

About this Special Issue

Although the five articles in the first section of this Special Issue have been written by members of the *Testimony* committee, the remainder of the magazine consists of articles by a variety of contributors from three different continents. Although there are several articles in which contributors with relevant professional expertise deal with specific issues, in general our contributors are not experts in the subjects they are writing about, but write from their own understanding of Scripture and practical experiences, and this is emphasised by the fact that many articles bear the names of both husband and wife as joint authors. The ecclesial and family environment does, of course, vary to some extent from place to place, and inevitably this is reflected in the articles. It is recognised that there will be some readers of this magazine who live in environments in which it is not possible to follow some of the advice given, in particular those who live outside the Western cultural world in which all our contributors live.

With such a wide variety of contributors dealing with an overall theme from different aspects, there are inevitably both differences of approach and repetition of advice from time to time. No attempt has been made to edit contributions to produce a completely harmonious whole and to eliminate repetition. Differences of approach are minor considering the number of articles involved, and the repetitions serve to emphasise that brethren and sisters in ecclesias in various parts of the world are facing the same problems and challenges, and dealing with them in very similar ways, all aiming to bring up a "godly seed" that will give glory to God's Name.

Tony Benson