



Dear Christians Together site member,

Greetings to you! In Scotland the schools are back and – although there has been some nice weather in this tail-end of summer – we are all anticipating the autumn schedule.

I'm still thinking through the best way to communicate regularly with Christians Together site members and on this occasion it is using a PDF document (although I have no adverse reports regarding a recent update produced as a Word document). There are plusses and minuses between using (as the main 'content carrier') an e-mail message (like this one), a Word document; a PDF (Adobe Acrobat file). A down-side of e-mail (for the main content) is that I have much less control (at my end) or knowledge of how it appears on your computer screen. (So I will attach a PDF copy of this update to this e-mail: if you know what I mean).

## Site News

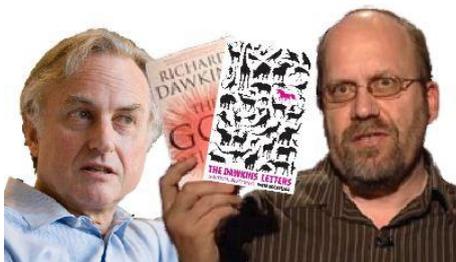
In a recent 'update' letter to site members I wrote about the 'Platypus Verses' in Scripture which refuse to comply with one theological system or another and which those who hold rigidly to certain interpretational frameworks need to force these verses to mean something other than that which God intended. [See article on the site.](#)

I am also looking at how I might best carry 'breaking news' to you without increasing the frequency of updates. Regarding the latter the question of 'frequency' is one I will be asking in the questionnaire which I hope to compile shortly. Meanwhile I have inserted a 'breaking news' facility into the forum message summary on the right-hand side of the home page.

As you will see from this update I have grouped the message content under geographic headings: regional; national (UK); and international. I will be building this structure into the re-design of the site.

## Highlands and Islands Regional News

Dawkins versus the church



One of the current controversies relates to an invitation by the organisers of a book festival in the Hebrides (archipelago off the north-west coast of Scotland) to arch-atheist Professor Richard Dawkins to speak at their festival in November. One section of the Christian community has [called for a boycott of the event](#), while another has [challenged the](#)

[scientist to a debate](#). Neither has been successful; and in the process one denomination has chucked stones at the other grouping. Dawkins meanwhile benefits from the adage: 'There is no such thing as bad publicity.'

For those who live outside of the Scottish Highlands the article ['Sunday Sailings from Lewis'](#) gives a fuller overview of the culture of the Hebridean island chain.

## UK National News

### Shame on you UK government

To whatever extent Great Britain's international reputation has benefitted from the recent Olympic Games, [the current upset regarding Wikileaks's Julian Assange is creating international concern](#). The fact that the Equadorian government was warned by the British Foreign Secretary that the police could enter the former's embassy in London in order to arrest Assange creates a serious concern. William Hague stated that the legislation which the UK would use to mount such an 'invasion' is that developed in the wake of terrorist hostage-taking in a [siege at the Libyan Embassy in London in 1984](#).

To apply the same legislation to Assange as that designed to counter terrorists is reprehensible and must be a great concern for anyone who offends governments; or, in this case, relies on the UK government for protection. In fact the real offence is the embarrassment that Assange created for the US by disclosing confidential information relating to diplomatic and foreign policy issues and the deal which is currently being negotiated between the UK, Equador and Sweden is that Assange would be extradited to Sweden to face charges of sexual assault, but with the guarantee that he would not be subject to any further extradition (to the US). The whole episode illustrates (again) that governments (of any stripe) just cannot be trusted; and this is an unhappy state of affairs for any and every citizen.

## International News

### Syria, Turkey, Iran, Israel

In the world of human intelligence there is a maxim which states: 'Those who don't know talk; while those who do know don't talk.' There is a third part to this in that those who do know talk but – in the world of bluff/double-bluff/triple-bluff you can't believe what they say.

**(Brain Teaser:** A captive has two captors. One of these always tells the truth whereas the other always tells lies. But the captive doesn't know which one is which.

There are two doors in the captive's cell: one leads to freedom the other leads to death. The captive is allowed to ask one of the captors one question only. **What question does he ask?**)

But with respect to the Middle East, it is stating the obvious to say that anything could happen. Iran (and its developing nuclear capability) is the big fear. But who is going to act, and what will the repercussions (militarily and geo-politically)? The US is much more able to militarily and positionally to do something, but this is the run-up to the next US

elections. Of course if Obama's government did something now it could – depending on outcome - greatly increase his chance of re-election. (No one rushes to replace the leader in the midst of a serious conflict.) To say that the region is complex is an understatement of the highest order. It is likely that Turkey is now in the best position to exercise control over the whole region and Russia's allegiance has – some time ago – shifted in this direction.

The 'early retirement' of military chiefs in Egypt may represent a real increase in President Morsi's status and power. On the other hand it may be that the reality is somewhat different; and that behind the scenes the military is still exercising considerable sway but giving Morsi a sop to his credibility. But whatever the case, Egypt is making noises about re-establishing a military presence in the Sinai Desert (presently banned under the existing [Camp David accords](#) signed with Israel in 1979 as a part of a peace treaty between the two countries).

## Pakistan

### Headline: Pakistan disabled girl arrested for blasphemy

[Pakistani police have arrested a mentally disabled 11-year-old girl](#) after a mob accused her of desecrating pages of the Koran. The mob demanded the Christian girl's arrest and threatened to burn down Christian homes outside the capital Islamabad, local media say. Officials said the girl could not properly answer police questions. Her parents have been taken into protective custody following threats and other Christian families have fled.

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## Egypt

Headline: [Arab Spring run amok: 'Brotherhood' starts crucifixions](#)

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## Personal statement



Living in a world which is drowning in trivia I am, more and more, nowadays concerned about the big issues.

The above takes me now to a piece of personal testimony and a foundational statement upon which I intend to write further. What my Bible tells me is that there will be eventually (in fact it is building as I write) such a concerted international outcry against Israel that it will put Haman and Hitler in the shade. And, extremely sad to say, when it comes (sooner or later; cf Zech 14:2) some of those shouting the loudest will be many leaders in the so-called evangelical church. I do not want to be more specific (at this stage at least) with respect to the identities of leaders, denominations and organisations at national and international levels. In fact 'naming names' will not be necessary because they will reveal themselves when the time comes. ([A visit to the article on Christian Palestinianism](#) gives some idea of some of the parties and constituencies involved.)

In this context I believe that those (Christians) who align themselves with the world will be putting themselves into direct conflict with other believers, but much more importantly in opposition to the stated prophetic purposes of an Almighty God.

I believe (and it's difficult to say this without sounding presumptuous) that there are four groupings within the church:-

- those who are familiar with the prophetic passages and choose to believe them
- those who have been wrongly taught (mainly through Bible colleges and systematic theologies) and pass their teachings on to others
- those who have not been taught (they are 'innocents' in their ignorance); and sadly, very sadly -
- those who will not be taught (I've made my mind up don't trouble me with facts and verses).

I first wrote – in any sort of public way – in a newsletter for the churches in the Inverness area at the end of the year 2000. The response from a senior clergyman presaged what I am writing about now.

[See 'Editor's Update' for my journey into all of this from the time I was just a toddler in Christ.](#)

**Postscript:** The above is a view of the spiritual dimension and **not a comment on the political scene.** (The arguments will go on until Kingdom come.) I do not necessarily support every action of the Israeli government any more than I would automatically support the policies of any other nation/state. (It needs to be said however that Israel is subject of the most intense scrutiny of any other nation on the planet; and this alone ensures a higher standard of behaviour than many other governments.)

### In Conclusion:

What a crazy and rapidly changing world we see around us. But how good it is to know that the Lord our God is watching over His purposes in order to bring about all that He has fore-ordained. How good it is also that He has revealed His eternal purposes to those who are saved through Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit. How grateful we are that God's word is freely available to us in so many countries and the Spirit of the Lord knows no geographical boundaries. What a blessing it is to know that Jesus sits on the right hand of God and lives forever to make intercession for us.

Hallelujah!

Trust that you are being blessed and encouraged in the Lord in the days in which we live.

Yours in Yeshua HaMashiach,

Colin

PS Remember to [visit the homepage of Christians Together](#) for all the latest articles and news.

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