

How to catch fish
Arnold V Page August 2021

1. What is the gospel?

When I was on holiday the other week I attended a Sunday service in Swanage. The teaching was based on Jesus's words to his first disciples, "*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*" The minister had asked a local fisherman how to catch fish. The lessons she passed on to us was all very helpful, but the one thing she didn't say anything about was the bait. In other words, she gave us some advice on sharing the gospel, but she didn't tell us what the gospel was. Or if she did, it was simply that God loves us. Now that is true, wonderfully true, but is it a message that would turn the world upside down? Is it a truth that someone would die for, as Jesus's first disciples died? What is this message that can rescue someone from condemnation on the day of judgement, turn them into a new person, make them fearless in the face of death, and live for ever? The major problem in most Christian churches today, at least in our country, is that church leaders and members alike have forgotten what the gospel *is*.

Both the Old and the New Testaments tell the same story.

1. God is going to send a king who will reign in righteousness and peace over the whole earth for ever. (Isaiah 8:7) *Jesus* is God's promised righteous king. He proved that he can overcome death and will live for ever by his public crucifixion and then by rising from the dead. (Romans 1:3)
2. God is going to create a new earth, in which sin will be no more, nature will be at peace and death will be ended for ever. (Isaiah 65:25; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:4)
3. All those who put their trust in Jesus and become his disciples will be forgiven for any sins they have committed, and they will receive God's gift of the Holy Spirit to enable them to live as God intended. After death they will be brought back to life as Jesus was in perfect new bodies, and they will live for ever with him in his perfect kingdom to come on earth. (Isaiah 35:5,6,10; Acts 2:38; John 6:41; Revelation 7:16,17)

This is totally amazing good news! And even this isn't the *full* gospel, but it *is* the core and heart of it. (Ephesians 2:4-7)

2. What must we do to be saved?

So what do we have to do to receive these fantastic promises? On the Day of Pentecost Peter told the crowds who had gathered round him that they had collaborated in the murder of their promised Messiah, and that God had proved Jesus was the Messiah and his Son by raising Jesus from the dead. '*Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*' (Acts 2:37,38)

This passage gives us four steps to avoid the coming day of judgement and be granted everlasting life. Receive and believe the word, repent of unbelief and disobedience, commit your life publicly to Jesus as Saviour and Lord in baptism, and be filled with the Spirit.

When we first come to believe in Jesus and we say "Yes" to him as Lord, it is rather like accepting a proposal of marriage. I asked Ann to be my wife at midnight one New Year's eve, in a small ruined castle beside a lake in Snowdonia. I'll always remember her surprise, which I think was genuine, and then her delighted, "Yes! Of course I will!"

However, although Ann and I knew what we had done, nobody else did. We then had to arrange for a public service of marriage to tell the world of our intentions, and to start living

as man and wife. And that is one principal reason why Jesus commands us to be baptised. It is a public announcement of a private engagement. Just as a woman takes her husband's surname on being married, so we take the name of Jesus when we are joined to him in baptism. That's what it means to be baptized into the name of Jesus.

In summary, the good news is that everlasting life is available to everyone who will turn to God in repentance for unbelief and rebellion against his laws, who accepts Jesus Christ his Son as Saviour and Lord, and who publicly begins a new life in love with Jesus by baptism into the family of God. In return God enables us to live as he meant us to live, through his gift of the Holy Spirit, and promises to raise us from the dead just as he raised Jesus after his crucifixion, so that we can live with Jesus as king for ever in a perfect new earth to come.

3. Bearing fruit

But this is not the end of the story! Let's take the analogy of marriage one step further. The primary purpose of marriage, the lifelong union of one man and one woman, is to be fruitful, in the sense of producing and raising children for a new generation. So Jesus said to his first disciples and now he says to every one of us, *"I chose you and appointed you that you should bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."* (John 15:16) We, the church, are married to Jesus so that with his help we can produce new spiritual offspring, new believers, new inhabitants of the coming kingdom of God on earth. In other words, he calls us to share the good news. In Mark, Jesus's last commandment before returning to heaven, was, *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation."* (Mark 16:15) *And he said, "If you love me you will keep my commandments."* (John 14:15)

4. Chosen to be God's witnesses

Three times in Isaiah the Lord tells Israel, *"You are my witnesses."* (Isaiah 43:10) He created the nation of Israel to tell people how he had proved himself to be the only true God. In 43:21 he tells them, *"You are my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that you might declare my praise."* Saint Peter picked up that verse in his first letter. He told the church that God had now chosen and appointed them to take on that same role. 'You,' he wrote, *'you are a chosen race, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.'* (1 Peter 2:9) And today, the church is you and I. All of us, not just the pastor, not just that person who seems to find evangelizing so easy and wonders why the rest of us don't: all of us are commissioned by the Lord to bear witness to his truth, power and promises. And the Lord has promised to give us the power to do it. *"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses..."* (Acts 1:8)

There are all kinds of ways in which Christians bear witness to God's reality and truth and promises, from translating the Bible into other languages to reading stories about Jesus to their children or grandchildren. But there are two principal ways in which you and I as ordinary believers can all be witnesses to the Lord, at least if we have no physical or mental limitation to prevent us, although even then God might help us to find a way.

I describe these two ways of sharing the gospel as *reactive* and *proactive*.

5. Reactively

Being reactive means responding to something that someone says or asks us, or to some an opportunity to say do something, without initiating the conversation or the situation ourselves.

For example, 1 Peter 3:15 says: *'Always be prepared to make a defence to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you.'* Being prepared to explain why we believe we are going to live for ever means two things: we must be *willing* to explain it, and we must *know how to do it*.

First: we must be willing.

Jesus said *"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."* (Luke 9:23)

Jesus said 'daily'. At the beginning of every day we should offer ourselves to the Lord in prayer, asking him to make us alert to any opportunity he provides for us to share his love or truth with someone we meet, and asking him for boldness to take it.

One summer when I was a theological student I took a job working in a small factory across the road from where I lived. Some mornings before I left home I prayed that God would give me an opportunity to share something about him with the employees there, and other mornings I didn't. And during one particular fortnight I found that every day that I did pray for an opportunity one naturally came up, and every day that I didn't pray there was no such opportunity.

I am not by nature an evangelist. So I don't naturally go around looking for opportunities to evangelise. A few months ago I said "Good day" to an Asian gentleman I met when walking in the park. He stopped and out of the blue told me that he had recently had a heart operation. He said that his heart felt fine, but ever since the operation his legs had hurt. I commiserated with him and went on my way. Only afterwards did I realize that I had missed an amazing opportunity to pray for him and ask the Lord to take the pain away. Didn't Jesus say at the end of Mark's gospel, *"They shall lay hands on the sick and they will recover?"* (Mark 16:18) Basically, I was not prepared in my spirit for such an encounter. I had not offered myself to the Lord in prayer before I went out, in order to react to an amazing opportunity to glorify him! 'Be prepared' means in the first place to be willing and available. Don't risk failing the Lord like I did that day. Let's offer ourselves every day to the Lord for his service, especially when we know we are going to be in contact with other people.

Second, we must know how to do it.

'Be prepared' also means knowing how to explain the gospel if we get the opportunity. Part of the armour of God that Paul described in Ephesians 6 is 'the preparation of the gospel of peace'. As an author, I have to prepare an 'elevator pitch' for each of my books. An elevator pitch is an answer to the question, "What is your book about?" It's an answer which is short enough give someone who is travelling in a lift with you before you both get out of it. If we are truly willing to explain the good news to someone who asks us we should prepare ourselves to do this, just as I have to prepare elevator pitches for my books. Try writing down in four or five sentences your understanding of the good news, so that you *can* share it with someone in 20 or 30 seconds if you get the opportunity. Get it into your head. Learn a few supporting Bible verses. Even if no one ever directly asks you what Christians believe, you'll be able to use it in any longer conversations you may have.

Years ago I was looking for a job as a computer programmer. I was very nervous about an interview, since I had no formal qualifications. I wrote down all the possible interview questions I could think of and how I would answer them. And once I had done that, I felt ten times more confident.

'Always be prepared to give an answer,' Peter told us. Are you prepared? Sharing the gospel *reactively* is when we react to things people ask or say, or when we react to obvious

opportunities to talk about Jesus and his offer of everlasting life, or to opportunities that come up to pray for someone, and we take those opportunities that God gives us.

6. Proactively

The second main way to share the gospel is to do it *proactively*.

Luke chapter 10 tells us how Jesus sent out seventy disciples in pairs to heal the sick and say, “*The kingdom of God has come near to you.*” (Luke 10:1,9) They went out with the deliberate purpose of declaring the good news that God's kingdom was near, and of demonstrating God's power and love through healing the sick.

Currently in 2021, many things suggest that the world can't go on much longer without God's intervention – from climate change and environmental degradation to global pandemics and the acquisition of nuclear weapons by politically radical nations. More and more Christians who study Biblical prophecy are seeing that it points to Christ's return within the next ten years or so. A Google search for "Will Jesus Christ return in 2034" produces 2½ million hits. So Jesus's announcement at the start of the gospel of Mark seems suddenly to be unnervingly relevant: “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.*” (Mark 1:15) Are we, God's chosen witnesses, doing all we can to prepare people for God's coming kingdom? Sharing the gospel proactively means deliberately setting aside some time to share it with other people.

A few weeks ago my friend Ted Piker went to Oxford for two days of training and practice in street evangelism. On the second day he went out with another man who didn't have much confidence in speaking to strangers, and had never given his testimony publicly. They got talking to some teenagers. Ted then asked his companion if he had something he'd like to share with them. His companion related part of his own journey to faith, and it was something the teenagers could relate to. Afterwards he told Ted he felt terrified as he spoke, but what he said actually came over with complete confidence.

When the Lord told Moses to go and speak to Pharaoh, Moses replied. “*“Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either heretofore or since thou hast spoken to thy servant; but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” The Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him dumb, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”*” (Exodus 4: 10-12) To begin with Moses took his brother Aaron with him and he got Aaron to do the speaking, but bit by bit Moses became increasingly confident until he finally took over. At his final meeting with Pharaoh it was not Moses but Pharaoh who was terrified. The first step is often the hardest. The first time I stood up to take a service my knees were literally knocking together. I had to put my hand down to keep them still. I was so glad that the pulpit hid what was happening from the congregation. But I did it! And you can do it too! You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

All these stories – sending out the seventy, Ted Piker and his companion, and Moses and Aaron – they all suggest that it is normally best, when sharing the gospel *proactively*, to do it with a companion.

You don't have to think, "I am going to try to share the gospel with someone." Thinking like that can be quite scary. All you have to do instead is to decide that you are going to start *talking* to someone. The first lesson in catching fish which the Swanage fisherman shared was to think like a fish. Now I don't know how a *fish* thinks. But one obvious way to find out how *people* think is to ask them.

If we care about people's salvation and we pray for boldness, it really isn't too difficult to reach a point in conversation when we can ask, “What do you believe about God?” “What do

you know about Jesus?" "Do you know why Jesus Christ had to die?" "What do you think is wrong with the world?" Or we might say, "Suppose there really is a God and he offered to answer one prayer that you made to him. What would it be? Seriously." Or, "What is the best news you could ever receive?" We could follow that up with, "I have some even better news for you."

Just get talking to people. That's how Jesus began when he met the Samaritan woman at the well of Sychar. Start a conversation, and see where the Holy Spirit leads you. If you have prepared yourself and your own personal explanation of the gospel as I suggested, if you have a companion with you, and if you have both prayed for the Spirit's help before you set out, you'll be more than fully equipped to be an effective witness to the Lord.

7. How to fish

So, returning to those words at the beginning, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men," what were the lessons that the Swanage fisherman shared with that minister the other Sunday? Here they.

1. Think like a fish.
2. Be where the fish are.
3. Choose the right time.
4. Be patient and persistent.
5. Try something new.

1. Think like a fish. The way to find out how *people* think is to ask them questions like the ones I suggested.

2. Be where the fish are. At school or college, at work or at any social gathering, there are fish all around us. Be positively reactive. Or else go out looking for them proactively: go fishing with a companion somewhere you know that people will be. In Philippi Paul and his companions went to the riverside. In Athens he went to the market place. In Marlow one could go to Higginson Park or the river. Be proactive now and again.

3. Choose the right time. Go to places where people have *time to talk* – a park, a bus station, a beach, a pub. If it's at work, in the lunch break. If the weather's fine, invite a colleague or friend to go for a walk with you.

4. Be patient and persistent. Don't expect a bite every time you cast your line. Jesus's parable of the sower reminds us that only a few people will accept the word of life, but a few *will* accept it, so long as we keep trying to sow it and don't give up.

5. Try different methods. Some fish are caught in nets, others on a line. You may catch someone by offering to pray for them. God may give you a word of knowledge to unlock a confession or conversation. You may be able to offer practical help as a way in. For someone else it may be as easy as offering to explain what Christians believe. Be led by the Spirit.

Now to bring this to an end I would like to add five more fishing tips of my own:

6. Use the right bait. There is only one right bait, and that is the good news of eternal life in God's coming kingdom – his offer to start life again through faith, repentance, forgiveness and commitment to live for Jesus as Saviour and Lord.. Don't stop at "God loves you." It's true, but that alone is unlikely to change anyone's eternal destiny.

7. Be properly equipped. Above all, know the gospel and some supporting Bible verses. Carry something you can give people if it's appropriate: one of the gospels in a modern translation, a copy of your own testimony printed out, a booklet like "Why Jesus?", or a decent evangelistic tract. You can buy gospels like this for only 50p each from Eden.co.uk. I'll give one to everyone here at the end of the service.

8. Look after the fish you catch. Don't just throw them back into the sea. Have a card with your contact details on it and the location of the church and its service times. If possible, arrange to meet them again. Encourage them to join a church, if possible (*this one*) your own, because that will be the best place to keep in touch with them.. On holiday the other week I ate an enormous fish pie at a famous 17th century pub that specialized in fish. You and I as believers are all fish who were once caught by someone else's words and love. We are now all united in one big fish pie! Let's make sure that any more fish the Lord helps us to catch join us in it and don't fall back into the sea.

9. Grow small fish into big ones.

God is probably unlikely to bring new baby Christians into a church which is unprepared to help them grow up. How would we teach a new Christian to grow up in Christ from the first day he joined our fellowship? What is our plan for discipling new believers, whether old or young? How will we teach them to catch fish in turn?

10. Fish in faith.

It is not we but Jesus who saves people. It is through God's word and Spirit that people come to repentance and faith and salvation, not through our ability or lack of ability in evangelism. We don't need to be expert fisherman to catch fish for the Lord – just be willing to follow his instructions and trust the Holy Spirit to help us succeed. We won't *always* catch any if we go fishing, but we'll *never* catch any if we don't.

I've printed out some copies of sample elevator pitches, a suggested prayer of commitment that you can pray with someone, and some advice sheets for new Christians to set them on the road to their new life in Christ. You can pick up copies at the door when you leave. You can also download a copy of the sermon, and extra copies of the advice sheets at <https://www.booksforlife.today/files/evangelism-resources.html>

PRAY

Thanks for the gospel... (all of it) and that the invitation is to everyone

Forgive our the febleness of our faith and love and boldness, etc.

Come and help us, Lord....

We will take up our cross – die to self to live for you – today, and tomorrow, and every day that your Spirit reminds us to do so.

Help us to abide in you and so to become truly fruitful. Even if we go out in weakness and in much fear and trembling, as Paul did in Corinth, may we return with shouts of joy, bringing our sheaves with us.

Fill us with your Spirit, Lord. Fill us with new boldness. Help us to take that first step and discover that we can do more than we ever imagined through faith in you.

Lord, I pray, that at least one person who is listening today will become a gifted evangelist.

Bring people into your kingdom through this church, Lord. Help us to set this village and all the surrounding ones on fire with the transforming message of your everlasting love and your amazing offer of everlasting life to all who will receive it in faith.

Gospel pitches

Saint Peter wrote, ‘Always be prepared to make a defence to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you.’ The best way to be prepared is to write out very briefly how you would explain the gospel. Here are some examples which you may use if you wish, but it is probably better if you write out and use your own explanation.

Mini starter pitch

Shall I tell you some good news?

God loves you and has a purpose for your life, which he will show you if you want him to. Would you like to know more? (Go to 2 minute check-out pitch.)

1 minute elevator pitch

What is the good news that Jesus Christ brought into the world? It is that everlasting life is available to everyone who will turn to God in repentance for their unbelief and rebellion against his laws, who accepts Jesus Christ his Son as Saviour and Lord, and who publicly begins a new life in love with Jesus by baptism into the family of God. In return God will enable you to live as he meant you to live, through his gift of the Holy Spirit, and he promises to raise you from the dead just as he raised Jesus after his crucifixion, so that you can live with Jesus as king for ever in a perfect new earth to come.

2 minute check-out pitch (Learn on five fingers)

1. God loves you and has a purpose for your life which will last forever.
2. However, neither you nor anyone else has lived as God meant us to live. We have all become infected by a spiritual disease called sin, which means that God cannot allow us to continue to live for ever. The Bible says, “*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” And, “*The wages (or result) of sin is death.*”
3. To rescue us, God came into the world in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a perfect life, full of truth and love. He overcame the power of sin, and then he overcame death by dying in a public crucifixion and returning to full life again two days later in a manner which has been described as the best attested fact of ancient history. The Bible says, ‘*God so loved the world (which includes you) that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*’
4. The living Jesus offers you free forgiveness for your sins and a new everlasting life, if you will believe in him and commit yourself to live in obedience to him as your Saviour and Lord forever. “*There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*”
5. If you truly wish to begin a new life with the help of Jesus, you can do that right now, by mean of a simple prayer. Jesus said, “*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him...*” Would you like me to help you say that prayer of commitment now?

4 minute bus queue pitch (Learn on ten fingers)

May I tell you a true story?

1. Many years ago God created a perfect world with the intention that we should enjoy living in it in fellowship with him for ever.
 2. The first two people he made disobeyed him, and as a result all kinds of things went wrong. Their first child committed murder and everyone became infected by a horrible disease called sin, which is what causes all the trouble in the world today.
 3. As a result, God could no longer allow us to live for ever, so after 80 years or so our bodies now wear out and die.
 4. But God still loves us and he wants to set us free from this spiritual disease called sin. So just over 2000 years ago he came into the world himself as a man called Jesus Christ, who was really God in human form.
 5. Jesus came into the world to do three things:
 1. To show us what God is like.
 2. To live a complete human life without sin of any kind so that he could share that life with us.
 3. To prove that we *can* live for ever if we allow him to change us by entrusting our lives to him as Saviour and Lord. He proved this by voluntarily dying in a public execution which no one could deny and then by coming back to life and meeting so many people that no one could deny he had conquered death.
 6. It is as though Jesus deliberately got himself infected and killed by Covid, but then returned to life with Covid antibodies, which he can now share with us by a kind of spiritual blood transfusion when we join ourselves to him by being baptized. The Bible says, *'The blood of Jesus God's Son cleanses us from all sin.'* And, *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved."*
 7. When enough people have come back to God he is going to bring an end to this world and start again with a new earth in which nature itself will be at peace once more and those who have entrusted themselves to Jesus as Saviour can live with him for ever, just as he originally intended.
 8. We cannot save ourselves, any more than we can cure ourselves from Covid: only Jesus can. *"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* Only Jesus has lived without sin, and only Jesus has conquered death.
 9. God wants to save you from sin and death, and he will do this if you will commit yourself to live in loving obedience to Jesus and his commandments forever, with the help that he will give you. The Bible says, *'God so loved the world (which includes you) that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.'*
 10. You can begin this new life of friendship with Jesus right now if you want to, by speaking to him in a prayer that I can help you with. He said, *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him..."* Would you like to invite Jesus Christ into your life now, as your Lord and Saviour?
-

A prayer of commitment (From my book *Unearthly Passion*)

Dear Lord Jesus,

I believe you are the Son of God. You know who I am. I realize that because of my sin I am under a death sentence. I am truly sorry for all the wrong things I have done and said and thought. I am sorry for not believing in God who made me and who has always loved me. Please forgive me. With your help I now want to live the way you want me to and to fulfill the purpose you made me for.

Lord Jesus,

I thank you very, very much that you died on the cross so that I can be forgiven and be set free from sin to live for ever in your kingdom. I now open the door of my life to you. Please come in as my saviour and Lord, and help me to live for you from this moment onwards.

Thank you, Lord Jesus.

Jesus said, “Some will come to me - those the Father has given me - and I will never, never reject them.” (John 6.37)

If you meant that prayer you can be confident that Jesus has accepted you and restored you to a right relationship with the Father; that the sins of you past have been forgiven and that you are promised everlasting life.

First steps

Keep a copy of this with you, and if appropriate, give it to the new Christian as a reminder, after you have gone through it with him.

Here are some suggestions for your first steps as a new member of God's family.

- (i) Make a permanent note of the date. It's your new birthday! You'll want to remember this day in the future.

'When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!' (2 Corinthians 5.17)

- (ii) Tell someone what you have done. (It's like announcing an engagement!)

'For if you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord, and believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' (Romans 10.9)

- (iii) Join a good church. Spiritually, you are like a new-born baby. In order to survive, you need a lot of care and attention from your new family.

(Make some suggestions, recommend your own church if appropriate, and offer to go to church with him for the first few times. How would you feel about going on your own into a betting office for the first time, or into a gay club, or onto a naturist beach?!)

- (iii) Be baptized. (It's like getting married!)

"Those who believe and are baptized will be saved." (Mark 16.16)

In the Bible baptism means being immersed in water by a church leader. It is a way of making public your decision to belong to Jesus, just as a wedding is a way of making public your decision to share your life with someone permanently. Baptism doesn't 'save' you. It's how you show Jesus that you are willing to obey him, and how he shows you that your sins have been washed away and your new life with him has truly begun.

- (iv) The Holy Spirit is our special helper. He gives us the power to live as God wants us to. *'...those who follow after the Holy Spirit find themselves doing those things that please God.'* (Romans 8.5) Ask the church leaders at your baptism to pray that God will fill you with his Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, *"...if even sinful persons like yourselves give children what they need, don't you realize that your heavenly Father will do at least as much, and give the Holy Spirit to those who ask for him?"* (Luke 11.13)

- (v) If you already have a Christian friend, ask if he or she would be willing to meet you on a regular basis for a while to help you to learn how to follow Jesus. If you don't have such a friend, and if you can't find someone in the church, would you like to meet me, say once a week for a bit?

- (vi) Talk to your heavenly Father each day.

Find a quiet place to pray, and follow the TSP 'teaspoon rule' - "Thank you," "Sorry", "Please":

- *Thank* God for anything that comes to your mind.
- Tell him you are *sorry* for any way you've failed him, and ask him to forgive you.
- Ask him *please* to help you and anyone else you know who is in need.

(vii) Read the Bible each day.

The Bible is like food for your spirit. Jesus said, “*Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*” Set aside a time each day when you can read a passage of the Bible, think about it, pray about it, and if possible act on it.

The Bible is actually a collection of books. Here is one of them, which you can have as a gift. When you have read it, get hold of the whole Bible in a modern translation you can understand. You can download one as an app, or else you can buy an electronic or physical copy. Search for ‘Bibles for New Believers’. It’s the world’s best-selling book!

(viii) Here are my contact details. Please get in touch with me if you need help or advice. I’d like to pray for you now...