

Pastor's Pasture

Why me?

How many times do we say, "Why me?" Or hear it said as others find themselves in some disaster or predicament? Someone is sacked from their job, a loved daughter seduced, the family home repossessed, a respected grandfather lies dying from cancer or a young son full of promise handicapped through an accident and our silent heart-cry is, "Why me?"

Perhaps the greatest question was that of Jesus upon the cross, "Father, why have You forsaken Me?" Another way of saying, "Why me?" Many little children cannot yet frame the thought or words "Why me?", yet we ask why should evil happen to them. In Africa I meet so many orphans, thousands, left destitute by war and disease, so many mothers struggling to support their fatherless children knowing they themselves have only a few years to care, for their dying husband left them with HIV. They train the children to look after their siblings for when mother is no longer there.

In this issue you will find Ronnie's story. Ronnie calls me Grandpa. I know him well, and his pastor. His story will be difficult to believe. Ronnie could certainly question, "Why me?" Then dear Moza struggling to keep her children safe from kidnap and herself from being killed. Why? Princess Evelyn, born in a palace, orphaned, restored to college, then onto the USA, now working to educate orphans and set up clinics for the poor in Africa. Jeremy, who you would think had life made with excellent job, many friends, lovely family, first class education and

prospects tells us he needed to set aside time to hear God. Tavistock's most loved grandma, Ruby, tells her story, as does Derek in his battle for his bride!

Read their stories. Honest accounts from real people searching for answers. And I will try to address the subject with my story later, "Why? Why? Why?"

Colin



Pastor Colin at a Nateete orphanage on the outskirts of Kampala, Uganda earlier this year



The Old Rugged Cross

by RUBY DAVEY

Every time I see the words of that hymn I think of my dear brother whom I loved so much. When I was much younger we used to hold open-air services where a group of people would stand in a circle and someone inside would be providing the music.

I can see my brother now, six foot tall, standing

in the middle of that group and singing with his heart and soul. "On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame". Then he would testify and say that at the age of eighteen years he had asked Jesus to become his Lord and Saviour. That hymn meant so much to my brother and he sang it with so much meaning.

Then the war came. He went to serve in his Scottish regiment and fight six years for his country and I used to write to him everyday so that he would get lots of letters all at once. The war had such an effect on him that his health suffered and at the age of 47 years he died leaving a widow and two little boys. I was heartbroken as we had been as close as brother and sister can be but I know that one day we shall meet again.

Years later my husband and I visited the Holy Land and one day, I remember saying to my husband "I just want to go over and sit by the wall of Jerusalem." He stayed in the hotel and I walked across to sit with my back to the wall facing where Calvary was.

It was a beautiful day and the city was full of hustle and bustle., the hooting of cars and buses and the noise of day-to-day life as people went to and fro about their business.

As I sat there with my back firmly against the wall, I remember just closing my eyes and pondering about the cross when suddenly, everything went deadly quiet and in the distance all I could see was a dry arid and dusty track and there on a hill I saw three crosses and the sky had become very dark. This must have taken just a few minutes but then, just as suddenly, everything became noisy again and the cars and buses were moving along, just as usual. It was quite a strange experience and I've never forgotten it.

I think God is trying to say to us that when things get tough and hard times come - as they did to my brother, and as they will to us all - when we are standing (or sitting) with our backs to the wall, just look at Him and He will reveal to you that on a hill far away there did stand an old rugged cross!

Ruby

Neighbours Hearing His plans for us

Sometimes we have to make an extra effort to hear God. Jeremy Harvey reports

God's word talks about Him having a plan for our lives - plans for good and not for evil. This is wonderful, if we have the time to spend to find out what those plans are and how to put ourselves into them. Sometimes the treadmills of our busy lives mean that we have no time to step back and make the decisions we need to make.

I found myself in that position. I had serious questions about a number of issues that I simply did not have time to think or pray through properly. Consequently, I had no answers.

The solution? - to take three days retreat from work and from family, by myself to ask for God's help to understand how to resolve these questions. A telephone call to an old friend gave me a back bedroom to do this in - free of interference and pressure.

The practicalities - sitting alone for an extended period of time with an active mind that is prone to wander is a daunting prospect. So I set myself some objectives, a structure and a timetable. What were the solutions I looked for, how and why did I feel the way I did, and then to structure the day. This concentrated the mind on the issues. I allocated time for worship, Bible study and prayer. Interspersed were some practical jobs - cooking tea for my friends when they got home from work, for example.

The result - some clear direction on the issues that troubled me and a direction for the future. Even more valuable was having a renewed sense of God's care for my path in life. Three days of prayer does not sound like a very exciting experience, but it was a hugely valuable one and one to be repeated.

Jeremy

Such love!

Derek Perry talks on how his faith in a loving God helped him through a battle with bureaucracy.

When I first started to e-mail my girlfriend Immaculee over four years ago, it was to help set up a pen friend exchange between our two churches. Neither of us had any thoughts pertaining to romance. But in a very short space of time, the pen friend idea was forgzotten as we had both fallen very much in love with each other. We both decided that if there was to be any chance of us having a future together, we would need to look to God in all our ways and to build our foundations on His rock (Psalm 18). Little did we know then how over the next four years we would not only have to take on the might of the British Home Office, but also opposition to our relationship from within our own churches.

Relationship

Early on in our relationship, one of our friends gave us a prophecy from God, that if we truly believed in Him and trusted Him then His love for us (John 3:16) would carry us through any dark times that lay ahead of us. When our relationship first started we did not seem to have any problems. Apart from a few cultural and language differences (the fact we were both living in different continents was a bit tricky as well) our romance seemed to be blossoming. It was only after I had proposed to Immaculee, and she accepted, that things seemed to go very wrong. First Immaculee and her daughter Stella were refused entry visas into the UK for completely unjustified reasons. One of the main reasons they turned down the application was because Immaculee did not know what my hobbies are! So they claimed that she obviously did not know enough about me, and the marriage was

deemed bogus. After she was turned down a second time we were told we could take the Home Office to an appeal court, which is what we did. We waited almost one year before the case was finally heard in the county court at Bath. The Home Office decided not to contest the case in the end, so the judge found in our favour. And God willing by the time this story comes through your letterbox Immaculee & Stella will be here in Tavistock with me, and we will be making plans for our wedding.

Fighting

There were times when I really felt like forgetting that I am a Christian, and fighting the Home Office through the newspapers and television. But I knew this was not God's way. God had always said that if we trusted in Him (Proverbs 3.5-6) then He would deliver the visas to us. Playing the British High Commission and Home Office at their own level was definitely not the way forward for Immaculee and myself. We could have lied on Immaculee's first application forms, and just asked for a visitor's visa (approx \$50). And when she arrived I could have claimed asylum for her and Stella. But that is not the way the Bible calls us to behave. Though this battle has taken us both through some very dark times spiritually as well as financially, we know that because we have stood firm on God's rock our marriage will be much stronger for it all.

I expected to find complications and opposition to our forthcoming marriage from



The Tavistock Times article that's had Derek stopped in the streets!

people like the High Commission and Home Office. But to find such opposition from within our own churches did come as a bit of a shock to me. Immaculee has had to face the worst opposition to our marriage, which sadly has caused people to leave her church in Kigali and the choir which she loved to sing in to split up (though I'm happy to say that the choir is now back together again). I pray that these few people can one day accept that our marriage was brought about by God and not man.

Concerns

As for my own church Tavistock Community Church, well, they have been fantastic. One or two people have voiced their concerns and opposition, some of which I understand. Wherever we go in life we are going to meet people who dislike us or disagree with our way of life (just look at the

Why? Why? Why?

Why does an all-powerful, all-loving God allow evil and suffering? Colin Bond investigates...

As a thirteen-year old I remember disappearing for a day at a time, strolling through the woods or walking beside the river Culm as it meandered across the water meadows, heavy at heart, throwing stones at the moor hens to relieve my inner tensions. I always missed! They were quick! (If they'd been ducks, they'd have been quick quacks!) I had realised my need for Jesus when I was nine or ten and asked Him to forgive me and come into my life and lead me through, but even as a young Christian there were

life of our own dear Lord Jesus). And all that Immaculee, Stella and I can do is what God has called us to do which is to love them, as He loves us (John 13:34). Sometimes people who oppose things we do in life do so out of jealousy, fear, hatred or just plain ignorance. And the worst thing Immaculee or I as Christians can do is respond in the same way. The best thing we can do is pray for these people.

I have been so blessed by the reaction to our story, which appeared in the Tavistock Times gazette. Many people have stopped me in the town centre, to offer their congratulations. And I would like to give my thanks to the Tavy Times and in particular Roger Malone who wrote such a wonderful article. To see a full version of this article please visit our web site at www.kingsnews.org.uk.

Derek

deep frustrations and bottled-up anger. Often alone and feeling so sad I would angrily shout at God, "Why me? Let someone else suffer it!" He never seemed to answer but neither did it seem to phase Him or cause lightning to strike me. With hindsight I can see He was teaching me to trust Him, to believe that He was working things together to train and help me. Now I'm grateful for those times. My problems are many times bigger but I've discovered my God is much bigger than any of the problems!

A year later I visited an old farmer to discover his hands were bleeding. When asked why, he explained his mower was broken and he had cut his lawns with sheep shears, the old type with sprung blades! Being a presumptuous lad I tried to mend the mower. It worked! I became his friend and often visited and did little jobs for him. One day as he chatted he said, "Colin, if I died and the Good Lord said I could return to earth but I would have to choose my pleasures or my sorrows, do you know

which I would choose? I'd choose my sorrows because they made a man out of me!" Those words had a profound effect on my outlook.

Well, WHY?

If God is all powerful and all-wise, why does He allow all these disasters, handicaps, diseases, wars, pests and plagues? Why such selfishness, greed, hatred in the heart of man to cause many of them? It is interesting we seldom hear the devil being blamed for them - usually God gets put in the dock! But if we believe in God and the Holy Spirit then we must believe in the devil and his evil servants. In the Garden of Eden God told man to take charge, to be in control, to name all creatures - but when they were deceived into disobeying God they obeyed the serpent, the Devil, Satan and made him their master so he took control. Now the Bible calls him the god of this world, then prince of the power of the air. Jesus even challenged the religious leaders of His day saying, "You are of your father the devil!" And now our planet is ruled by greed, selfishness and all kinds of evil.

Kindness

But there are still the remains of God's original gift of love, kindness, compassion and sacrifice. Jesus came as the 'Last Adam', never chose to obey Satan or give control to him even though the temptations in the wilderness were subtle when He was weak from fasting. Jesus came back from the cross and his visit to hell declaring, "All power, authority is now given to Me." He is the Ruler but does not impose it; He waits for us to choose His rule! Think of it rather like a boy at school where he is abused by a dominant, aggressive schoolmaster. School becomes a drudgery, every morning becomes a battle of wills to get

him to attend then one day mother tells his father of the problem. Father says, "Son, I am the head-master, tell that teacher who you are and any more of that treatment and I will exercise my authority over him. Trust me. You're my son. Live like it!"

The great revelation is that we do not have to live under the rule of evil. Now we have a choice: to continue under the system we have always experienced or try to trust the Jesus Who says He is Lord, He has the power and He says - of us! - that we'll do greater things than He did if we believe and trust Him. The Bible presents that we cannot beat war with war or overcome evil with evil. We overcome evil by doing good. When we invite Jesus to come in and be Lord of our lives and ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit to give the faith and strength to live the life that overcomes, He does! And the result, the fruit of that Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Now that is victorious living! It is free! You can live that life too! But we must live it His way! It is a life-long learning process. It keeps you young! And fulfilled! And excited! And full of anticipation for more!

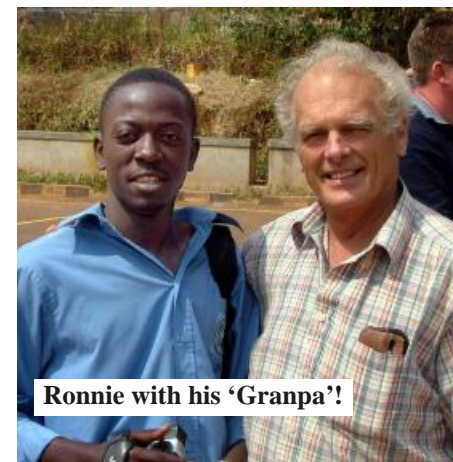


Pastor Colin with orphans at Lukuli school in Kampala. Colin was himself fostered at an early age.

LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

Contact me or the staff of King's News on Tavistock 833844 or 834465. Or come along to King's on a Sunday or visit a friendly group in a home as advertised on the back cover. We get a real pleasure giving away things that we don't have to pay for! Jesus paid the price. It's free! It may cost you the rest of your life! But who wants to live under the control of the Evil One that controls this world? Call Pastor Colin 01822 833844 or Pastor David 01822 612100

Colin



Ronnie with his 'Granpa'!

Video/DVD review

The Passion of Christ

Directed by Mel Gibson

Classification 18

Aramaic/Latin with English subtitles

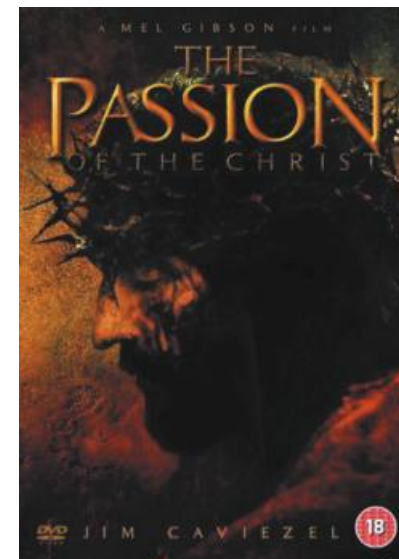
DVD/video release 31st August 2004

Mel Gibson's film portrayal of the last 12 hours of the life of Jesus came out last spring amidst a firestorm of controversy. Some accused it of anti-Semitism and 'pornographic' violence; others praised it as an artistic triumph born of sincere and devout faith. Gibson, an orthodox Roman Catholic, put up \$25-30m of his own money because Hollywood wouldn't touch it, and rumours abounded that it would end Gibson's career for good. In the event, it has become one of the most financially successful films ever even before its release on video and DVD (over \$600m as of July 2004 - God honours those who honour Him!).

A few things that the film is not - it isn't a balanced account of the life of Jesus; if you knew nothing of Jesus' life and teachings before seeing the film, you'd be only a little wiser afterwards. It isn't 'telling it as the Bible tells it', as Gibson has claimed; there is a good deal of artistic licence in the film. It is not a film

that can be 'enjoyed' in any conventional sense.

So what is it? Well, it's largely based on Gospel accounts of Jesus' final hours - however, Gibson adds in elements that aren't in the Bible and takes creative liberties with some that are. Although Satan is only mentioned in the Biblical passion accounts (when he enters into Judas), the film immediately introduces him as an actual character and he is a constant sinister presence throughout the film. I thought it was an effective device showing the spiritual warfare that rages between heaven and hell over our souls.



beaten by Roman soldiers and scourged (flayed with a multi-lashed whip embedded with pieces of bone and metal) but they don't go into detail. The film does, and at great length.

Personally I didn't find the violence unbearable (I think the scourging would have been more horrific in real life) and overall I think it's justified. It powerfully highlights both the 'frail humanity' of Jesus and his utter determination to obey his Father and see the process through to its victorious end. My main concern about the film's focus on Jesus' physical suffering is that we overlook the spiritual punishment he underwent on our behalf.

Yes, the film is an ordeal and almost bludgeons you into submission. But it's submission to a great and glorious truth - that God loved the world so much, He sent His only Son, so that



anyone who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Ken

Ed: This film had the greatest impact on me - ever! A 'must' to go and see.

Ask Bob...

Why do Christians think the cross is so important? Isn't it just death worship?

Several years ago I read an interview with a then-current pop star, who said that remembering Jesus by remembering the cross was ghoulish and negative. We should remember him by his life and his teachings (said the pop star), not by how he died. I've heard similar comments on TV and in magazines since then.

At face value it's a fair point. Say a friend of yours died in a road accident and you decided to commemorate him by hanging a model of a crashed car round your neck. You'd probably

be accused of being tasteless at best, if not unbalanced. As the film 'The Passion' makes graphically clear, crucifixion was perhaps the cruellest form of execution ever devised. Yet Christians the world over display the cross as the predominant symbol of their faith. Are they all merely deluded death-worshippers?

When I was a teenager, I increasingly disliked the idea that 'Jesus died on the cross for my sins'. It sounded like cosmic, guilt-inducing emotional blackmail - was I really so bad that God's Son

had to die for me? Was my sin really that awful?

Sin is when we put God second (or third, or ten-thousandth). Sin is when we prefer doing something other than loving God with all our heart, soul and strength. And we all do that. We all, to a greater or lesser degree, don't give God the honour that He's worth. Say a friend invited you to dinner and you forgot to turn up. You'd expect that friend to be a bit upset with you. Now imagine you read that the Queen invited Prince Edward to a party in his honour and *he* forgot to attend. You'd likely feel outraged at his thoughtlessness. The more someone deserves honour and respect, the more insulting it is when we don't give it to them.

Which is why we're all in a bad position in relationship to God. We've all sinned - pushed God to one side and put something else in His place - and shown ourselves to be incapable of living the glorious life God wants us to live. And, like the Queen would have been if Prince Edward had ignored her invitation, *He is entitled to be angry with us*. To make our situation worse, God is a God of justice. Shunting Him to the sidelines of our lives is an outrage, and He can't just overlook it as if it didn't matter. To put it bluntly, our sin deserves to be punished. Who can rescue us?!

Well, the Bible says 'Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!' (Romans 7.25) Why? Because by voluntarily going to his death on the cross, Jesus took on himself the punishment that we deserve. God's justice was satisfied by His Son 'taking on the sins of the world'.

And in case that makes you think you ought to feel guilty, remember this: *God did this because He loves you*. He knew there was no way we could pay the penalty we deserve without casting us all out of His presence - that is, by casting us into hell. If we dedicate our lives to doing our own thing and pushing God out of the picture, that's where we'll end up. But that isn't God's will for us. He's invited us to become His beloved children, an invitation that promises joy and peace beyond anything the world can give us in this life, and a glorious

Was I really so bad that God's Son had to die for me? Was my sin really that awful?

inheritance in eternity.

How about you? The invitation's there. Would you rather not bother turning up to the party that's planned for you in heaven? Or do you want to accept?

If you want to begin a personal relationship with Jesus, please pray this prayer:-

"Lord Jesus, I invite you into my life. I want to stop living life my way and start living it your way. I believe you died for me and that your blood pays for my sins and provides me with the gift of eternal life. By faith I receive that gift and I acknowledge you as my Lord and Saviour. Amen."

If you've prayed the prayer and aren't sure what to do next, phone us on 01822 833844 or 01822 612100, or look up a local church in the Yellow Pages.

Little ones



Little Johnny asked his Grandma how old she was. Grandma answered "Thirty-nine and holding." Johnny thought for a moment, and then said, "How old would you be if you let go?"

It was Palm Sunday and because of a sore throat, five-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with his mother. When the rest of his family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches. The boy asked what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his family replied. "Wouldn't you know it," the boy fumed, "the one Sunday I didn't go, he shows up!"

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a really good time like I am."

St. Nilus' prophecy

Written by a monk who lived 1600 (yes, 1600!) years ago in a monastery on Mt. Sinai in Israel, this prophecy is both unsettling and inspiring.

“After the year 1900, toward the middle of the 20th century, the people of that time will become unrecognizable. When the time for the Advent of the Antichrist approaches, people's minds will grow cloudy from carnal passions, and dishonour and lawlessness will grow stronger. Then the world will become unrecognizable. People's appearances will change, and it will be impossible to distinguish men from women due to their shamelessness in dress and style of hair. These people will be cruel and will be like wild animals because of the temptations of the Antichrist. There will be no respect for parents and elders, love will disappear, and Christian pastors, bishops, and priests will become vain men, completely failing to distinguish the right-hand way from the left.

“At that time the morals and traditions of Christians and of the Church will change. People will abandon modesty, and dissipation will reign. Falsehood and greed will attain great proportions, and woe to those who pile up treasures. Lust, adultery, homosexuality, secret deeds and murder will rule in society. At that future time, due to the power of such great crimes and licentiousness, people will be deprived of the grace of the Holy Spirit, which they received in Holy Baptism and equally of remorse.

“The Churches of God will be deprived of God-

fearing and pious pastors, and woe to the Christians remaining in the world at that time; they will completely lose their faith because they will lack the opportunity of seeing the light of knowledge from anyone at all. Then they will separate themselves out of the world in holy refuges in search of lightening their spiritual sufferings, but everywhere they will meet obstacles and constraints. And all this will result from the fact that the Antichrist wants to be Lord over everything and become the ruler of the whole universe, and he will produce miracles and fantastic signs. He will also give depraved wisdom to an unhappy man so that he will discover a way by which one man can carry on a conversation with another from one end of the earth to the other.

“At that time men will also fly through the air like birds and descend to the bottom of the sea like fish. And when they have achieved all this, these unhappy people will spend their lives in comfort without knowing, poor souls, that it is deceit of the Antichrist. And, the impious one! - he will so complete science with vanity that it will go off the right path and lead people to lose faith in the existence of God in three hypostases [i.e. the Holy Trinity]. Then the All-good God will see the downfall of the human race and will shorten the days for the sake of those few who are being saved, because the enemy wants to lead even the chosen into temptation, if that is possible... then the sword of chastisement will suddenly appear and kill the perverter and his servants.”

Thank you Lord. From the beginning and the end you are in control. We submit to your will, Lord.

Check out - 2 Timothy 3:1-9; Revelation 21:5-8; Revelation 22:10-15

Milk Drinkers Are Turning to Powder

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

Eye Drops Off Shelf

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

Two Sisters Reunited After Eighteen Years at Checkout Counter

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft

Pastor Chef

Summer salad & sandwich special!

A selection of simply delicious recipes - perfect for garden parties and picnics. Enjoy!

Marine Boys

Ingredients

4 slices wholemeal granary bread
1 x 150g tin of salmon
1 x 150g tin of tuna
Juice ½ lemon

2 tblspns mayonnaise
2 tblspns fresh coriander, chopped
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Instructions Mix all the ingredients together and layer it thickly onto the slices of granary bread. Top with salad and serve.

Cucumber-Dill Sandwiches

Ingredients

1 large cucumber, peeled, seeded, and grated
1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
1 tblspn mayonnaise
1 teaspoon dried chives
¼ teaspoon dill weed
¼ teaspoon seasoned salt
1 loaf sandwich bread
Garnish: thin cucumber slices

Instructions

Stir together cucumber, cream cheese, mayonnaise, chives, dill weed and salt. Spread mixture evenly over half of the bread slices, top with the remaining slices of bread. Trim the crusts and cut into quarters diagonally to make little triangles. Garnish. Store in airtight container in refrigerator. This is really easy to make. The spread is best made the day before and refrigerated so that the flavours can mingle. Let sit a few minutes before spreading.

Avocado, Green Bean and Bacon Salad

Salad

Ingredients- serves 4

1 red onion, cut into slices
3 tblspns olive oil
3 tblspns balsamic vinegar
300g extra fine green beans
1 avocado
Seasoning

25g cooked bacon slices
25g Parmesan cheese, shaved

Instructions Preheat the oven to 150°C, 300°F, gas mark 2. Put onion on a baking tray, drizzle over the oil and balsamic vinegar and cook for 40 mins. Meanwhile cook the beans according to pack instructions.

Cut avocado into chunks and mix with the cooked beans & onion. Season well. Pile the salad onto the plates, lay the bacon slices on the top and sprinkle over the shaved Parmesan.

Rounders

Ingredients

½ loaf tomato or other flavour bread
2 hard-boiled eggs, sliced
2 tomatoes, sliced
2 slices honey-roast ham
30g low-fat mayonnaise

1 x 15g packet fresh chives

Instructions Cut four circles from the bread using either a biscuit cutter or a medium-sized glass. Do the same with the slices of ham. Mix the mayonnaise with the snipped chives and spread this onto the bread. Top with ham, then slices of tomato and egg. Top with another round of bread and serve.

☺ **Headline howlers**

The following are newspaper titles collected from local, national and international papers.

[Prostitutes Appeal to Pope](#)

[Kids Make Nutritious Snacks](#)

[Queen Mary Having Bottom Scraped](#)

[Dealers Will Hear Car Talk at Noon](#)