



Between

Friends

2020 VOLUME 1

As we remember what our salvation cost our Saviour, it will inevitably deepen and increase our love and devotion to him. The more it grips our hearts that Christ gave himself for me, the more we shall be spurred on to live unreservedly for him.

DAVID GOODING

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Dear friends,

All of us are aware that our world is full of suffering, but this fact can become obscured by the illusion of safety that scientific progress and medical advances offer us. Yet, from time to time, the whole world is shocked into a collective consideration of the continuing reality of human weakness and mortality. The events of 9/11 and the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2001 were such events, and the current pandemic is another.

These events force us, sometimes against our will, to consider hard questions about God's intentions for our world. What is he doing, allowing this to happen? Why has Christ not yet returned to establish justice and peace?

Towards the end of *Suffering Life's Pain*, David Gooding and John Lennox offer some reflections on the purpose and value of suffering in the life of a believer.

According to Christ, position and responsibility in his coming kingdom will in part depend on a disciple's suffering here on earth (Mark 10:37–40). The greater the suffering, the greater the eventual position of responsibility. But we are not to go out of our way to seek suffering. God gives us all things freely to enjoy; and we are surely meant to enjoy life as much as we can. Nor are we called upon to understand everything and to be able to explain all the providences of God. The longest book in the Bible on the topic of suffering is the book of Job. Though Job initially felt that there was something extremely unfair about the amount of suffering he had to endure, in the end he was brought to see that the goal of suffering is to train us to trust both the love and the wisdom of God. God will always go beyond our ability to comprehend him. Our eternal peace of mind will arise from the deep-rooted conviction, learned by experience, that 'to those who love God, God works everything together for good, even to them who are called according to his purpose' (Rom 8:28).

Despite even the most difficult circumstances, it should strengthen our faith and hope when we remember that God is fully aware of our situation and continually engaged in working all things to fulfill his goal of making us like his Son.

Suffering Life's Pain is currently available as a free download on our website. We trust that it, and the other resources highlighted in this edition of *Between Friends*, will strengthen the faith of many in these days that are uncertain yet filled with gospel opportunity.

Myrtlefield Collections

The events of the last few months have presented opportunities for the Myrtlefield Trust to serve people around the world who have been affected by lockdown orders. As David Gooding taught Scripture to a range of audiences, he covered a vast array of topics in his characteristically insightful and faith-building style. However, with over 10,000 pages of material available on our website, searching for an answer to a specific question may take some time!

Our newly published *Myrtlefield Collections* is designed to allow easy access to the resources that provide answers to common questions:

- Are You Anxious?
- Are You Ready?
- Is the Christian Hope Real?
- Why Does God Allow Suffering?
- Why Do I Still Doubt?
- Can We Trust the Bible?

The collections are presented in user-friendly PDFs with a short overview of how each resource contributes to answering the question at hand. So far, these documents have been downloaded several hundred times by website visitors across the world.



We have also produced a collection of teaching resources to help keep isolated church members nourished by God's word. This series is available to watch on YouTube, and many have supplementary material that can be used for further study.

If you have suggestions for additional *Myrtlefield Collections* topics, please email us at info@myrtlefieldhouse.com.

NEW PROJECTS



DWG Devotional

We are pleased to announce the planned publication of a 365-day devotional drawn from David Gooding's teaching through the years. God willing, the release date is planned for late summer. The entries will be ordered to build naturally upon one another and coincide with key events throughout the year.

With so many quotations to choose from, further volumes are likely. This first volume will focus on the following topics: The character and work of the Lord Jesus; His transforming power in our lives; and God's grand plan of redemption. If you want to be notified of the devotional's release, sign up to our 'New Resources' email list here: <http://eepurl.com/dpNZID>

Questions and Answers

One of the ongoing roles of the Myrtlefield Trust is to collect, organize and archive David Gooding's teaching so that we can present it to future generations. As part of this process, we are also archiving David Gooding's correspondence.

It has become clear that the questions and topics addressed in many of these letters would serve as a brilliant resource for a much wider audience. We are now working to collate and publish several hundred of these letters for free through our website. The first collection will be available in late summer, with more letters added on an ongoing basis.

If you have any letters from David Gooding that you are willing to share, please let us know as we would appreciate adding them to our archive and, if appropriate, publishing them for the benefit of others. In keeping with privacy laws, all references to specific people will be anonymized.

If you want to be notified when the first collection is released, sign up to our 'New Resources' email list here: <http://eepurl.com/dpNZID>

NEW RESOURCES FROM MYRTLEFIELD HOUSE



Transcripts

Our editors continue working hard to make David Gooding's teaching available now and for future generations. Nineteen additional series of studies are available for free download on our website. These are listed in the table below. You can download and read them wherever you go as they are available in multiple formats.

Two Personal Examples of God's Encouragement	Testimony and Experience
Restoration and Repentance: The Past and Future Ministry of Elijah	Overcoming the Word: Its Ruler, Its Love and Its Pressures
Attaining the Glory of God: A Study in Romans 5	Questions that Matter for Life: The Bible's Answers that Satisfy
Christian Foundations: Ten Studies on Christian Doctrine	The Sovereignty of God: Four Studies on God
Studying Biblical Narratives: Illustrated by the Book of Ruth	The Church, its Conduct and Activity: Studies in 1 Corinthians
A Cosmic-sized Salvation: Three Studies in Colossians	Spiritual Warfare: Lessons from the Book of Judges
Three Creation Stories and Three Patriarchs: An Analysis of the Six Parts of Genesis	Methods of Studying the Book of Acts: Luke's Six Literary Divisions
An Abundant Entrance into the Eternal Kingdom: Twelve Seminars on 2 Peter and Growing as a Christian	Fundamentals of the Gospel for the Church Today: Personal Concerns in Light of 1 Corinthians
What Comes Next: Can We Be Certain About Life After Death?	Christianity Definded and Defended: Studies in Acts
Spiritual Gifts: First Corinthians 12-14	

Translations

Spanish

We are almost ready to publish the first Myrtlefield House Spanish edition of *The Riches of Divine Wisdom*. At the time of writing, the first draft paperback copies have arrived at our office for review. If all goes according to plan, this book will be released on July 3rd, 2020.

Bulgarian/Hungarian

During the last year, we were contacted by believers from Bulgaria and Hungary who were interested in translating various *Myrtlefield Transcripts* into their respective languages. Translation work has now commenced in both countries.



German

In our last edition, we reported that the first book in The Quest series was being published by Christliche Verlagsgesellschaft (CV). They have now teamed up with the Institut für Glaube und Wissenschaft (IGUW) to publish the full series.

Portuguese

We have a long-standing relationship with A Verdade in Brazil. They have published many of our books through the years, with the most recent being *The Bible and Ethics*. A Verdade has printed 1,000 copies of this book for sale in Brazil and The Myrtlefield Trust has given a grant to print 2,000 additional copies for free distribution in Angola.

Italian

The translation of *The Riches of Divine Wisdom* into Italian is now underway. It will be co-published with Edizioni GBU and should be available later this year.

Czech

ALEF Křesťanské sbory are in the final stages of publishing *Christianity: Opium or Truth?* in Czech. This should be available this summer.

Quest Grant Project

In 2019 we began a project to provide 2,000 free sets (12,000 books) of *The Quest* series to various strategic partners. The total cost of production and distribution of these books has been sourced from a combination of funding bodies and private donations. We are providing grants to the following groups:

Langham Libraries – 361 sets

The Myrtlefield Trust is continuing to work with Langham Partnership through providing several hundred colleges in the majority world with high-quality Christian material for their libraries.

Langham Scholars – 189 sets

Langham Partnership's Scholars Programme provides book grants to several hundred PhD students. The 189 sets we provided will be distributed to select students in this programme who will most benefit from the material.

OPAL Trust – 100 sets

OPAL Trust distributes quality resources to Christians in the majority world. The Myrtlefield Trust has a history of supporting this work, and the present book grant supported groups in Kenya, Zambia and India.

OCCA – 400 sets

We have partnered with the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics to offer sets of *The Quest* to various groups, such as their Business Programme graduates, one-year programme OCCA graduates, and other core-supporters.

Global Journalism at NLA – 100 sets

These sets were provided to students completing a Masters in Global Journalism at NLA University in Norway. Passages from *The Quest* are being used to teach the course. Over several years, this grant will provide textbooks to students, many of whom would not have been able to afford them. The students come from a wide range of backgrounds and countries, including: Nepal, Bangladesh, South Korea, Iran, Georgia, Armenia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda, Kosovo, Colombia and Norway.

Lausanne Europe Conference – 850 sets

This conference has been designed to equip believers from across Europe to better proclaim the gospel, impact society and shape European worldviews with Christian ideas. Originally scheduled to take place this autumn but delayed due to the pandemic. All being well, it will now be held in Wisla, Poland in November 2021. The leaders of the conference communicated that the provision of *The Quest* to attendees 'would be a marvellous resource to equip us all better in bearing witness to Jesus Christ and all his teaching in the realm of European worldviews and ideas'. We have granted a full set for each attendee.

2019 in Numbers



4	New books: <i>Questioning our Knowledge</i> , <i>Doing What's Right</i> , <i>Claiming to Answer</i> and <i>Suffering Life's Pain</i> by David Gooding and John Lennox
29	New Transcript Series: This equates to over 1,200 pages of new content. The most popular new series was <i>God's Power for Salvation (Romans)</i> .
1,885	Study Notes downloads: We now have study notes available for 20 books, with Isaiah, Revelation and Matthew being the most popular.
7,269	Transcript downloads: The most popular series were <i>Four Journeys to Jerusalem (Gospel of John)</i> , <i>The Book of Genesis</i> , and <i>Structure and Meaning in the Fourth Gospel</i> .
9,647	Book sales: Our partnership with 10ofThose, and a new edition of <i>Encounters</i> , has allowed us to provide more books at a cheaper price.
18,129	Book grants: These were distributed online and through the Quest Grant Project. The most popular book for download is <i>According to Luke</i> .
19,613	Audio downloads: The most popular series were <i>Four Journeys to Jerusalem</i> , <i>Studies in the Gospel of John</i> , and <i>The Sufferings of Christ</i> .
31,467	Video views: The most popular videos were <i>Why Should We Believe the Bible?</i> , <i>The Glorious Gospel</i> , and <i>Christian Headship</i> .
116,886	Social Media Engagement: This is the number of times people have viewed our content on Facebook and Twitter.

Who is this God that holds the waters in his hands? He is the God of this universe, and he loves me! We don't have to plead with the Lord to be with us. He has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you' (Heb 13:5). That's his promise, and he will never let you down.

DAVID GOODING

Prayer List

SOME ITEMS TO PRAY FOR OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

- That the new users visiting the website during this pandemic would benefit from the material.
- That unbelievers who occasionally interact with our social media accounts would come to see the beauty of Christ and the hope offered to them in the gospel.
- That many new people, believers and unbelievers, who would benefit from the free resources we make available, would find our website.
- That the various translators working on projects would be granted help in their work.
- That the new publications we are working on will be completed on time and the various people working on them be given help in their work.
- That the inevitable disruption caused by the pandemic would be used by God for the ultimate good of each of us.
- That the thousands of books granted through the Quest Grant Project would help lay a solid biblical foundation in the lives of many teachers and their students around the world.
- That the trustees will be guided in their efforts to keep the legacy of David Gooding's teaching alive, and to introduce it to a new generation.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.