

## Postcode Wars

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learn of such activity in 1890s Ancoats, then considered a very bad area of that city. I instantly thought of the wonderful work of **The Star Hall** at that time, which was purposely started in Ancoats, considered by some to be the worst area of Manchester. That great work was begun by Frank W. Crossley, of Crossley Gas Turbine Engines, who was one of the most godly men in 19th century Britain. Crossley's was a labour of love for the countless multitudes in the various pits of sin, so that at his graveside service alone, 15,000 attended. Crossley loved God and he loved the souls of men and women—his fellow human beings.

Today's Postcode Wars *appear to be* related to perceived "rights" to designated areas. This is only a *partial* truth, based on self-deception. The "Postcode" where the *greatest* war rages is the human heart, and God says it is "*deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked*" (Jer 17:9). The borders of *this* "Postcode" can change without notice or reason. Therefore, gang members murder and maim, even when it involves no member of a rival gang nor a supposed trespasser from another Postcode. This twisted inner "Postcode" prods youth of both sexes to shout gruesome support to young, would-be killers. What a Postcode!

Remember that the real leader of all these gangs is *ONE*. He is "**the boss of all bosses**," as Salvatore Maranzano wanted to be in the early 1930s New York underworld. The same is true *then, before then, and since then!* The Bible says "*The pride of your hearts has deceived you; you who dwell in the caverns of the rock, whose habitation is high; You who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the*

*ground?'* Though you ascend as high as the eagle, and though you set your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," says the **LORD**" (Obadiah 3).

God is the One who says he will bring the proud down, and He will also do so with Satan with endless finality. Jesus warned His disciples against pride, which is one of the main characteristics of the devil himself. Jesus said, "*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven*" (Luke 10:18). Other Bible verses join these words of Jesus to picture the sudden and lightning-fast fall of Satan. But his fall from heaven to earth to trouble the human family is only the first part of his fall. The second phase of Satan's fall will be to Hell, the lake of fire, call it what you will...and it will be forever. Satan is the "boss of all bosses," when it comes to Postcode Wars, but he lost, and will go to the eternal Postcode that God has already designated for him and for all who follow him. Who are *YOU* following?... **REALLY** following?

There is a long-standing **Postcode WAR**, but also an abiding **Postcode WALL**...a wall more effective than the Berlin Wall; more enduring than The Great Wall of China. No one from either side can cross over to the other, and it will last forever. Sides must be chosen *now*. Learn about it in Luke 16:26.

Jesus' words about Satan's sudden fall is linked to the disciples report about devils being cast suddenly out from individuals. **This is glorious news.** If individuals and communities will come to God, with no holding back, no masquerade and with unconditional full surrender, then God can bring an end to these localised Postcode Wars as fast as those demons were cast out. In fact, God can make a full clean-up job of the entire Postcode itself! Do not underestimate the power of God! **Now that's some lightning I would like to see!**

**OUR GREATEST POSSESSION:** In light of end-time events, Jesus tells us that our greatest possession is our never-dying soul, and that we shall help to populate either Heaven or Hell...forever! Jesus said that saving our souls will require a constant focus and a constant fight of endurance. No surprise... we allow this just to obtain a university degree... how much more to gain heaven?! Jesus said "*In your patient endurance you will gain [or win] your souls*" (Luke 21:19). This patient endurance refers to our walk with God... as Jesus walked, for He is our Saviour...but also our Pattern! Consider! (1 Jn. 2:6; 1Pet. 2:21-23; Phil. 2:5; Heb. 4:15).

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# London Christian Standard ...and Provincial

"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

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## Postcode Wars

(It's a sick ole' world)

Gabriel Mancino



"Postcode War" and has been going on since Eden. The "turf" is God's, and Satan is the invader trying to make it *his* turf! This is no mere a joke than the crushed hearts of families and friends who have experienced the horrific tragedy of these local "postcode wars."

**We know...at least in theory...**that symptoms are not an illness, but

simply expose its presence. This applies to social and moral sickness, just as it does to physical illness. As shocking as it may seem, Postcode Wars are merely one of the symptoms rather than the illness. We could wish that as a symptom, it was simply *annoying*, like a running nose, rather than *tragic* in ripping families apart with sudden and ruthless finality.

Violence is promoted by various means and media, yet "**turf wars**" were happening long before motion pictures came to boost them along. A recent newspaper article told of the "rampant knife crime," "warring yobs," and "utterly powerless police"...back in Victorian England! The article calls them "**The First Hoodies**." The focus of the article was on **gangs of Manchester**. I was stunned to

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**POSSESSIONS WAR:** The Bible is clear that man's greatest blunder is in placing the emphasis of his living on the temporary, "time and sense" things of this world, rather than on thinking about eternity and where he plans to spend it. Trust me, there are no "friends" in Hell. Yet, *even in this present world*, a long-planned, one-world government has been unfolding for generations, and like a warfare by stealth, is robbing the wealth of nations and their citizens. Such robbery and resulting enslavement is easy to do when people are fast asleep. The International bankers know this, along with the Bilderbergs, etc. yet they, too, will face God one day!

# The Grand Original



Gabriel L. Mancino

**No, I am not promoting guns!** As a young lad I had an **Air Rifle** that shot BBs, but not pellets. It was a replica Winchester 1894, similar to the one above. **I am not promoting rock music either**, but in my early teens I was mesmerized by the guitar playing of such as **Hendrix** and **Clapton**. I guess there are people who like replicas in this, too, so **“Air Guitar”** has been created!

Today's world affects my view of children pretending to have guns. Yet, I confess that it seems far more insane to imagine an adult performing with an invisible guitar. As generations have passed by, society has been craftily moulded into consumers of fakery and emptiness. We are so inclined to being **Air Heads**, and the long string of huge lies we swallow, “hook, line and sinker,” demonstrates it.

I was so “lost” as a youth that it is amazing God ever got through to me...but He did. Yet, I have lived long enough to learn that there is plenty of “air” in religion; including church circles. BUT, I will be *just as quick* to say that I have thankfully also learned not to **“throw the baby out with the wash water,”** to use a 15th century expression. When God so wonderfully saved me and turned me around, He gave me an inheritance. Through Christ, I have been made God's “heir.” Though I am still discovering more about the inheritance, I know very well that I am not an heir of air! “Wise” **King Solomon** got so badly sidetracked in his search for true satisfaction that he ended up chasing bursting bubbles...air!... just like the majority today.

In the history of Christendom there are many things that are horrific and indefensible.

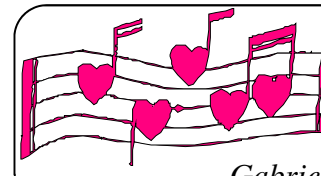
Yet, “*Christendom*” is not the world's Saviour— *Christ* is! As I have said again and again, God only promised one Messiah-Saviour, and that is Jesus Christ. Within the arena of religion, people try to produce and promote a “counterfeit Christ.” Such seem to be satisfied being an heir of air. This happens within “Christianity,” as well.

Years ago I learned the children's Sunday School song: **“Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.”** In reading a 1981 book, I learned that some **Buddhists** had made their own “pirate version:” *Buddha Loves Me!* What a pitiful fraud. **Valentine's Day** turns one's attention to love, and there is no greater than the love of Christ for lost humanity...and no “second best” or “second place!”

Apparently, **Communism** took its turn by copying the small “cell groups” of early Christianity. Though Communism had the *form*, it did not have the *substance*; the chief Ingredient! **Islam** also helped itself to revising Jesus Christ, and produced what it claims to be “the original.” It is another false Christ, like those in circulation way back in the first century (see 2 Cor. 11:3,4). A new “Islamic” video is out, which again builds its argument on a foundation of deceit. It blends truth with error. Many people won't know the difference, and are further blinded by culture, prejudice and fear. Another popular video made by others has been circulating, but it, too, “throws the baby out” with the dirty water of a false and indefensible “Christianity.”

By the way, **“Airhead”** (like “beachhead”) also refers to a chosen place in a hostile or threatened land which, when taken and held, allows more troops and supplies to arrive by air, and the projected operation carried out. The Bible says, *“God SO LOVED the world, that He gave us His only Son, that whoever believes on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life!”* God came to this hostile world, and continues to bring supplies from the skies! He has not given up in the rescue of mankind. **When it comes to the Love of God and the Salvation of God, I say “No, thank you” to poor frauds. I want the Grand Original!**

**FOOLED BY FRAUDS:** We have such a scary inclination to believe what is false and reject the truth. Jesus said, *“I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive”* (John 5:43). Right now we are being fed and lead by deception, **BIG TIME**, and so many are swallowing it. The diet of deceit has been on the menu for generations to bring us to where we are today. The near future *does* look frightening... for those who know nothing else to feast upon. Yet the Bible invites us: *“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!”* (Ps. 34:8)



# Blind Love

Gabriel L. Mancino

On the front/back page article I wrote of a great man, **Francis (Frank) W. Crossley**. Now, in the article *here* I will mention a godly woman named **Frances (Fanny) Jane Crosby**. She died in 1915 at 95, and was one of the most known women in America at the time. Due to a doctor's error, **she was blinded at just six weeks old**. At age 8 she wrote:

*“Oh what a happy soul I am,  
Although I cannot see;  
I am resolved that in this world  
Contented I will be.  
How many blessings I enjoy,  
That other people don't;  
To weep and sigh because I'm blind,  
I cannot, and I won't.”*

**From her love of God** flowed over 8,000 hymns (Christian songs) that she wrote. Church songbook publishers used so many of her hymns, that to avoid extreme repetition of her name in the hymnals, some publishers asked her to use “pen names”...of which she had nearly 100! She once said, “When I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Saviour!” **After Fanny died**, another great hymn-writer, Eliza Hewitt, wrote of her:

*Away to the country of sunshine and song,  
Our songbird has taken her flight,  
And she who has sung in the darkness so long  
Now sings in the beautiful light.*

Fanny Crosby's first hymn was a missionary song, titled: **“There's A Cry From Macedonia”** (from Acts 16:9).

**BLIND BEAUTY:** Psalm 149:4 says *“The LORD takes pleasure in His people: He will beautify the meek with salvation.”* Some translate “meek” with “humble.” For “beautify,” some have “crown” or “adorn.” Many are pre-occupied with body beauty “improvements,” & the cosmetics industry is happy to take your money, and shops that sell it want you to “feed your addiction.” God asks people why they spend their money for meaningless, unprofitable things, and He seems to almost beg them to stop, think and change. Oh, how blind we can be...even **CHOOSE** not to see!

**We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 5:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.**

**Crosby**, just like **Crossley**, loved God and also her fellow human beings! It is God's love that moves a person to *“seek and to save the lost.”* like Jesus (see Luke 19:10).

Fanny Crosby, blinded almost from birth, reminds us of the Bible record of the man born blind (John 9). What a powerful account that is! What bravery that young man had in the face of fierce opposition, family abandonment due their fear, and his finally being officially excluded from his religious group! This young man was *blind to any fear of man*, because of his love and commitment to Christ: the One who had opened his eyes!

Love to God also blinds us to the empty and temporary attractions of the world, though not to the agonies and needs of the people. Love of the world and love of self blinds even *religious* people to the *true* meaning of being a loving follower of Jesus Christ. Tragically, for so long most professing Christians have ignored Christ's command to be a light in the darkness of this world's sin and misery. **William Booth**, the founder of the **Salvation Army** and another of **Crosby's** contemporaries, knew and felt the tremendous needs of London and the world. **Crossley** was one of Booth's financial supporters in those early days.

**St. Paul's Cathedral** has Holman Hunt's famous painting of Christ knocking at our heart's door. Hunt's painting is based on Revelation 3:20, which was addressed to a group of people who were spiritually blind to their true condition. They thought they were ok, but Jesus faithfully and lovingly told them they were not! You should read it. As we think about love, not only for **Valentine's Day**, but *always*, let's deeply reconsider the true condition of our love to God and man. Eternity advances fast. Time and opportunity return no more. In such a context, true love makes no delay.