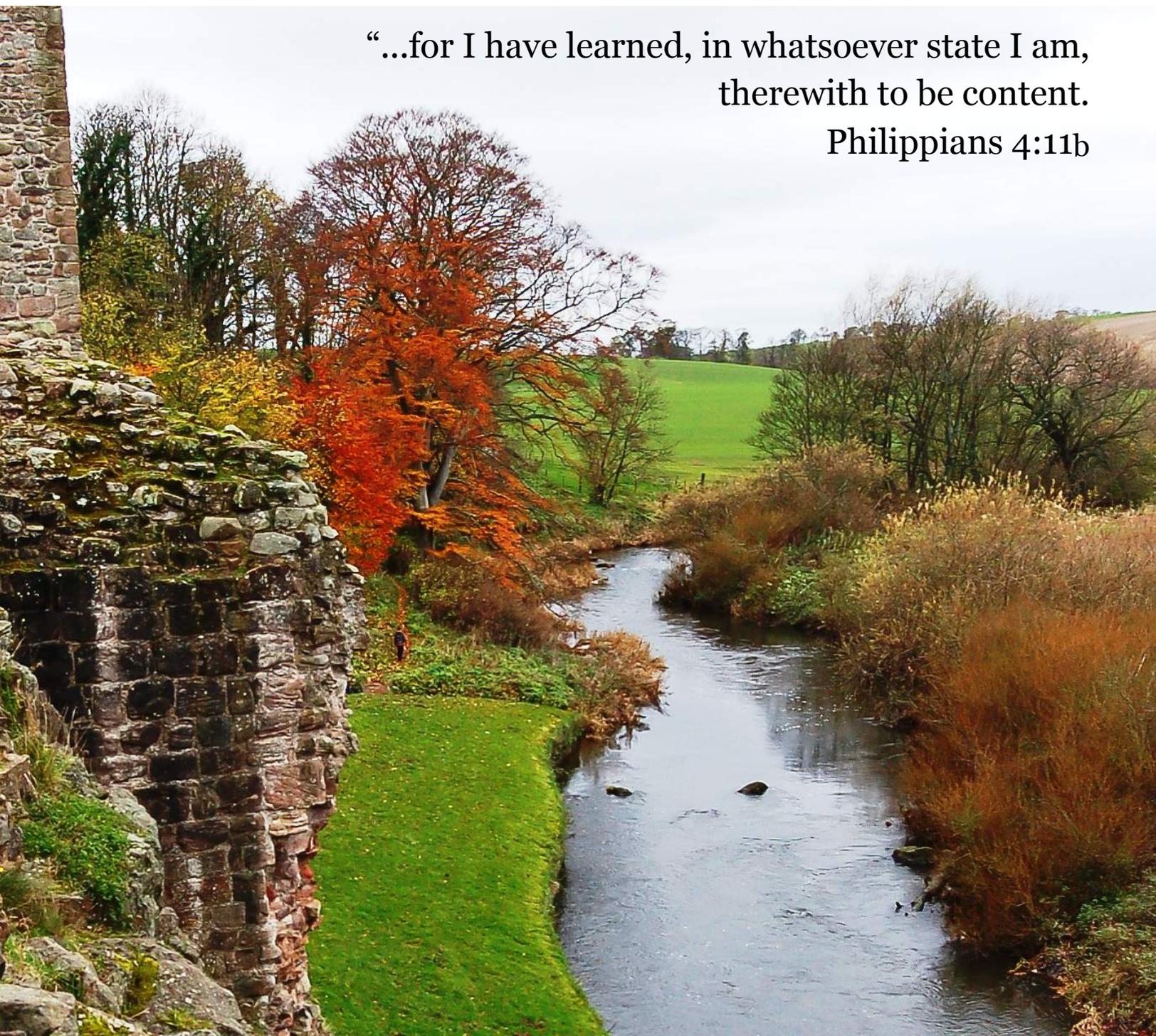


READER RESPONSES

Encouraging letters from our readers and ministry sponsors.

“...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am,
therewith to be content.

Philippians 4:11b





READER RESPONSES

Encouraging letters from our readers and ministry sponsors.

Thank you for your responses

I want to sincerely thank everyone who was able to respond to my e-mail a few weeks ago. I apologize for my lateness with this current update, as my physical infirmities have set me back again to some degree. I keep pressing onward regardless of my situation, and the Lord has blessed me in the midst of the “up’s and down’s.” It’s just all part of the work, and I am learning to accept it for what it is. Over the last two months I have received numerous treatments for my feet (*plantar fasciitis*, and heel spur), and I recently had surgery on my right arm. I am now back to writing and editing again and working through correspondence.

Regarding the kind responses that many of you recently sent back to me, all of them are a blessing to read and they are an encouragement to my family and I. I am grateful to have been able to help so many of you, to some degree or another, and I really do appreciate your encouraging words and Thank-you letters. Often times it is thank you letters and encouraging notes to “press on” and “keep going” that literally help me to do just this - *press on and keep going*. Amidst the ongoing physical struggles that have been a hindrance to me the past few years, your support and responses have been a source of refreshment and continued reminders that my day-to-day work is making a difference in the lives of *others*. Thank you to all who have written to me/us, and for praying for us if you have.

The blessing of helping others

Over the last few weeks I have slowly sifted through a couple thousand e-mails from the past few years, reading many of the responses that have been sent back to me as I have sought to answer many enquiries. Reading many of the responses and e-mail chains that I have worked through

has been a reminder to me that much of my work/ministry has been behind the scenes, to individuals, out of public view. With hindsight, I see that perhaps I ought to have been posting my responses (with total anonymity for those who have written to me) so as to be able help many more people who have asked the same, and similar questions. Nonetheless, many people have been encouraged, and I have been blessed in the process of helping so many.

**“...for I have learned,
in whatsoever state I am,
therewith to be content.”**

Philippians 4:11b

Contentment in the Lord

More recently, the two children that I said would be encouraged (through your recent responses to me) are our *own* two children. Our kids, along with my wife and I, continue to learn the value of being content, in any and every situation. Your kind letters have helped our kids (and us adults too) to rejoice in the Lord, and to remember *daily* that God is *faithful* in every way. God’s Word reminds us so clearly of what Paul the Apostle learned, through his own “up’s and down’s,” in life and ministry:

“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret

of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.” (Philippians 4:10-13)

Thank you for your partnership

Thank you to all of you who have been able to partner with us as we seek to do the Lord’s work, truly you have helped us proclaim the Lord’s Gospel and encourage biblical discernment. Your prayers, financial help and kind responses are always appreciated.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.” (Philippians 4:23).

*Sincerely In Christ,
Chris Lawson*

*Lawson Christopher .Org
Spiritual Research Network, Inc.*

READER RESPONSES

[The following letters are responses to my e-Letter entitled “Something Different.”]

Hey Chris!

You guys changed our lives in countless ways... gave us encouragement to stand firm in the truth when we were confused about what was truth and what was lies. You gave us fellowship when we were lonely...supported us over the birth of our twins...gave our kids fellowship and playmates through [Lawson kids]. You have generously given us literature to exhort us on subjects we didn't understand. When I think back... the zeal you guys have...such a blessing. [Your wife] also helped me through post-natal depression, singing and sharing. She recognized and exhorted me to use the spiritual gifting God gave me. During the [Todd Bentley](#)

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Your financial support allows my family and I to continue our missions work and our apologetics outreach. As a missionary with World In Need International I am required to raise my financial support. My support is dependent on monthly recurring and one-time gifts from churches, family and friends. We are thankful that God is increasing our support for personal living expenses and we thank you for your continued prayers and financial support.

[heresies](#) your website [exposing them] was especially invaluable. Love as always in Him, IG (Scotland)

I have been so blessed

to have received current information about the apostasy that is taking place in many of the Evangelical churches for the past 10 years and longer! From the research that Chris has provided I am able to keep up with everything that has been going on. This information is not commonly shared and I am so thankful that I have access to the latest research. AB (CA)

Mr. Lawson,

Your tenacity in sharing the truth of the gospel with our dying world reminds me to do the same - to never throw in the towel no matter how much vitriol society hurls at me! Thank you. MS (e-mail)

Dear Chris,

You sent me a particular website to check on the various ministries and I use it all the time. I had a particular instance of someone coming to my home and using it [home visits] as a platform for her particular beliefs. At first I was taken in but then started to question within myself, praying for guidance. I was asked to buy from Amazon £50 [worth] of Anna Mendez Ferrell's books because, as I was told, Anna was particularly spiritual. I looked Anna Mendez Ferrell up in the website you sent me and knew that my concerns were valid. Once I started to question openly, the person, after 2½ years, wrote to say 'Goodbye' and I haven't seen or heard from her since...Every time someone brings up a name, I check it out on the website and then I know what is truth and what is [a] lie. I really am grateful to you. Every blessing, MD (Scotland)

[For more info on the false teachings and dangerous spiritistic influences of Ana Mendez Ferrell, see the excellent expose's at Mike Oppenheimer's [Let Us Reason.Org](#)]

I was born in 1948

and Born Again by the precious blood of Jesus Christ in Sept., 1978. Having been brought up on the whole Word of God (KJV), including prophecy, and having experienced Satan's attempts to involve me in the occult before I was saved, I began to

educate myself from a Christian perspective about the "New Age/occult practices" by reading "The Beautiful Side of Evil," "The Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow," etc. Your ministry, Chris, has helped me understand and pray for people with whom I work who have received "another gospel." Many of them know a "Christ" or a "Jesus" who is nothing more than a familiar spirit/demon trying to counterfeit Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God...these people I know all believe in reincarnation, the universe as somehow actually being "God," they are actually "God" themselves and have the "divine spark" in them - "one is all/all is one" even taking the word "atonement" and blasphemously calling it "at-one-ment"! Unbelievable, but they're doing it! You have helped me have a fuller understanding of Yoga and the above - how they are all joined together - how the enemy has deftly woven the "church," Hinduism (Yoga, meditation/contemplative practices, etc.), Buddhism, and every other lying spirit into an ecumenical mess fully fit to become the Apostasy. Staying in and studying the Bible (KJV) every day under the guidance of the Holy Spirit Who indwells me, and reading your articles has helped me think about what it is they have believed and truly pray for these lost ones. They have given themselves over to dark forces in ways that are quite different than someone who is lost, but hasn't delved into the occult. I long to minister to the lost no matter who they are or what they have gotten themselves into. The Lord pulled me out of a horrible pit and set my feet on the Rock - Jesus Christ my God and Lord and His arm is not shortened that He cannot save! So, thank you Chris for your dedication and your family's dedication to the Lord. It was Lighthouse Trails (I believe) where I came upon your ministry. You have been pouring your life into this very needed work for the Lord and been a great help and blessing to me as I live to minister to others what He has done/is doing for me. I was so sorry to read about your back injury and the pain it has radiated even into your feet. I am praying for the Lord to uphold you and strengthen you by His mighty right hand and to supply all your need according to His

e-Prayer Updates can be accessed online at www.LawsonChristopher.Org

Online updates are "PDF" files that include a full color cover page.

riches in glory by Christ Jesus...May God have His perfect and complete will in your life and the lives of your family. Psalm 147:11 "The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy." Love in Christ Jesus the LORD, KM (e-mail)

I have been greatly helped

by your articles. I have not felt that I am crazy for believing the things the Lord has shown me. You have had articles that validated my beliefs and teachings. Thank you. AW (MS)

Chris,

the fact that you are aware of the apostasy today and that we have comrades in common who are defenders of the faith was an encouragement to me, and the same experiences you had with a certain Church organization mimicked similar circumstances that I experienced. It gives me hope to know that there are people who really care about the True Gospel and are willing to pay the price for sharing the same. In Christ, HM (NY)

I was helped by your

[spiritual abuse questionnaire](#), and encouraged that [your article validated that] what I was seeing in my church was a very unhealthy, worldly, sinful pattern of behavior. It helped me to know I was on the right track in standing up to it [against it] and that I was not alone. Just that can give someone courage to do what needs to be done to separate themselves from that sinful environment. P.S. you might want to add something called "Field Control Therapy" and Homeopathy to your 'dangerous practices' list. PC (e-mail)

I've appreciated

the faithfulness shown by Chris both in his time overseas and with the ministry. Though challenges have certainly come, I have seen his heart is to serve his Lord and Savior. EN (OR)

Dear Chris,

A few years ago we were heavily involved with a Bible camp and in particular...We were intimate friends who knew each others families, backgrounds and thought we shared the same Biblical concepts, doctrines, etc. Over time we began to hear strange ideas which had no basis in Scripture and see unbiblical practices. The wife was into yoga (which I knew

was wrong but chose to overlook) and then she became a Spiritual Guide. A chat with the husband was to no avail. My husband and I know what Biblical discernment is and watched as the slow drift came more into focus. It was an impossible situation as they were/are extremely popular in the region. Somehow I came across this website and called the number and spoke with Chris. He listened, but furthermore explained how wide-spread this deception is and assured me that he'd be praying for us. I was very grateful and began to feel that we were no longer "Lone Rangers" out here and that there was a listening ear to help us through this trauma of standing against friends' beliefs and practices and removing ourselves from the Bible camp. GN (e-mail)

I want to tell you thank you

for your articles, I especially enjoyed the one on our last breath here on earth and the first one in heaven [[click here](#)] as I have been thinking about that a lot myself lately, even before your article came out. Very encouraging, considering the times we live in. I am so sorry to hear of your health problems. We are under attack these days, physically, financially, mentally, so, I thank my Lord for your perseverance in the ministry through your pain and am praying for you and your family that He will provide all things for you. Thank you also for your article about yoga. I've been trying for years to tell friends and loved ones that there is no "Christian Yoga," and the harmful effects of it, spiritually speaking. Thanks again for all you do and be encouraged because people are listening!....I am 55 years old and have had a wonderful life in the Lord! I grew up being raised by my mother, who worked 2 full time jobs for over eight years, to support my sister and I. We didn't have a lot of material possessions, but we had love from her and the assurance that she would never leave us, like our earthly father did, or forsake us. It was hard, especially in Jr. and Sr. high school, when all our friends had beautiful homes, clothes, horses, two parents together as a family. You see these things and wish you could be a "normal" family. She taught us to be thankful in all things and to enjoy the things God created for us. Like picking strawberries and green

beans and making a little extra pocket money. She would always say, "Thank you, Jesus!!" with her arms raised up for everything and now I find myself doing the same thing. I always had a longing that our dad would come back to us (he never did) and we could be a family. I tell my grandchildren now to be especially thankful that they have both parents who love them, living altogether as a family, when they wish for things unaffordable. After all, Jesus is coming soon, and we won't be taking anything with us!! Thank you, Jesus!!! I am praying for your family, in His name, KM (OR)

Your discernment has

encouraged me to share truths with others here at our retirement community. Your truthfulness and openness have encouraged me to know there are truly real believers 'out there'. JK (PA)

I use your website to

confirm what I am reading on other websites, pertaining to [exposing] false teachings, etc. That way when people think that one website is biased, I can point out several that are "like minded." Thank you for your ministry in this area. JM (e-mail)

Hi Chris,

I hope you are well. More than anything, your company as a committed Christian was the best thing I ever received from you. The world needs more people like you. You taught me a lot about the Bible and enlightened me to [about] the false teaching[s] of the Catholic Church. Best Wishes, AH (Central Scotland)

I say I stumbled upon

your SRN (Spiritual Research Network) site, but we know there are no accidents or coincidences in the kingdom of God, during a season when I was truly desiring confirmation of what the Holy Spirit had shared with me about [the dangers of] Yoga and Martial Arts. I know many sisters in Christ who have not had the discernment about the dangers of practicing "Christian Yoga." The Lord blessed me by leading me to a few of your videos and FaceBook page where I sent you a message seeking truth about the roots of both Yoga and Martial Arts. I had believed I had discerned they were both rooted in evil and was confident in that until so many brothers and sisters expressed how

ridiculous I was. I stood firm in what I knew about Yoga but was starting to waiver in regards to Martial Arts. The power of God's word, expressed and shared by you, equipped me with the strength to stand firm during a time when spiritual warfare was towering over my church. I felt like the outsider, when truly I was informed and protected by God's Word. Many times the battle [against deception] is within the body of Christ and the lies of the enemy try to claw at us and keep us from sharing the truth by making us "feel" like we are estranged and alone in what are truly biblical teachings. I greatly appreciate how you not only answered my first message but actually "dialogued" with me for a short while; shining the light brighter and brighter and showing the love of Christ in a very personable manner. The depth of my discernment continues to grow and some friends continue to think I'm making something out of nothing. But I know my discernment is a blessing from God and having come into contact with your ministry has helped authenticate the reality of spiritual warfare the surrounds us. Your desire to dig deep has continued to inspire me about the importance of warning all that we can. Thank you Mr. Lawson for being a faithful servant to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. DF (e-mail)

[To read about the dangers of Yoga and Martial Arts, please see the search engine on our SRN website.]

I want to thank you for

your ministry and the research that you so faithfully do. I am from South Africa and *yoga* is also viewed as just an exercise by many Christians, where I live. Due to your articles, I could inform my daughter, who in turn informed others. Some of them were willing to listen and change their minds about this deceptive practice. Thank you very much. May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you and your family safe! A-M T (e-mail)

Hello Chris,

My wife and I just want to thank you, your wife and all those involved, for your ministry at SRN. The SRN website has been a wonderful place to find an abundance of trusted resources, many of which have helped us greatly in our walk with Christ. There are several books that you personally

recommended to us which have dramatically improved our study of God's word and are helping to make us better Christians. We very much appreciate your prayers for us and are truly thankful for your videos and newsletters. Your ministry is helping us to better serve Christ and to accurately share the truths of God's word with others at perhaps the most critical time in church history. SRN continues to bless us abundantly in the ways that really count from an eternal perspective. Thank you again and may God richly bless you and yours! Love in Christ, J&D (IA)

Chris, greetings in Jesus,

I have been keeping up with you're ministry for the past few years. The Lord led me to do so as I was also involved with a Calvary Chapel that was practicing unbiblical leadership that eventually led to heavy shepherding. I was called by the Lord to point people to His leadership model in the scriptures and needless to say I was attacked by the unaccountable pastor as sowing discord and many other accusations that were just not true. During this time, I really had no one else but yourself, Roger Oakland and Jacob Prashc that I felt understood what was happening to me and my family as we were ostracized by the believers we had poured our hearts into. So we moved on and trusted the Lord and His word. That was three years ago and we are still walking with the Lord. He used this time to equip me and my family to be able to stand in these last days. The Lord used you and other faithful believers to teach us what was really going on and what His word has to say about it. I am forever thankful and I hope some day our paths cross on this side of eternity. Thank you dear brother for being faithful to you're calling. In His grace and truth. MT (e-mail)

Thanks Chris

for your encouragement brother! Keep on keeping on! "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25) The day is approaching fast! PC, (Scottish Highlands)

Dear Chris,

It is a privilege to be able to write to you and let you know how very much you and the ministry have meant to us. We are so grateful that your ministry has been there to validate all that we had been through. We have never met anyone in a ministry who was willing to correspond with us so patiently. You have really been a living witness of God's love. You are a true rarity. We wish we could clone you! We need you here! Additionally, we have sent links for your website to many of our friends who have had questions that were not addressed by their churches or other ministries. May God bless you many, many times over for your kindnesses to us. May He also bless your extraordinary wife and your beautiful children. You are all rare and precious in this day and age. B&J (TX)

Ministries such as your own

are needed more than ever as errors invade the church more and more. Thank you for making the tools available to help combat this - your articles and videos, etc. are most useful. ET (England)

Hi Chris,

I've always known you to be a kind, God loving person, who seeks to please God in everything that you do. In general, I've appreciated the study and writings you've done about Yoga [the dangers of] and Christianity, and other things. I wrote before, how I specifically benefited from the study you did on the highly negative aspects of the movie "The Golden Compass." I don't remember if I've specifically read in detail the information you've provided for Yoga and Christianity, but just knowing that it's there, and just reading the titles of the articles, or reading the emails you've sent, has made me more able to think about Yoga and Christianity, and the spiritual aspects of this issue, and the spiritual aspects of Christianity in general. To the point that, I had a relative who started a class for Yoga at a Community College, and I was able to say to her that I thought it wasn't right for a Christian to do it [Yoga], that there was a negative spiritual aspect going on. She dropped the class. Your ministry has helped me to think about things like that, and to pray, and to ask God for spiritual discernment and wisdom. You are a blessing, don't lose

sight of that, both as a person, and everything that you do, and also in your ministry. Even though, overall, I don't know you that well, or I haven't seen you very recently, I remember you from the times we've had before at church, and on the mission field in London. You be blessed! God bless you, and protect you! May Jesus walk beside you, and bless you, and be with you! Also, I was thinking a couple of days ago of sending you an email to tell you I liked the pictures on the front of the monthly newsletters, and that I was wondering if they were from the central coast. Ok, I hope you're doing well, AP (CA)

[Thank you for your kind letter and your compliment on my 2013 newsletter cover photos. I took each photo as follows, at various times in my travels.

January: Ardkinglas Woodland Garden (bridge crossing) Loch Fyne, Argyll, Western Scotland.

February: Seeds in a tree at rim of Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona.

March & April: Snowy trail in the village of Talmachiu, and local countryside in the Transylvania foothills, Central Romania.

May, June, July & August: Central Coast of California.

September (this issue): One of my favorite places on earth, the countryside in East Lothian, Scotland.]

Hi Chris,

Just wanted you to know that I appreciate your efforts to obey the Lord and point out dangers within the Christian realm such as false teachings and occult practices that are creeping in from every side. I pray God would raise up more born again, spirit filled men like yourself who surrender all that they are to Christ alone and follow His word. We need such men if the 21st Century church isn't to become a hollow heap of apostasy. God bless you Chris. And I pray God will continue to lead you and keep you on the straight path with Him no matter what....Just want you to be encouraged brother. I know its hard when the family and, especially the kids don't

have everything we would like to provide for them sometimes. I used to have similar questions from my daughters when they were younger about why we couldn't have nice vacations, or why they couldn't have all the things that some of their friends at school had. And it was hard at times feeling that you couldn't fulfill their dreams. I've worked hard since I was out of high school. I was saved when I was 16. I am in my fifties now and I think we only had four short vacations in all my years as a dad. I have only been outside of Canada three or four times for short trips through the north east U.S. when I lived in Ontario. And being a Christian who isn't afraid to show it, usually meant you get passed by on promotions and certain bonuses, and such, by your employers most times. Even if you are one of the most loyal, honest and steady workers. I know I heard a pastor say once that typically God's people don't have a lot of money or material possessions. And if they do, they usually share it with other Christians or those in need. So I know its hard. And the kid's find it difficult to understand (for now anyways). We live in a materialistic and twisted world that has no knowledge of the Lord and seldom wants to hear the truth. But we have to just keep doing what the Lord asks us to do. To speak and teach the truth, surrender our hearts and souls and all we are to Him, love Him with all our hearts, minds and strength, stay true to and love His word, and stay in close fellowship with Him and to reach the lost, and allow Him to work in our lives to change us more and more into His image. And if we follow His path, and what goes along with following His way, it is closely noted and watched and appreciated by our Father. And He is faithful in everything, and as He promised, we are building treasures for ourselves in heaven. I'm glad our treasure is not for the here and now (unlike [prosperity preacher] Benny Hinn...). Even though we do receive, His blessings, peace and joy while we are here. And these are treasures in themselves too. But there is going to be waiting for us amazing treasures that will be a blessing for all eternity. And the "treasures" he is storing up for us, will be far, far better than any temporal material treasures that we get in this

dying world. The joy, the love and the thrill of being in heaven won't be a passing emotion either. As so many are here on earth. But, with Him, they will be from everlasting to everlasting, and grow more beautiful as the centuries roll by. Living in this world is very difficult. But all the signs are around us more and more, that we won't be here much longer. Hallelujah! God bless you Chris. Take courage. The Lord sees and watches you and knows your heart. And His heart longs to have you near and to bless you. I will be praying for you and your family... Psalms 28:7, **"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."**....I can't help but speak about how faithful and patient God has been. We serve a truly awesome Savior! God has brought me through a lot. Usually because I have gotten into a spot because I have tried to operate in my own wisdom (or lack of it) and not sought God's direction enough. But He lets me learn my lessons and then in His mercy gets me back on track with Him. But other times I had no control over things. My dad was not a good father at all. I grew up in a very sinful and perverted neighborhood as a kid. It was God's mercy that kept me from getting dragged down into a life of alcoholism, or drug use or sexual sin. Which could have easily happened. But I still am awed at how He steered me away from all of that. And then later He saved me. I used to think I was a Christian before I was saved. But He showed me different. I wouldn't be here today without the love and faithfulness and overwhelming goodness of Jesus Christ. Like that old hymn says, "Hallelujah, what a Savior!" Take care Chris. PJ (Canada)

Hi Chris...

We miss you and your family...and I always LOVED and Enjoyed the Bible Studies at your home...It was much better / as good as going to any Church. We miss them and have not found one that can come close...We appreciate your ministry and what you do to further the gospel and expose the error in the churches today. Yours in Christ, R&L K (CA)

Dear Chris,

I figured that this was a parent/children situation. Over the course of 50 years of 'faith' living, some of it with no money, some of it with more than we need. As our kids were growing up, it was clear that my ministry was also with other people's kids. Namely, church kids...I had free reign so I taught the Word...I was also a classroom teacher so I sort of know how to get to them. One thing I did was give them memories. Some goofy, some fun, some not so. But I wanted them to remember if they should ever end up in a 'pig sty' some place—that home and the Lord was where to go. One of our [children], who lives in...has a husband with on/off again employment. It's been very tough financially. They live in an affluent area with kids doing everything under the sun including trips to China during vacation. They live in a big house with a pool and full basketball (purchased during his \$\$ days). They've done 'special' things, taking them to the Getty, to games, etc. and make a big deal out of it as a family. Their kids are 14 and 13. The boy plays baseball in a spring/summer city league and were dead last. His folks and aunts and uncles were praying for them and when it came to play offs, they swept the best team. Vengeance is in God's hands. They're both bright kids, and love playing cribbage with us when we go out there. It's what parents do in those moments that create the character. In the early days we used to have missionaries over for an occasional meal when they visited our church. Those missionaries were living in Ecuador and their kids had to come back to the US for educations in high school. We wanted to expose our kids to the realities of a life living for the Lord. We never let the kids feel sorry for their lack when my husband was gainfully unemployed and the severance had run out. A daughter had a wonderful and big wedding (I cleaned other people's houses, delivered flowers for Christmas \$\$), another went to college, and when I was diagnosed with TMJD mouth joint dysfunction and a daughter needing braces (husband was employed), we couldn't afford both. I wouldn't forgo her right to them and was very stubborn. After two years of this characteristic the company determined to pay for it as we had both dental and

physical insurance and neither would cover my specialized care. God is good and supplies every need of ours according to His riches. We've lived a rich, harried, uncertain, Lord unfailing life. Our lives are filled with family miracles at the moment and retired life is good. It's just tough for kids at this age and what kids are surrounded with, but love conquers a whole bunch of wants and desires. I still sub in a local high school and there are kids of all kinds. It's the middle school stuff [day-to-day trials] that's awful. High schoolers tend to come together more and seem to shed their barriers. Take care and blessings to you and yours. GN (MN)

The following letter has especially blessed our children, thank you JC for your kind words to our kids!

-CNL

Hi Chris,

I just received a copy of an email you sent out from...about your poor kids and how they're feeling about your not so lucrative ministry!....I just wanted to say a few things to your kids, because first, I totally relate to how they're feeling and I think I know probably a bit about how you're feeling too!

To your children: I wanted to tell you both that I grew up in a Christian family that was relatively wealthy. My dad who was the son of a very poor pastor had gone into business and started his own company that was very successful. We had boats and airplanes and vacation homes, and it was truly a wonderful life!

When I got out of college I worked for a few years then I started my own company. And it did really well – up until a few years ago! It was about that time (2007) that I was starting to wake up and see that the pastor of the church I had gone to for nearly 20 years here in New York City was actually not teaching the solid Biblical Gospel that I thought he was but he was actually in very subtle ways teaching a false gospel. The more I came to see his twisted gospel, the more alarmed I became. I talked to the leadership of the church about it and I talked to the pastor himself. Once I became convinced that they were fully

aware of what they were teaching and promoting and had no desire to stop – I knew I had to leave the church.

And you know what helped me to see that what my church was doing was wrong? It was ministries and websites just like your Dad's. No, I can't credit your Dad because I had never heard of him at the time – but it was other people who are doing the exact same thing your Dad is doing. And he of course reaches many people that they don't reach. All of these ministries are so vital to the church today – to wake up people like me!

After I left that church, I began to feel a gentle tug from God calling me to warn others of this deep and subtle apostasy – so they would not be led astray from the true Gospel given to us in the Bible. Each day I found myself spending more and more time on this – as I became less and less interested in the work of my business! That wasn't good for business to say the least. My business still survives, but it's just barely enough to pay all my bills each month. And nothing is left over for anything extra.

But each day I'm confronted with the reality – that the work I do for God has eternal consequences and will last forever. The work I do in my business doesn't have eternal consequences and won't last forever. Therefore, each day I'm confronted with a choice. Spend more and more time working for God and making less for myself, or spend more time working for myself and having a great life here and now? I usually choose the former.

Now, God has put you in the family you're in and you've had no choice in the matter at all. I would totally understand if you're thinking to yourself as you read this – 'nice for you – you had a nice life at one time, you got to experience it and at least know what it was like. It was your choice to give it up. But we don't even have that choice and we want to experience it too!'

I totally understand that, if that's what you're thinking. But here's the thing – just because you're not experiencing that life now doesn't mean you won't be able to later in your life. You study hard in school and work hard when you get out and you can do just about anything you want. You can have that life too someday – if you

THANK YOU READERS AND SPONSORS

“Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?” James 2:5

work and study hard – and if it’s what God wants for you.

There is room for all kinds of people in the body of Christ. My Dad who made a lot of money used to support one of his brothers who was a missionary in Brazil for all of his working life. My Dad wasn’t able to support him to the point that my uncle had much money left over to have fun with – but my Dad always used his money to meet all of his brother’s financial needs. So, God uses all kinds of people to accomplish His work. And it may be that He calls you to be like my Dad.

But here’s the other thing. Every believer is asked at some point in their lives to give up something of this world and follow God. The real question is, are we going to follow God wherever he leads us, cheerfully? Or are we going to complain and resent it? Or be disappointed by it? The true mark of a follower of Christ is when you say, ‘God, I will follow you wherever you lead me and whatever situation you put me in, and I will love you and praise you for putting me wherever you please.’

Your Dad is actually a hero of the faith for his willingness to sacrifice the riches of this world in order to minister truthfully to the body of Christ. When I left the apostate church I attended for nearly 20 years – the only church I could find in Manhattan that was Biblically solid was a very small church with about a hundred members. The big apostate church had over 7,000 members! It was very rich in comparison to my new little church. They built their own new building here in Manhattan that cost them \$20 million! The pastor of my new church knows that he could water down the Gospel a bit here and there and get more members and be more successful in the eyes of the world. He knows he could be rich and have a nice life too if he would just water down and twist the Gospel a bit like my old pastor did. But he steadfastly refuses to do any such thing.

My old pastor is a very wealthy man now because of several best-selling books he’s written. His books are best sellers though, not because they contain the truth of the Bible, but because they twist the truth of the Bible and turn it into something non-believers want to hear.

My new pastor just barely pays all his bills every month! It seems that in this fallen world if you speak the truth to people you will not be very popular. And unpopular people don’t usually make a lot of money.

I hope you realize that your Dad’s lack of material success is a testament to the fact that he has remained true to the Word of God and he refuses to compromise on it. And because he has decided to follow Christ, wherever Christ takes him.

Oh and one other quick thing! (Sorry this has been so long)! But don’t ever forget to look at life from BOTH SIDES of eternity! There’s everything we see here and now, but then there’s eternity! Which is going to last forever! Jesus told us to lay up treasures in heaven – because that’s going to last a lot, lot longer than our lives on this earth will!

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21).

God bless you both! And encourage your Dad to continue doing the right thing! He needs it! It’s not easy for him either.

...[J]ust think about how great it is when we can suffer some in this life for Christ....As a kid I felt like I was missing out on something in my Christian life because I knew I was in



no way suffering in this life. And I know how much God loves and blesses people who do suffer in this life for Him. And how much he will bless them in the next life....I thank God every day that He’s allowing me the opportunity to actually give up some things in this life for Him. Over and over again in the Bible you can see where he asks people to give things up – sometimes it seems He does it just to see if they will. And the ones who do, He greatly blesses....So few Christians are willing to do anything that might actually come with any cost. It’s hard to think of all that Jesus gave up and all the pain and torture he suffered – on our behalf – and not suddenly be filled with joy that we too can participate in a very small way in His suffering.

God bless you Chris and keep up the good work! JC (NY)

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33).

“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” (Luke 12:15)

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;” (1 Timothy 6:17-19).