Two years ago Nigel Pond introduced me to John Langlois, a senior elected member of the
government in Guernsey, Channel Islands, and his wife Pat at the Cowper & Newton Museum’s
Cowper Bicentenary Service. Now, a comparatively short time later, The John Newton Project is
being established as a Christian charity under John’s chairmanship, with a special focus on 2007, the
bicentenary of Newton’s death.
We want to use this to publicise the works of Newton and the considerable contribution he made
towards the reformation of society. Chiefly, we long to see a similar transformation of values in
church and state come about in our lifetime and feel that the writings and example of Newton’s very
practical outworking of his faith could be a catalyst in achieving this.
We want to get Newton’s story and rich spiritual insights more widely known through all forms of
media. We are making plans to do this through literature, street drama, theatre, CDs and tapes, local
and national events, radio, TV, films and, if at all possible, a blockbuster.
As part of this project I am transcribing The Complete Works of John Newton, which is expected to
run into perhaps 15 volumes and will contain much previously unpublished material as well as
annotations to the original and much shorter Works. We’re looking for a suitable publisher for this.
Some of the material will also be going into individual books - for instance, extracts from sermons
and hymns as thoughts for the day, into 365 Days with Newton, for Day One Publications and The
Letters of John Newton to William Wilberforce, for Joshua Press, Canada (whose Editorial Director,
Professor Michael Haykin, wrote the biography of Newton and Cowper’s contemporary John Sutcliff
of Olney, One Heart and One Soul).
Also in line for publication is a pocket-sized information-packed book, Travel with Newton, complete
with pictures, maps, tourist information and brief biography. This is being prepared for Day One’s
new series of light-reading travel guides and should be proof-ready next year. The series editor is
Brian Edwards, author of the recently updated Newton biography Through Many Dangers.
The John Newton Project already has links with some two hundred interested people in the UK, USA,
Canada, Australia, South Africa and Sierra Leone. We distribute both a general update on the
project’s progress and, more frequently, a bi-monthly prayer letter. If you would like to receive either
of these, or simply want to know more about the project, please do contact me at The Hill Lodge,
Warwick Road, Stratford-on-Avon, CV37 0NP, tel 01789 298174, email MarylynnKR@aol.com. Our
website will soon be in action – details of this will be given in the next issue of the Cowper and
Newton Bulletin.
Quoting from a manuscript owned by the Cowper & Newton Museum, John Newton to William
Cowper, November 1780:
“I wish to do something for the cause of Him who does all for me.”

Marylynn Rouse