Not all black and white

GED NAUGHTON, a life-long Newcastle United fan, runs a football for development and peace project in Liberia. The Saudi takeover of the club has left him torn between shame and celebration.

"Many of my friends in Liberia are half-Newcastle and half-Chelsea, Liverpool, Man Utd or Man City. They live at the harsh end of capitalism and if someone offered them large amounts of cash, they would take it. They won't understand why I don't see this as 100-per-cent good," Naughton told us. "We wanted Mike Ashley out. And we know that in modern football big money rules. But Ashley's major crime was not to spend enough money; he never arranged to have one of his opponents dismembered."

"Fans do have some leverage." Naughton says. "We can cheer getting our club back, but now let's make a difference to how it's run. We already support a food bank at home games so we know that football and social justice go hand in hand: let's have demos about human rights and LGBTQ+ rights alongside the spare change buckets – cordially but firmly. In the modern vernacular, we embody the brand. It's not all about winning

things – although if we win one trophy in my lifetime I'll be happy."

HIS BOOKS and videos have done more than any revivalist preacher to bring people to Christianity, yet Jordan Peterson himself is famously cagey when asked if he believes in God ("I really don't know how to answer that question because I never know what people mean when they are asking it," he told *The Tablet* in 2018).

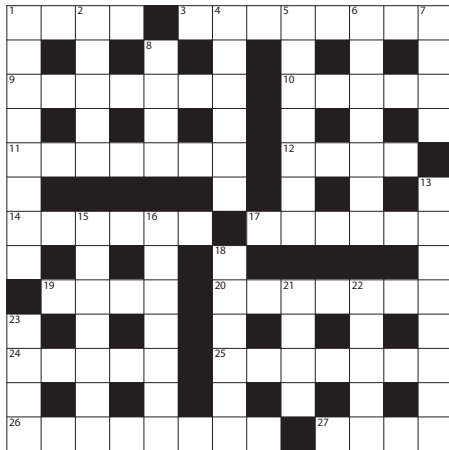The moral philosopher Christopher Kaczor has written a book exploring the borderlands between Peterson's ideas and Christianity. He tells us: "I was fascinated by the ways in which his views re-present classic methods of interpretation found in early Christians such as Origen and Augustine. This method of interpretation (the moral reading of Scripture, or, as Peterson puts it, the "psychological reading") has proved extremely popular, especially with atheists, agnostics, and religious nones."

Kaczor (rhymes with "razor") proudly handed over a copy of *Jordan Peterson, God, and Christianity: The Search for a Meaningful Life* (Word on Fire Institute) to Pope Francis after a recent meeting of the Pontifical Academy for Life, of which Kaczor is a member. Had the name "Jordan Peterson" elicited a papal flicker of recognition? In spite of his evident delight with his present, Kaczor isn't convinced the Pope had ever actually heard of the controversial Canadian academic: "Whether he knows about Peterson or was just delighted to receive a little gift, I'm not sure."

Peterson was invited, and then rudely disinvited, to be a visiting fellow by Cambridge University's Divinity Faculty in 2019. But he has accepted a fresh invitation from Dr James Orr, a lecturer in philosophy of religion at the same faculty, to participate in three days of research seminars and deliver a couple of lectures next month.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 777 Axe

Across
1 Boiling oil is removed from Philistine city (4)
3 Scribe in Jeremiah's a prophet to a degree (8)
9 Notices Miss West's name at the head of Dionysus' girls (7)
10 Descendant of Saul, one given directions in a flyer (5)
11 The French watch Protestant martyred in Oxford (7)
12 Author of a proverb, one's hearing, Matt rejected (4)
14 Vulgate book SS dare to violate (6)
17 One greeting Paul Newman character is a clan leader in Benjamin (6)
19 Tin find, west of a Galilean town (4)
20 Henry – he's advanced: good in French and Sihon's capital in Numbers (7)
24 After tea's over, one leaves for a service in Rome (5)
25 Maon's boy hurt Zeb badly (4,3)
26 Craft needed to get chap to one of the Channel Islands (5,3)
27 Greek god appears during the morning to a son of Shem (4)

Down
1 He enlightened Saul about a Saharan country set (8)
2 Council's initially testing revisionist ethos over New Testament (5)
4 Return of culture's likely to be abandoned after Paul got stoned here (6)
5 West Country place's pubs run out – upsetting on Sunday (7)
6 Strangely in a hunt to find a Levite in 14, called Bani in Nehemiah (7)
7 Amalekite king is a joke (4)
8 Verses by David, probably withdrawn Saturday for, instead, a particular Sunday (4)
13 Chap in charge of forced labour, a noble Spaniard, gets one to hit (8)
15 Scrolls are found in a redundant diocese, it's reported (4,3)
16 L. Nimoy surprisingly abandons Salvation Army work, seeking alternative Hindu appearances (7)
18 Revolutionary blockade is positioned to the south of Ezekiel's river (6)
21 What first family member in the KJV says aloud? (4)
22 Last character, consumed by drink, reaches the Levite city (5)
23 Testament which holds the last word (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 16 October, 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 Augustine, Christianity and Thomas Aquinas – 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

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

Solution to the 25 September puzzle

Solution to the 25 September crossword No. 774
Across: 7 Jerome; 8 Arabah; 9 Nave; 10 Abinadab; 11/12 Michael Haydn; 15 Asaph; 17 Tavener; 20 Gabrieli; 22 Shia; 23 Anoint; 24 The Law. **Down:** 1 Gelasius; 2 Joseph; 3 Bezalel; 4 Basil; 5 Masada; 6 Gaza; 13 Dies Irae; 14 Taoists; 16 Persia; 18 Easter; 19 Texts; 21 Anna.