelieving friends: ‘See, God loves you and died on the cross for you’ without the mention of sin, judgment and hell. Such rhetoric is not only trite and overdone, it makes absolutely no sense. Why should a sinner who is blind to his own sinfulness, and is thoroughly impressed and satisfied with his own goodness, need a saviour on the cross? He might need a life coach to whip some aspect

of his life into better shape. He might need a divine girlfriend in the sky who he can sing love songs to and feel some kind of transcendent feeling on a cosmic level. He might need a ‘god’ who is going to smile upon all his shortcomings and ‘mistakes’ and validate every ‘good deed’ he performs as he tries to climb the spiritual ladder. He might need all these things, but he doesn’t need a Saviour and he doesn’t need God.

“Christ... is more interested in pointing out what they are perishing from, rather than the love of God.”

A Gospel message presented without the preaching of sin, judgment and hell is either completely senseless to the unsaved or it can only be presented to fit into the pragmatic mind-set of the ungodly. It falls way short of the glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ prescribed in the Bible.

When Hell Freezes Over

Let’s also make it abundantly clear, neither is the so-called ‘Hellfire and Brimstone’ preaching the Biblical message of the Gospel. Some preachers make it their duty to focus on Hell in hope that it will instil the fear of the Lord into their audi-

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PART 1

ences. Often reaching way beyond what the sensibility of the Biblical revelation allows, these preachers focus on Hell, sometimes in vivid descriptions the scriptures do not supply, trying to shock the people into submission.

While this kind of preacher is very rare these days, the stereotypes of such preaching are very much alive and well. Almost always when you suggest that we must mention sin, judgment and hell in evangelism, the rigid, angry, legalistic and foaming at the mouth hellfire and brimstone preachers comes to mind. That is not the kind of evangelism the Bible describes.

“The Biblical Gospel starts with the law of God”

First of all, very few of us have seen or heard true hellfire and brimstone preaching. Secondly,

Much of what we think is hellfire preaching, such as the preaching of Jonathan Edwards, is not hellfire preaching. Hellfire preaching makes the same mistake as the love-centred gospel. As mentioned before, the love-centred gospel is so lopsided that God's love no longer makes sense.

Hellfire preaching focuses so much on the judgment of God without giving a reasonable explanation of our offence, that the listener is crushed under the weight of a tyrannical God who is vengeful and hate-filled. The love-centred gospel produces spiritual brats who think God would attend to their every whim; hellfire preaching produces abused children who suffer under the reign of a tyrannical cosmic being. Neither is Biblical.

The Biblical Gospel starts with the Law of God.

First Things First

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.” -Psalm 19:7

Chances are, we all spend a fair amount of time in front of a mirror every morning. It has nothing to do with vanity, at least for some of us. We get our hair into shape, we wash our faces, for the guys, we shave and for the ladies, there is the face painting, I mean make up. All this would go on until we deem ourselves presentable to the waking world. We need that mirror - for without it we wouldn't know if we washed all the soap off our face, or if our shirt is out of place.

Here is the question, how do we know if we are presentable in the sight of God? It's for this purpose, God has given us His perfect Law so that when we measure ourselves against it, we might be able to see how much we fall short of His standard.

The sinful human tendency is to measure ourselves against other human beings, and in that state we would never see the need for Christ. After all, I may not be perfect, but I am much better than ... 'fill in the blank'. We boast about our self-righteousness as if our good deeds can please God. This is the deadening effect of our sin. We are like drowning men in an open sea who, instead of admitting our weakness and cry out for help, we brag to one another about how much better we stay afloat than the next guy.

In his mercy God gave us His Law, and the point of the law is not to keep it to please God - no sinner is capable of NOT breaking His Law. Instead it's meant to reflect back to us our sinful state, much like mirror that reflects our 'bed' hair, so that we will admit that we are drowning in a sea of His holy wrath and cry out for mercy.

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” - Galatians 3:24

The Ten Commandments is not just some rules for a group of people far away, long ago. The moral absolutes revealed in the Commandments transcends all cultures and ages. No one stands righteous in the sight of God and the verdict is already given, when we match our deeds and thoughts against His holy Law.

A sinner must be confronted with his or her wretchedness in the light of the commandments so that they can see just how far they fall short of the glory of God. The Law is not done away in the New Testament age as some Christians would suggest. Christ Himself declared that *“it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail”* (Luke 16:17). The Law of God is an integral part of the Christian message.

“Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.” - Romans 3:21

Read part 2 of this article next issue.



Andrew Hsu is a founding member of Operation 513, a Christian ministry dedicated to street preaching and personal evangelism. Andrew served as co-leader of the Brisbane team for three years

and he is serving on the Operation 513 board currently, taking a less active role on the street due to family commitments.

Andrew is blessed with a lovely wife, Desma, and a young energetic two year old boy, Justin, with another baby scheduled to arrive in September. The Hsu family have made Grace Bible Church in Holland Park, Queensland, their spiritual home since 2010.

Calling all Christians in Australia

Do you live in Australia and have a passion to see Jesus Christ glorified through evangelism?


If so, then the evangelism ministry, Operation 513, wants to hear from you! They are currently planning on establishing some regular Operation 513 evangelism teams in various parts of Australia. They also have contact with other evangelism teams and are looking for like-minded Christians who would like to regularly go out proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you are interested, please contact the team at www.operation513.com. Together we can reach this nation for Jesus Christ!



The Salvation of our Children

John Alley



Many Christian parents seem to have an insufficient understanding about how to raise their children for Christ. It greatly concerns me that there are so many parents who love Christ – many of these seem spiritually discerning, they come to prayer meetings, pray for the lost, give generously to missions and the church, often desire revival, and will even bring prophetic words and insights about many things – but do not seem to know how to teach, train, correct, discipline and raise their children as Christians.

Their children come with them to church, just tagging along it seems, and apparently it is left to chance as to whether they turn out well for Christ or not. It seems to be taken for granted that because their parents are Christians, the children will become Christians. And it also seems to be believed that because the parents take them to church, and perhaps send them to Sunday school and youth, that they are therefore growing up in the faith, that they believe, and that they will remain Christians; or at least the parents hope so.

But actually, many of these children are not born-again. And may never be, the way their parents are failing to direct them.

The problem is that many believers do not create a Christian culture in their own homes. Many don't seem to understand that they are responsible to personally guide their children to Christ, and required to teach them the importance of things like faith for salvation, baptism, communion, Bible reading, prayer, worship and giving. And that as parents responsible for raising their children in the faith, they need to be pro-actively committed to the great task of love and prayer needed in this endeavour to see that they become spiritually mature, yielded to Christ, humble and submitted; and passionate for God, salvation, the church, the lost, missions, and giving.

In fact, there is only one person who can adequately and properly disciple a child into Christian maturity, and that is his or her parent. A father in particular has great power in this regard.

Unless fathers and mothers take seriously, on a daily basis, the discipling of their children, a large percentage of them will never walk in the faith, let alone understand the faith. And unless the parents display a great heart toward Christ, and the truth, and the church, a majority of their children, even the believing ones, will never have this great heart.

On Sundays, children growing up should be with their parents in church, not off in some crèche or Sunday school or youth activity which is just as detrimental to Christian discipleship. Those

children and youth should be with their parents, because they need to see their parents, especially their father, worshipping God, giving rapt attention to the word of God, praying and worshipping and receiving communion and honouring the Lord in every way, including the giving of tithes and offerings, and responding to the moving of the Holy Spirit. And the children must see the other adults doing this also.

And of course, in the meeting they will also have the discipline and correction of their parents, and not be a disruption-

tive menace in some Sunday school, as often some of them are.

I can further discuss what I've said here about children needing to be with their parents instead of in, say, a Children's Class, on another occasion. But note, the issue here is that the parents, in particular their father, must take personal responsibility for the discipleship of sons and daughters. They cannot expect the youth leaders, or a Sunday School teacher, or the pastor, or the church as a whole, to do this job for them. At best these great Christian workers can only do a piecemeal and occasional work. It is the parents who have the daily, constant, and burdened work to do.

By 'burdened' work, I mean that parents more than anyone else should have, must have, the burden of the Lord for their children. Otherwise, they do not believe their own faith -- no fear of the Lord, no hatred of sin, no inner warning about hell and its eternal consequences for their children, no passionate desire that their children must be saved, and need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and must serve Christ, at all costs.

No one but parents can carry this burden. Discipleship is of the home. The word of God has said: "Fathers...bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4 NIV).

Some Christians seem to be so foolish that they can just ignore the spiritual state of their children. Yet the truth is they are often blind to it -- and often so busy with their own struggles and needs, and the busyness of life, and tired at the end of the day, and distracted, that they blindly let time go by

“Parents, more than anyone else must have the burden of the Lord for their Children.”

until, before they know it, the children have grown older and it is far too late to discipline them in the ways of the Lord. Now they can only hope and pray that the Holy Spirit will work a miracle in place of the training the parent should have given.

Then of course, there is also a spiritual opposition to all this. Just as there is a spiritual resistance to every prayer meeting, perhaps more than to anything else the church does, there is also a spiritual opposition to Christian life in the home. It comes in the form of lethargy and tiredness, often a “can’t be bothered” feeling, which produces a neglect of spiritual things all through the week in the minds and homes of the average Christian.

But if you hear this call, please wake up! Attend to the salvation of your children. Take personal responsibility for the spiritual state of your home, and by the outward work of teaching and setting an example for your children, and by the inner work of deep heartfelt prayer and intercession for your children -- see to it that they are really the Lord’s.

And don’t give them a choice about whether they go to church or not, about whether they worship, or give, or pray, or learn to love other people, or obey the Lord Jesus. Don’t be so deceived! You don’t give them a choice about whether they go to school and get an education. You don’t give them a choice about whether they wash themselves so as to be clean, or about whether they dress. You don’t give them a choice about whether they eat. Neither would you give them a choice about whether they lie, or steal, or swear, or be violent. No, you are very quick to address them in matters over which you have real concern – therefore, have some deeper concern about their attitude to and their participation in what is called ‘the means of grace’.

Now the means of grace, in this broader sense, are many things. Scripture reading, prayer, baptism, the table of the Lord, Christian fellowship, public worship

– and the giving of money, acts of Christian service, participation in prayer meetings and in mission. As a real Christian, you should regard all of these as the most important things in life, and thus your children should see clearly your love of Christ and of other believers, and as a result be led by you strongly, confidently, and boldly into being devoted to these things too.

No more, then, this foolish hit and miss approach to Christian discipleship. No more this being in church as a family only on those Sundays that are convenient, but not on others. No more this variety in choice of activity on Sunday morning, like going to the beach, or picnicking, or horse riding, or visiting

“*No more...
this foolish
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discipleship.*”

relatives and friends, all of which takes the place of meeting with the church whenever you so desire. Cast away such carelessness and foolishness. No more convenience-Christianity. Do these leisure things at other times, so as to devote yourself to the cause of Christ. And the first act of this devotion is to bring your children to the Lord Jesus and the service of Christ in the church.

If you put various casual things before church life, the sacraments, and the other ‘means of grace’ on some occasions, treating them on an ad-hoc basis and quoting your so-called freedom, then your children will put all these things before the means of grace on all occasions. If you give your children a choice about whether or not they participate in the life of the church, the day will come when they will never again be part of

the church. Parents like this may feel they love the Lord, but they need to love Christ and their children truly by giving a proper and first place in their busy lives for the training of their children. They need to acquire the wisdom of Christ.

And what are you to do if all goes wrong, and your children are still not in the faith, or have become disobedient and hardened in sin? What happens if it’s too late, and you’ve lost your opportunity now that your children are older and independent or rebellious? Or perhaps your children are just nice people but spiritually dull and dead and unreachable? This will require desperate measures. In Prayer. And fortunately, we have prayer, faith, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit to help us. Very powerful help, too, when we are willing to seek God with a whole heart.

John Alley is the Senior Minister of Peace Australia, a group of apostolic ministries including missions, churches and schools, both Australian and international. He is based at Peace Apostolic Community in Rockhampton, Qld, and travels and ministers throughout the world.



John is a fatherly man who carries genuine spiritual authority with peace and gentleness. With over 40 years of ministry experience, John has a God-given ability to explain things clearly that brings understanding of the scriptures and spiritual truth within reach.

John is the author of three books and has been married to his wife, Hazel for 41 years. Together, they have 8 children, all of whom are with them in the ministry.

‘Peace’ has been the home church of Leah Knowling (co-founder, with her husband, Tim, of this magazine) since 1993 and is still where the Knowling family fellowship when in Rockhampton.

In issue 6, we caught up with Richard Gibson who, as a representative of Everyman's Welfare Service, has been ministering to our Defence Force personnel. Just to recap for our newer readers - 'Everyman's' is a philanthropic ministry that has been working alongside the Australian military since the 1930s, providing both physical and spiritual support for those in the services.



Richard, who was previously based in Ipswich (south-eastern Queensland), was serving with Everyman's at the Amberley Air Force base. However an opportunity arose for him to be able to minister to the Australian Army personnel who pass through the Canungra Military Training Area, so he is now stationed at Kokoda Barracks in the Gold Coast hinterland.

We recently were able to meet up with Richard, as well as John Turner (who is based in Ipswich), as they have been ministering to the troops who are on exercise at the Shoalwater Bay military training area in Central Queensland.

Richard and John said the troops are always happy to see the Everyman's brew truck at the end of their training exercises. As they serve the troops refreshments, they also have opportunity to hand out gospel literature such as tracts and DVDs, etc. The Lord has also provided them with a number of opportunities to speak with the soldiers on a personal basis.

Richard related to us an instance recently when during a 'Brew Break', a few of the young soldiers, who had taken some of the free Creation Science DVDs, questioned him about how they didn't believe creation science lined up with what they had been taught and believed.

"I told them," Richard said, "I haven't got all the answers, but those DVDs will help you. However, the reason I am here is because I am concerned for your souls. Even if you don't believe in God, I do. And He has sent me here to witness to you guys the truth, so please have a look at the DVDs and I challenge you to watch them to the very end. Then come back and ask me again those questions."

Often we may think our efforts are fruitless when we do not have a response straight away after witnessing. Richard said he found soldiers, by their very disciplined nature, are much more reserved to make a response, particularly when talking with a group of them. However, he said, he knows the Holy Spirit is drawing them, because often some of these same soldiers come back later on their own to talk further.

For more information about Everyman's Welfare Service, go to www.everymans.org.au.



www.soldiersofthecross.com.au