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1. Message in the Marketplace:

REACHING KIDS

Do you remember the tragedy a couple of years ago in Morecombe Bay? Where a group of Chinese workers, lured to the UK by the promise of employment and money, were put to work collecting cockles in the dark, unaware that they were being rapidly cut off by the incoming tide? Exploited by unscrupulous men, they died premature and miserable deaths, working for peanuts.

Tragically, they're not the only ones. For death of a different, even more serious variety is stalking millions of unsuspecting teenagers caught up in an overwhelming flood of information on the worldwide web, fed to them by unprincipled and evil men. Sadly, this deluge of information contains little knowledge, even less wisdom, and has virtually no marker buoys. And it's meeting with a receptive market. Today's teenagers, brought up for the most part without any moral compass, are easy meat for this tidal wave of pornography, hedonism and sin. There is an inevitability about the kind of sites that are attracting the most interest – left undirected, today's youth are being drawn to the lowest common denominator in terms of what they watch and access and pass on to others.



Tell a lie often enough, and people will eventually believe it to be true. The constant, almost unanimous blare of the internet, proclaims the normality and orthodoxy of godlessness and its outworking. That life is all about instant self-gratification, that sex is a purely biological function, and that if things go wrong there's always the quick fix of abortion.

Which is why our 1st two videos and articles on our new teen7 site (www.teen7.org), are aimed at dealing with the heart of the matter, proclaiming God's word to both exploiter and exploited. They are:

- **Life – what's it all about?**
- **Sex - The Safe Sex book.**

The next topic to be uplifted during the month of December will be 'Abortion – solution or Sin?'

You can view the emerging site now. www.teen7.org. We'd be interested in your comments, and grateful for your prayers. Please see our contact details at the end of this issue.

2. Website Article – 'Life – what's it all about?'

What are you living for? For starters, check-out this list...

- Money
- Sex
- Your girlfriend or boyfriend
- Success
- Popularity
- Religion
- TV
- Computer games
- Your education or job
- Your mates
- Alcohol or drugs
- Sport

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Most of these would be good. But what about having them all? Well, most.

Imagine being in a position where you could have everything! Imagine being able by just wishing it, to own a Porsche, to go out with Jennifer Lopez or Justin Timberlake; to have unlimited beer or wine and the best food. Quite a number achieve it; it's not that difficult. But what happens when you get everything? What do you do then?

One man not only achieved it all quickly and while he was young, but wrote about the experience. He reckoned it all as 'meaningless' and 'empty'. Nothing brought happiness.

2 reasons:

Reason No 1 is that we've been made for better things. Imagine David Beckham or Steven Gerrard working as a security steward at football matches instead of playing the game.....they'd be wasting their potential. If the most important thing in your life is something on the list above, you could be wasting yours, too!

Reason No 2 is that building your life around any of these "things" is confusing the Journey with the Destination. To explain:

Life is taking us somewhere. Firstly, the journey takes us to old age – if we survive that long. But old age isn't the end; even death isn't. After that there is something else. Judgement – with God as the judge!

That means that everything we've ever done, thought or said is going to be rewarded or punished. Everything! And then, on the basis of that judgement, we are going to enter a never-ending existence. Another man, tells us that if we're wise then we'll be prepared. We won't get side-tracked by anything on the journey. We'll be aiming for and thinking about and living for the destination.

There was a king once who was reckoned by everyone for his incredible wisdom. But although his wisdom was preserved in books, he still died. 900 years later another king appeared who outshone the first king. The first king had everything, did everything and reckoned life as 'meaningless' and 'empty' but the second one made an extraordinary claim about life that has never been topped. He claimed to 'Be Life'.

Who is this man? Jesus Christ.

Look at the list again. It looks good doesn't it? Full of promise! But is it really the best? Does it satisfy the Celebs?

Everything on that list is a means to an end. But what is the real end? If it's death and pointlessness...

Jesus Christ offers Himself as Life. And it can be yours.

Write to us. Ask us for more details.

3. Website Article – The Safe Sex Book:

I remember being at a meeting where a famous trade unionist was arguing against the use of nuclear power. He told us of a public debate he'd held with the head of the nuclear industry in Britain. This man had tried to prove how safe nuclear power could be by producing from his jacket a tube of plutonium. In response, the trade unionist produced a piece of coal and took a bite out of it. "That's how safe coal is" he said..." I challenge you to do the same with your plutonium"!

Nuclear power is a wonderful thing, but it's also extremely dangerous. It produces the electricity needed to run a kidney dialysis machine whilst at the same time having the potential to destroy life on this planet.

Sex is the same. Sex is a gift of God given to us to enjoy. It produces children and pleasure, but also makes grown men abuse little children, turns millions into pornography addicts, has killed millions by AIDS, and has led to countless broken hearts and broken homes.

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Someone once said that most teenagers have sex drives with BMW accelerators and Skoda brakes. Perhaps you're one of them. It may be that you've already crashed – more than once. Maybe you're involved in activities or relationships that you're uneasy about. Maybe you're the victim of someone else's uncontrolled sexual appetite. Maybe you're asking the question, "How can I enjoy this gift without hurting myself – or others? Here's how.....

The first thing you need to do is to realise that there's someone who can help you. He invented sex, and has given us a guide to how to handle it. It's called the Bible, and He's God. His Son Jesus came to our planet 2000 years ago, defeated sexual temptation, and gives the same ability to all those who receive Him. He also died to pay the penalty for all our sins (including sexual ones), and He wipes the slate clean for anyone who turns to Him. Are you ready to receive Him; to obey Him and to follow Him? You need to take that step at this point. If you don't, it's no use going any further. Why not ask Him now to have mercy on you, to forgive you and to change you?

Once you've done this, the next thing you need to do is to understand that God has provided us with a special protective framework for sex. These "rules" have been given to make sure that the gift of sex stays wonderful and doesn't become dangerous. Just like nuclear power. Those who work in a nuclear plant aren't allowed to walk around the buildings in their ordinary clothes. Nor do they take plutonium home for the kids to play with. This is not because the management wants to spoil their fun, but because they want everyone to be safe.

What "rules" then has God made to guarantee our safety? Well, the main one is this – sex is to be enjoyed only between a man and a woman who have publicly committed themselves to lifelong faithfulness. All other sex is in God's eyes, illegal. So, sex with children, animals, someone of the same sex, your boyfriend or girlfriend, someone else's husband or wife – in fact, anyone to whom you

are not married, is unlawful and dangerous. However many people are doing it, it is sin, and disqualifies those who practise it from heaven.

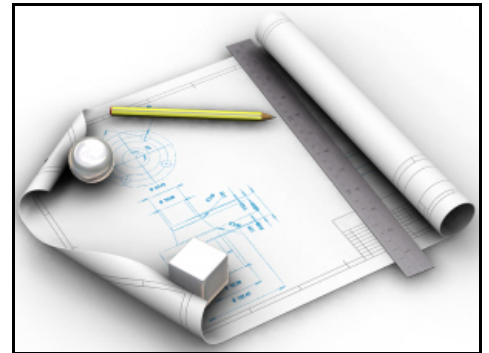
Sex is then something bigger than biology. Animals “have sex”. Men and women “make love”. Most sex going on today is the result of lust, not love. We won't know what love is however until we know Jesus Christ. This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and gave His only Son a sacrifice for our sins.

4. The Plan

4.1 The Plan for the Development of www.Teen7.org

Since we came off the Christian TV station, UCB, in April this year, we have turned to the internet as being a way forward.

- Firstly, you get more for your money because the signal goes globally and the transmission cost is considerably lower than that for TV.
- Secondly, you can cast your message 24 hours a day.
- Thirdly, there is no censor who will (as in the case of secular or mainstream TV) deem the Christian message as unacceptable or offensive.



Relieved of the TV production burden, we decided to focus on a glaring need – Teens. Either Teens in trouble or Teens fast approaching it. The result is www.teen7.org.

www.teen7.org is a website but one which has the power to stream video as well as words.

The prototype website is now available for you to call up. At the moment, though, it carries only two articles.

- ‘Life – What’s it all about?’
- ‘The Safe Sex Book’

Each Topic carries a simple video.

There are a further two stages in the plan for Teen7.org.

- The addition of foreign languages [Translations of these 2 articles are almost ready in French, German, Dutch & Russian.]
- The addition of contact addresses in other countries.

4.2. The Plan for the TV side

We would like to get back to TV and we have continued to make programmes for this purpose. These programmes are in the nature of testimonies from people who have had unusual experiences. Because we are always interested in other cultures and countries, they also include contributors from both home and abroad.

TV may reach a different age of viewer than a website but could reuse both current and previously made programmes on one of the two websites. A selection of our 5 minute ‘Straight Talk’ programmes have been sent to a Christian TV station in the Netherlands for inclusion into their schedules.

It has long been our intention to create short advert-length programmes for use on stations like 'Hollywood Classics'

5. Editorial – 'Who dares wins'

This, the motto of the SAS, has now become part of the national culture. But it had its biblical precedent long before the second world war when David Stirling conceived the idea of having an elite squad of trained men capable of penetrating deep behind enemy lines.

In fact, the biblical type was just one individual whose initial mission was such a resounding success that he was immediately commandeered for Israel's national security and well being.

The individual, David, was just a boy when he dared to fight Goliath and won.

The battleground of today is still a variant on the age-old theme of war: territory. Not for land as such but for that precious territory, the mind. And it's this that Satan wants. His Goliath of today may come in a number of guises, but behind them is a whole army of conscripts dependent upon the satanic system for their bread and butter. Taken as individuals they are a motley crew, often of little men craving attention, fame, fortune, wealth, power, personal gratification; as such they would as soon stab each other in the back if there was a point or a pound to be gained. But taken in the shape of their leader, they are without doubt a formidable force for evil. So how might the David of today fare?

Imperfect as we know David to be, he was still 'a man after God's own heart'. He was enraged by the defiance of a Goliath who mocked God. In this sense he was a fitting predecessor of Christ Himself who declared, 'Zeal for Thy house hath eaten me up.'

Sometimes we just have to go into battle. We can't pretend that God hath not set His seal against idolatry; it's all around us. Nor can we pretend that the activities of the other side's soldier aren't similarly condemned – anger and murder, lust and covetousness, blasphemy and lying to pick out just a few.

David's weapons were as simple as his training. It didn't need a mighty man of war to win for the Lord. It took *heart* and courage. Not head. If 'Straight Talk' goes forward not by faith in the Living God but by head and calculation alone it *will* fail. The word of God lays down this plain motto: 'According to your faith be it.'

A Christian man I know went through a number of job interviews in the course of his career. The jobs he was trying for were strategic in the sense that they would give the candidate - if he were a Christian - a sizeable sphere of influence. On two occasions of putting himself on the interview firing line, he was put on the spot. Once, he had to answer an unanticipated question in a single word. On the other occasion, he had to answer a similarly unexpected question in literally two words. On both occasions, he recalls, the Holy Spirit came to his aid. And on both these occasions, these questions were the make or break for the job.

David had no chance to prepare. He was a mere boy visiting his soldier brothers. 'Straight Talk' is doing its work to prepare but it can't hope to succeed against the odds it faces unless the Holy Spirit comes in powerfully.

'Straight Talk' may not win every battle. But one thing is certain. If it doesn't dare to even try it will *never* win any.



6. Update on David Leyshon's health

Many thanks to all who've prayed for my family and myself over recent months. Your prayers are being heard! On September 25th I underwent an 8-hour operation for the insertion of electrodes in the brain, followed 3 days later by a second operation – this time for the placement of two transmitters in either side of the chest. I was released from hospital 3 weeks later. The benefits of this remarkable operation have been



- That I do not need at present to take the anti-Parkinsonian drugs which were having such devastating side-effects
- My speech, previously virtually incomprehensible, has improved
- My dribbling is less of a problem
- I have greater energy, movement, and facial expression
- I am less dependant for basic, everyday needs on Debbie

At the moment I am on an intensive 4-week, speech therapy course to get me to speak more loudly and slowly. I am also waiting for details of my next hospital stay when my neurotransmitters will be fine-tuned.

Please pray that progress will, under God's supreme hand, be maintained, and that I will be enabled to do what He has called me to.

David

7. Prayer Points:

- David's progress after the operation
- That we'll find people in other countries to act as contacts for Teen7
- That young people will be reached by Teen7
- That we will be able to refashion our existing STTV website to speed up its communication of the gospel through the addition of video programming



8. Contact details

For Teen7, Straight Talk or Sceptre International Ltd:

Postal Address: Jim Wiltshire
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Hartley
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Telephone: 01752 775677

Email Address: info@teen7.org; firstlight@talktalk.net; enquiries@sttv.co.uk

Websites: www.teen7.org; www.sttv.co.uk; www.sceptreinternational.co.uk

Stop Press

Recently, David suggested that we ask Mike Mellor if he could assist us with suggestions as to what would be the 'hottest issues' in the minds of teens today. Among the surprises were : Serious illness, Death, Bereavement, Guns, Religion, Peer Pressure, Academic Pressure, Bullying, Friction in the Family, Friends.

Mike gave us well over 18 topics and has said that he would be willing to address quite a number of these issues. He is able to access his knowledge in a number of ways but principally from his work on the streets of Britain as a full-time Open-Air Mission worker.



We are looking forward to linking our two websites when finalised to the Upper Room Christian Bookshop in Plymouth as a source of advice and literature material. Dave and Anne Landricombe are aware of a wide range of material suited to all ages and are always pleased to spend time giving help to readers.

Their contact details are

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www.upperroombookshop.co.uk
e-sales : Sales@UpperRoomBookshop.co.uk
