



NEWSLINE

May 2003

Low Cost – High Price

In spite of the events of September 11, 2001, and now more recently war in the Middle East and the spread of disease from Asia, the Low Cost Carriers (LCCs) maintain a rapid growth across the skies of Europe. The fares can in some cases be one penny plus taxes per sector! One sometimes wonders how they do it and, at the same time, order new aircraft which the 'traditional' airlines have cancelled. Is all the profit in the £5 sandwich you buy onboard, or from somewhere else?

The key to a successful LCC is a low cost base, getting everything as cheap as you can and keeping it that way. Handling fees, office space, and fuel prices to name but a few. Part of that is to work the staff harder, one person doing two people's jobs. Or working Flight and Cabin Crew right to the boundaries of Flight Time Limitations. The lower cost is then passed on to the travelling public - in theory. But there's always a price to be paid, the question is who is paying it? The pilot who flies the legal limit of 900 hours annually may not have time left for a home life with wife and children. Constantly coping with fatigue and stress is not a good foundation for abundant life or safety at work. A British survey showed that fathers in the UK spend less than 15 minutes a day with their children. Another survey said they're too tired for sex as well. Thus from a worldly point of view you know things are bad.

To understand the signs of the times of this from the perspective of the Kingdom of God, I believe we should take a fresh look in the Old Covenant book of Exodus, chapter 5. Instructed by the Lord at the burning bush, Moses returns to Egypt to free the children of Israel who were enslaved by Pharaoh after arriving there 400 years earlier. Aaron and Moses ask for some time off work to worship their God. Pharaoh rejects the request, making them work harder and calling the Word of God a lie. Not only are the Israelites required to make the same number of bricks but to gather the straw necessary for making them. The people scattered all over Egypt to find straw, making their presence known to all Egyptians who would later have to suffer so much in the coming plagues. Pharaoh's tactics worked and the Israelites became despondent and desperate. But the deliverance of the people of God was drawing near. You probably know the story; the Lord reduced Pharaoh's Egypt to nothing by inflicting the plagues.

The children of Israel escaped the final judgement by marking their doorframes with the blood of the Passover Lamb. Pharaoh lost the wealth of Egypt as they left, and later in the waters he lost his army too. He became powerless.

What I believe this means for us today is this: the book of Exodus is not only an account of God's deliverance 3500 years ago but it is also a description of every New Covenant believer's transition from Satan's kingdom to the Kingdom of God. The blood of the Lamb foreshadows the blood of Jesus on the cross and the crossing of the Sea the Christian's Immersion or Baptism. Another thing that relates to our study is that it is a prophetic message of what the days will be like before the return of Messiah.

Many of the future events in the Bible are contained in its very last book, the Book of Revelation. In Chapters 15&16 the plagues of Egypt reappear but with international dimensions. It may well be that Pharaoh, unknowingly, played the part of Satan thus foreshadowing his role in the last days in which we live. It is in the Old Testament we first read of the conclusion of Satan's days, Isaiah Ch. 14 v. 12-15 describes his defeat, then in verses 16-17 we read "*Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?*" (NIV).

The trend of working harder and harder is evident in many professions, the airline industry being just one example. The unions, like the Israelite foremen, have found their requests go unnoticed. Families break up under the pressure; spiritually (and in some areas physically) the Earth is becoming a desert. There's no time for anything else other than to work. However the Kingdom of God is forcefully advancing and, as the deliverance of the children of Israel took place at night, so too will ours take place in spiritual darkness; the book of Revelation tells us that. What we see now are the birth pains of a Kingdom into which those who are born again will be gathered (Matthew Ch. 24 v.4-8, 31).

Let us conclude with more words of Jesus on this topic recorded for us in Matthew Ch.16 v.26-27. "*What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done.*"

James Anderson

The Double

With the Easter celebrations just past, we have once again been reminded of the amazing events that took place during that Passover Festival nearly 2000 years ago. The gospel accounts are full of graphic detail that often we might gloss over as just a device to provide drama to readers' eyes in the events of Jesus' life. Yet, writing to Timothy, Paul explains that every word of scripture is useful for teaching and instruction (2 Timothy 3 v.16). Have you ever stopped to consider the discarded grave clothes first seen by Peter as he entered the tomb on Sunday morning, in particular the neatly folded headcloth set aside by itself (John 20 v.7)?

I recently learned that in ancient Jewish culture, if a man was saddled with debt he could not repay, then as a last resort he would write (or more probably have written for him) a note detailing the debt and the requirements for full settlement. This note would then be pinned to the doorpost of his home for any passer by to see. Occasionally a benefactor on reading the note would take it upon himself to settle the debt in person, when this was done he would neatly fold the notice in two and nail it back to the doorframe of the debtor. This folded note signifying that full payment had been made was known as 'the double'. In the Old Testament the prophet Isaiah uttered some words which when translated into

English causes us difficulty by virtue of the fact that Hebrew, the original language of the Old Testament does not have a definite article. Those words are to be found in Isaiah 40 v.2 '...she has received from the Lord's hand double for her sins'. In all good conscience and in the context of the opening exhortation of the chapter it is difficult to explain what that actually means, but if we apply the definite article so that it reads '... *the* double for her sins.' then in the light of the prevailing Jewish custom and an understanding of Isaiah's prophecy the meaning becomes immediately clear.

So let us sum up: the wages of sin is death (Romans 6 v.23) i.e. what is demanded of us and what we owe are our lives; however the note of our debt has not only been written down but cancelled by nailing it to the cross (Colossians 2 v.14). Full settlement has been made on our behalf because Jesus Christ has paid the price himself. The Notice of Debt has been neatly folded in two and there is no need for any one to take a peek inside, because all our sins have been fully paid for; 'the Double' proves it.

As you look into the grave what do you see, an open note of debt or a folded note of settlement? As the angels said 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen! (Luke 24 v. 5). Are you sure that it is your debt that has been settled? Make certain of it today.

Christopher Cowell

Do you know:-

That 60% of men in the UK regularly read their horoscope?

That 70 % of women in the UK regularly read their horoscope?

That 5% of horoscopes (or other means of divination) actually come true?

That 25% of all scientific predictions of future events actually come true?

That of the 735 separate events prophesied in the Bible, 80% have come true?

That the remaining 20% are yet to happen, being connected with the end of the world and Jesus coming again?

If the Bible has been 100% accurate with the 80% of its prophecies that have already happened, it is reasonable to assume that the remaining 20% will also occur precisely as recorded.

Why then do the majority of people consult mediums with such a poor success rate rather than the One who inspired the Bible with its 100% record? God is always right but He also calls us to account.

The outcome for us will either be eternally uncomfortable or....heaven.

Do you know your destiny?

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!*

People of Power

In the AAACF we do not presume to teach people how to be effective witnesses for Christ or how to run a successful fellowship. There are already more than enough 'how to' programmes and formulas to make one almost dizzy with confusion; should we be concentrating on small groups or maybe we would be more effective if we divided up into task orientated groups such as pilots' fellowships or engineers, cabin crew, office managers or what ever? Should we concentrate on community action or studying the bible together?

For many we belong to churches where the latest idea or method has been seized upon enthusiastically only to fade away and the life of the congregation carries on much as it did before. Why is it that so often our church or fellowship life seems to be just a continuing round of meetings and gatherings with little to distinguish between one and the next? There may be nothing wrong in the way we do things, indeed they may be highly admirable but the problem is we are trusting in the method rather than the Creator. We will only begin to see real change when we come before God and wait on Him. That means listening for Him rather than bombarding Him with a shopping list of requests. It is not that we should not be beseeching the Lord, of course we should; but we need to remember that Jesus taught us that the first request, and therefore the basis for everything else, is "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done".

Successful ministries and thriving churches are born out of prayer and die through lack of prayer; the difficulty we have in understanding is that so often there appears to be a large time gap between the prayer (or lack of it) and the outcome. Bringing something to birth requires time, patience and, as every mother knows, pain. For God that is very real. Jesus refers to the birth process in his discourse on the coming of the end of the age (*Matthew 24 v.28*). Daniel learned that his prayer, although heard immediately, took time to be answered because of other matters that had to be cleaned up before what he asked for could be done (*Daniel 10 v.13*). When we pray we need to remember that there is almost certainly a wider picture of which we are not aware. At the other end of the scale God's grace prevails because of his love, mercy and forbearance, but there comes a time when discipline, and then judgement and wrath, are the only options. In Exodus we read that the presence of the Lord was in the camp, but because of continued defilement the Lord withdrew his presence. In His letter to the seven churches Jesus spelt out reasons why he might withdraw His light if in due course there was not to be some change, most telling of all being his condemnation of the lukewarm. Prayer cannot be taken

half-heartedly, it is by prayer that we seek the Living God, and it is because of prayer that we will encounter Him. There can be no half measures (*Deuteronomy 4 v. 29*), nor can we expect answers to prayer if our lifestyles are deliberately contrary to God's holiness. (*Proverbs 28 v.9*)

The AAACF will rise or fall, not by the success of a conference, nor an outreach programme. It will not depend on our numbers nor will it depend on how many attend meetings; but it will depend on those who are prepared to pray. It does not matter how you pray, whether using formal prayers or extemporaneous, on your knees or standing, out loud or quietly, hands raised or lowered, in tongues or not, all can be valid expressions of our sincerity and commitment to Jesus. Indeed if we begin to look askance at styles of worship or prayer then we are in danger of hurting the body, for if one part suffers the whole body suffers with it (*1 Corinthians 12v.26*).

Jesus promises that He will be in our midst when two or three are gathered together, thus indicating that prayer brings intimacy with Him; we don't need a megaphone or long and flowery speech, he is there right with us, understanding our feelings and desires. Compassion is one of His hallmarks, therefore prayer is not an arm twisting session, but coming into the presence of one who understands and identifies with all of our concerns and who has promised that He is coming again in all His glory.

Let us therefore seek the One who wears the victor's crown, His kingdom and His righteousness.

AAACF Day of Prayer 6th June. (Further details on back page).

Regular fellowship meetings:-

Mondays: Terminal One Prayer Room, Manchester

Tuesdays: Amadeus World Business Centre LHR

Tuesdays: Central Area LHR

Wednesdays & Fridays: British Airways, Waterside

1st Monday of the month: Compass Centre, British Airways LHR

1st Tuesday of the month: Jubilee House British Airways LGW

For further details of these and other fellowships at Stansted, East Midlands, Virgin Atlantic LGW, CAA LGW, British Airways Manchester, CitiExpress Southampton, or if you are part of a fellowship that has not been mentioned, please call the office.

General Secretary

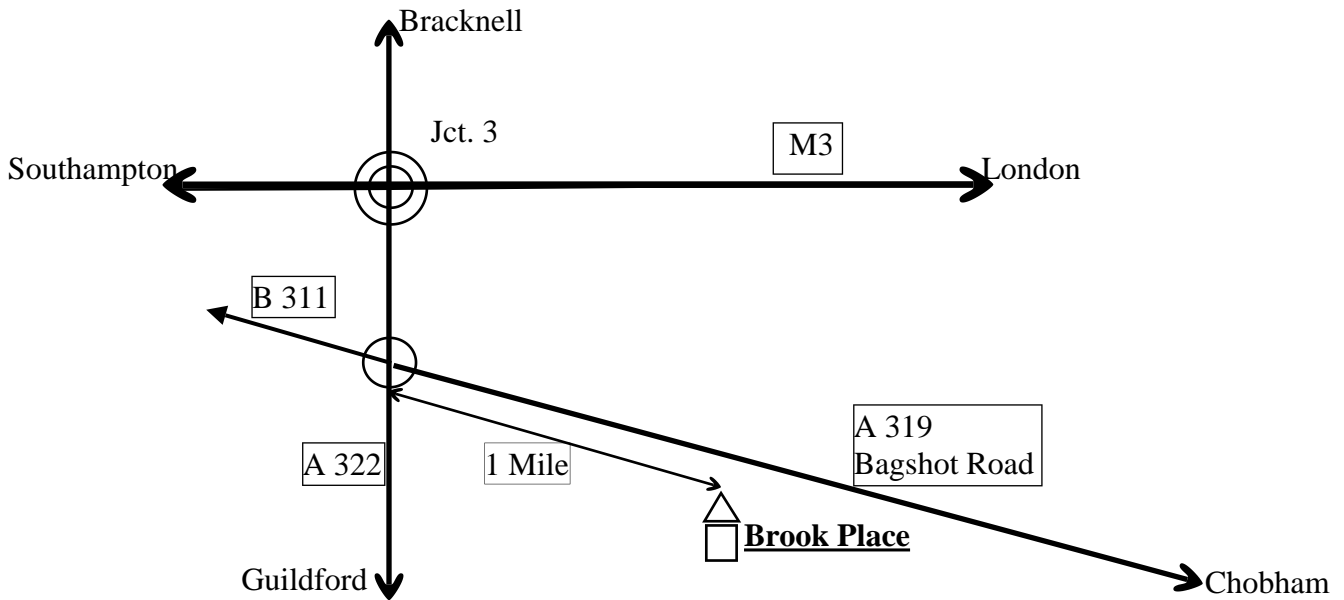
Events

Day Of Prayer

Our Annual Day of Prayer is on **Friday 6th June** at Brook Place near Chobham. In previous years this day has proved to be of strategic importance for us, and this year with the effect of war and the SARS outbreak being felt around the world and in the industry we represent it would seem vitally important that we gather before the Lord and seek His purposes.

Brook Place is a lovely venue with beautiful gardens, a haven of peace within the bustle of the South East. The day will run from 1030-1630 in two sessions with a break for lunch between 1300-1400.

As a fellowship we desire that we are right before God and are pursuing His will. Please make every consideration to attend all or part of the day. If you intend coming for lunch it would help if you let us know so that we can cater accordingly; accommodation can be provided for those who live at a distance.



Royal International Air Tattoo, Fairford

This year's Air Tattoo is to take place on 19th and 20th July. The AAACF are planning to be there with a display tent and lots of information about what it is to be a Christian and testimonies of how God works in the lives of His people. Our mission is to reach as many as possible with the good news of the Gospel and to let them know that Jesus Christ is as relevant as ever, even in the high-tech world of advanced aviation. Around 100,000 people a day stream through the gates of RAF Fairford, in addition thousands of men and women are involved with the display of hundreds of aircraft both on the ground and in the air.

We are looking for a team of at least twenty to help distribute the free newspapers we produce specially for the event to the thousands who stream in through the gates each day, and also to man our tent displaying a much wider selection of literature and information. Accommodation has been booked at the nearby Harnhill Manor for the nights of 18th and 19th July. Harnhill will be for our exclusive use over the weekend, it is an old Cotswold House set in lovely gardens and now well established as a centre for Christian Prayer and Healing. This represents a superb opportunity to be about the business of the great commission in the company of fellow believers whilst enjoying all the drama and spectacle of what has been called the largest and most spectacular airshow in the world.

Places are limited so if you are interested please contact the office as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Derek Trewin and Flavia Hatter on their engagement to be married.