



# NEWS

## What we do...

Working in partnership, the Christian Enquiry Agency provides opportunities for people to enquire about Jesus Christ and, in confidence, supplies information about the Christian faith. Links with local churches are offered to all enquirers.

## ...on behalf of the churches

Christian Enquiry Agency works on behalf of all the major churches and in association with Evangelical Alliance, Bible Society, and many Christian organisations.

It is an agency of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and a registered charity no. 297393.

## People contact us

by freepost or email through an invitation on:

postcards	the web
leaflets	videos
newspapers	radio

## CEA sends

a personal letter and, free of charge, high quality relevant information about Jesus Christ and the Christian faith either printed, audio or video.

## CEA offers

help and ideas for the next step –

- questions answered
- prayer offered
- local Alpha course
- telephone helpline
- web sites
- contact with a local Christian in partnership with other organisations.

## Success!

More than 30,000 people have contacted Christian Enquiry Agency so far. Around 20% ask for further help and many are men aged 20-40 who are difficult for the church to reach.

# The Passion – highest response ever to CEA



CHRISTIAN ENQUIRY AGENCY has handled an unprecedented level of enquiries about Jesus due to the impact of *The Passion of the Christ* film.

The enquiries are via CEA 'Why?' response postcards placed in cinemas across Britain. As CEA News went to press, the total has exceeded 2000, with more arriving every day.

## 180,000 CEA postcards in cinema outreach

"We've never known anything like this and have had to pull out all the stops to cope with the demand for information about Jesus. While we have been totally overstretched it is great to be helping so many people", said Andrew Taylor at the CEA Enquiry Office.

This ambitious outreach campaign launched by CEA was aimed at cinemagoers who don't go to church but went to see the Mel Gibson film. Most of the 180,000 CEA postcards were placed in cinemas through Boomerang Media – the UK's leading lifestyle and youth targeted media company.

"We felt it was vital to provide an opportunity for people to find out more about Jesus while they were still in the cinema and thinking about what they had experienced", said CEA director Jeff Bonser.

Cinema is the most popular form of cultural activity outside the home, attracting over 80% of the entire population in one year – according to Boomerang Media – and more than 60% of all cinemagoers are under 35.

"This is the age group that is missing from churches and the film offered a great opportunity to reach them with the reality of the cost of God's love for us all", added Jeff.

## Overwhelming demand

Thousands of the postcards were also made available to churches for outreach and the demand was overwhelming – supplies were snapped up within days.

Each response postcard has a striking image of Jesus from the film and poses the question 'Why?' Part of the card is sent freepost to

# The Passion – highest response ever to CEA

Christian Enquiry Agency for a free copy of the excellent *True or False* booklet produced by CPO, which relates to the film. With the booklet each enquirer receives a personal letter offering further help and ideas including a free copy of one of the gospels in a magazine format, details of local Alpha courses, a telephone helpline, prayer and contact with a local Christian.



Cinagoers (left) complete Christian Enquiry Agency response postcards placed in over 100 cinemas showing *The Passion of the Christ*.

## rejesus: unique content

There is a section of the response postcard for enquirers to retain, offering thought provoking words, including a verse from the Bible, and an invitation to look at the special content on the UK evangelistic website [www.rejesus.co.uk/thepassion](http://www.rejesus.co.uk/thepassion). The website has background notes to moments from the film, covering the

Last Supper, King Herod, the shadowy 'devil' figure, and other details – plus a special page on 'what happened next'. These pages have received thousands of hits.

CEA is grateful to the many organisations that worked in partnership on the cinema outreach: Agapé, Baptist Union of Great Britain, Boomerang Media, Church Army,

Church Mission Society, Mission and Public Affairs Division: Church of England, Church of Scotland, Congregational Federation, CPO, Deo Gloria Trust, Icon Film Distribution, Methodist Church, Moravian Church, ngm, Outreach, Premier Radio, rejesus, Salvation Army, Share Jesus International, United Reformed Church together with individuals and churches.



The CEA 'Why?' response postcard raises vital questions about Jesus and offers answers in a free booklet and on the rejesus website.

## 2003 CEA results – under 40s are dominant contact group

THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES to Christian Enquiry Agency in 2003 totalled nearly three thousand and it's those aged 21-40 who are the dominant group that contacted CEA a second time for further help.

The offer of a free copy of the *So who is this Jesus?* video in the national press at Easter resulted in the highest level of enquiries – nearly 900. However, it's the new 'life issues' Contact Cards that are the real success. Launched in May 2003, the Cards resulted in over 600 enquiries last year. For details and supplies contact SGM (020 7730 2155) and Deo Gloria Resources (020 8651 6246) or see the CEA website [www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk)



40s is really encouraging. It shows that the impersonal, confidential opportunity we offer to find out about Jesus, including the chance to ask for prayer, appeals to 'younger' people who are interested but not yet ready to go to church regularly", said CEA director Jeff Bonser. As a step towards church involvement, CEA offers enquirers the chance to have contact with a local Christian. Last year nearly one third of those who got in touch with CEA a second time asked for this contact, which is arranged through partner organisations such as Contact for Christ, Catholic Enquiry Office and Prison Fellowship.

## Real life stories that connect

MANY MAGAZINES feature so-called 'real life' stories. Now there's *More to Life* – a magazine that offers stories of different people who have come to know Jesus, and it's real. The magazine and a video/DVD are produced by Viz-A-Viz for churches to use in outreach.

"So many Christians long to share their faith but don't know where to start. These real life stories will arouse interest and encourage people to think about Christian faith without feeling preached at", said Revd Dennis Pethers, director Viz-A-Viz.

The magazine and video/DVD are for churches to use with their contacts and for door-to-door visitation. A response opportunity to Christian Enquiry Agency and [www.rejesus.co.uk/moretolife](http://www.rejesus.co.uk/moretolife) is included for those not yet ready to go to church. There's also a project guide and training

materials for churches. For details contact Viz-A-Viz 01268 530531. [www.vizaviz.org](http://www.vizaviz.org)



Kolyn Amor (below) from Manchester – one of many people who tell their stories of life and faith.



"The response from the under

## Sudden increase in web enquiries

ENQUIRIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST via the Christian Enquiry Agency website have increased suddenly in 2004.

The offer of information about Jesus has been picked up by a website highlighting free offers, and there are invitations on the BBC and Channel 4 sites to contact CEA.

Visits to the CEA site via search engines have also increased dramatically. The result is hundreds of enquiries as more and more people complete and email the form on [www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk)

Other parts of the CEA site offer information about the work of the agency – including latest

news, projects and how people are helped to take steps of faith.



## The Ultimate Goal: sports fans invited to follow Jesus

HUNDREDS OF SPORTS FANS are getting to know about Jesus Christ through high quality pocket guides to the major sporting events. The guides not only offer essential facts and fixtures but

### European Football Championships

Now there's a pocket guide and video, called *The Ultimate Goal*, for Euro 2004 in June and July. Churches are invited to show the

### Sports content on rejesus

The rejesus evangelistic website has sports pages about Christian sports personalities such as Jason Robinson, Jonathan Edwards and Gavin Peacock and there are links to other content on the site. See [www.rejesus.co.uk/sport](http://www.rejesus.co.uk/sport)

The Christian organisations involved in sports outreach materials are Christians in Sport, Deo Gloria Trust, Trinity Vision, CPO, Verité CM, Damaris Trust, Christian Enquiry Agency and rejesus.



Passionate fans on the cover of a football guide which tells of a passionate God.

stories about Christian sports men and women, and an opportunity to find out about Jesus from Christian Enquiry Agency and on the rejesus website.

*Road to Glory* is the guide to the 2003/2004 Barclaycard Premiership football season. At the start of the season CEA was able to offer the guide free in *The Sun* newspaper and over 700 readers requested a copy.

The guides have also been used by churches for outreach. So far around 200 people have asked for information about Jesus from CEA by sending the freepost tear-off card in the guide.

England games on a big screen as a community event – and show *The Ultimate Goal* video before the kick off. The guides can be given to visitors at the screenings and used at men's meetings, seeker services and local football tournaments.

For copies of the guide and the video contact Deo Gloria Trust, 020 8651 6246 [www.deo-gloria.co.uk](http://www.deo-gloria.co.uk)

CPO has published an outreach booklet called *The Winning Formula*.

### Olympic Games

The 2004 Olympic Games in Athens begin in August and the *More Than Gold Guide to The Games* is for churches to use in outreach. For supplies contact CPO, 01903 263354 [www.cpo-online.org](http://www.cpo-online.org) or [www.christiansinsport.org.uk](http://www.christiansinsport.org.uk)



The guide to the 2004 Olympic Games featuring champions Jonathan Edwards and Rosa Kutty, and their faith in Jesus Christ.

## STEPS OF FAITH

**Some people who contact CEA ask to be put in touch with a local Christian as a further 'step of faith'.**

**Here are some of the latest encouraging responses from the local contacts:**

*"The 16 year old lad you referred to me has been coming to church ever since."*

*"She rang me and we prayed together on the phone and agreed to begin by looking at what is a Christian."*

*"He made a commitment to Christ at a recent meeting at our church. I am in the process of meeting with him in developing his new found faith. He really wants to know more about growing as a Christian."*

*"I contacted him by email just to say Hi. He replied and said he'd like to come to church but was nervous ... He missed church but came to Christianity Explored."*

*"Met him on B wing where my wife and I lead a group most Wednesdays. He seemed pleased to meet us. Now he has a contact with the Wednesday group which he can take part in each week."*

*"I phoned him and he was positive. I invited him to church on Sunday and he was keen to come." (The enquirer rang CEA to say he had been to church and wanted to go again and meet young people his own age.)*

*"We have now had a visit to our church from him in response to my letter. I had a good conversation with him after the service and he was very interested."*

*"He has been visited and has started attending church and has signed up for an Alpha Course."*

*See back page for a remarkable story from a Christian contact in Inverness.*

# Forgiveness card led to thrilling contact

MOST OF THE PEOPLE who get in touch with Christian Enquiry Agency are offered the opportunity to be contacted by a local Christian. One of many who asked for this last year, having sent in a Contact Card about forgiveness, was a man from Scotland who we'll call Michael. Through partner organisation Contact for Christ, Pastor Samuel McKibben from Inverness was asked to visit Michael and afterwards wrote to say:



Pastor Samuel McKibben – one of hundreds of Christians registered with Contact for Christ as local contacts for enquirers.

“When he [Michael] heard that Christianity was not about just going to church but building a deep friendship with Jesus Christ, he immediately said ‘That is what I want’”.

Pastor Samuel had the privilege of helping Michael commit his life to Jesus and also gave him a Bible and some daily notes for new Christians. That’s not all: Samuel also wrote about the great thrill he had about being asked to visit Michael.

“Eleven years ago when his family lived in Inverness they were members of my congregation and my daughter taught Michael in Sunday School. When they moved 22 miles away we lost contact with them. Can you imagine the thrill I had when this request came to visit, what once was a little boy in Sunday School. I am convinced that you were truly led of the Lord to allow me to be the contact. Thank you for the privilege”.

## I want to help Christian Enquiry Agency make Jesus Christ known.

- Send me details of your Contact Cards.  
 Keep me informed of your developing work.

*The work of the Agency is undertaken by a director and volunteers, and is dependent on grants and donations.*

## Here is my gift of

- £5     £10     £25     £50     £ ..... (other)  
 made payable to Christian Enquiry Agency

### Name and address PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Revd ..... Forename: .....  
 Surname: .....  
 Street: .....  
 Town: .....  
 County: ..... Postcode: .....  
 Email: .....

### Your gift goes further with Gift Aid – giving CEA an extra £2.80 for every £10 you give

As a UK taxpayer, I want Christian Enquiry Agency to reclaim tax on all my donations made after 6 April 2000.

Full name: .....  
 Signature: ..... Date: .....

NB You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity claims on your donations in the tax year.

### Standing Order – please consider making a regular gift. (top right hand corner of cheque book)

Name of your bank: ..... Sort code:     
 Bank address: .....  
 Name of account: ..... Account No: .....  
 From this account please pay: £ ..... every  month  quarter  
 Commencing date: ..... and regularly until further notice.

Pay this sum to: Christian Enquiry Agency, Nat West Catford Branch,  
 159 Rushey Green, London SE6 4BJ Sort Code: 60-04-36 Account number: 87505142

Signature: ..... Date: .....

For bank use only - Paying Bank, please quote reference:

Registered Charity No. 297393

Send to: Christian Enquiry Agency, 27 Tavistock Square, London. WC1H 9HH



### Please pray each week for:

- those who contact Christian Enquiry Agency wanting to know about Jesus Christ
- further opportunities to reach people who have little knowledge of Jesus or the Christian faith
- finance needed to continue and develop the work.

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Christian Enquiry Agency News  
 Editor: Jeff Bonser Design: John Keavan