



# NEWSLETTER

September 2009

<http://www.cgmvp.org>

## CONDUCTOR'S OFFERING

Over the past couple of months we seem to have been quite busy; in fact since our Festival in March it has been a busy time and I would like to thank everybody for their willing input. Following on from our Festival we were represented at the Bolton Festival. Then in June we had our West Cumbria Rally which once again was greatly appreciated.



In July a number of us were able to go down to Ulverston where we were joined by ten members from Bolton, two from Morecambe and Davie from York. The lead up to it was a pretty traumatic time for me as a number were not able to attend at Ulverston (at one point I thought it could end up with a quartet instead of a choir). However thanks to the Bolton lads' enthusiasm we had a very good evening.

We are now approaching the York Festival in a very short time and before that we will have attended our first visit to Low Moor Church in Wigton at the Ladies' Fellowship; and so on to Christmas and the Carol Services, one of which has been booked since April!

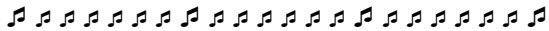
In October I am expected down at Bristol to a 'Conductors Training Course' to be taken by Major Philip Shannon who is Director of Music to the Band of the

Irish Guards. In your prayer time you could perhaps remember me both in safe travel and that I might be able to take in all that is imparted at that session – “then look out lads!”

If anybody hasn't received the latest 'Interlink' newsletter with the latest ABF information please let me know. I do have information on hotels and travel from Bill Rodger so any who are intending to go to Glasgow next May to the All Britain Festival in the Concert Hall Glasgow let me know so that I can run off your copy of the instructions.

Please remember that in November we have our Annual Business Meeting when your views will be welcomed – good or bad!

Ian



## **If God Should Go On Strike**

How good it is that God above has never gone on strike  
Because He was not treated fair in things He didn't like.  
If only once He'd given up and said, "That's it, I'm through,  
I've had enough of those on earth, so this is what I'll do.

I'll give my orders to the sun, cut off the heat supply,  
And to the moon give no more light and run the oceans dry.  
Then just to make things really tough and put the pressure on,  
Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone."

You know that He would be justified, if fairness were the game.  
For no one has been more abused or met with more disdain  
Than God, and yet He carries on, supplying you and me  
With all the favours of His grace, and everything for free.

Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go,  
But what a deal we've given God to whom all things we owe.  
We don't care who we hurt to gain the things we like,  
But what a mess we'd all be in if God should go on strike.

Author Unknown  
Submitted by Dennis Balmer

# Question and Answers

Robin Smith

Many hundreds of years ago when educated people in Europe all spoke Latin they were very good at creating anagrams. One of the most famous ones was based on a question asked at the trial of Jesus by Pontius Pilate – “What is truth?” John 18:38. It may be that the trial was conducted in Latin, in which case Pilate would have said “Quid est veritas?”. From the Gospel record it seems that Pilate didn’t wait to hear the answer. However the letters which spell out his cynical question, when rearranged, spell out the answer which Pilate apparently never received – “Est vir qui adest”, which means “It is the man who is here”.

A very few hours before this the disciple Thomas had said “Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”.

Jesus had answered “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me” John 14:6.

That statement by Jesus is not really acceptable to our multicultural and politically correct society, but that doesn’t alter the absolute validity of what Jesus said. He is eternally the Way, the Truth and the Life. When every religion is counted of equal merit it should not surprise us if those who think like that reject every form of religion and fix their hope on so called science. By doing so they are worshipping their own reasoning power, which is what Pilate was doing, to his immense cost.

We will not be expected to turn our questions into anagrams to find the answers, for He knows our limitations. He will not tease us because He really does love us. But God must have what we call a sense of humour; otherwise how could He have given us one?

God knows the answer to every question we can ever ask, and He can be trusted to give us all the answers we need, for all of our life. As the old chorus says:

*“Christ is the answer to my every need,  
Christ is the answer, He is my friend indeed.*

*Problems of life my spirit may assail.*

*In Christ my Saviour I can never fail for Christ is the answer to my need.”*

# Jesus Loves Me

Submitted by Rob Marshall

Jesus loves me this, this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
People all to Him belong,  
They are weak, but He is strong.

Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow.  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go.  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

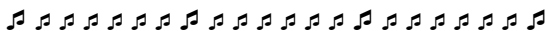
Though I am no longer young,  
I have much which He's begun.  
Let me serve Christ with a smile,  
Go with others the extra mile.

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song.  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

When my work on earth is done,  
And Life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.

**Karl Barth**, the Swiss theologian (1886-1968), possibly the greatest Protestant Christian scholar of the 20th Century, wrote many volumes about the Christian faith. He was asked to summarise his personal belief in a sentence and he quotes the first verse of the song ‘Jesus loves me this I know’.



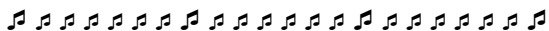
A church in Atlanta was honouring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years...

He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the Church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind, he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak...

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50 odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralysed me... the only thing that would comfort was this verse...

"Jesus loves me this I know. For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong, we are weak but he is strong... Yes, Jesus loves me... The Bible tells me so."

When he finished, the church was quiet. You could hear his foot steps as he shuffled back to his chair. It was an unforgettable moment.



Anna Warner and her sister wrote stories to try and supplement the family income. In a story, written by Anna in 1859, she wrote ‘Jesus Loves Me’ for one of the characters to sing to comfort a dying child. In that context, there is another stanza not commonly found in hymnals:

Jesus loves me! Loves me still  
Tho' I'm very weak and ill  
That I might from sin be free  
Bled and died upon the tree.

"Jesus Loves Me" became the number one spiritual song in the world. It has been translated into more languages than any other song.

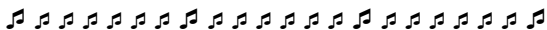
## **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**

John 8:36 (ESV)

Christian experience is not just the hope of ‘pie in the sky’. Nor is it only forgiveness of sins. It is the offer of a new life, the very life of Christ Himself who comes to dwell in our lives. This new life is the answer to the problem of habits formed and which are difficult to break. We do not have to rely on our own unaided strength to break them but on the new strength which God gives us through the life of Christ indwelling us by His Spirit. It is just as if a living hand is inserted into a lifeless glove. But there are two requisites for this strength. First it must be accepted. Christ must be welcomed and invited into our lives just as we would welcome a friend into our home. The life must be received and then having been received it must be renewed and nourished day by day by Bible study and prayer. Then we shall know something of what it means to be ‘free indeed’.

From Daily Devotional Meditations by Rev. G.B.Duncan

Submitted by Rob Marshall



### **Food for Thought**

1. Many people want to serve God but only as advisors.
2. Prayer is always a two-way system.
3. It is easier to preach a sermon than to live one.
4. We are called to be witnesses, not judges.
5. Coincidence is when God chooses to be anonymous.
6. Man’s way leads to a hopeless end. God’s way leads to an endless hope.
7. Kneel before Jesus and you can stand before anyone.
8. Don’t say ‘Our Father’ on Sundays and spend the rest of the week acting like an orphan.
9. God’s retirement program for Christians is out of this world.
10. The past? Leave it with God. The present? Live it for God.  
The future? Entrust it to God.

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**Secretary**  
D Balmer,  
'Cherry Tree'  
Houghton Road,  
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01228 546186

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **September**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Ladies Fellowship, Low Moor Church, Wigton 1.30pm  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> **York Festival 2.30pm**

### **November**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Choir AGM

### **December**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Carols  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Choir Christmas Party  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Carols  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Carols - Barras House, Dalston

## **2010**

### **March**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> **Carlisle Festival**

### **April**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> **Bolton Festival**

### **May**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> **All Britain Festival, Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow**

### **June**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> **West Cumbria Rally**

The Festivals of Male Voice Praise is a fellowship of Gospel Male Voice Choirs composed of Christian men, singing in honour of Jesus' name; supporting missionary enterprise at home and abroad; encouraging and fostering the growth of Gospel Male Voice Choirs.



The 4th All Britain Festival of Male Voice Praise,  
Glasgow, 1996