

The Way Newsletter- April 2003

Jesus answered, 'I am The Way and The Truth and The Life.'

John 14 v. 6

Why is this site named 'The Way'? Jesus said He was The Way. Jesus encourages us to follow Him, to follow His Way. Throughout time that is all He has asked of us yet we find this so difficult to grasp. Why is it that so often we choose the most difficult path? In the early part of the Bible, God (Jesus!) during the birthing of the Hebrew Nation, set them up with a complete new system of laws and morals after they came out of Egypt. They (like us) were presented with two paths, of obedience and disobedience. The Jews were warned about worshiping idols and the consequences if they did. The choice was simple: if they obeyed, peace would come; if they disobeyed disaster would follow. God did not want to kill them, He wanted them to grow. He wanted the best for them expressed in Jeremiah 29: 11, 12: " 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord 'to prosper you....not to harm you....to give you hope and a future' ...call upon Me and come and pray with Me, and I will listen to you.'" it's a familiar story however as we know: "In spite of all this, they kept on sinning; in spite of His wonders they did not believe." Psalm 78:32. Ultimately it was not the hostile armies who threatened them but the temptations to compromise with the pagan religions and cultures. It all starts with 'the little things' as someone has been known to say! But are we really that much different? Maybe we even wonder how they could be so slow. But we are often so blind to our own idols/addictions: money, possessions, job, house, people, reputation they promise everything we want but nothing we need, is our 'modern' idolatry so different to that of the Jews in the times of the Bible.

It is offensive in this 'friendly society' to say there is only 'One Way'. It is considered bigotry to say that Jesus is the Only Way. But it has been said 'offence is part of the Gospel, if we remove the offence from the Gospel we remove its power'. Addiction is a serious business. For some people the choice between life and death and they may only have a short window of opportunity to find The Way - Jesus.

In the News

As The United Kingdom's drug and debt problems spiral out of control, a tragic story of the husband and father who committed suicide with debts of over £70K hits the news. Are we in the UK at last waking up to the fact that addiction is not just about alcohol, heroin and crack, to name three but those daily pursuits we so often consider in a positive or jovial manner such as shopping, work, exercise, religion or the internet. I do hope so!

On a personal note

During April/May I will be visiting the USA for a break and to meet new people and hopefully be encouraged and envisioned. A very rough Itinerary follows:

April 19 - 1st week in May Phoenix, San Francisco, LA and to Florida

7th May to 12th app. North Carolina

12th May to 18th May Washington, Boston, New York

18th May Return to London, UK

This is flexible so there may be opportunity to meet up with others on the way. Please do contact me if you would like to arrange this. I would value the opportunity to meet some of you!

Chris

We are currently embarking on the long awaited overhaul of the site. Your patience is appreciated but please let us know what you think of the new look! We remain grateful to Martin and Paul for their work in the past.

Thank you for your support and prayers for our Ministry.

The Way is supported by a council of reference made up from people around the globe:
Brian & Margaret Watters (Australia) Ron Ross (USA) Mark & Lara Shiperlee, Chris Cane (UK)

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