December 2009 update from Ken Millwood

Dear All,

Twelve months ago I had 17,000 words saved on the computer and thought I would be finished & published by now. However, when funds began to run out I got a job in a Christian Ministry in Bath. I have concluded that while full time work keeps the bank happy, it leaves little time for the book compared to what I devoted to it last year. Despite cutting out several other activities, my ongoing work on agendas, minutes, letters and e-mails for two committees still takes a sizeable chunk of my free time.

On the nights I had set aside for the book, since the last update, I spent time on my Tax Return, (not particularly interesting, but very important) although in the end I missed the October 31 postal deadline due to the Royal Mail strikes, and will now have to complete and submit it electronically in the next month.

December has been busy with the usual round of festive Signpost Puppet shows and getting ready for Christmas. Therefore little real progress has taken place since September and the word count is still around 35,000 words, about 60% of the total.

However, to put it in perspective, over the whole year much has happened. Looking back: I finished the sample chapter and introduction, sent them off to various publishers, received several rejections, got helpful feedback via a commissioning editor, re-worked the first chapter incl. the definition of dependence and attended an excellent writing course in the Lake District. I am still very focussed on the book, and have a growing list of jottings on how to approach certain chapters, and ways to improve what I have already written. I feel my writing style has improved, and although the deadlines keep slipping past when I hoped to finish, I am still inspired by the topic and confident that God has His hand on it all, especially the timing.

Finally, as this is really the delayed November update, let me take this opportunity to pass on my greetings for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The next update will be in March.

Kind Regards,

Ken

23/12/09