



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS

APRIL 2011 ISSUE 11.128

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



JESUS IS NOT HERE IN THE TOMB, HE IS RISEN!

Vicar's ten - minute reflection

THE RESURRECTION EVENT IN JOHN'S GOSPEL



No one in John chapter 20 believes Jesus is alive without evidence. By the end of the chapter everyone we meet is personally convinced that Jesus has been raised from the dead but no one reaches this conclusion without first being presented with convincing proof.

Let us travel together through the chapter and put ourselves in the skins of the early disciples. Let us take a look at verse 1. "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. The phrase "while it was still dark," is very suggestive. The darkness was not only a description of the "earliness" of the morning, but it was a description of all people without firm belief in the Resurrection of Christ. Without that knowledge, as St. Paul has said, "we are a bunch of miserable human beings," because we have no understanding of the eternal and sacred character of human life, and for anyone trying to live it, it is a process of stumbling along in the darkness.

So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved [That's the code in John's Gospel for John himself!] and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we so obviously she wasn't alone when she went to the tomb!] don't know where they have put him!" Mary's first conclusion after witnessing the empty tomb is not to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead. She was not expecting a resurrection. She was on her way that morning to anoint a corpse - not to witness a dramatic change in Jesus' personal fortunes. So when she got to the tomb, saw the stone rolled away and the body gone she assumed the worst. She presumed someone had taken her beloved Jesus from his final resting place. Later in verse 3, "Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first."



I am sure you will love that comment? Peter has obviously had too many fish suppers for dinner. His fitness was not on the same level as John's! So John, in verse 5, "bent over and looked at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head.

The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally, the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed."

Easter is all about a four letter word — and Christians are full of it (or at least we're supposed to be full of it). The four letter word is LIFE. New life. Whole life. Abundant Life. Redeemed life. Resurrected life. The purpose of life is not death, Easter says. The purpose of life is life . . . a life that triumphs over death forever. Celebrating Easter is the best thing that the church can do because it is a celebration of all that is good, all that is true, and all that is beautiful. In fact, I would make the case that celebrating Easter is the greatest public service the church can perform for the world. Why? Because it is the reality of Easter that makes everything else we do possible.

Remember Jesus' final words on the cross? "It is finished." When the soldiers taking Jesus' body down from the cross stabbed him with a spear point, "blood and water came out" (John 19:34). That rush of fluids revealed what was the actual final cause of death for Jesus — a burst aorta. Jesus died of a broken heart. The breaking of Jesus' heart was what "finished" Jesus' sacrifice. On Easter morning the great surprise is that sacrifice was not the end of Jesus' mission. Out of Jesus' broken heart there emerged a new heart, a resurrected heart, an unbreakable, unstoppable heart. **Out of the Last Adam's split side a new Eve was conceived, the bride of Christ, the church.** (continued on page 6)

SECOND CHANCE - TRUE STORY



My first marriage ended with the unexpected death of my husband, Jerry. After his death, I didn't even think about remarriage. I wasn't afraid of being alone. After all, I didn't say "I do" to Jerry until I was 36 years old, when I was well established in my career as a human resources manager.

Delighted as I was to share life with Jerry, my inner drive often found me focused on work more than on quality time with him. Oh, I honoured and adored him. But had I known earlier that Jerry would die prematurely, surely I would have made different choices earlier in our marriage. After Jerry was diagnosed with a terminal illness, I took those second chances. I reset my priorities, cut back on work hours, and "loved on" Jerry. I regularly took time off work to participate in transplant support group meetings with this man I loved.

Often, we sat together quietly on our couch at home, and while I massaged his feet, Jerry leaned back, relaxed, and talked about his hopes and fears in this new challenge. Then arms around each other, tears flowed as we listened to the melodic harmonies and uplifting words of a favourite male quartet as they sang about hope and faith and peace.

"When peace, like a river, attended my way,
"When sorrows like sea billows roll;
"Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well, with my soul."

Life Isn't Over Yet

I worried less about having a clean house. I delegated more work assignments. I stopped responding to e-mails 'til the wee hours. I cared less about what others thought (my boss, colleagues, friends) and focused on ensuring Jerry knew how much I respected and loved him. I thanked him more—for loving me well, for wise decisions he made, and for making me laugh.

Second chance - True Story

Once I told him I couldn't stand the thought of one of us being without the other, so I asked the Lord to take us home together. "You're not driving any more," was his instant response.

Once he was hospitalized, I spent most of every day with Jerry for the next five months-holding his hand, talking, praying, and just being there. I'm grateful that I began taking my second chances before my sweetheart passed away in my arms. After Jerry died, God spoke to me through Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you ... plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." God had given us 20 wonderful years together and I knew his plan for me wasn't finished yet. As I struggled to redefine myself as a newly single woman, I mentally kept God's promise before me.

Resetting My Priorities

Two years after Jerry's death, I met Don. We became easy friends, then one evening, he placed his hand on my shoulder and said, "Is there a chance for a relationship between us down the road?" His vibrant blue eyes searched mine. I was momentarily taken aback. Was I willing to get married again? Was it possible that God had placed Don in my life for a second chance at love and intimate companionship?

I decided to take the risk and see where it would lead me. That "chance for a relationship" Don asked about grew. And over time, he and I became sweethearts. Then four years after Jerry's passing, Don became my husband. Once again, God was giving me a second chance: Would I live out the lessons I learned through Jerry's illness and death, or wait for another loss to reset my priorities? I chose to reset my priorities. I care more now about my commitment to Don than my house or work, and I try to make choices accordingly. (continued on page 16).

The resurrection event

(continued from page 3)

On that first Easter Day, "It is finished" became "Now it begins." Life begins anew with the resurrected rhythms of the Easter heart. It is an Easter heart that the resurrected Jesus offered to all who believed in him, all who read the signs and symbols of new life God had left at the empty tomb. The "beloved disciple" looked in at the abandoned grave clothes and "believed" that Jesus had risen. At that instant his Easter heart started beating. Mary Magdalene heard her name called with her beloved Teacher's own voice, and she saw and believed that the risen Lord stood before her. It was at that moment Mary's Easter heart started beating.

When Jesus walked and talked along the Emmaus road with two of his disciples Jesus was practising heart massage. His disciples later recalled "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road" (Luke 24:32). But only after Jesus blessed and broke the bread did those disciples suddenly see and believe. It was the final jolt that jump-started their Easter hearts.

Well, poor Mary still hadn't put two and two together so we're told in verse 11 that she stood outside the tomb crying. Peter and John had returned home confident that Jesus had risen from the dead but dear Mary was still in a state of troubled confusion. At one point as she wept outside she decided to have a look inside and that's when she saw two angels sitting on the place where Jesus' body had been laid. I love what they ask her. Verse 13, **"Woman, why are you crying?" Why the distress on a day like this? Don't you know it's resurrection morning?** Well, that was the problem. She didn't know it was resurrection morning. She was still convinced that someone had taken the body of Jesus. She was not expecting a resurrection and at this point she certainly didn't believe one had taken place. So much so that when Jesus appeared right behind her and asked her the same question as the angels, ... (continued next page)

The resurrection event

"Woman, why are you crying?" she mistook him for the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus replied affectionately, "Mary." And that's when the scales dropped off her eyes. We don't know exactly why, but the mere mention of her name by the risen Lord Jesus caused her to recognize him on the spot. **What a turnaround! One moment it was despair, now it was delight. A few seconds ago she was in a state of hopeless desolation but now she is bear hugging the Lord of glory and won't let him go! So Jesus tells her not to worry. "It's okay Mary,"** he says, "I'm not going home to my Father straight away. This will not be the only time you will see me. So relax a bit. Chill out. In fact, go and tell the others that you've had a personal encounter with your risen Lord." So, in verse 18, Mary went to the disciples with the news, "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her."

Richard Dawkins defines faith as "Blind truth, in the absence of evidence, even in the teeth of evidence." But this is not how the Christian religion operates. Authentic Christianity is not opposed to evidence. No one is being asked to close their eyes and believe things they know are nonsense.

Where are you today on the spiritual scale? Are you yet to examine the evidence for yourself? Why not make the effort to do so? Bookstall or Christianity Explored or Alpha? No one in eternity will ever say, "I'm glad I decided to watch more TV instead of investigating the claims of Christianity." Are you a Christian? Well, take heart. Many wonderful implications of the resurrection of Jesus: **The price has been paid. The sacrifice has worked. There is no condemnation to fear. He is the firstfruits of many. We will be raised physically at some point in the future. But take heart. We don't believe these things because we want them to be true. We believe them because they are true. And we know they are true because our faith is based on substantial evidence.**

Memory Verse: Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen! (Luke 24:5-6)



NOTICE BOARD

Christ Church had its Annual General Meeting (APCM) on 10th April after a brief Service of the Word. The following will serve on the Church Council in the coming year:

- Incumbent -The Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi - Chairman
- Lay Ministers -Mr Richard Mercer (also Deanery Synod Rep)
-Mrs Iyabo Agbelusi (also Children's Advocate)
- Wardens -Mr Peter Green (also Electoral Roll Officer)
-Mr Mervin Bentham
-Mr Charles Murphy - Vice Chairman
- Deanery Rep -Mr Luke Anand
- Elected Members
- Mrs Sheila Wheeler
 - Ms Emma Faulkner
 - Mrs Funmi Haggerty
 - Mr Granville Watson
 - Mr Nigel Jones
 - Mrs Christabel Oshodi
 - Dr. Ajibola Fapohunda

ALPHA

A practical introduction to the Christian Faith

2011 Course commences on May 11th and every Wednesday until July 13th.

6:30pm - Evening meal for 7.15pm start

Venue: Christ Church, Crouch End N8

To Register, contact Emma on: 020 83401566

or E-mail: christchurchn8@aol.com

Will you pray for us?

We covet your prayers for the work God has entrusted to us in Crouch End. Pray for our ministers that God will grant them utterance so that they may fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel. Pray for the congregation that they may be filled anew with God's Holy Spirit and endued with His power.

NEWS AROUND THE UK

GOD IS NOT DONE WITH BRITAIN YET

There may be chaos in our lives and in the nation too, but Christians serve a God who can bring order out of that chaos and use what little we give to bring about big changes.



That was the message from Gavin Calver to thousands of Christians at Spring Harvest 2011. In a humorous and often poignant address, the Youth For Christ director opened up about some of the personal challenges he has encountered in his life.

Although the 31-year-old is happily married with two children, the past five years have seen both valleys and peaks. Around five years ago, he and his wife were told they could not have children, only to discover one month later that his wife was pregnant with their first child, Amelie. Their second child, however, died in the womb, and their third child, Daniel, was given only a five per cent chance of surviving by doctors. Against all odds, he survived. For Calver, when people face a hard situation, the question is not so much 'why is this happening?', but whether God will be allowed to enter into that situation.

"When we thought we couldn't have babies, where was God bringing order out of chaos? We pushed into him and we met him and he brought good news," he said. "When we lost our baby, where was God bringing order out of chaos? He was there alongside us, not solving it, but bringing context and bringing hope."

He said the reason so many people could not see any order in their chaos was because they left God out of it.

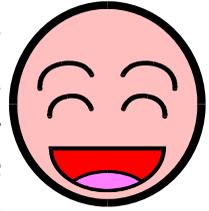
"Until you involve God in things, it seems so chaotic. No matter what you are facing, it's not that [something difficult] doesn't happen with God, but with God there is an order to the difficulty. Whatever your life looks like right now, don't compare to others but allow God to bring order to your chaos." (To be continued next month).

LAUGHTER LINES

German Shepherd

Adam, a bright-eyed 3-year-old, had been told of his German heritage. After church in early December, I asked him if he had a part in the Sunday school Christmas pageant. "Yes," he replied, his eyes filling with joy. "I am going to be a German shepherd!"

—Eileen R. Marlboro, N.Y., "Kids of the Kingdom," Christian Reader



In what name comest thou to this house?

A Vicar was in a most difficult situation. He had started the marriage service for a couple that regularly attended his church but he had left in the vestry the slip of paper containing their Christian Names, and he couldn't remember what they were. He hated the thought of having to ask the bridegroom his name in front of the congregation when he was supposed to know the lad well. As he ended the Preface, he did some quick thinking and produced what sounded like an authentic Prayer book question. 'In what name comest thou to this house?' he demanded with great dignity. The Bridegroom, taken aback for a moment soon rallied: 'I come in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost,'

Going to church can be tough

A Bishop was astonished to hear little Mary say that a person must be brave these days to go to church. 'well,' she said, 'I heard my uncle tell my aunt last Sunday that there was a canon in the pulpit, that the choir murdered the anthem and that the organist drowned the choir.'

LAUGHTER LINES

Lent Joke

Each Friday night after work, Ramsingh would fire up his outdoor grill and cook wild meat. But, all of Ramsingh's neighbors were Catholic, and since it was Lent, they were forbidden from eating meat on Good Friday. The grilled wild meat aroma was causing such a problem for the Catholic faithful that they finally talked to their priest. The priest came to visit Ramsingh, and suggested that he become a Catholic.

After several classes, Ramsingh attended Mass. As the priest sprinkled holy water over him, he said, "You were born a Hindu, and raised a Hindu, but now you are a Catholic." Ramsingh's neighbours were greatly relieved, until the next Good Friday night arrived, and the aroma of Tatoo (Armadillo) again filled the neighbourhood. The priest was called immediately and, as he rushed into Ramsingh's yard, clutching a rosary and preparing to bouf (Chastise) him, he stopped and watched in amazement.

There stood Ramsingh, clutching a small bottle of holy water which he carefully sprinkled over the grilling meat and chanted: "You wuz born a Tatoo, you wuz raised a Tatoo, but now you is a FISH!"

-Submitted by Tolu Agbelusi

Conference for £2.26

Two clergymen talking together: 'My congregation took a collection for my Continuing Ministerial Education. Do you know of any conference for £2.26?'

Holy Ghost!

A curate was sternly enjoined by his Rector never again to use the expression 'The Holy Spirit' but only always 'The Holy Ghost'. This lecture occurred at a Monday morning 'Chapter' which soon afterwards terminated as follows: Rector: the Lord be with you. Curate: And with thy Ghost.

HISTORY CORNER - JOHN NEWTON CONVERTED BY AMAZING GRACE

To be at sea in a storm on an ocean liner can be thrilling. To face a storm in a sailing vessel that is not seaworthy can be terrifying. The boat in which John Newton sailed was in disrepair and its sails and rigging worn. A hard man who had often mocked God, John was considered impious even by his godless mates.



One night he was wakened by a violent wave crashing against the vessel. Water filled his cabin. Hurrying above, he found that timbers had been ripped away. All were in terrible danger as the ship plunged through a furious storm. Men pumped desperately. Clothes and bedding were stuffed into holes and boards nailed over them. John joined those who were manning the pumps. Too exhausted to pump any longer, he was lashed to the wheel to try and steer the ship. The storm raged on and on. It was bitterly cold, the more so since the men had few clothes left. In this desperate moment John turned his eyes back over his life. Raised to the age of seven by a Christian mother, he had sought the Lord with fasts and prayers, but failing to find God he had become embittered. Despite this, the Lord preserved him through many dangers. Once he was even made a servant to slaves on the West coast of Africa.

In his heart he believed Christianity to be true. This brought him no consolation. "I concluded my sins were too great to be forgiven. I waited with fear and impatience to receive my doom." But soon he heard the glad news that the ship was freed of water. "I began to pray...to think of that Jesus that I had so often derided; I recollected his death: a death for sins not his own, but, as I remembered, for the sake of those who should put their trust in him." On this day, March 21, 1747 (new calendar) a day he ever after observed, John realized he needed a Saviour to intercede for him with God.

History Corner - John Newton Converted by amazing Grace

He snatched a free moment to open the Bible and begin to read. Though the storm raged on for days, John spent every free moment in the Scripture and praying for guidance. Hungry, cold, exhausted, the men kept the ship afloat. Only one died of exhaustion but the Captain muttered that John ought to be thrown overboard like Jonah; his wickedness was the cause of all their misery, he claimed. Finally they reached Ireland.

By then John was convinced the Lord had reached down and delivered his soul. The story of the Prodigal Son seemed to exactly fit his case. He never turned back from that day of salvation, although, not realizing slavery was a sin, he worked six years as a slaver. He showed kindness to the slaves he transported, held worship services for his men and wrote hymns for them. Later he saw that slavery was wrong and became an abolitionist and a minister. Reflecting on his hard life, he wrote one of the world's most loved hymns: "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me."

-Copyright © 2011, Christianity.com. All rights reserved.
Article Images Copyright © 2011 JupiterImages Corporation.

A Voice from Christchurch New Zealand

Hello. How do you value things I wonder? By that I mean what things are valuable to you?

We just heard the official word that Christchurch can again drink water from the tap without boiling it. They had to cheat by adding much diluted chlorine but that is OK.

So how should we value the humble drink of tap water?

A LOT.

Having been deprived of it for about 6 weeks I think I will not take a "simple" drink of germ-free tap water for granted in the future. I pity poor folks around the world who have no taps (faucets) let alone tap water.

Just a thought. -Martin Stanwood

WORDS OF WISDOM

- 1] Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path.
- 2] Why is a Car's WINDSHIELD so large & the Rear view Mirror is so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.
- 3] Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn but it takes years to write.
- 4] All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they don't last forever. Joy comes in the morning.
- 5] Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamonds! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!
- 6] Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, it's just a bend, not the end!"
- 7] When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems, HE has faith in your abilities.
- 8] A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
- 9] When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them and when you are safe and happy, remember someone has prayed for you.
- 10] WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Sometimes life is so painful I wish I were dead. What does God say about his love for me and the value of my life?

- God never deserts you, even when you feel he has. *Psalm 38:21, 22*
- Even your time to die is controlled by God. *Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2, 11*
- God values your life incredibly and stands up for you! *Romans 8:31-39*
- Remember that earthly troubles don't last forever. *2Corinthians 4:17, 18*

How can I overcome my tendency to worry and instead gain confidence about the future?

- Learn to rely on God's promises. *Joshua 23:14-16*
- See God as your Saviour, not as a saboteur. *Psalm 91*
- Know what's been and watch for what's coming. *Micah 5:2-5*
- Trust God to give you strength. *Habakkuk 3:16-19*
- Do what you can in a single day. *Matthew 6:25-34*
- Turn your worries into conversation with God. *Philippians 4:4-9*

I struggle with an eating disorder. How can I accept my body the way God made it?

- Don't judge yourself by magazine covers. *Psalm 104*
- Look in your mirror—and praise God. *Psalm 139:13-16*
- Remember, beauty is more than skin deep. *Mark 14:3-9*
- Don't be controlled by circumstances. *Eat when you should. Acts 27:33-36*

When it comes to material things, how can I know what's enough and what's too much?

- Remember all your possessions belong to God. *Leviticus 25:8-28*
- Realize God gives you plenty so you can share with others. *Deuteronomy 24:19-22*
- Prayerfully consider what to buy and how to help others. *Amos 6:1-7*
- Keep things in their proper perspective. *Philippians 3:7-16*
- Focus your attention on God, instead of stuff. *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

How should I handle it when I feel rejected or excluded because of my faith?

- Face the lions—with God on your side. *Daniel 6*
- Be comforted by the fact that Jesus was also hated. *John 15:18-27*
- Stand firm. *Hebrews 10:32-39*
- Feel included—among the ranks of Christians. *1 Peter 4:12-19*
- Learn to endure. *Revelation 14:12, 13*

Second chance - True Story (from page 5)

Making Choices

Second chances aren't limited to the widowed or divorced. We all have second chances daily, with spouses, children, parents, and extended family—and yes, even bosses and colleagues. Lamentations 3:22-23 states that, "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (NIV).

Each morning is an opportunity to assess what I'd like to do differently or better from yesterday. Every day, I can confess where I fell short and start new, with another chance—because of God's faithfulness.

Will I sit on the couch responding to Facebook in the evening, or will I put aside my laptop and cuddle with my hubby while we watch TV together? Will I think about my list of todos or put on my walking shoes and take Don's hand while we walk and discuss our day?

Will I take a few moments to relax into the goose bumps I feel, letting Don know his touch is welcome when he sneaks up behind me and plants sweet kisses on my neck? Or will I pull away from his caress to finish whatever *important* chore I'm in the midst of doing? Will I consistently look for ways to affirm my husband, letting him know how much I love him and appreciate all he does for me and for others? And will I speak the truth in love when I suggest an idea or plan, or even a change?

No Regrets

Lee Iacocca once said, "No matter what you've done for yourself or for humanity, if you can't look back on having given love and attention to your own family, what have you really accomplished?"

I can make Don's life more difficult by repeatedly complaining about the little challenges in our life—or I can make it easier by praying for him and supporting him in making wise decisions.

Second chance - True Story (from page 16)

When we come to the Father before falling into a deep and renewing sleep, Don and I commit our day, our cares, and our families to God. Speaking to God together has deepened our love as we each hear the other's heart. I listen to Don's burdens and understand more clearly what he needs from me. And he does the same with me.

One bright Friday morning, Don was heading to Hospice to visit a terminally ill friend.

"Do you want me to go along?" I asked. "It's up to you, honey," Don responded. My inclination was to stay home, curled up on a couch with my laptop or a good book until Don returned home. I could set all that aside and spend time with my husband and our friend. I sensed that Don wanted me with him. I had a second chance—and a choice. I chose to spend that time with Don.

My God is historically a God of second chances. Rehab was given a second chance at life because she hid the Israelite spies. To the woman caught in adultery Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you Go now and leave your life of sin" (John 8:11, NIV). King David, doubting Thomas, the apostle Paul, all are examples of individuals to whom God gave a second chance.

I can wait for a tragedy to realign my priorities again, or I can consider now what I might regret if my mate were suddenly taken from me. Will I lament spending time with him, despite what *didn't* get done? No. God has planned this time for Don and me to share. I will ask the God of second chances to remind me to look into Don's vibrant blue eyes often and long. I don't want to look back at the end of our lives and wish I'd made different choices. I thank God for second chances. I will choose to live in such a way that, as much as possible, leads to no regrets.

-Carol Nicolet Loewen is an author who lives in California. Copyright ©2011 by the author of Christianity Today International/Kyria.com.

FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

The pioneers who settled the American West often had to travel for days at a time across miles and miles of grassy plains. And while pioneers considered mountain ranges difficult and treacherous to cross, they dreaded these vast plains even more. It wasn't hostile Indians, prairie wolves, rattlesnakes, or summer heat that caused their fear. It was lightning.

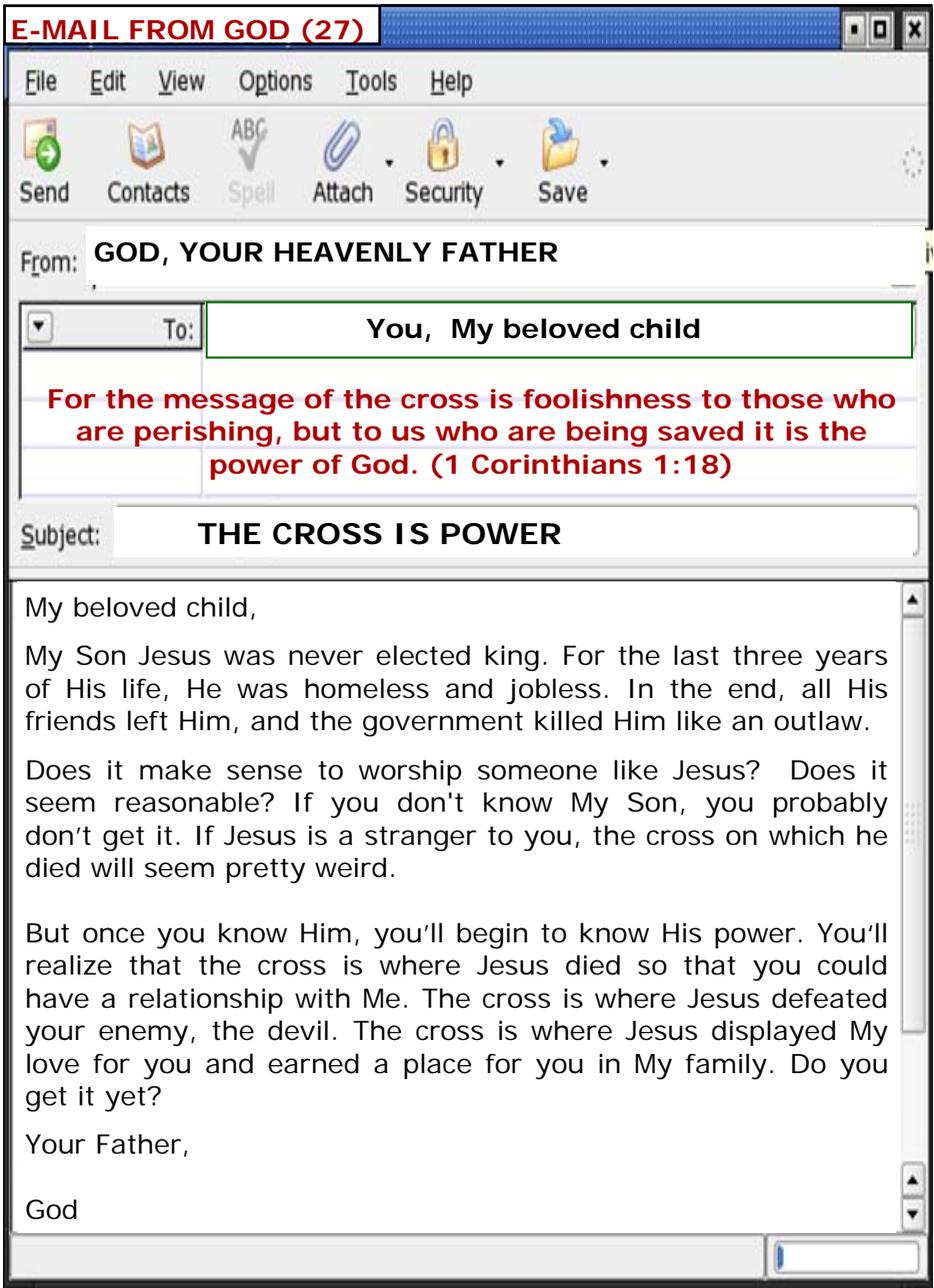
The high grass on the plains was often so dry that lightning could ignite a small fire that could then be whipped up by the winds and spread quickly across the land, engulfing everything and everyone in its path. Many died on their journeys across the plains simply because they were unable to outrun a raging prairie fire.

After many tragic journeys, the pioneers developed a method of finding refuge from these fires that is still used today. Whenever they saw smoke from a lightning fire in the distance, they would go downwind from their wagons and set the plains on fire. The wind would then push that fire and burn the grass downwind from them. Once the grass was burned, they would then move their horses and wagons across the scorched land. When the fire from the lightning did reach them, they were safe because there was no longer any grass to be burned.

The pioneers found safety by fighting fire with fire.

In a sense, Jesus fought fire with fire. He took the sins of the world upon himself and endured a cruel death so that we would not have to suffer the fires of hell. Jesus knew the only way for us to avoid death was for him to die. By taking our sins to the cross, he destroyed them "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12) and provided us with a safe place to stand. "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). Don't try to outrun the flames. You can't do it. You need to stand firm on the solid rock of faith in Jesus Christ.

HEAVENLY CORRESPONDENCE



Adapted from 'e-mail from God for Teens'-Clonigers

MOTTO/TEXT FOR THE YEAR

“I WANT TO KNOW CHRIST AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION...” (Philip. 3:10)

FINDING OUT ABOUT ...CHRIST CHURCH?

Tel/Fax: 020 8340 1566

We are a family of men and women, boys and girls who are resolved to live for God in a world that has largely chosen to ignore Him.

We believe that it is God's world and that He has given the answer to all human problems in Jesus Christ. As a body of believers, we offer to all who come, regular opportunities for worship and service that point the way to God as our strongest resources in all aspects of life.

We will be pleased to welcome you to any of our activities. You will find a warm welcome at Christ Church.

Times of worship and fellowship are shown below:

- Sunday**
- **8.00 am.** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
 - **10.30 am.** Main service with Crèche facilities
- There is family/parade service once every month - usually the third Sunday of the month unless otherwise indicated.
- **5.00 pm.** Evening worship

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday - Choir practice in church (**9.30 am**)
Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**9.30 am to 11.30 am**)
- Brownies meeting in church (**5.30 pm**)
- Prayer meetings in church - 2nd May, 16th May (**8 pm**)
Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (**6.30 pm for 7.15pm start**)
Friday - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (**2.00 pm**)
- Scouts meeting in church and hall (**6.30 pm**)
- Music Team practice in choir vestry (**6.00 pm**)

Enquiry/Counselling/Prayer Lifeline - please phone 020 8340 1566

- Saturday - Prayer Cell in church 7-8pm

Editorial Board: Sheila Wheeler, Iyabo Agbelusi, Dele Agbelusi

Voice Edition: Sheila Wheeler, Peter Green, Dele Agbelusi

Vicar: Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi

Church Wardens: Peter Green, Mervin Bentham, Charles Murphy

Lay Ministers: Richard Mercer, Iyabo Agbelusi

Organist: Pavla Bockova

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

**PLEASE WRITE TO THE EDITOR, CROSSLINKS,
THE VICARAGE, 32 CRESCENT ROAD, LONDON, N8 8AX
E-MAIL: christchurchN8@aol.com; www.christchurchn8.org.uk**