

2008

OUR SALVATION IS NEARER
NOW THAN WHEN WE FIRST
BELIEVED—ROMANS 13:11

NEWS FROM JIM, SUE AND MATTHEW HOLMES
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'He's God; He's man...' I have to say I was really impressed at what seemed to be such good theology in Matthew's Christmas production as

he spontaneously sang some fragments of his lines for the school's nativity play to us at home before we went to see the actual production.

Well, it was a bit of a surprise when I discovered I had mis-heard the lines (could it be the early strains of the Darlington accent?), and that it was a reference to the Magi—'Here's gold; here's myrrh...'—the gifts given to the infant Saviour.

The Bible makes it clear that Jesus is both God and man, a truth attested in numerous passages, perhaps most clearly in the King James rendering of 1 Timothy 3:16: 'And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.' Likewise, the early verses of John's Gospel make the point that not only was the Word with God in the beginning, but that the Word was God. 'In him,' wrote the Apostle Paul, 'dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily' (Colossians 2:9).

The hymn-writer Charles Wesley wonderfully portrayed this profound truth in his Christmas hymn 'Let earth and heaven combine' in these phrases: 'Our God contracted to a span/ Incomprehensibly made man'.

2008 IN PERSPECTIVE

A YEAR OF MEMORIES

It's been a time of adjustment to new circumstances; last year brought significant disappointments, and 2008 has seen some of the pain recede, though the memories and anniversaries of the deaths of Emily and Rebecca continue to be poignant reminders that we live in a fallen world. Rebecca's gravestone, soon to be mounted, records her name and the simple yet profound phrase from Philippians 1:23 'with Christ, which is far better'.



A YEAR OF TRAVEL

2008 has seen some miles travelled; I have undertaken four visits to the USA, ranging from the West Coast (California and Washington) to Eastern, Central and Southern regions, and it was opportune for Sue and Matthew to accompany me on one of them in July/August, when we spent some three weeks in Greenville, South Carolina. Travelling vast distances can be challenging (Matthew has a tendency to motion sickness in the air), but we had a great time once we had arrived.

HARD AT WORK

Notwithstanding the downturn in the economy, work has been busy and Day One has produced a good number of books and booklets which address modern issues with biblical faithfulness, clarity, and relevance. One of the projects we particularly enjoyed working on are three books by a new author called *Stop and Look...* They are children's books, beautifully illustrated in colour throughout, and the author's characters which she delightfully calls 'chublets', are so charming and engaging!



MATTHEW'S INTERESTS

MATTHEW AND BOOKS

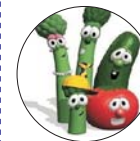
It's an ongoing fascination to see what interests Matthew, now aged 5½. Not surprisingly, books play a significant part of his life. He still enjoys *Noddy*, but has also enjoyed some more advanced Enid Blyton books such as *The Famous Five*. He's started to be fascinated by outer space, and also shown an interest in art through some rather unusual books called *Katie visits the art galleries*. In Greenville, we purchased a Bible for him, and he is able quite competently to read from it, guessing the words he does not immediately recognize!

MATTHEW AND MUSIC

Matthew's music tastes really are varied! He attends piano lessons once a week, and practises most days. His listening repertoire includes Bach, Mozart, some jazz pieces (he loves Oscar Peterson), vocals (the Carpenters still feature strongly), and he often sings out loud whatever is on his heart.

MATTHEW, YOUTUBE AND DVDS

With supervision, he enjoys finding out about space shuttles, the London Eye, James Bond, Morecambe and Wise, the Muppets, and much more from the varied resources of Youtube. His favourite DVDs include *Annie*, *Veggietales* (which he was introduced to in the USA), a DVD on dirigibles (he's fascinated by Zeppelins) and a collection on cars, which includes Volkswagen, Porsche and Rolls Royce! He's showing good taste!



Pictures: Left, Sue, Jim and Matthew enjoying an American pizza; Matthew initially was insistent that he did not like American pizzas, and wanted an English one, but when he tried it out, as you will see from the expression on his face, he was a satisfied customer. Middle left, Jim and Matthew outside the Pizza Inn; Middle right, Sue and Matthew in the apartment we stayed in; Right, Jim and Matthew on the beach in England in the Great British Summer (yes, we were in England that day).