

My dear Friends,

I should like you to regard this more in the nature of a personal letter to you in your home. For I want to ask you, "what do you really think about the 'H' Bomb - and the future of this world?" Some people choose not to think, but you and I and our families now live in a day when it has become possible for man to destroy civilisation over vast tracts of this earth within a few hours - perhaps before us ordinary people realise our immediate danger. This ought to drive us to very earnest thought ... and prayer. We must not shut our minds because the possibilities are so terrifying.

And this leads me to say to you the following, which I would earnestly commend to you, with all the emphasis I can and with the affectionate concern that I have as your friend and pastor:

- (a) That this possibility ought to make us realise afresh the folly of our unhappy divisions caused by jealousy, pride or obstinacy. If you have a grudge or hatred, go now to your friend or work-mate and try to put it right whilst there is time.
- (b) That those of you who have felt the love of God at any time and know you have wandered from Him should now seek Him again whilst there is time and He is near. I feel bound to say solemnly that there is a time when it will be too late to seek God (see page 341 of the Prayer Books in Church) - which I find a dreadful thing to have to write but which I have good reason to believe is true and needs to be said. I don't want anyone from Marston to reach eternity and say, "I never knew... I was never told".
- (c) That those who do call on God, however timidly, do find Him to give a SURE HOPE which nothing can shake (see Romans chapter 8, verses 35 to 39). Have you consciously committed your life to Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and Friend?
- (d) That days of danger are also days of great opportunity, and that if mankind does with God's help survive the present threat, man's wonderful inventions may result in incalculable benefits to the people of this world.
- (e) That if we survive this threat your children (and you), must have in order to use man's inventions for the good of mankind, the direction and spiritual strength for life which come from your believing with them and your worshipping with them.

No one can prophesy whether we shall survive the present possibilities of destruction or not. But of this I am quite sure, that whether nuclear weapons are used in under or over 4 years, or ever, it is possible for real Christians to survey every possibility with a calm confidence, for they know that their lives - and death - are in the Hand of God, who is on the Throne of this Universe, and they may go about their daily work in happy expectation of the day when Jesus Himself will return to this earth (I Thessalonians 4:16-17)

Do think about this letter; and remember that I am over at your service to talk over with you "the things that matter" either at your home or mine.

God bless you, and speak to you,
Yours humbly and sincerely,

Gordon Savage

continued from overleaf:

CONFIRMATION. The Confirmation Service at St. Nicholas Church will be on Tuesday, April 26, in the evening. Some boys, some girls and some adults are attending preparation classes.