

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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A peaceful life

THE PEACE activist Jim Forest died on 13 January in Alkmaar, the Netherlands, where he lived. "I was with him in the hospital when he died. All our children and grandchildren were able to visit him, because the doctors didn't expect him to last much longer. It was a beautiful day," his wife Nancy wrote to their many friends. Jim had turned 80 last November.

Forest became a Catholic while he was serving in the US Navy. He went on to join the staff of the Catholic Worker community in New York, and briefly served as managing editor of *The Catholic Worker*. In 1988, he was received into the Eastern Orthodox Church. "He knew and worked with Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, Daniel Berrigan and Thich Nhat Hanh and wrote marvellous books about them all," his friend Danny Sullivan, a former chairman of the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission, told us. "He also wrote fine books on forgiveness, on the Beatitudes and on Russian icons, several children's books and a fascinating memoir, *Writing Straight with Crooked Lines*. Jim once told me there was a saying in the Forest clan – 'humilification'. Humilification was



what happened to you when you were loved for who you were and not for what you did or achieved. He told me he had felt joyfully humilificated when his grandson – who had seen his memoir on sale in a shop window – came running up to him and said: 'Grandpa, I never knew you wrote books!'"

"THIS BOOK is for anyone who finds themselves the wrong side of the locked door," say Jonathan Aitken and Edward Smyth in the introduction to *Doing Time: A Spiritual Survival Guide* (Lion Books, £6.99; Tablet price, £6.29). Both have served time in prison;

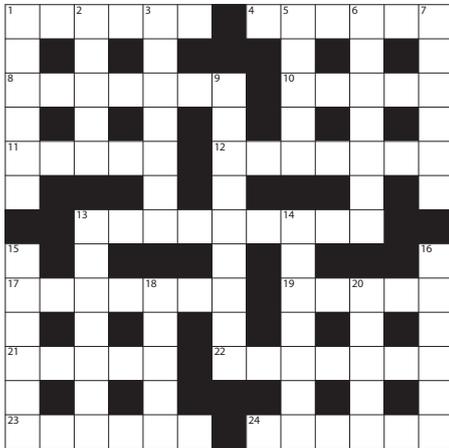
both are "confident that God was with us". They hope to encourage other inmates to believe that "prison is not a bad place to explore the part of your being which is called the soul", and that "the old saying, 'When you're in a hole – stop digging' can be rephrased as, 'When you're in a hole – start praying'".

Away from your family, and in a strange place, they urge, "God chooses to speak." Nine chapters – "The First Night", "Coming to Terms", "Chaplains", "Chapel Life", "Prison Officers", "Drugs in Prison", "Keeping in Touch with the Outside World", "Visits", "Living and Growing Positively" – combine reminiscence, reflection, passages from the Bible (especially the Psalms) and prayers.

There is solid advice – about how unwise it is to deny your crime, for example. And there is unexpected encouragement. Prison officers are often kind, good people. A cellmate can become a soulmate. Aitken writes of the joy of receiving letters. He got 40-90 each day, so his prison experience was in no way typical. Many prisoners will get no letters; many will not be able to read this book. It is, nevertheless, a work of courage, generosity and wisdom: "Society likes not to think about its prisons all that often; people of faith can and should do better."

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 789 Axe



Across

- 1 Rahab, a pervert, makes the Jordan valley (6)
- 4 Inject beast common in South Africa by 1 Across' tributary (6)
- 8 Computer stuff United Artists are using in an area north of 1 Across (7)
- 10 Spring for Gideon is difficult without love (5)
- 11 Spy a drink in the O.T. when looking the other way (5)
- 12 General who attacked Judas Maccabeus while losing oriental state to the south (7)
- 13 John's mother is on coins, one of two sovereigns (9)
- 17 N.T. city where drug pushers run away having been disciplined (7)

- 19 Old crone, a redhead, is a servant in Genesis (5)
- 21 Sermon given by some detractors (5)
- 22 High Priest is, unusually, an Asian (7)
- 23 Classical city to like about at that time (6)
- 24 One Kenyan national becomes a trumpet-blowing priest (6)

Down

- 1 Captain of Nebuchadnezzar's guard subverted revolutionaries over nothing (see Chronicles) ... (6)
- 2 ... after a face-to-face battle against Tobit's great-grandfather (5)
- 3 Is Ahab a disguised father of one of the Thirty? (7)
- 5 Drag name cancelled where Achan died the death (5)

- 6 According to the K.J.V., Shimi's boy is disgruntled re Baha'i (7)
- 7 Checked Eshcol nursing home for Barak (6)
- 9 Aeneas, e.g., a Byzantine seen in the main within the Mediterranean (6,3)
- 13 Record time at hospital in Bethlehem, perhaps ... (7)
- 14 ... hour, just under, recording Mia's raising of Jacob's grandson (7)
- 15 Guy is put up at one housing for a Greek goddess (6)
- 16 One of 500 slain at Susa, Hector's brother's beheaded on the road (6)
- 18 Angel initially is sadistic and threatening and nasty (5)
- 20 Paul's host is in Georgia, meeting Italian-American (5)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 22 January The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: thetablet@thetablet.co.uk, with Crossword in the subject field. Please include your full name, telephone number and email address, and a mailing address. Three books – on Saints, Monasticism and Philosophy of Religion – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random. **We are processing entries but there may be a delay in notifying winners and sending out prizes. Please keep entering.**

SUDOKU | Tough

2			5	3			1
5							
	9	1			7		
	5			2		1	
	6				3		5
			4				9
	8	2				5	
		6		7	5	8	
9						6	3

Each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

Solution to the 1 January puzzle

8	4	3	9	2	6	1	5	7
9	6	7	3	5	1	2	4	8
1	2	5	4	7	8	3	9	6
3	5	8	2	6	9	4	7	1
2	9	6	7	1	4	5	8	3
4	7	1	8	3	5	9	6	2
5	3	4	6	8	2	7	1	9
6	1	2	5	9	7	8	3	4
7	8	9	1	4	3	6	2	5

Solution to the 1 January crossword No. 786

Across: 1 Carpenter; 6 Ass; 9 Giordani; 10 Ezra; 11 Sheba; 12 Etienne; 14 Repent; 16 Empire; 18 Heretic; 20 Holly; 23 Nile; 24 Province; 25 Eli; 26 Macedonia. Down: 2 Amish; 3 Parable; 4 Noah; 5 Epistles; 7 Shriner; 8 Bede; 13 Ethiopia; 15 Ezekiel; 17 Proximo; 19 Eden; 21 Li Chi; 22 Rome.

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