

The Explorer

May 2008



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Puzzles

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

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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 unless clearly stated.]



AMAZING MEMORY

In 1832 a boy called Alec was born in Stirling. He was completely blind from birth. Alec's parents were both Christians but were very poor. They did their best to care for young Alec, but as they had to work to provide for their family, they could not give him the attention they would have liked, so at a very early age Alec was sent to school with the other children. The School was also very poor, with few books, and the classes were all in one room. The main book for learning was the Bible and each day it was read. Each child had to read the Bible in turn. They were required to say the name of the book, the chapter and the number of each verse in the Bible before they read it. Soon young Alec began to learn many passages of Scripture by heart. He knew not only the words but the chapter and verse where they were found. Not being able to see made him more careful to listen and remember. The Bible was also read at home each night. After tea, the father would open the Bible and read a chapter, then each Sunday they went to Church and more chapters were read. So Alec heard the word of God continually. Soon Alec knew whole books of the Bible word perfect, and eventually Alec is said to have memorised the whole of the Bible.

When Alec became a man, both his parents died and as there was no care provided for people who were blind, he was forced to become a beggar on the streets of Stirling.

Many people would come around Alec and ask him where a certain verse of Scripture was and he could always correctly reply. His amazing memory attracted people of learning who came to test his knowledge of the Bible, and were astounded at his accuracy to remember Scripture. If a person quoted a text, he could tell where it was found, and if the number of the verse was quoted, he could quote the whole verse perfectly.

One man tried to out-smart Alec. He would misquote a text, but Alec would correct him and quote it exactly. The man then asked him to quote the ninetieth verse of Numbers chapter seven. Alec puzzled for a minute, then said, "You are fooling me sir, there are only eighty nine verses in Numbers seven." Alec could also remember the sermons that he had heard and could quote the exact words the ministers had said in their sermons.

Alec was an exceptional person, but every one of us should seek to lay up God's word in our hearts and memories. We do this by reading the Scriptures and by often thinking about them. Also the Lord has promised that the Holy Spirit will bring to our remembrance the things He has said.

Let us all seek and pray that we may have God's word dwelling richly in our hearts and minds.

[This story comes from *The Chief's Daughter Abducted!* by R. Cameron-Smith and is used by kind permission.]

Promises, Promises!



Laura's Granny was coming to stay and whenever she came to stay she always brought presents. Laura wondered what her present would be. She knew she couldn't ask, because Mum had told her that was rude and that we shouldn't ask for presents.

When Granny arrived Laura couldn't see her present and knew she would have to wait. She didn't have long to wait however until Granny produced a small box all beautifully wrapped. Laura took the paper off and saw a small white box with a little pink ribbon on the top and lace round the sides. She took the lid off and saw a box full of little papers all rolled up and a pair of tweezers sitting on the top. Laura was very puzzled and wondered what it was. She looked at Granny puzzled.

"Use the tweezers to take out one of the little scrolls and read it," Granny said.

Laura did and discovered it was a Bible verse. It said "with God all things are possible."

"Take another," said her Granny. Laura did and this time it said "The Lord shall guide thee continually."

Laura looked up at Granny and asked, "Is it a box of Bible verses?"

"No," said Granny, "it is even better than that. It is a 'promise box', full of promises from the Bible."

"But there's not that many promises in the Bible," said Laura.

"Oh but there are," replied Granny. "I have given you a box with just a few Bible promises in it but there are lots more."

Granny stayed for a week and each day they took another scroll out of the box and read the promise. Laura was discovering that Granny was right. There are lots of promises in the Bible.

Granny said there were lots of promises in the Bible. How many can you find? Send in your list. The longest list wins a prize.



James learns about Baptism

Our family is full of boys. There is me and my two younger brothers. We have two uncles, my Mum's brothers. One of these uncles has three boys too, our cousins. We have two granddads and of course there is Dad too. Even our Granny's dog is a boy!

The youngest of our cousins was just born on Christmas day. That was quite an exciting day because my two cousins came to stay with us in the middle of the night when their mum went into hospital. We got quite a surprise when we woke up to find our cousins sleeping in our room too!

I know quite a lot about how to look after babies. My youngest brother is 2 now but I can still remember all about when he was a baby. I still help Mum look after him. Sometimes I get him dressed in the morning or help him with his jacket and shoes. Other times I hold his hand to make sure he doesn't run out onto the road when Mum is getting things out of the car.

I thought I knew everything about babies, especially boys, but then Dad told me a few weeks ago that we were going to our baby cousin's baptism. Of course I knew that babies in our church were baptised. I remember both of my brothers being baptised even though I was only 3 when Calum was baptised. What I had never thought about before was why. It seemed a funny place to give a baby a wash!

I did what is always best to do with a puzzling question, I asked Dad.

'Dad, I know that babies have water splashed on them

by the minister when they are baptised but I don't know why. Is it because they are a bit sticky?' I asked.

'No James,' Dad said laughing. 'It is important that we understand why we do things and don't just think that it is only because it is a tradition. Do you remember what a covenant is?' Dad replied.

'Is it an agreement?' I said.

'It is James, well done,' replied Dad. 'Now do you know what the very first covenant in the Bible was?'

'Was it with Noah?'

'Not quite James. Although God did make an agreement with Noah. Do you remember who was the first man?' 'Adam.'

'That's right. God made a covenant with Adam in the Garden of Eden. Part of that covenant was that Adam and Eve had to obey God but they didn't, did they?'

'No they ate the fruit.' I said.

'That's right and so the covenant was broken and Adam and Eve were put out of the garden. People call this the *Covenant of works* because it was based on man's obedience to God. This covenant failed because man sinned.'

'I'm not sure what this has to do with baptism though Dad.' I said.

'You will do in a minute!' Dad said. 'God then made

a second covenant, which is known as the *covenant of grace*. This covenant is based on God's grace. This covenant will last forever because God's grace cannot fail. Do you understand so far?'

'I think so. God can keep his promise but man can't,' I answered sitting down on the sofa beside Dad. It looked like there was an awful lot more to baptism than a bit of water.

'Good,' said Dad. 'God made the second covenant with the people of God. This covenant was first made in the Old Testament times but continued into the New Testament and even to today. Baptism is a sign of this covenant. When we baptise a baby it is a sign that they belong to the visible church.'

'What is the visible church?' I asked.

'Well, it just means that the covenant promise is for the children of parents who promise to bring them up to love and serve God. But it doesn't mean that the baptism makes them a Christian,' explained Dad.

'OK, but why do we use water then?' I asked.

'The water is used as a sign that we need to be washed clean of our sins. The only way our sins can be forgiven is by Jesus dying on the cross for us,' continued Dad.

'So we have to trust in Jesus and then we can go to heaven. Is that the covenant?'

'That's right, and the Bible tells us that the covenant is made "to you, and to your children" in Acts 2:39, which is one of the texts we believe tells you that children are to be baptised too.'

That was quite a lot to think about. I thought I might try and explain it all to Calum too so I told him in the car on the way to our cousin's baptism.

'Calum? Do you know that God has made a promise to us that we can go to heaven if we trust in Jesus to forgive our sins? As a sign of that promise he told parents in the visible church to baptise their children. It tells us this in the Bible.'

'Not bad James,' said Dad from the front, 'you'll be a theologian one day!'

'What's a theologian?' I asked.

'Oh, I think that's one Dad can explain another day,' said Mum, 'you just try and understand your catechisms first!'

Our cousin was very good at his baptism and he didn't cry. I was glad that I understood why everything was happening. Whenever Dad tells me what a theologian is I'll maybe let you know too.



Rev. Barnes was very sorry when a dear friend of his died. He attended the funeral service which was a distance from his home. He then went to catch the train home, but his mind was not on what he was doing and he caught the wrong train.

In the compartment where he was sitting there was just one other man. Rev. Barnes sought to make a conversation with this man and told him he had lost a good friend and had just been to his funeral. "I suppose you attend a lot of funerals?" the man asked, realising that he was a minister.

"Oh yes," he replied, "very many, I have seen people die in many circumstances and have gone to their funerals."

There was silence for a while, then the stranger said, "Have you seen someone die who has committed a dreadful deed?"

Rev. Barnes was greatly surprised by this question. He could see that the man was in deep distress. He gently replied that he had seen sinners die, but God has provided a way of forgiveness and salvation through Christ, so we do not have to die in sin.

The stranger continued, "I am in deep trouble. I left my wife this morning with a determination to commit suicide. Now, because of what you have told me, I cannot do it. Your words have sunk deep into my heart. I was brought up to believe in God, but I have wandered far away from him."

Rev. Barnes was able to simply explain how to find grace and salvation to this man, and the Lord blessed these words to him.

The train stopped and Rev. Barnes shook the man's hand, wishing him God's blessing, then got off the train, only to find that he was in the wrong town. He then caught another train home, but he saw God's good hand in directing his life so that he met and spoke to a needy soul about Christ.

Very often God uses our mistakes to give us an opportunity to serve him.

[This story comes from *Taught by a Caterpillar* by R. Cameron-Smith and is used by kind permission.]

PUZZLE PAGE

Coded Grid

Use the grid opposite to find out what the nine coded words are below. What do they all have in common?

	A	B	C	D
1	A	D	E	F
2	H	I	K	N
3	O	R	S	T
4	U	Y	G	V
5	L	J	P	C
6	M	B	W	V

A5 A3 D4 C1

B5 A3 B4

C5 C1 A1 D5 C1

A5 A3 D2 C4 C3 A4 D1 D1 C1 B3 B2 D2 C4

C4 C1 D2 D3 A5 C1 D2 C1 C3 C3

C4 A3 A3 B1 D2 C1 C3 C3

D1 A1 B2 D3 A2

A6 C1 C1 C2 D2 C1 C3 C3

D3 C1 A6 C5 C1 B3 A1 D2 D5 C1

Write here what they have in common in the grid code. e.g. D1 B3 etc. etc.

'Remember' Quiz

Here are some questions for you to answer from the article opposite.

1. How many Commandments are there? Count them and see by looking at Exodus 20:1-17.
2. What is the longest Commandment?
3. Why is it the longest of all the Commandments — what do you think?
4. Is the Sabbath Commandment number three, four or five?
5. Why do we need laws?
6. Did God ever tell his people to keep the Sabbath holy before this (cf. Gen. 2:4 & Ex. 16:28-30)?
7. Is Sunday a happy or sad day for you?
8. What is best about Sunday?
9. What does the word "Sabbath" mean?
10. What name does the Bible give to the Christian Sabbath (Rev 1:10)?
11. What day was it when Paul worshipped with the church in Troas (Acts 20:7)?

<p>Fill in this form if you are sending the puzzles in.</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Congregation:</p>	<p>Prizewinners: Philip Bonar (Newtonabbey FPC, Northern Ireland) & Andrew Turnbull (Partick).</p> <p>Well Done to: Sacha Little (Snizort), Kayleigh Nicolson (Snizort), Murdo Macleod (Tarbat), Sarah, James & Joshua Gahan (Emmanuel Church, Salisbury), Sarah & Rebekah Macleod (Partick), Emma, Annabel, Lily & Rachel Craig (Lochalsh & Glenshiel), Nathaniel Biser (Washington DC, USA), Rona M Morrison (Scalpay) Katie Gunn Morrison (Cross), Sophie, Verity & Matthew McGlynn (Scalpay)</p> <p>New Puzzler: Sarah Sinclair (Brora).</p> <p>February: Daniel Nathaniel Biser (Washington DC), Abigail Mackay (Ayr).</p> <p>New Puzzler: Devon Kleinjan (Mattaniah, Ontario, Canada).</p> <p>January: Anna Choi (Hong Kong).</p>
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Remember

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy”
(Ex 20:8)

Do you need to be reminded to do things; things like cleaning your shoes or tidying your room or brushing your teeth? Perhaps it is hard to remember to do your school homework? Why is it so hard to remember to do these things? Is it perhaps that we don't want to do them? Or is it simply that we just don't remember! There are lots of things that we forget to do. Dads and Mums use diaries and a notebook to remind them to do what they feel is important. Remembering can be tricky so making a list can help. However, it is when we are so busy that remembering is difficult. God knows this and that is why He said to the Children of Israel, “*Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy*” (Ex. 20:8).

When God spoke these “10 words”, through Moses the man of God, the children of Israel were in a desert called “the Wilderness of Sin” and they were travelling to the Promised Land. They had been slaves in Egypt but now they were free and travelling to the land promised to them called Canaan. There they would live as a free people and as a nation under God's laws. When they stopped to rest at Mount Sinai God gave them the 10 Commandments. They are also called the Moral Law because they are for all people and nations and not just the Jews. The 10 Commandments are still for today. So God gave his people laws to govern them and to help them do His will.

What does God want us to remember when he talks about the Sabbath day?

To “*remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy*”, is to remember **Creation**. God made the universe and all it contains – visible and invisible – in six days and rested on the seventh day (Gen 2:3). This is why we rest on Sunday from ordinary work. God at the beginning of the world made a difference between the six days for work and the one day of rest. Now we recognise that one day out of the seven days (that make up our week) is to be a Sabbath i.e. a rest. The Sabbath is the day of rest for Christians. That means work (like cleaning our room or like doing our homework) that can be avoided, should be left to the other six days of the week. This special day is given to us as a day of rest to enjoy after a hard week's

work. This rest should not be idleness but should be used to worship God and learn about Jesus. The Sabbath was made for us and it was also made to bring honour to God as Creator of everything (Mark 2:27).

To “*remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy*”, is to remember **Redemption**. We know this because of what is said in Deu. 5:12 & 15, “Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it... And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day”. So the Sabbath day is not only meant to remind us about creation in six days but also to remind God's people of their deliverance from the bondage and slavery of Egypt that was keeping them out of the Promised Land. This is why Christians worship on Sunday. On that first day of the week, Jesus Christ rose from the dead, delivering his people from the bondage of sin and opened the way to heaven. The Christian Sabbath is a witness to the greatness and glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer who has brought salvation and eternal life to light.

To “*remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy*”, is to remember **God's love** for us. God has commanded in His Law that we rest from work on Sunday but His command is also a promise of a day of rest from work so that we can be refreshed and relax, and have time to go to Church to worship Him and hear the Gospel. The Bible says that God is Love (1 John 4:8) and because He loved the Children of Israel He redeemed them from Egypt. This was a great escape. Similarly, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, on the first day of the week, speaks of the love of Jesus for our souls. Sunday worship witnesses to the love and care God has for his creation, and all nations are to share in its benefits. The Church proclaims Christ's love and victory over the devil by worshipping on the Christian Sabbath week by week. We know that God and Jesus love us but do we love Him? If we do, we will keep his commandments (John 14:15).

[This article was kindly provided by Rev Ian McNaughton of Day One Christian Ministries]



John Harrison's Clocks

Were you able to go to any of the London museums mentioned in the May 2006 issue of the Explorer? No! Well, not to worry, all is not lost; they will be here for many years yet to come, God willing. If you have visited one or more, here is another to add to your list. It is the Royal Observatory in Greenwich Park, south east London. If you go you could have your photograph taken with one foot in each half of the world, one in the east and one in the west, for the Greenwich Meridian — the 00 longitude line — passes through the Royal Observatory.

Let me tell you a little about one of its most famous exhibits. If you were able to go back in time to the early part of the eighteenth century you would find that sea trade was increasing, but sadly so was the number of ships being wrecked on rocky shores and in other ways. This was because sailors could not accurately fix longitude. That is those (imaginary) lines which travel, on our maps, from pole to pole. To be able to calculate longitude they needed an accurate clock, and clocks in those days could not keep good time on board because the motion of the ship upset the pendulum.

So in 1714, when Queen Anne was on the throne, the government offered a prize of £20,000 (worth £1,000,000 today) to anyone who could make a clock which would be accurate at sea.

Now John Harrison was a carpenter in Lincolnshire. He had already made a clock — out of wood! — and he decided to attempt the prize. So Mr Harrison set to work and his first attempt was better than any other sea clock, but not accurate enough. This clock which we now call H1 took him from 1730 to 1735 to make. He had a second attempt which was a considerable improvement (H2) and this took him from 1737 to 1740, but it was still

not quite good enough. Nevertheless George II thought highly of it for he rewarded him with £500 for his efforts.

His third clock (H3) took him from 1740 to 1759; it had over 700 precisely engineered parts, and was sufficiently accurate. These three clocks are on display at Greenwich and are all still working. Captain Cook took Harrison's latest clock with him on his second voyage in 1772. But it was not until 1773 that he was at last awarded the prize, and only then because George III said, 'I will not see you slighted.' Harrison made H4 even better and then H5 to show that H4 was not just a 'one off'.

Sadly John Harrison died in 1776 so he did not enjoy his prize money for long — for just three years after gaining his reward.

His clocks saved lives, for they told the mariners just where they were. With his clocks they were able to avoid treacherous places and land safe in harbour. John Harrison needed to draw plans for his clocks and then follow them.

I was reminded, when I went to the Observatory and saw these amazing clocks, of the Bible. If we follow the Bible throughout life (for the whole of our voyage) we

will avoid making shipwreck of our lives. If we follow our Lord Jesus Christ as He is in the Bible then He will lead us to the safe harbour.

So then if you go to Greenwich, take a long look at John Harrison's clocks, learn of the great benefit they brought to the sailors all those years ago, and remember that if we trust the Saviour, who is revealed to all who will read of Him in the Bible, He will bring us to a safe and heavenly harbour.

