

Fowey Fables – No.36 July 2015

When we read a book it is always sensible to start with the first page, even if we skip some of the middle and sneak a peep at the last page. Why is it then that, when reading the best book ever written, so many people avoid page one and hope to grasp the message by keeping to the middle and the end? Is it a surprise that those who do so often miss the whole point of the book? The excuse for this strange practice is that chapter one is out of date and embarrassing. Nothing could be further from the truth! Let's check it again.

Genesis chapter one is a brief, logical, powerful explanation of how we got here. In six days God created the universe, the earth, sky, land and sea. He put on the earth first plants – which had physical bodies - then fish and birds, then animals – which have souls - and finally man – who alone has a spirit and can therefore know, show and serve God. The scientific evidence supporting this is overwhelming. Every cell in our bodies, except the red blood cells, contains DNA a brilliant, incredibly complex computer programme which determines who we are physically and mentally. When anything goes wrong with this programme, we call it a mutation, which is never an improvement. Computer programmes need a programmer.

Much of the earth's surface is covered with sedimentary rock, originally deposited out of water, containing fossil remains of once living things. Fossils show that life on earth once had a much greater variety of life than we have now but which perished in a flood. There is no evidence that one life form changed into another. The range of life remaining on earth today is a poor remnant of what once existed.

“In the beginning God created...” is a fascinating statement. The word for ‘God’, Elohim, is plural meaning three or more. The word ‘created’, bara, is in the singular. The Creator is three and yet one. He then goes on to reveal His character and way of working. Repeatedly we are told first that God said, vs.3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26 and then that it was done. Everything God created, He planned first. Everything He planned, He was able to do. Nothing has changed. The God who lives in us as His Spirit plans and does. He never has an idea that won't work or does something He did not intend and communicate. Everything God made He also gave a name. He still identifies and owns all that is His including us. At every step we are assured that the quality of God's work was ‘good’, vs.4,10,12,18,21,25. Finally when all was complete a last check showed that it was ‘very good’, v.31. Everything God does is the very best, and all that is truly good is His work. Nothing in our lives done by God is second rate or compromised. God put man in charge of the whole created world. In the New Testament Jesus gave us all authority.(Matt.28:18-20) Man was to be fruitful and multiply as Jesus made us responsible to make disciples all over the world. He provided everything man would need as Jesus guaranteed that He would be with us always. He gave us a world changing plan and the loving totally adequate provision to carry out the plan. But

if we miss page one it is highly unlikely that we will ever truly understand and enter into His best.

Having read the first page of the book it is OK to start exploring the mystery of what has gone wrong and why so often the Creator's beautiful work is not immediately evident. The villain entered the story and persuaded our ancestors to mess it all up.

We are about to begin our third term of Bible school for this year. As always we will look forward to whomever God brings to join us. Our core plan is still to provide a residential programme for those who can be here full time with a great opportunity to live out God's plan as a community. At the same time, we recognise that there are many with jobs and families for whom it makes better sense to live in their own homes but attend by the day. They are just as welcome. Either way the teaching programme is free.

Over the last few months we have been hugely impressed by the way our Creator has spoken, lovingly provided and demonstrated great quality in all He does. As you arrive at the Lodge you will see beautiful new driveways and parking areas and much improved gardens. The entrance to the lecture hall has been redesigned to avoid tripping over at night. The lecture hall has had a lovely face lift with new paint, lighting and carpet, and the benches are distinctly softer in case a lecture is boring! The Bible school office/library is well set up and functioning again. All this has happened because the Lord has sent along a whole succession of people with great ideas, practical skills and financial provision. We have not finished because the ideas continue to come to improve the student accommodation and the rest of the gardens. We are confident that as always with the plans will come the means to accomplish them.

Our lecturing team are as creative as ever with fresh ideas on how to communicate the whole Christ-centred life-changing Bible effectively in such a way that students learn to study for themselves to be able to be as creative as the previous generation in teaching others. We would love you to pray asking God if there is anyone you know whom our programme could suit. Paul Crowhurst has just returned from 4 years teaching in Hong Kong and will be lecturing again. Vipul Kharat is again teaching how to answer other religions. If you have a potential student in mind, phone, e-mail, or write and we will make contact. Our website www.foweylodge.com is being further revised to let people know what we are about and provide a brochure, applications forms and on-line studies.

We are planning another Bible conference in the next two months on the theme, 'When horrible things happen, where is God?'. Pass the word around and we will send you details shortly. On Thursday, 13th August from 10am Dr Jim Mason from Creation Ministries, Canada will be speaking in the lecture hall on the evidence for creation. Take a day off and join us if you possibly can.

Pat and Marlys Doyle moved back to the Lodge several months ago to help with management and teaching, and are making a real difference. Alan Pfeiffer has been a great help with building work. Nick, Tracey and our gorgeous granddaughter, Eva, are well settled into the white house, (not the one in Washington). Nick is back at university part time but putting much into the Bible school and the medical practice. Pete is still in Turangi, rescuing everyone who needs it, and helping us regularly, particularly technically.

We would love to know what creative ideas the Lord has given you lately and how we can help.

Our love in Christ,

Tony, Chris, Nick and Tracey