

# The Explorer

September 2015



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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.]

# Skipper's tales



## SKIPPER GOES INTERNATIONAL

Skipper has had a very very busy summer. He has had lots of visitors; friends and family from near and far. These have included some very energetic children who have taken him for lots of long walks. You will need to get your atlas out for this story as it will take you all over the world!

When we were at the All-Age Holiday a very kind family came to care of him and our house. This family are originally from South Africa. They were very good to Skipper and took him walks in the forest and even took him away with them on their outings in the car. He was very tired when we came home and slept a LOT!

Then we had friends came from South Carolina, in the USA and they took Skipper a walk one evening. They were astounded that it was still daylight at 10.30pm here in Scotland in early July as it would be dark in their part of the USA much earlier in the evening. They loved the scenery and walking at that time of evening when all was quiet. Skipper loved it too and listened to all the different noises of the evening.

Then we had family from a place called Oman in the Middle East, you might need a bit of help to find THAT one, and now we have grandsons from Gloucester which is much nearer home in England. Gloucester is an interesting place, a great preacher called George Whitfield came from there and he travelled often to USA to preach, ask your parents or Sabbath school teacher to help you find out more about him, he was a very interesting man.

You will have noticed our visitors came from North, South, East and West. Maybe you have had visitors too this summer and enjoyed fun and chat and meals together. Wherever they have come from, all our visitors had one thing in common with us: they all love the Lord Jesus. They do not all worship in the same church as us but they all worship him and it is his love for them and us that brought us all together in the family of God. The Bible tells us that God has given us families. Not all families are the same, some are large, some are small, some have only one mum or dad and that can be sad or difficult, but family is very important and something we should be very thankful to God for.

When we are Christians, we belong to the biggest family of all, the church on earth. Every Christian is welcome in this church. Everyone is the same whatever country they come from and whatever church they belong to and that is why when they visit anywhere in the world they will find friends and fellow believers and when they stay it is almost like being in their own home.

Psalm 107 verse speaks of the Lord gathering his people “from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.” In Luke 13:29 the Lord speaks of men and women coming, “from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.” “His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.” Psalm 72:17) What wonderful promises these are!

We can get a glimpse of this even in our own small denomination. We have brothers and sisters that we know and who belong to our denomination, in America, in Zambia, in Sri Lanka and in Spain. I am sure you hear the minister praying for them in the services from time to time. It is always exciting to hear about visits our ministers make to these places isn't it?

Skipper loves having people around and of course, he has no idea what brings them all together, but we know and we can rejoice and thank God for what is called the ‘fellowship of believers’. It will take you a long time to look up ALL these places on the map but try to look up a few and remember to pray for our friends in these countries as we know they are praying for us.



## From The Editor

Dear Friends

This summer we went to the Isle of Wight. Do you know where that is? I will give you a clue. If you look for it on a map you should look at the very south coast of England. The island has many interesting things to see and do. One of the places we visited was the Military and Heritage Museum. It has tanks and other military equipment, much of it relating to the Second World War.

The Isle of Wight suffered heavy bombing during the War. This was due, in part, to its location close to the major ports of Portsmouth and Southampton. It also attracted enemy attention because of the shipbuilding which was going on in the island. About fifty ships were built on the island between 1939 and 1945. One of the boys favourite exhibits was a portable Air Raid Warning machine. It still works and we heard its rather eerie call. These machines were very important and saved many lives. When you heard the siren you dropped whatever you were doing and made your way to the nearest Air Raid Shelter.

The Lord has given us many warnings which act like a siren. Every time you read your Bible you will find warnings about the need to flee to Christ. As you sit in church the preacher will sound out a warning about the need to repent and trust in the Saviour. Sometimes the Lord will bring events into our lives which solemnly remind us of the danger our souls are in: the shortness and uncertainty of life and the need to use our time wisely. I'm sure that we can all think of sirens like that which we have heard. Perhaps we have heard some of them very recently. Maybe even today itself!

We can be fairly sure that no one who heard the Air Raid warning would ignore it or waste time getting to safety. No matter what you were doing, as soon as it sounded you responded without delay; it was, after all, a matter of life and death. Sadly the same is not true spiritually. Despite countless warnings many people ignore the message of the Bible or delay responding until another time. Don't forget that this is also a matter of life and death. Are you one of those people who have ignored the Gospel's sirens? Well don't delay any longer: flee to the Lord Jesus Christ the only refuge for sinners.

*Murdo A N Macleod*

# WHO AM I ?

Have you ever said something that you later look back on with regret. I have and I cringe at the very thought of thinking about it.

You know, I was always so delighted when he would come and stay with us. I loved being able to prepare meals for him and provide him and his disciples with somewhere to stay.

This day he had come with his disciples as he often did and as usual they began talking to the master and asking him questions and seeking his wisdom. For some reason shortly after he began teaching I became distracted and started thinking that I should get some food ready. I stopped listening to him and began in my mind to consider what I should make. This would be a splendid meal I decided. The very best. There would be a lot to do.

I decided that I did not have time to stay and listen. It was more important that we should get all the food ready and we must begin now so that it would all be just perfect. And so I set off to in the kitchen.

Now you will notice I said “we” there but after a few moment I noticed it was not a “we” but an “I” that was in the kitchen. My sister had not come out with me. I was a little surprised for normally she would help me if we had visitors. However I set about making the preparations. Minutes passed and still no sign of my sister. I glanced around the corner and there she was seated at the masters feet completely captivated by what he was saying. I wondered if she had even noticed that I had left. No matter, I thought, “I will keep going, I am sure she will come soon”. Time passed and she remained where she was seated at the masters feet. I could feel myself becoming annoyed at her. How could she be so selfish, did she not realise the work involved in preparing for so many and especially in preparing something so meticulously ....there was just so much still to do.

I begin to drop hints, clatter some dishes loudly, bang some pots. I cross the room in a hurried manner. I try and catch her eye. I sigh loudly, regularly. There could be no missing my hinting but she remained deaf to my hints and I became all the more frustrated and angry with her.

Eventually I hit on a plan. She might well ignore me but she could not ignore the master. I would get him to tell her and that would teach her. In fact now that I thought about it, I was not sure why he had not spoken to her before now. I felt sure he definitely knew of my frustrations. I banged a few more pans sighed a few more times and then it all became too much for me. I marched out and confronted the master. “Do you not care” I demanded “I am doing everything”. I turn to Mary to see her reaction to his rebuke.

“What” he was saying my name, he was talking to me instead of to Mary. Instead of reprimanding her, he is speaking gently and kindly to me. “Thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful and Mary hath chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her”.

I am stunned speechless, deflated, ashamed, embarrassed my thoughts all muddled. Me wrong? How could it be so? Mary right but how and why? She had chosen the good part, he said. She had chosen to sit, listen and worship and that was more important than running around serving him. It is more important to him that we are found at his feet listening to him. I think too that when I stopped listening to him my serving became motivated by pride and angry instead of love.



# PUZZLE PAGE

## JESUS FOLLOWERS

Solve the clues to find one of Jesus helpers

1. I am a woman.
2. The 4<sup>th</sup> letter of my name is in Seth but not in Joseph \_\_\_\_.
3. Fill in the letters given and then try and work out the remaining letters to see what I said to Jesus.

2	11	4	14		6	16		7	13	11	3
13	10	14	12	7		15	5	5	17		
	13	5	4	5			8	9			
15	4	11	7	13	5	4		13	10	14	
	17	11	7		14	6	5	14			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				E	I			Y

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
A	O			D			

Which one of Jesus followers am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Blessed are the meek

### June entries

**1st Prize:-** Ruairaidh Macleod, Knock & Point

**Runners Up:-**

**Knock & Point:-** Alexander Macleod

**Partick:-** Kenny Mackinnon, Mairi Mackinnon

**Stornoway:-** Lily Craig, Sarah Craig, Thomas Craig

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# A LETTER FROM A MINISTER

Some of you will have heard of Rev Charles Spurgeon. He was a minister in London many years ago. He had a large congregation but he found time to write many letters. This letter was one he wrote to some young people after he had attended a prayer meeting. The letter was written to children of Christian parents and is as relevant today as it was when first penned.

*My Dear Friend*

*I was, a little while ago, at a meeting for prayer, where a large number of ministers were gathered together. The subject of prayer was, 'Our Children.' It brought tears to my eyes to hear these men pleading with God for their sons and daughters. I longed for the Lord to answer these prayers and thought, I will write to those sons and daughters and remind them of their parents' prayers.*

*You are highly privileged in having parents who pray for you. Your name is known in heaven. Do you pray for yourself? If you do not do so, why not? If other people value your soul, can it be right for you to neglect it? All the prayers of your parents will avail you nothing if you never seek the Lord yourself. You know this.*

*You do not intend to cause grief to your parents; but you do. So long as you are not saved, they can never rest. However obedient and sweet and kind you may be, they will never feel happy until you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and find everlasting salvation.*

*Remember how much you have already sinned and none can wash you but Jesus. You need what father and mother seek for you, and you need it now. Why not seek it at once? At the meeting I heard a father pray, 'Lord, save our children, and save them young.' It is never too soon to be safe; never too soon to be happy; never too soon to be holy; Jesus loves to receive the very young ones.*

*You cannot save yourself, but the great Lord Jesus can save you. Ask him to do it. Come and tell Jesus you have sinned; seek forgiveness and trust him for it. Then imitate our Lord. Be at home what Jesus was at Nazareth and yours will be a happy home.*

*I pray you to think of heaven and hell; for in one of those places you will live forever. Meet me in heaven! Meet me at once at the mercy-seat. Run to your room and pray to the great God, through Jesus Christ.*

*Yours ever lovingly,*

*C. H. Spurgeon*

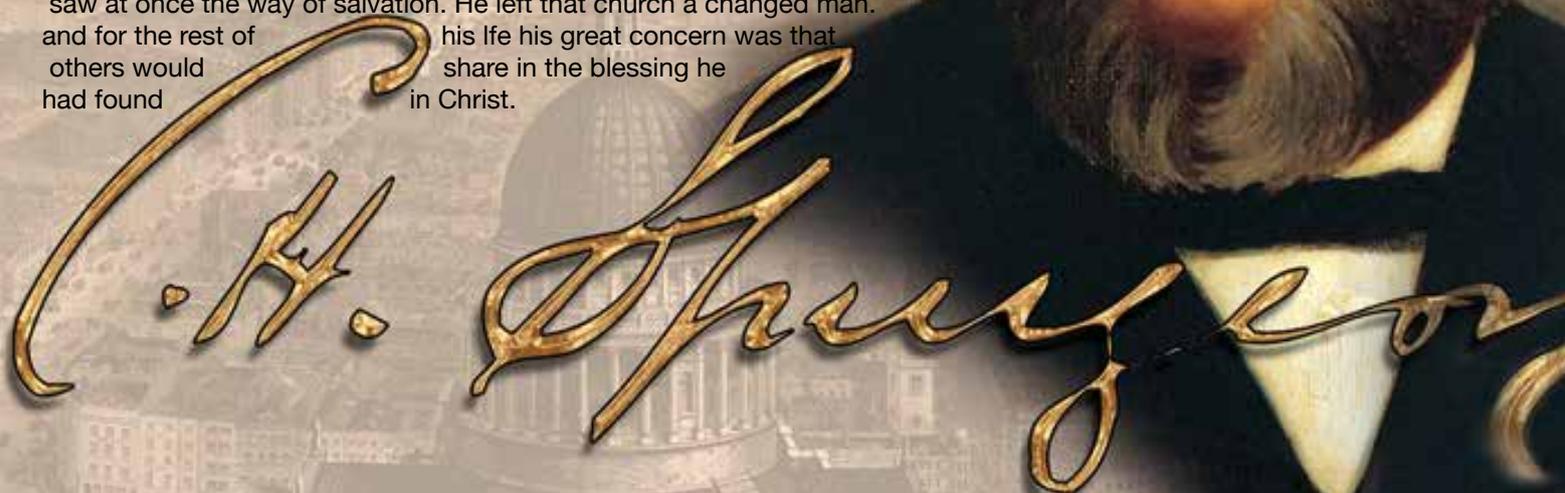


# Spurgeon's conversion

Charles Spurgeon, the writer of the letter on the previous page, was born in Essex, England in June 1834. He was brought up in a Christian family and from an early age was taught about the things of the Lord. He spent a great deal of time in the company of his grandfather who was a minister and some people used to say that he too would be a minister when he grew up.

He knew, however, that he couldn't be a minister because he had not been born again and when he was about fifteen years old the fact that he was not a Christian began more and more to disturb him. He grew increasingly miserable and unhappy and concluded that there was no hope that the Lord would ever save him.

On Lord's Day he was unable, because of heavy snow, to go to his own church. He wandered into a small church where just a few people were gathered. The minister of this church was not able to attend that day; possibly because of the snow. Another man had to step in and take the service. He spoke on Isaiah 54:22, "Look unto me, and be ye saved". He emphasised the need to look to the Lord Jesus Christ and not to ourselves. Then he seemed to notice young Charles Spurgeon and spoke to him directly from the pulpit. "Young man, you look very miserable. And you will always be miserable, in life and in death, if you don't obey my text. Young man, look to Jesus Christ. Look! Look! Look". The Lord used these words and as Spurgeon says he saw at once the way of salvation. He left that church a changed man, and for the rest of his life his great concern was that others would share in the blessing he had found in Christ.



## Psalm Tunes 2015 - 2016

Many readers of the Explorer sit the annual Psalmody Test. The first two tunes for the next session are given below. A CD featuring these tunes is also available and an excellent resource can be found at the Sing Psalms to God website at [www.sing-the-psalms.webs.com](http://www.sing-the-psalms.webs.com)

Anyone requiring further information should contact their own minister or the Clerk to the Psalmody Committee, Rev Andrew Allan, who can be contacted at [andrewallan@fccontinuing.org](mailto:andrewallan@fccontinuing.org)

Bishopthorpe C.M. No. 34.  
Psalm 81:13

s,f | m:-r:d | t:l:f | m:d:t | d:-r | m:-f:s | s:f:m | m:r  
O that my peo - ple had me heard, Is - rael my ways had chose

s | s:f:m | f:-f | f:m:r | m:-s:f | m:-r:d | l:r:d:t | d:-l  
I had their en - 'mies soon sub - dued, My hand turned on my foes

Jeremiah Clark (1659-1707) wrote this graceful tune, along with the C.M. tunes Hermon and St. Magnus. He was organist of Westminster Abbey, and composed the well-known Trumpet Voluntary which is often used at weddings. What would God have done for his people if they had obeyed him?

Soldau L.M. No. 14  
Psalm 6(i)

d | r:r | d:l | s:l | d:m | s:l | s:m | d:l | d  
Lord, in thy wrath re - buke me not; nor in thy hot rage chas - ten me

m | m:r | m:d | r:r | m:d | l:s | l:-t | d:d | d |  
Lord pi - y me for I am weak: heal me for my bones vex - ed be

This tune was included in *Geystliche Gesangk Buchleyn*, a hymn Book published in Wittemberg in 1524 by Luther who wrote a foreword for it. Johann Walter was the very able man who edited it. He was an outspoken musical supporter for the Lutherans and a fine composer and musician.



## GLASGOW PRESBYTERY OUTING



On the 13th of June members and adherents from the Partick, Shettleston, Knightswood and Ayr congregations and others went to Eglinton Country Park, Ayr, for their annual joint congregational outing. Several gathered outside The Community Church, Broomhill, Glasgow, to catch the bus that took them quickly and safely to Ayr, while the remainder made their own way to the venue. Although it was dull and overcast when we left Glasgow, and the weather of late had not been what we would have liked, yet our spirits were not down. Singing several Psalms as we travelled the weather became brighter and warmer. Upon arrival and getting settled in, the large company sat down on the picnic benches and had their packed lunch outdoors after grace was said.

Following lunch and a time of fellowship most ventured out into the park to enjoy the facilities on offer and enjoy the pleasant sunshine. For the young and energetic traditional races were staged, including several flat races for boys, girls and adults. We also had a wheel barrow race. Any who had any 'puff' left played football. Afterwards all returned to the hall and tucked into more refreshments. After food the annual Tug-O-War tournament was held. Such was the excitement and fun generated that our competition attracted 'foreign' competitors who were keen to share in the happy event.

To bring the day to a close Partick's minister Mr. Allan read from Hebrews 13 and focused on verse 14, "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come."

Although several people who would normally attend were missing, others who had been absent last year and previous years made a return visit, so that the numbers attending were encouraging.

We are thankful to the LORD for pleasant dry weather and for all we were able to enjoy on the day.

