

WELCOME TO YOUR GOOD NEWS PAPER! NICE TO MEET YOU

Welcome to the Good News!

Let's face it, most of "The News" today may as well be called "THE BAD NEWS" because frankly, it's depressing. In spite of all this, we actually believe that this world is rich with beautiful and good things and that this is equally as important to celebrate and call out as the bad!

~ And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. ~ Philippians 4:8

Holding fast to the good brings about a fundamental inward shift - your disposition becomes more positive as the proportion of your attention (or consciousness) fixes on positive things.

So while yes, we may be surrounded by wars and rumours of wars, we believe that there is a beautiful world out there to be lived and experienced and it begs being discussed! It's for your own good!

Who are we?

Well, the most important thing to know about us is that (yes, against all the odds) we have found that a relationship with Jesus Christ is the way to live a life in the fullest appreciation of the good that this world has to offer.

What am I reading right now?

This is our heartfelt attempt at calling out some good stuff in this world. It is a compilation of writings, stories of our lives, art, and good stuff.

We hope you enjoy. :)
Love, the Evangelarium

some people don't think they need a saviour... but if you do...
Got an issue?
Talk to God?
He is listening



Left: It's a beautiful world out there!
Artwork by Christina

THE LORD GOD PLACED THE MAN IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO TEND AND WATCH OVER IT. BUT THE LORD GOD WARNED HIM, "YOU MAY FREELY EAT THE FRUIT OF EVERY TREE IN THE GARDEN— EXCEPT THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND

EVIL. IF YOU EAT ITS FRUIT, YOU ARE SURE TO DIE." - GENESIS 2: 15-17

There's an old story you may have heard about two trees in a garden, one gave life and the other knowledge. There were also two people Adam (which means "humanity") and Eve ("to live"). They were invited by God to live in this delightful garden, tend it and eat freely. Sweet! Seems like a pretty good setup. But the second tree came with a warning sign: "Beware! Danger of Death!"

Wait, what? Why put this test in the middle of the garden? Is God just a spoilsport, holding good things from them?

Well, it turns out those are just the sort of questions that the humans were soon asking themselves, when into the story slides a rather mysterious, and mischievous character. Who brings an air of doubt over the generous character of God, encouraging the humans to take hold of knowledge, to seize control of their own destiny, and become "like God." Unfortunately, the warning label wasn't enough.

The fruit of knowledge looked desirable, and gaining wisdom was surely good, right? So they took, and ate. They didn't die on the spot,

but something had changed, mistrust entered so they hid from each other and God, and ultimately were exiled from the paradise they'd known. Now separated from the tree of life, death too had entered the world. The rest as they say is history.

So, what is going on here? What is God up to in this story and why did he give a seemingly arbitrary rule about forbidden fruit?

To answer that question properly will take more than the few words my editor has given me, but let's give it a go. Throughout the rest of the bible God's relationship with humanity is described through various pictures: God as our Father and we his children; we're work partners; friends; and, most intimately, we're bride and bridegroom. So it seems that God is interested in a relationship, and a pretty serious one at that. Perhaps then the real problem isn't the "forbidden fruit" itself, but rather, that God desires a real love relationship with us, and true love can't be bought or forced. It is a choice.

Now, if God just desired some workers or servants (as was a common ancient belief about the gods), then it wouldn't have been a problem. The choice needn't have been given, and we could have just been divinely "programmed" to serve

with glee, never even considering another option. But for this not to turn into some abhorrent version of a forced marriage or eternal slavery, God had to give us an "opt out." Because if there's no true "opt out", there's no real "opt in" either.

Which brings us back to the garden, the trees and the sneaky snake. Whatever we may think about how clever we are and how gullible ancient people were, it's worth noting that the ancients were quite aware that talking snakes aren't a normal daily occurrence. They were also capable of writing some pretty sophisticated literature. Perhaps a story can be true on multiple levels and not merely literal. Consider that the choice between the two trees is still very real, in fact, we are confronted with it daily.

Every day we are faced with the choice of where we will put our trust. Will we grasp for knowledge and control, choosing to trust in our own understanding?

"Knowledge is power,"
"Control the narrative,
control the future."

Or will we instead choose to believe that there really is one like a ...Father, who cares for us and can be



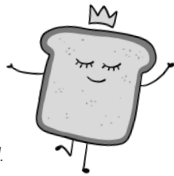
Toast

A fan favorite some would say,
For it doesn't matter the time of day
It's brown glow
and superior crunch,
are perfect for breakfast
or even lunch.
Cold blocks of butter melt at its touch
And it doesn't have to do much
To satisfy one's craving- whatever it may be;
whether sweet or savoury.

But you see,
all toast was once bread
and it's easy to forget
that this toast, in all its glory,
has quite a humble origin story.
All toast was once bread;
feeble and plain.
It's only through enduring change
that it could take on a new name.
Enclosed in a red hot heat,
it was forced to take a seat
while it was
crisped,
sharpened,
darkened and hardened.
Only when it was the right time to arise
it shot up towards the skies
to reveal its transformation into something new.

All toast was once bread
and all bread has the potential to be toast
if it's willing to wait in the fire
and trust that the maker will not let it burn,
but rather help it learn
a strength it never knew.

Hopefully,
from what you've read
you can aspire to be more than just
bread.
You see your struggles not as defeat
but what provides the heat
to transform you into something new,
so you can arise and reveal a brand new hue.
@suubi_txt



trusted for provision and guidance?

Jesus trusted in the Father, and he said to look at the birds and flowers to see how God cares for them. "Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

The fruit of the tree of knowledge (or Self-Reliance) at first looks good, but ends in anxiety. The fruit of the tree of life at first looks uncertain and foolish, but results in peace. What could it look like to let go of the striving and take hold of God?

If you really want to discover the answer to these questions, the best thing to do is to find some friends and read the rest of the bible together. A few times!

It's helpful to know something about the bible, it was meant to be read both forwards and backwards. That is to say, the stories

~ 'For I know the plans I have for you', declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ~ Jeremiah 29:11

WHAT I WISH I KNEW

I wish I had known that having faith is not just about going to Church. I wish I had known sooner that being a Christian didn't mean blind and ignorant faith. I thought that Christians were boring! I thought that being a Christian meant wearing beige and never having any fun.

What I wish I had known sooner was that Jesus is a figure wholly committed to human flourishing. Specifically, MY human flourishing. And yours. To cut a very long story short, I ended up reading the New Testament in my room each night for 10 minutes before I went to bed. I didn't tell any of my friends at the time about it for fear of criticism and rejection.

I did this for a year before ever being part of a Church. Somewhere along the way, as I read, I learned who Jesus was and about the character of God. I came to find him much cooler than I had pre-conceived.

To the faithful you show yourself faithful;
to those with integrity you show integrity.
To the pure you show yourself pure,
but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.

You rescue the humble,
but you humiliate the proud.
You light a lamp for me.
The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.
In your strength I can crush an army;
with my God I can scale any wall.
Psalm 18:25-29

Like becoming true friends with a person who you had previously only heard bad rumours about, the more I learned

ME WITHOUT THE HOPE OF A LIFE AFTER DEATH



throughout the bible are "in conversation" with each other. It is a unified narrative with links forwards and backwards littered all throughout.

For more, check out:

For more on the two trees:
- By Matt



Some good news from you!!!

A friend had a financial need of £1000 before a 5pm deadline. When they shared their need with our community several people anonymously gave to cover them that day (BEFORE the deadline)!

Share your story at evangelarium.com/ihavegoodnews

about God through reading the bible, the more I realised that being a Christian and following Jesus in fact looked very different to the idea of Christianity that I had grown up with.

Learning the teachings of Jesus taught me how to be myself without drugs, or drinking, or complaining about the circumstances of my life (most of the time, I'm not perfect).

Applying the teachings of Jesus to my life transformed me from the inside out. I became a Christian and learned that life got more fun. I became a Christian and found myself able to ask more questions, not less. I became a Christian and did not wear any more beige than before. All before setting foot into a Church.

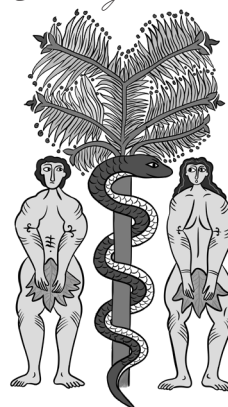
If you ever find yourself needing personal transformation, and the conventional self-help books are not quite filling your cup, I recommend the bible!

Love, Cat

What do you mean
me not believing in
God doesn't stop
God from being
real?



At that moment their eyes
were opened, and they suddenly
felt shame at their nakedness
So they sewed fig leaves to-
gether to cover
themselves.



"Who told
you that you
were naked?
the Lord God
asked. Have
you eaten from
the tree whose
fruit I com-
manded you not
to eat?"

You know, sometimes it's just really nice having a book that you can run to for comfort in times of need....
get a bible here: www.evangelarium.com/freebibleplease

That's all Folks!
GOD LOVES YOU

