

Calvary Connection

August 2017

Our Missions

You may recall Steve and Tina Same, as they've visited and preached at our church in the past. Ray and Margie were introduced to the Sames and the *Arise and Shine Evangelistic Association* years ago while in Florida.

Steve and Tina joined the ministry in 1988, working with refugees and the homeless in the Philippines.

In 1992, they joined the newly-formed ASEA ministry in London.

They now serve in urban street ministry, operating out of a fully renovated former English "pub," where they evangelize among the city's nine million people.

In their most recent newsletter, Steve shares the devastation of the
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Did God Create Life on Other Planets?

Many people, Christian or otherwise, struggle with the notion that the earth is the only inhabited planet in this enormous universe. But our thinking should be based on what God *said* He did, and not what we *think* He would, should or might have done.

The biblical objection to extra-terrestrials isn't merely an argument from its *silence* on the subject. We know that Scripture doesn't discuss everything – computers, for example. But computers aren't a salvation issue. Surely, if the Earth were to be visited by extraterrestrials, then one would reasonably expect that the Bible would mention such a momentous occasion, because it would clearly redefine man's place in the universe.

Romans 8:22 indicates that 'the *whole creation* groans and travails under the weight of sin.' The effect of the curse following Adam's fall was universal.

Otherwise, what would be the point of God destroying this whole creation to make way for a new heaven and Earth (2 Pet. 3:13, Rev. 21:1)? Any ETs living elsewhere would have been (unjustly) affected by the Adamic Curse through no fault of their own—they would *not* have inherited Adam's sin nature.

Christ came to Earth not only to redeem mankind, but eventually the *whole creation* back to Himself (Col. 1:20). Christ's atoning death cannot save these hypothetical ETs because one needs to be a physical descendant of Adam for Christ to be the 'kinsman-redeemer' (Is. 59:20). Jesus was called 'the last Adam' because there was a real first man, Adam (1 Cor. 15:22,45), not a first Vulcan, Klingon etc. The Bible makes no provision for God to redeem any other species any more than to redeem fallen angels (Heb. 2:16).

'Through faith we understand that the *worlds* were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.' (Heb. 11:3) Some claim that the word 'worlds' refers to other inhabitable planets. However, the word 'worlds' is *αιῶν* (*aiōn*), from which modern translations render as 'universe', correctly describing 'everything that exists in time and space, visible and invisible, present and eternal'. Even if it was referring to other planets, it is an unjustified assumption to *presume* intelligent life on them.

Man was created as a fully intelligent being in God's image (Gen. 1:26) about 6,000 years ago. Since that time, we have not been able to develop technologies advanced enough to travel to other star systems. If aliens were capable of developing such technologies, one would presume either that they were created with vastly superior intellect to ours (making them even more in God's likeness, in that sense, than we are) or much earlier than us - refuting Gen. 1:14 – 19.

So why *did* God create such a vast universe? The major reason is found in Psalm 19:1: 'The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.' It reminds us that the more we discover about this incredible universe, the more we should be in awe of the One who made it. Rather than looking up and pondering 'I wonder what else is out there?', we should instead be considering the very One that made it all. *by Gary Bates www.creation.com*



This is the fourth article in the Christian worldview series.

Joyful Music

Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God. Warren Wiersbe

What does it take to be a part of our music ministry? How much time is required? How much talent is needed?

These are all great questions, and they are what our music leader, Cheryl Sawler, is often asked. And her answers may surprise you.

Cheryl received her Bachelor's Degree in music education and plays guitar, piano – and voice. However, she firmly believes that an effective worship leader isn't always the most gifted musician. In fact, when people are serious about becoming a member of the worship team, she first insists that they read On Being a Servant of God (Wiersbe) and The Unquenchable Worshipper (Redman). As with any commitment to the ministry, it's like wearing a target on your back – as far as the enemy is concerned.



Our worship team members practice one night a week for 1 ½ hours, arrive Sunday mornings at 7:45 a.m. and leave at 12:30 p.m. They often fellowship in the café between the two morning services, which may be one of the few times they have the opportunity, since most work full-time.

Cheryl has been leading worship since our existing church was just a home Bible study many years ago. She often chooses the songs we sing through prayer, sometimes through another's suggestion, but rarely because Pastor Ray tells her what the topic of the sermon will be. But just like that – God often has a hand in synchronizing the music with the message.

Pastor Stan, Cheryl's husband, sometimes serves as a sounding board for how a new song is received and perceived among the congregation. Was it too wordy? Was it effective or ineffective? And as might be expected, the internet has become a major source for the music, chords, and lyrics of the songs. One Sunday, Pastor Ray mentioned a song from Christian radio that ministered to him, and just like that – between services Cheryl looked it up on her phone from the site <http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/> in preparation to play it as soon as the team could prepare.

Our Missions

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London apartment building fire. "I am writing to you today with a very heavy heart. God opened the door for Tina and I to minister to many people at and around the Grenfell Tower block, the apartment building in west London that burned on June 14. The Grenfell Tower was 24 floors high and held 120 families, housing over 500 people. Not knowing what we could do, but feeling the desire to be used by the Lord, we just went. We found ourselves among hundreds of people that wandered the streets... seeking

solace and a source of comfort and relief from this tragedy."



To read the Sames' monthly newsletters, visit: <http://globeintl.org/members/same-steve-tina>

Enriching Your Bible Vocabulary

day of the Lord – a day of visitation; to the unbeliever it's a day of terror; for the believer it's a day of joy. "For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low" (Isaiah 2:12).

dearth – a scarcity of provisions; a cutting off of rain. "The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the dearth..." (Jer. 14:1)

delusion – a false belief; a belief held in the face of evidence to the contrary. "Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." (2 Thess. 2:10,11)

discomfit; discomfiture – to annoy, harass, confuse, rout and destroy. "Every man's sword was against his fellow, and there was a very great discomfiture." (1 Sam. 14:20)

divination – communication with a deity, especially pertaining to pagan religions. "The seers will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced. They will all cover their faces because there is no answer from God." (Micah 3:7)

dragon – any great monster, whether of the land or the sea; used as a reference to Satan. "The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born." (Rev. 12:4)