

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

The Petrel

PETRELS are sea birds that spend most of their time flying over water feeding on fish, which they catch by skimming near the surface. There are about 100 species of petrel, including some that live in the antarctic.

Most interesting is the Black-rumped Petrel, which nests on the island of Hawaii. This bird actually builds its nest at the top of Mount Haleakala, 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) above sea-level. This is higher than any other seabird nest, and could cause serious problems. Eggs have tiny breathing holes in the shell to allow oxygen to go in and moisture to escape. Since the air is very thin at this height, we would not expect the chick inside the egg to survive.

However, petrels' eggs have fewer holes than other birds' eggs — just right to allow the chick to breathe safely, even though the chick takes 55 days to hatch.

Petrels only lay one egg, but even feeding one growing chick with fish would be too much for the parents, with the nest so high and



A petrel and its chick

photos © clipart.com

far from the sea. What is worse, the baby stays in the nest for 4 months! But all is well, for the birds have a special way of providing extra nourishment to their chick. While they are at sea catching fish, their bodies produce a special rich oil in their stomachs, which they then take back to feed to the chick!

The petrels which nest on that high mountain have managed to survive because they were specially designed for it. With only one egg to hatch, they couldn't have slowly evolved all these abilities. Their eggs must have already had less breathing holes than other birds' eggs, and they must have already had the means to make that special oil to feed the growing chick. These facts tell us they must have been created by God.



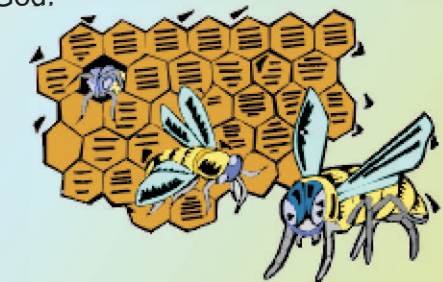
Mount Haleakala in Hawaii. Black-rumped petrels nest on this mountain, 3,000 m. (10,000 ft.) above sea level.

WILL YOU BE BUSY FOR YOUR KING?

In this paper we have been learning about bees, and how wonderfully they work together making honey, feeding their young, and serving their queen. However, the bees don't do this by choice, but by instinct. They are *programmed* to do it. God could have programmed us to live the way He wants us to, but He gave us the freedom to choose, and we have all made the wrong choice and sinned against God.

In the beginning, God created all things to work together, and also with Him. Then Adam and Eve sinned, and bad things began to happen. Now, people often can't live in peace together, and this sometimes leads to wars and fighting. God is sad about this, and wants us all to live happily together.

Because He loves us so much, God has acted to help us. He came to us in the Person of Jesus to show us how we ought to live. Then He died on the cross for us so that our sins could be forgiven, and rose from the dead so that His Spirit could live in us and help us live His way. "This is what God commands: that we believe in his Son, and that we love each other." (1 John 3: 23). When we put our faith in Jesus and make Him our Lord, we become part of God's family called the Church. Then we can all work



together to serve our King, just as the bees work together for their queen. They do it because they have to; Christians do it because they love God and others. This is the only way the world can become a happier, safer place, and all over the world Christians are working to help others. Have you made Jesus your King? And will you serve Him faithfully, busily helping to build His Kingdom, just as the bees work together in the hive?

PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

"They are sweeter than honey, even the finest honey." (Psalm 19: 10).
BIBLE VERSE:

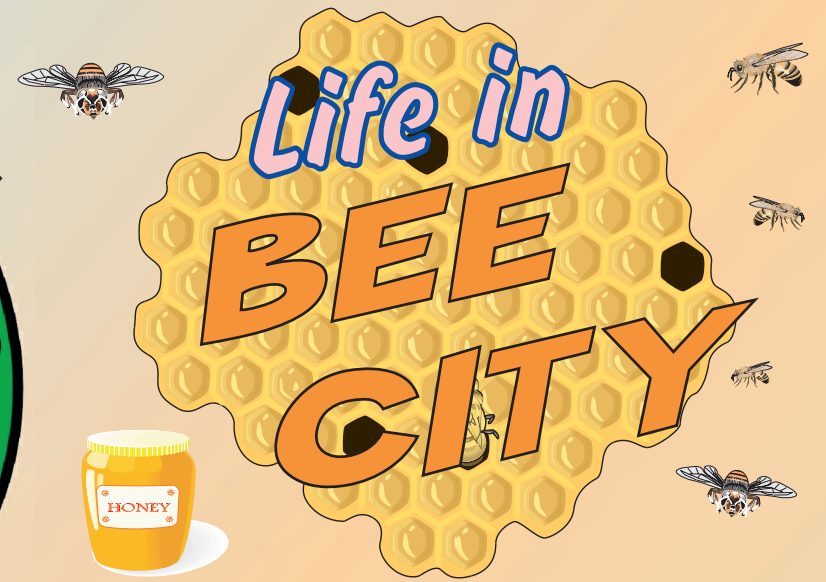
- HIDDEN FRUITS:**
1. Lemon. 2. Banana. 3. Apple. 4. Pear. 5. Orange. 6. Peach. 7. Melon. 8. Mango. 9. Olive. 10. Kiwi.

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Imagine a city with 50,000 or more inhabitants, who all work together to help one another. That's life in a beehive!

Serving the Queen



A swarm of bees

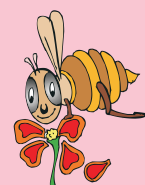
Wild bees build their own nests, but for centuries humans have kept bees, and provided them with special hives where they make their honey. A hive is like a city where everyone works together to serve the queen. It all begins at the beginning of summer when bees "swarm". Thousands of bees will find a queen, and cling to one another in a huge bunch. Beekeepers often collect swarms and put them into a hive, but if not, the bees will find a place to make their nest. The worker bees then get busy making a honeycomb (see inside for more about the honeycomb).

The queen bee is little more than an egg-laying machine. The eggs are laid in the cells of the honeycomb and sealed in. Three days later they hatch, and "nurse" bees feed the grubs, starting with special food called "royal jelly" and "bee bread". At five days old, the grub spins a cocoon, and 16 days later an adult bee chews its way out. It begins to work at once, without ever having been taught! The queen, who lays all the eggs, never works, so how do the worker bees know what to do? Bees must have been "programmed" by God to live and work together — and to help us.



Part of a honeycomb

BEES HELP US ALL

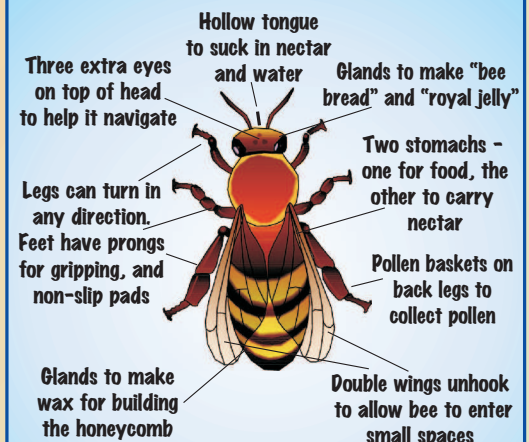


Did you know that bees, small as they are, make life better for all of us? Not only do they provide us with honey, which is a very healthy food, they also take pollen from one flower to another. Without this, many plants could not produce fruit. Although other insects also do this, bees do most of the pollination, and farmers sometimes put hives of bees in their fields. When you next enjoy a crunchy apple, remember, it's thanks to the bees — and to God, who created them to help provide us with good food.



The Amazing Honeybee

Like a tiny machine!



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

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- TINY ENGINEERS.**
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- WHY BEES DANCE.**
- PUZZLE CORNER.**
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