

TOY SOLDIERS



I'm one of those people who managed to keep a few of the toys I used to play with when I was very young. I've got some plastic toy soldiers that are nearly fifty years old, they're not worth anything in *money*, but to me they mean *something*. As I hold one now, I remember when I was just seven years old playing in the dirt in our back garden with these action figures, and getting so involved in 'the battle', that it was as if I was living it out through each character. They were carefree wonderful days.



What wild imaginations we all have as children. They *should* be some of the happiest times of our lives, ...but sadly it's not like that for many children because of certain circumstances and situations that are out of their control. An unhappy home is such a sad experience, *especially* for children.

On the whole, I had a lovely childhood, although I didn't know or understand what was really going on behind the scenes regarding the friction between my mum and dad, as there were some deep-rooted problems. Since those wonderful days, I have lost both my parents and 'family life' disintegrated.

As I grew up in a small village (called Oakley), and went through 'first school', it all seemed like a dream, I guess. I just wanted to play and enjoy life; I had no understanding of really 'bad things', or the seriousness of life itself. I was very naive and innocent to a degree. Life was simple, the world was very 'big', and I was very 'small', but as long as I was in my comfort zone, all was well.



When it was time to attend the ‘big school’, I certainly felt out of my depth. I wasn’t ready for it. I didn’t understand this *new world* I had just entered, and to be honest, no one really explained it to me (*but in reality, does anyone?*) and so I just got caught up in the ‘river of life’ and went along with the flow. Somehow, I muddled my way through, and even though I wasn’t academic, clever, talented, or astute, I managed to make some friends along the way, and pretty much enjoyed school as much as one can. I tried to make the best of things. I always seemed to have a self-motivation, ‘never give up’ kind of attitude, which I am very thankful for, as I still possess it to this day.

When exams came, I didn’t perform very well, failing all but two of them. ‘Retakes’ were no better, and I suddenly found myself looking for a job without a good education or qualifications. More rules and regulations were to follow, and it seemed as if there was hardly any *playtime* anymore. It was time to grow up, although I didn’t want to.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 1 Corinthians 13v11 – taken from the King James Bible.

Even though I didn’t *really* understand life, the *why’s*, *what’s*, and *wherefores* etc. I was always a deep thinker, and as a boy I would ponder on ‘life’ and the possibility of

losing my parents at death, and this took me down certain roads that perhaps I shouldn’t have gone down at such a young age, I don’t know. Death seemed so final.

It’s strange to think that our family of four, all walked out of the front door each morning into the big-wide-world, to live a day of life, and just expected to return through that same door each evening. *What did we all think about throughout each day, what did we all do, where did we go, what did we learn etc.?* Just four people with *different* characters, living and thinking four *different* lives... out of nearly eight billion others on planet earth.



Then when you get older it’s time for you to leave home and venture out on your own.

Looking back, I can understand how many people find the pressures of life so overwhelming, life isn't easy. There are lots of people who just can't cope with it all, as they weren't taught 'how to' by those who *should* have instructed them. So, by trial and error, they stumble their way through. Some make it, some sadly don't. *Do you know of someone who you grew up with, and is sadly no longer with us? Do you know why, what happened, where it all went wrong for them? Why they gave up?*

At the age of eighteen, my life *radically* changed, as I became a Christian, I got 'saved'. Instead of following the worldly, atheistic, evolutionary path, I found myself on the path of a belief in God. This caused such a dramatic change in my life. From that very first day I stopped swearing. I was convicted to clean things up in my life, and I felt burdened to reach my fellow man with the Gospel, and explain how they too can have all their sins forgiven by Jesus Christ and go to Heaven, 'if' they believe what Jesus did for them... 'taking their sins upon Himself, dying in their place, receiving the punishment they deserved, and then rising again the third day, defeating death'. His blood washes away all of our sins. ***Have you asked the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive you and save you?***

When I say, 'I became a Christian', I *really* mean it...! My whole outlook on life changed, and so much for the better, in a very deep and meaningful way. I now had a *purpose* to live for, I also understood what 'the *meaning* of life'

was, and to this day, I haven't looked back. It was the best decision I ever made.

Not only had I asked the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive me for all my sins, but now I had committed my life to Him and asked Him to take control of it and navigate me through this complex world. He has done so ever since, and not a day goes by without me thanking Him, and seeking His will for my life. I have dedicated my life to serving and living for Jesus Christ. Now that is a radical change I hear you say, and you're right. That's how much the Lord Jesus Christ has changed and impacted my life.



When you're young, there are many confusing times you go through, with little understanding and guidance in it

all, and unless you have good solid parents, teachers and mentors in your life that can help you, you can go down some wrong dark roads which will affect you for the rest of your life. **I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go:** Psalm 32v8.

Many a child has seen and experienced things that they *shouldn't* have. TV has caused a lot of problems with many children, no matter what the 'experts' say, and now mobile phones have destroyed any kind of purity and innocence among children today. Most parents haven't got a clue what harm this is actually doing to their children. There is no 'debate' about it, if you let your children see things they shouldn't, it will affect them for life. **Mine eye affecteth mine heart...** Lamentations 3v51.

Today we live in a world where confusion among youngsters seems to be the 'norm', with very few people in your own life you can *really* trust. When the government says a *boy can become a girl* if he wants to, you know this world has gone insane, and we're living in an asylum run by the inmates. Morals and standards seem to have disappeared, the battle has been lost on the whole, but it doesn't have to be like this with your own family, *remember that...!* You are responsible for your own family and children, if you have any; whatever happens **don't** leave it to the schools, government, and authorities to educate and teach your children about life.



Those days of playing in the garden, dreaming, 'creating' and having innocent fun, have long gone; *now it's the full stress of life*; paying bills, dealing with the family, earning a living, upkeep of the house, burdens to carry, responsibilities, hardships, relationships, 'worry', health issues, planning for the future etc. You grow up fast when faced with all of this. *'Playtime' is over...!*

Oftentimes, life seems so unfair and out of our control... For some of us *we didn't want it to turn out the way it has*. I didn't want to fall out with my family, I didn't want my mum and dad to divorce, and I didn't want them to die before we properly reconciled... *but it all happened*, and now it's too late to do anything about it, only mourn and carry this loss, sadness, and regret throughout my own life. I'm not alone of course, as there are millions like me all over the world who have had it much worse, which is heartbreaking. We must make the most out of every day of life, and live it to the full, to the best of our ability.

Life can seem unfair; one person is born into riches, another into abject poverty, how can this be 'fair'? We don't get a say in it do we? We just enter this world under whatever conditions, no matter whose 'fault' it is.

Hopefully our mums and dads will take care of us until we are able to take care of ourselves. But even this doesn't always work out as we would like it to, and some people have it so difficult 'right off the bat'. For so many, they have to bring up their children alone, which can be very tough. No, without a doubt, life doesn't seem fair in so many ways, does it?

There are people you probably know who appear to have it so easy, while others seem to struggle throughout each day.



But here we are, **you're alive**, and reading this small booklet I've written. *What do you want out of life?* Are you stuck in a rut, or are things going according to plan? Have you got some good friends around you, or are you trying to go it alone; *is this because of your pride?* (*Be honest with yourself. What good is it doing you?*)

What does the future look like for you?

Do you look back at 'better' days?

What are your thoughts on the way things are going with this world?

Well, like everything, there is a beginning, and there is an end. Oftentimes ‘the end’ can be the saddest part, but as a Christian, it’s not like that. The end for every Christian is the start of something so perfect and wonderful it’s impossible to even put into words. **But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.** 1 Corinthians 2v9.

You see, as a Christian, we have everlasting life. **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** John 3v16.

If a man die, shall he live again? Job 14v14. The answer to that question is ‘Yes...!’

Once we have passed on from this life and into eternity, Heaven awaits us, and we have a perfect resurrected body that shall never get sick, never need sleep, and never die. That’s when life *really* starts. There is even the possibility that *I’ll never die*, as like many Christians, we are expecting **the return of Jesus Christ anytime now**, and if that be the case, **I may not even experience death**, I’ll just be translated from earth to Heaven in the ‘twinkling of an eye’ when He comes. What a wonderful hope I have, something that you can have also, if you want to, as it’s a choice.



We all end up going to either Heaven or Hell, *yet the decision rests with us*, as the Lord gives us a freewill to ‘choose’. We can either accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and receive His mercy and forgiveness, or we can reject Him and face Him as our Judge instead, and be cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of our lives. It’s utter madness that everyone *doesn’t* get saved and become a Christian, yet most people are self-righteous, and decide to live their lives without God, and without hope. **This is the fruit of atheism.**

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.
Psalm 14v1.

The reason I have written this booklet, and the reason why someone has given it to you, is because we care for you, and want what is best for you. Now it's up to you; receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour and receive everlasting life, or live without hope, and face Him as your Judge after death. **And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:** Hebrews 9v27. There is only Heaven or Hell, and you determine where you go, by the choices you make. **And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.** Revelation 20v15.

Jesus said... **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.** John 10v10. There is nothing more fulfilling than living for the Lord, and letting Him guide you through life.

Don't go through life without the Lord, we all need Him; don't let pride keep you from becoming a Christian.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. Proverbs 3v5-7.

You only get one life, don't mess it up, put Jesus at the helm (wheel for steering a ship or boat – James 3v4) and allow Him to guide you through it.

If you have any questions please contact the address in the box on the back, or contact the author of this booklet, John Davis – john@timefortruth.co.uk



What was your favourite toy as a child?



This book was given to you by:

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