

ASHES IN JANUARY

(from front page)

Not long after the 1882 cricket defeat by Australia, and while in China as a missionary, Charles Thomas Studd gave his £29,000 inheritance (a large sum then) equally to Mueller's work in Bristol, to the Salvation Army work in India, to George Holland's work among the poor in Whitechapel, and to the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, USA.) Studd believed God to supply his needs.

Charles and his brothers had become true followers of Jesus Christ while students at Eton, during a visit to their family home by preacher. Studd had faults and failures, but various aspects of his life are a great lesson and challenge to us today. He was "all out" for God, and stated with his usual courage: "Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell."

Charles graduated from Cambridge in 1883. The next year, when his brother George was taken seriously ill, Charles faced the question: "What is all the fame and flattery worth...when a man comes to face eternity?" As a result of this event, he said "I know that cricket would not last, and honour would not last, and nothing in this world would last, but it was worthwhile living for the world to come."

In 1898 Margaret J. Harris wrote words which grasps the reality through which Mr. Studd passed. Here are some of those words (with a little updated English):

When I saw the cleansing fountain
Open wide for all my sin,
I obeyed God's Spirit's calling,
When He said, "Will you be clean?"

Though the way seems straight and narrow,
All I claimed was swept away;
My ambitions, plans and wishes,
At my feet in ASHES lay.

Charles Studd is one of many people who have made such a choice. Similar examples are throughout the Bible. History, after Bible times, is full of great examples from all over the world and from all walks of life. One of the world's greatest singers was Jenny Lind: "The Swedish Nightingale," who lived and died in England. She was known for her high morality, as well as her beautiful voice and gracious spirit. Apparently, at the peak of her amazing career, she left, never to return, and moved into a little house by the sea. A friend found her on the beach one day reading her Bible and glancing at the sunset. Her friend asked, "How is it that you abandoned the stage at the height of your success?" She responded by saying, "When every day it made me think less of this (laying her finger on the Bible) and nothing at all of that (pointing to the sunset) what else could I do?" For the sake of her own salvation and the glory of God, she laid her career in ashes at HIS feet. Beautiful ashes!

Jesus asked: "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or, what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Things that keep you from total love and obedience to God are God's "rivals." They are "the whole world, gained" to you. Give all of these temporary and over-valued "treasures" to God in total surrender.

Commit them to His flame. Hold nothing back. Take nothing back! Yet, "gain" "BEAUTY for those ASHES!"

"BEAUTY FOR ASHES!" In those words...and many more...Jesus declared His loving provision of the greatest wardrobe change man has ever been offered. Instead of the ASHES of life's short-lived pleasures, we are all called by God Himself to the things that matter most! Adam & Eve traded off God's original covering for sin & shame. Through Christ, God provides "a new covering." One song says: "I'll tell you the best thing I ever did do, was take off the old robe & put on the new!" We turn in our rags of sin for a robe of holiness... and as another song puts it, "I sure got the best of the trade!"



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Ashes in January

Gabriel Mancino

The Ashes is a Test cricket series played between England and Australia since 1882. That first year was lost to the colony. A satirical obituary in *The Sporting Times* noted that English cricket had died at The Oval, and that the body would be cremated, and the ashes buried in Australia. Following matches were said to be in the effort to get the ashes back in England. The 2010-2011 series was 25 Nov. 2010 to 7 January 2011.

Italy mingles early January with a thought of ashes, as well. Its ashes are a mingling of fact with fantasy, which leads to falsity. Italy's La Befana is allegedly linked to the "wise men" who travelled long, possibly from ancient Iran, in search of "He who is born King of the Jews" i.e. the Christ-Child. This is what the Church calls Epiphany, though some also connect Epiphany to Jesus' baptism by John. While good



children received nice gifts during Befana's fantasy visit, naughty children received a lump of coal, or garlic or onion, or even ashes!

Blending error with Bible truth is a spiritually foolish and fatal cocktail. God's truth needs no support from fairy tales. St. Peter boldly declared, "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables ["cleverly or skilfully imagined."] when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty" (2 Pet. 1:16).

C. T. Studd, with his brothers, are listed first on the famous "Ashes urn." He was the famous English batsman who might have saved England from that 1882 defeat, had he been permitted to bat instead of Ted Peate. Studd, along with his brothers, had gone to Eton, then on to Cambridge. There he became part of "The Cambridge Seven," a group of whole-hearted missionaries to China, though C. T. was also a missionary in India and Africa.

(continued on back page)

NEW YEAR'S GREATEST SUCCESS! Someone said "You never hear about the Resolutions of the Apostles, but you DO hear about their Acts! They are seen in "The Acts of the Apostles." THIS was God's Holy Spirit working Through the Apostles!" In the article above there are almost no Bible verses, yet there IS plenty of spiritual truth to help guide and motivate each reader to walk with God whole-heartedly. There are so many things in life keeping people occupied and pre-occupied... ANYTHING...to keep people from truly, truly walking with God on HIS terms! I pray that this issue will give you a boost to ACTION, and SUCCESS, in God's eyes...which is most important of all! "Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed!" (Rom. 12:2)



Worthwhile Journey

Gabriel L. Mancino

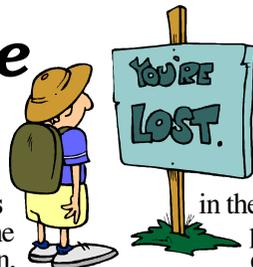
To “Google” the words “wisest man,” leads one instantly to King Solomon, the son of King David. Solomon had his own tragic weaknesses, notwithstanding his famous “wisdom.” **Brains** alone can never safeguard an individual or nation; nor can **brawn** (physical strength), nor even the **banks!** Solomon and the nation had it all, yet we may learn from their special visitor!

The Bible records the journey, the visit itself, and the stunning effects of the visit to Solomon by the **Queen of Sheba** in 1 Kings 10 and 1 Chronicles 9. **The Queen was in awe, and gave the reasons why.** I am sure there were sincere grounds for this “first impression,” yet I fear her assessment was, to some degree, superficial. I also fear she was, in some sense, wrong.

The Bible clearly exposes Solomon’s betrayal of the true God. He had built special places of worship for the numerous idolatrous gods of his numerous idolatrous wives. He also apparently taxed his people so heavily that it paved the way for a splitting of the nation soon after. Solomon started well, but that is not enough! His departure from whole-hearted worship of the one true God led to deterioration of himself and the nation. Can Britain learn?

At the time of her visit, both king and country “looked good” externally. So much was this the case, that the Queen exclaimed that what she had heard back in her country, of Solomon and his kingdom, was less than *half* of the reality. **To her, it was amazing.**

Jesus mentions this event. The lesson and truth Jesus was bringing, however, was far more important than the actual historical event itself. Jesus’ words are recorded in Matthew 12:38-50, and in Luke 11. **Jesus there tells** of how the entire capital city of the Assyrian empire genuinely turned to God because of the preaching of the prophet, Jonah. Then Jesus adds, “and a greater than Jonah is



here!” He referred to Himself.

He also mentions the long journey of this Queen of Sheba to hear the wisdom of Solomon, then adds, “and a greater than Solomon is here!” These are not the only words in the Bible that tell of the spiritual progress people have made, and of the extra effort they put forth...often with far less advantages than many others. The Bible is faithful to inform us that the people who have God’s truth “under their noses,” so to speak, and many earthly advantages, as well, will face more severe judgement from God. Spiritual ignorance that is *chosen and wilful, is fatal.*

Every January 6 sees many Christians commemorating the coming of the “wise men” (kings). **Those men travelled a far greater distance than the Queen of Sheba.** And, as Jesus’ words above would indicate, the journey of the “wise men” was for an incomparably better reason than that of the Queen. They journeyed 1000 years later than this queen, and for a reason 1000 times better (“to use the colloquialism”)!

Now, the point is not to remember or celebrate strenuous journeys taken 2000 and 3000 years ago. The point is to ask ourselves about our own journey, for we are *all* on one. Are the things you are seeking worth it...in the long run? **Famous cricketer, Charles Studd** (see front page), re-valued his ambitions. People of all races, religions and cultures are apparently as hypnotised by earthly, superficial things as the Queen of Sheba. She was overwhelmingly impressed, but it was a deceptive picture she saw. She found what she was looking for, but her *inward compass* failed her. How easy it happens; and how often! It need not.

A song says, “I’ve never travelled far around the world. I’ve never seen the many thrills and sites unfurled. **But I have taken the journey of journeys** for me, up Calvary’s mountain, there my Saviour to see!” “Calvary” is where Jesus was crucified for our sins. We may *all* humble ourselves there; confessing and turning from all our sin. **THAT would be the most Worthwhile Journey of all for anyone anywhere!** I know it *personally.*

Spring Cleaning

Gabriel L. Mancino



Maybe you are still so tired from Christmas and New Year’s that you don’t even want to think of “Spring Cleaning” already! Don’t worry, my subject is different.

Jesus’ brief reference to the Queen of Sheba (see opposite page) was **amid horrid accusations** against Him. The accusers were also “sign-seekers”—demanding proof of Who He was. **Such people are rarely convinced,** even if the fact was glued to their nose or confirmed by 1000 people.

Jesus said that such people...*in this case, He referred to the nation of Israel...* was like an unclean spirit leaving a man (or nation), and finding no resting place, **returns to the “house,” finding it swept clean and put in order.** Jesus said that this spirit then takes seven even-more-wicked spirits with him, and that *the end* of that man is worse than the beginning. (Matt. 12: 43-45; Lk. 11:24-26).

Britain has had such a cleaning in its past. One great example is The Evangelical Revival of the 18th century. Later powerful activity of God include the Welsh Revival of 1904, and the Hebrides Revival in the late 1940s and early 1950s. **Britain cannot willfully turn God’s light out in this nation, then have control of what happens next!** As a direct and unavoidable consequence, Britain has been invaded by the extra evil spirits. The evidence is bursting at the seams.

But it doesn’t end there! A day of *Final* Cleaning is coming. Every trace of “**the devil’s dirt**” (sin) that **has so thoroughly “stained the clothes of man”** will then be gone forever. Oh, that London would experience a cleaning *NOW* like the ancient Assyrian capital did (see page at left). It is not too early to begin *radical* cleaning. Pray for it. Live for it. Act for it. **We cannot turn the clock back** to rescue people who have already gone. **But 2011 is here, and calls you and me** to pick up the challenge of love for God and for our fellow man. And to “**get to the bottom,**” we must **get on our knees!** Then, from our knees, we must rise to walk in newness of life and in true and thorough holiness. **IT’S CLEANING TIME!**

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.

Rats, Plague ...and the Fire!

Gabriel L. Mancino



On the little hill, outside Tower Bridge Tube Station, is the very interesting sundial showing London’s history. The sundial shows that London had a *few*, if not *several*, different plague years! Of course, the most well-known is **The Great Plague of London 1665-1666,** which some reports say was largely due to rats, and was largely ended with “**The Great Fire of London**” in 1666.

But what about today, when the world, including Britain, is facing terrible plagues? Britain’s “experts” seem to mask the nation’s true condition; at times touching secondary ills at best, but not the central problem. As Thoreau said, “**There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root.**”

“**Rats**” are at work today, and *have been* for generations, to bring a one-world government. Former President Bush said he wouldn’t mind a dictatorship...if he could be the dictator! Ah! the character of the dictator is the vital issue! Jesus will rule this world one day, but rats are trying to seize the throne first, and keep Him out. **Many mice are helping them—just little rats.**

A new purifying fire is needed to kill the plague. Only the genuine work of God’s Holy Spirit can cleanse the plagues of Britain and the world. FIRE is sometimes used in the Bible as a “symbol” representing God’s Holy Spirit. Like fire, God’s Holy Spirit exposes *everything!*

The “financial crisis” (ha!) is only one of the evidences of rats, but God can get to the source of *EVERY individual and national* plague! **Don’t merely hack at branches.** A lady taking donations, selling papers and advertising a lecture recently told me: “the workers need to take over!” How mislead and misleading; like the majority. We don’t need a new *Russian* Revolution, but a **Rushing** Revolution—a new Pentecost! “*And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house...and there appeared... as of fire, and sat on them...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit!*” (Acts 2: 2-4). As Salvation Army Founder, William Booth, wrote: **SEND THE FIRE TODAY!**