

The faithful of old— studied by the young

Preface

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WE ARE DELIGHTED to inform our readers of a new series commencing in the *Testimony* this month, one that has a key difference: the articles will be written by young brethren and sisters—from both the UK and overseas—for young brethren and sisters everywhere. Of course, it is our hope that our older readers will also benefit, as we are “all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28), and can all learn from one another, however old or young we may be.

The series is entitled, “The faithful of old—studied by the young”. We believe that it captures the very essence of what this series is all about: studying well-known Bible characters through the eyes of a new and enthusiastic generation of Christadelphians. The series will be a wide collection of studies of Biblical characters, many of whom are found in Hebrews 11, an extensive review of faithful characters of old, found in both the Old and New Testaments. The aim will be to draw out vital lessons for our young people, and answer some important questions, such as, How did they overcome? How was their life affected afterwards? What can I, as a young person, learn from that? What implications does this have for other young people today? So, from just these questions alone, you can see that the series will be both practical and exhortational in nature, laced with many Scriptural gems. There will also be ample opportunity for sending in your comments, or asking questions. We would encourage this. Please send these to the Publishing Editor, Brother Tony Benson.

We are pleased that Brother Mark Pennington—an architect by profession—has agreed to illustrate each article with two tailored drawings. These are intended to bring the article to life, and should serve as good visual reminders of the important lessons being discussed.

For most of our young expositors this will be the first time that their Bible studies will be read in

published form by the wider Brotherhood. Therefore, in light of this, we ask that all our readers be understanding and considerate; this has been a large undertaking for our young writers and they were all willing volunteers. As I am sure we all know, writing is by no means easy, even for our most experienced Christadelphian authors, so please bear this in mind. It should also be pointed out that many of the writers were under considerable pressures of course work, exams, jobs and, for one or two, last-minute wedding preparations, when these articles were written. Indeed, we are hoping that our readers will get behind our young writers, and encourage them in their Bible studies. It is so easy for us all to knock down, but so much harder to encourage and build. Let this be the spirit of the series!

We now pray for our Father’s blessing on our efforts, that they may deepen our understanding of the Word of God and further our appreciation of all those who “died in faith, not having received the promises” (Heb. 11:13). We hope that it will also encourage a new generation of young Christadelphians to adopt the spirit of the ancient Bereans, who “received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Just as the wise Apostle advised his young companion Timothy, there is no better counsel to be found than, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). And this is essential, since our young people today face a world that is unrivalled in its evil and immorality; and the only comfort we take from this is that, “as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man” (Lk. 17:26). We look forward to sharing the studies of our young brethren and sisters, and trust that we *all* may be upbuilt as we await the return of our Lord.