

# The Explorer

December 2010



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### Puzzles

Young folk are encouraged to complete the various puzzles in the magazine and send them in to:

Miss Anne Macaulay,  
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Younger readers who find the questions too hard may like to do a drawing based on one of the articles and send it to the same address.



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[Unattributed articles ought not to be considered the work of the Editor.]



# Dining with Christ

Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine.

(John 21:7-12)

The Lord Jesus Christ was seen on many occasions after his crucifixion and burial, once by over five hundred people (1Cor.15:6). Luke summed up Christ's resurrection appearances to his followers in these words: "he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3).

A week after Jesus met with the disciples in the upper room he met with them again and this time Thomas was present. The disciples were convinced that what Christ had said to them about his resurrection was true. Certain things were coming back to their minds.

One thing the disciples remembered was what Jesus had said at the Passover in Jerusalem early on in his ministry. His words then were: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). The Jews thought he was speaking of their place of worship but he was actually referring to his own body. The disciples did not understand Christ's words at the time but now they knew their wonderful meaning. Jesus had been put to death at Calvary but he had risen again!

### A Long Night

There was one appearance which Christ made to the disciples that was very precious to Simon Peter and it happened in this way. Seven of the disciples had gone to Galilee where the Lord had promised to meet them (Matt.26:32). They knew the area so well, especially the sea where they had once made their living. Indeed the sea was drawing Simon back.

There is a sense in which Simon had left the service of Christ when he denied him three times in the palace of the high priest. He had abandoned his calling as a minister of the gospel. Simon had no wish to be idle however and said to his companions, "I go a fishing." Surprisingly they all went with him.

The disciples fished all night but they caught nothing at all. There is an important lesson for us in this. If the Lord has given us a work to do then we should stick at it, whatever difficulties or disappointments we encounter. If we turn back from the path of duty we will not prosper spiritually. Like the disciples, our net will be empty.

### A New Dawn

By now it was morning and the weary fishermen headed back. They saw a

figure standing on the shore but did not recognise him. The person asked them in a most kindly way if they had anything to eat and they answered that they did not. He told them to cast their net to the right and then they would make a catch. And what a catch! It was so big that they could hardly pull in the net. Then John said to Peter, "It is the Lord." Somehow Peter knew it too.

Doubtless Simon's thoughts went back to another event at the sea of Galilee. There several years previously he, his brother Andrew and two other disciples had fished through the night but made no catch. Then Jesus told them to try the deep water and there they took a huge catch, so heavy that their net broke. Simon was greatly moved by this and said to Jesus, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5:8).

That had been a new day in Simon Peter's soul. By the grace of God he had come to know Jesus Christ as the One who sees sin and yet is willing to forgive the sinner. With this second great catch and Jesus appearing to him once again it was like another new dawn for him. At the cross the disciples had forsaken Christ and fled from him but the Lord had returned to them and gathered them again. Even after this they had gone back to their fishing but the Lord was *still* seeking them out! Simon was beginning to believe that the Lord might yet have a use for him.

With a growing hope in his heart Peter grabbed his garments, jumped into the sea and waded his way quickly to the shore. The rest came behind him in the boat, dragging the net.

### A Special Meal

Jesus had prepared a fire and some food and told the disciples to bring their catch. With his great strength Simon Peter pulled the net ashore: though it contained so many fish it was unbroken. Jesus then told them to come and dine.

It was a very simple meal, just fish and bread, yet it was a wonderful meal all the same. What made it special was the fact that the Lord Jesus was there and that he was the host, distributing the food (v.13). *He fed the disciples.*

In the gospel Jesus invites us to 'come and dine' with him. Our souls are empty because our sins have robbed us of God's friendship and fatherly kindness. We are like the prodigal son who though he belonged to a comfortable home went far away and through his folly was perishing in a time of famine. Yet Christ says even to great sinners, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). Christ is the Saviour who brings us to God. Are you feeding on him by faith?

One day God's people will sit down with Christ in heaven at "the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Rev.19:9). Then their souls will be free from sin and they will enjoy perfect fellowship with God. "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (Rev.7:17). May the Lord give you grace and glory through Jesus Christ.

"For he the soul that longing is  
doth fully satisfy:

With goodness he the hungry soul  
doth fill abundantly." (Ps.107:9)

## Psalmody Test Tunes

Here are the next three tunes to help you prepare for the test.

Argyle C.M. No. 22

Psalm 74:16

Tracks 15 and 16

S<sub>1</sub> | m : r : d | l<sub>1</sub> : - : s<sub>1</sub> | s<sub>1</sub> : m : r | d : - : d | d : m : s | s : m : d | r : -  
Thine on - ly is the day, O Lord, thine al - so is the night

d | m : s : l | s : m : s | l : - : s | m : - : m : r | d : l<sub>1</sub> : s<sub>1</sub> | s<sub>1</sub> : m : r | d : -  
||  
And thou a - lone pre - par - ed hast the sun and shin - ing light.

Can you work out which 2 notes of the scale are missing from this tune? Argyle only uses notes from a 5-note scale, which is called pentatonic. Charles Hutchison (1792-1860) was a Glasgow merchant. Another tune of his is No. 136, called - - - - - .

St. Stephen C.M.

Psalm 16: 8

Tracks 17 and 18

d | s : - : d' | d' : t : l | s : f : m | m : r : m | l : - : s | s : - : fe | s : -  
Be - fore me still the Lord I set; sith it is so that he

s | m : f : l | s : - : s | l : t : d' | d' : t : s | d' : m : s | f : m : r | d : - : ||  
Doth on - ly stand at my right hand, I shall not mov - ed be

The 4 lines of a common metre verse are made up of syllables as follows:

Line 1: "Be-fore me still the Lord I set" (8 syllables)

Line 2: "Sith it is so that he" (6)

Line 3: "Doth on-ly stand at my right hand" ( )?

Line 4: "I shall not mov-ed be" ( )?

Swabia S.M.

Psalm 25(i):12

Tracks 5 and 6

s | m : f | r : r | d : - | - : r | m : fe : s | s : fe | s : - | -  
What man is he that fears the Lord and doth him serve?

s | l : s | l : t | d' : d' | d' : s | f : m | r : r | d : - | - : ||  
Him shall he teach the way that he shall chuse, and still ob - serve.

Swabia S.M. Swabia is now a region in Germany but used to include parts of France, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland, and was a political entity. Johann Martin Spiess (1715 - 1772) was born in Bern. He was organist of St. Peter's Church in Heidelberg, Germany and was a professor of music. He edited books of chorales, and spent the last years of his life in Bern, where he was organist.



# TAMATE OF NEW GUINEA

## BOYHOOD DAYS IN ARGYLL

One of the things which has struck me whilst compiling this series of articles is the large number of godly, courageous, pioneer missionaries who have been largely forgotten. Amongst them is our missionary this month, a man called James Chalmers. He was born in the Argyllshire village of Ardrishaig on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1841. It was here that he went to school and years later he recalled his first day at school when his mother who had accompanied him there gave the teacher "strict instructions not to spare the rod"! Perhaps his mother, knowing his personality, was anxious that the schoolmaster keep a strict eye on him or else he would learn but very little. Living near the sea he and his companions spent many hours playing beside the water and often they would venture out in boats, on rafts and even on planks. On one occasion he foolishly set off in a herring box and the strong current carried him out to sea and he was almost drowned. He himself tells us that three times he was carried home having almost drowned. Little did he know that these adventures at sea and the skill he acquired with boats would stand him in good stead as a missionary on the other side of the world.

However before he could ever become a missionary he would need to be changed by the work and power of God's Spirit. In his teenage years there was little sign of that and indeed he showed very little respect for the things of the Lord. However all of that was to suddenly change. It appears that when he was about 18 years old special evangelistic services were held in the local church. To his shame James acknowledged later that he only went along that night to disrupt the meeting. However in the mercy of the Lord he was stopped in his

tracks and he went home deeply convicted of his sin. Sometime later he found peace through these wonderful words of Scripture, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." He soon got involved in the work of the Gospel, teaching a Sabbath School class. He also displayed a keen interest in mission work and it was no surprise when he left home to begin studies which would help him in mission work.

## TAMATE - HIS NAME IS TAMATE!

In October 1865 he married Miss Jane Hercus and a few months later they set sail for the South Sea Islands. It was a long and perilous journey and one terrible night they were shipwrecked. They were thankful to reach shore safely but what a blow to find that all their possessions were either lost or totally ruined. Another boat was found to take them to their destination, an island called Rarotonga, but the captain of this second ship turned out to be involved in piracy. Despite this additional danger the Lord kept them safe on the ship and eventually the captain allowed James to start services onboard and even encouraged the passengers to attend. At long last, sixteen months after first leaving home, James and his wife reached Rarotonga. When the natives asked his name he called out "James Chalmers" but they could only pronounce it "Tamate" and, as they say, the name stuck and it was as Tamate that he was known for the rest of his days. Extensive missionary work had already been done in Rarotonga and the Chalmers found many Christians there. For ten years they stayed there, with James involved in preaching and Bible translation while his wife helped in the schools and developed a very useful ministry amongst the women. James was also able to set up a new printing press which proved very

useful for the mission. They enjoyed these years and there in Rarotonga they learned much that prepared them for some of the difficulties which lay ahead.

Eventually they felt that the Lord was calling them to pioneer missionary work and in 1877 they sailed away to New Guinea. Unlike Rarotonga this was an area which had known little missionary work and was described as "an unknown land, full of terrors and savagery". One of the main dangers was cannibalism and the skulls of their victims were proudly displayed in the people's huts. The tribes in New Guinea hated each other and fought constantly and everyone lived in fear of each other. Out of fear they built their homes in the trees or over swamps and if they were suspicious of each other we can easily understand how suspicious they would be of the strangers who had arrived in their midst.

In each village there was a temple called a dubu and that too was filled with the skulls of their unfortunate victims.



Chalmers preaching in a dubu

Their lives were governed by superstition and that brought its own dangers. For instance when someone would fall ill they believed it was due to a spell having been cast. In order to discover who was responsible either the person himself or his relatives would wait until nightfall and then they would follow fireflies believing they would

lead them to the person responsible for the bad spell. Of course wherever the firefly stopped that poor soul would be blamed and then killed and devoured. Their whole way of life was one of horrible and unspeakable cruelty. In the face of terrible dangers the missionaries were kept safe and slowly they managed to win the trust of the first group of people amongst whom they settled.

#### MRS 'TAMATE'

James' work often took him away for days and even weeks on end and it was always a great relief for him to return home to a warm welcome from his wife. Humanly speaking she seemed indispensable for the future of the work. Then suddenly tragedy struck; Jane died and James found himself alone. Despite his sorrow he had no thought of abandoning the work and resisted suggestions that he should return home.

Some years later James remarried and his second wife proved just as brave and committed to the work. Often she too was left alone while James made his way up lonely rivers visiting hundreds of villages with the Gospel. She was able to start schools and to her great joy some of the children began, slowly, to come along. Persisting in the face of great discouragements they saw the Lord bless their efforts and some of the worst of the

savages were converted. A number of these believers were killed as they tried to bring the Gospel to their own people. The influence of the Gospel also began to be felt in their midst and some of their worst practices were abandoned. One of the great leaders of New Guinea was a man called Manurewa who led the Suau tribe. He was asked on one occasion what had influenced him and his people to give up their cannibalism. The old Chief replied, "Tamate said, 'you must give up cannibalism' and we did." James lived to see some of these fierce tribes who had so hated one another not only at peace amongst themselves but sitting side by side in church services. Towards the end of his work he could speak of over one and a half thousand coming to church and three hundred sitting at the Lord's table.

In March 1892 Mrs Chalmers took unwell and fearing that she too, like his first wife, would die James made arrangements for her to return home to England. Two years later he himself also returned home. In the intervening period her health had improved, but not sufficiently to return to the mission and in January 1896 he returned alone. With fresh energy he threw himself back into the work. For months he travelled in boats, often wet from morning to night, visiting the mission stations, seeing how things had gone in his absence and trying, always, to establish new ones. The following year he was delighted to hear that his wife was going to join him once again. For three more years they worked together until her death in 1900. Some months later James set off with a young missionary called Oliver Tomkins. Their aim was to reach a tribe at a place called Risk Point. On arrival James sensed trouble and suggested to his friend that he remain on the boat. The young man would not hear of it and accompanied the older missionary ashore. There at the hands of the tribe they both met their deaths, noble martyrs for the Lord Jesus Christ. Like all the other missionaries we have looked at, James Chalmers challenges us to examine ourselves. Do we know and love the Lord he came to know as an eighteen year old and whom he followed and served all his days until at Risk Point his work in this world was done?

## Scripture Memory Scheme

The Welfare of Youth and Education Committee has recently launched a Scripture Memory Scheme. A child who successfully recites the required material to either their minister or Sabbath school teacher will receive a certificate from the Committee.

**Grade One** (Age 3 – Primary 3): The Books of the New Testament and Psalm 23.

**Grade Two** (Primary 4–7): The Books of the Old Testament and Psalm 84.

This Scheme is in memory of the late Mrs. Maurine Murchison. For further information ask your Sabbath School teacher to contact the Welfare of Youth Committee.

# PUZZLE PAGE

## People in the life of David

E	E	I	J	O	N	A	T	H	A	N	K	A
T	C	K	N	D	X	R	B	G	H	J	P	B
T	J	O	J	W	A	S	C	I	N	O	W	S
M	E	P	H	I	B	O	S	H	E	T	H	A
H	S	M	L	U	I	L	D	F	M	V	X	L
Q	S	A	S	Y	G	O	L	I	A	T	H	O
B	E	B	U	S	A	M	U	E	L	U	Y	M
L	F	P	V	L	I	O	E	G	E	R	L	P
P	A	R	T	A	L	N	H	S	T	Z	A	R

Saul  
Jesse  
Jonathan

Goliath  
Samuel  
Solomon

Absalom  
Mephibosheth  
Abigail

I sought the Lord,  
He heard and did  
me from all fears  
deliver

Fill in this form if you are sending the puzzles in.

Name: ..... Age.....

Address: .....

.....

Congregation: .....

Here are those who completed last month's puzzle and sent it in.

**1st Prize:-** Lily Craig, Stornoway

**Runners Up:-** Sarah Nixon, Brora, Thomas Craig, Stornoway, Emma Craig, Stornoway, Michaela Florette, Dores, Anna Richardson, Salisbury.



# The Ark and the Covenant

**2 Samuel chapters 6 and 7.**

*He shall build a house for My Name.*

Image from [www.visualbiblealive.com/](http://www.visualbiblealive.com/)

## David and the Ark

**D**avid made Jerusalem his capital and ordered that the Ark of God be brought there. Jerusalem was to be not only the political centre but the centre of worship (Psalm 122). However, the Ark was carried to the city in the wrong way; by the same method that the Philistines (1 Samuel 6:7,8) had used! God's instructions (Exodus 25:14,15) had been disregarded. It was put on a cart and when the cart shook the driver, Uzzah, put his hand on the Ark to steady it...and fell down dead. Some people say "It doesn't matter how something religious is done, so long as it is done." But this incident shows us the importance of obeying God in what many people would regard as little things. However, if instructions relate to the worship of God, as the Ark did, then they are not "little" – we serve a great God! They had not treated the Ark with the reverence required. If they had carried it in God's appointed way and by God's appointed persons, the Levites, there would have been no punishment. David in his distress left the Ark in the house of Obed-edom and the Ark brought blessing to the house. The Ark was the symbol of God's Presence and we see from this incident how the same Presence can affect people differently, depending on how they respect that Presence. Three months later David brought up the Ark in the right way, in obedience to Scripture, and this time there was no disturbance in the rejoicing (1 Chronicles 15 :1-13). We must pay attention to the things which GOD considers important. Psalm 24 was written at this time. David's wife, Michal, was wrong to criticize the devotion of David at this time, especially when she showed no devotion to the Lord herself – you will always find such people in the visible church.

## David's purpose and God's purpose

When the Ark was lodged in Jerusalem it became not only the city of David but the City of God (Psalm 48:1 and 101:8). David was a faithful steward of all the wealth which God gave to him over the years (8:11,12) and devoted it to the cause of God. He intended to erect

a temple around the Ark ( to replace the Tabernacle). This was a good intention in the heart of David but God sent Nathan the prophet to tell David that he was not to build it; his son would. On the contrary, God's purpose was to build a house for David (7:19) – a line of kings descending from his own family until the real 'king of glory', the Messiah, should come ( ch.7:13 and Luke 1:32,33). Meanwhile, David's son Solomon would build the temporary temple. David therefore, during the remainder of his life, collected the materials needed for the building of the temple made with hands (1 Chronicles 29:2ff). God's promise to David was that David's Seed would reign forever and that He would build the temple of the lord (Zech.6:13. John 2:19) – which Promise was fulfilled in Christ (Galatians 3:16,19.) Psalm 89 refers to this covenant of grace.

## David's thanksgiving

David received God's "No" with trusting submission to His wisdom (God always has something better) and took it as a time for redirection in his life; he would gather the materials. Not everyone can build but every Christian can do something for God's cause – it is an evidence that they are God's servants, as David (7:5 "My servant David"). David also worships in wonder at the grace of God, which has promised him so much and so undeserved. "What am I ?", he says. Grace brings astonishment and adoration, and prayer is based on God's promises – "Do as thou hast said." (vs.25-29). "God's prophecies tell us what ought to be the subject of our prayers." (Thomas Chalmers).

David was chosen to be the human, royal ancestor of the Messiah, Christ Jesus. There are more chapters in the Bible written about David's life than about any other man, and this is the reason. You must read the Old Testament looking for Christ also (Psalm 40:7; John 5:39). It is because of Christ's coming into the world that the Bible was given to us by God. You will see likenesses to Christ in David, but also contrasts.



# Poison!

It can be dangerous to get what you want. Have you ever seen mouse poison? Have you ever wondered why it is such a strange bright blue colour? Poison is coloured blue so that it appears very unappetising to stop you from eating it! Blue is not a normal colour for food (even blue-berries are a deep reddish-blue rather than true blue – and liquorice allsorts don't count because they are not a natural (or normal!) food). Can you think of any food that is naturally blue – apart from blue cheese? Because mice are colour-blind, they are not put off food, whatever its colour.

Even though the poison is blue, to be extra safe the poison was kept on a high shelf above the garage door, high above where little hands can reach – even when standing tiptoe on a stool. The cardboard packet containing the little foil sachets of poison was wrapped and tied in a plastic bag – you can't be too safe, and it would also stop the damp from spoiling the unused poison over the winter.

In the springtime however the poison was gone – I cannot tell you if it was one mouse, or a whole troop of mice, but the bag had been cut with sharp teeth, the box nibbled through and the sachets were all empty. All that was in the box – apart from the empty sachets – was a few mouse droppings! But there was no sign of the mouse; it must have scampered away very pleased with itself for having been so clever as to find such a tasty meal in such an unusual place. Only later would the poison have had its effect.

I hope you are not like that mouse which had gone

to great efforts to get what was not good for it. Sadly many people do just that, and just like the mouse instead of getting something tasty and special, they only find out when it is too late that they have done themselves great harm.

God in his kindness has given many sins the equivalent of a blue colour as a warning so that most people naturally recoil and want to stay away from them. However the longer someone lives in this world without the Lord Jesus as their Saviour a kind of colour-blindness develops, so that even people who once said "I'll never do that..." start doing that very thing.

Beware – just as blue poison looks attractive to a colour-blind mouse, so sin looks attractive to a sinner. You need to pray today that our gracious Lord will help you to see clearly and that you will see things as they really are and keep you from being enticed into sin. You also must pray that the Lord will cure you from the poison that you have already swallowed.

In the Bible you will learn about the 'Bread of Life' (John chapter 6). Jesus said that whoever eats this bread will not die, but will have everlasting life. If Jesus had not explained what he meant by this bread it would be very confusing; not even the very best bread can satisfy you for more than a short time. In picture language however, the Lord is teaching that you must believe in him, and that by believing you will feed on him. Stay away from poison; come and eat the best bread.