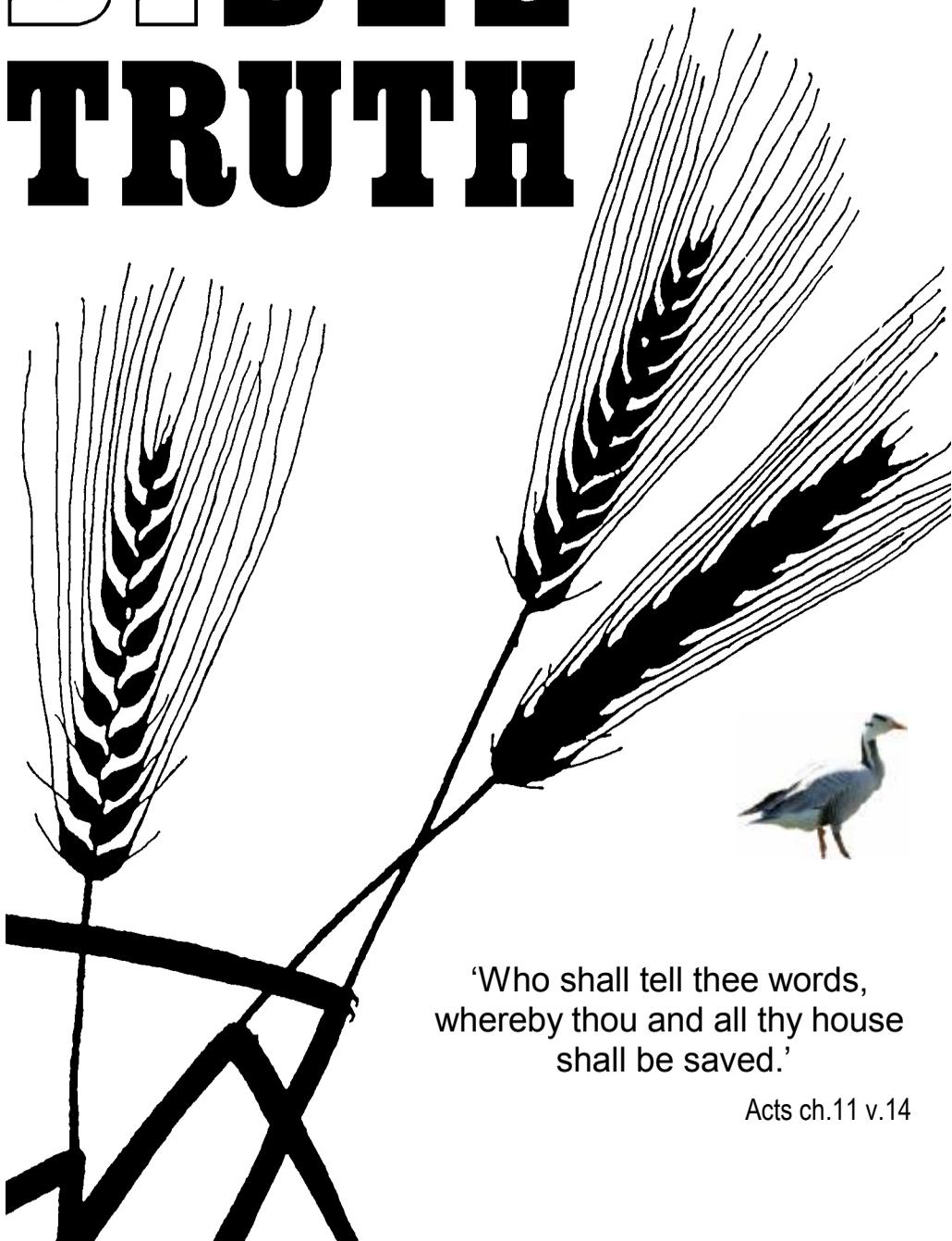


BIBLE TRUTH

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'Who shall tell thee words,
whereby thou and all thy house
shall be saved.'

Acts ch.11 v.14

Secretary's Report to the 2009 AGM



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At these annual meetings it has become my task to report on the state of play for the Fellowship, that is from a practical point of view, where we are and where we are heading.

Clearly we have reached a different phase in our outreach. Many of our members like myself have spent a lifetime of trying to convince people that 'the Bible is True', within which is the Israel message. During this time the greatest opposition continues to come from within the churches. For example this year the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth is being celebrated. There are mainline churches making public apologies for not taking Darwin seriously when he appeared to suggest that our origins lay in evolution of the species rather than creation. Thus they support a secular theory rather than the written Word of God.

Also during this time we have had to cope with an increasing 'armchair TV eyed' culture. In turn this has made it difficult to encourage people to extricate themselves from their chairs to attend our meetings. When newcomers do arrive they often expect the highest standards of presentation for that is what they have grown used to seeing on their TV screens.

Meanwhile the young have been schooled into an egocentric society and are now grown to become the working age population, i.e. the masses of the land. This is evidenced by the fact that time and again the UK tops the list both in the EU and the world at large for being the most uncouth, dirty and immoral place; the US is not far behind. Like it or not, that is the modern day state of the Israel peoples. It is probably not unlike the time prior to their Exodus from Egypt or just prior to the Captivities. Certainly all the historical evidence points that way.

Amidst this mêlée and malaise huge tensions are arising. Two examples would be these. What one can believe over against what one is allowed to proclaim. In other words, recent equality laws permit freedom of belief but prohibits us many freedoms of sharing it with others. Second, so many people have been fed a diet of thinking they are the greatest, the great 'I am' syndrome but daily they are now facing vivid examples of human frailty in the form of terrorism, financial collapse, disease, and so on.

The message of our Bible Truth Fellowship, like God, changes not. We still proclaim His truth and it is right up to date. How do we as an organisation meet these ever changing demands put upon us? This raises a number of questions when it comes to planning our work for the future.

First, is our object just to serve the interests of our members or to bring others to knowledge of God's dealings with Israel, or both? If it is both then we need to realise that there is a big divide between the two. Not only is there a generation gap but an ever widening gulf between the small number of people with some biblical knowledge and the much larger with virtually none. This taxes all the skills of our speakers and authors for whom your prayers are sought over this matter.

Second, is the interest of members to sit back and receive a service as a reward for the sub they have paid? Actually the short answer here must be no, because no charge is made either for our magazine or attending meetings. So there must be more to it than that. Is God not calling us all to serve? Are we not called for such a time as this? In a moment I will give some examples of how this can be done.

Many will sympathise with me when I say that frequently these days I feel an alien amongst the society that I was born into. How can this be so and what if anything can be done about it? Remember that 'society changes itself'. That is, changes do not just happen, it is the people who make the changes. So if we want it to change, we need to change it.

How can this be done when we feel so small and inferior, trampled upon, ignored? Here are four ideas.

1. Regularly gathering together with like minded brethren is an essential. This is like several coals in a fire which glow brightly when they are together but when they are removed, the spark in them soon dies out.
2. Give support by finance, or help in other ways.
3. Support other organisations that are upholding the word of God. For example there was recently a secularist advertising campaign displaying on buses the slogan, 'There's probably no God, now stop worrying and enjoy your life'. The Trinitarian Bible Society responded by commissioning an advert reading, 'The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Psalm 53.1'. Thus a society such as the TBS is worth supporting.

4. Some people think that once they retire or reach the age of 70 or even earlier, that they are past it and can sit back and rest on their laurels while others do the witnessing. Not necessarily so! The following living testimonies show how in recent months God has used a number of our members who are full of years.

One gentleman aged 85 spent some while renewing plumbing for a needy family whilst at the same time witnessing to them.

A 92 year old encouraged and was successful in getting some much younger people to attend one of our local meetings.

A 94 year old lady gave a full length lecture to a local meeting this month.

A 97 year old man, though resident in a care home, provided ministry and Christian worship services for others living there as well as at local church meetings.

Praise God for raising these people up and granting them strength of years to witness in these Last Days. Many have been impressed by their conviction of their belief and are grateful to them for leading them to things eternal. So may you be encouraged to do likewise.
