



**CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
LONDON N8 8AX  
CROSSLINKS**

**OCTOBER 2011    ISSUE 12.133**

**A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL**



**GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HIS BLESSING.**

## Vicar's five-minute reflection GRATITUDE IS TO BE EXPRESSED



I read about a story from *Youth Specialities*, of two old friends who bumped into one another on the street one day. One man looked very sad and discouraged, almost on the verge of tears. His friend asked, "What has the world done to you, my old friend?" The sad fellow said, "Three weeks ago, a rich uncle of mine died. To my surprise, he included me in his will. His lawyers sent me a cheque for \$40,000!" "That's terrific," said the friend. "That's a lot of money."

"Yes, but two weeks ago, they sent me another cheque—this time for \$100,000!" "Wow, that's incredible!" said the friend. "You've really been blessed!" "You don't understand," the man whined. "Last week I got another cheque in the mail that was larger than the first two. It was for a quarter of a million dollars!"

The friend was getting very confused. "You're right, I don't understand. Why then are you so unhappy? Why do you look so glum?" "Because this week I haven't received anything," came the reply.

Sometimes we are so blessed that we begin to think we're entitled to all the good things that come our way. Perhaps it's human nature. If you give a small child a gift, he'll treasure it. But if you give him two gifts, he might wonder why he didn't get a third.

What happens when you lose things you've come to expect? What happens when there's a power outage and you can't watch TV or operate your hair dryer? What happens when you get sick and can't do some of the things that you'd planned? If you're like most people, you probably become resentful and angry. You don't realize that the things you have are privileges, not rights. They are the blessings from God. None of us deserves the things we have. We live very comfortably while people all over the world suffer. We take for granted things that other people have never experienced.



Yet we still feel like we don't have enough. We want more. And we aren't very grateful for what we do have. That's why it's important for us to practise an attitude of gratitude. We need to take time every day to thank God for the blessings he gives us (Colossians 3:15). When you're thankful for what you have, you'll be able to live every day with joy—whether you get more or not!

If you cannot muster up any thanks for what you do have, muster up some thanks for what you don't have. There is always something to be thankful for. You say, "Thankful? I cannot even pay my bills." All right then... you can be thankful that you are not one of your creditors! You see... there is always something to be thankful for!

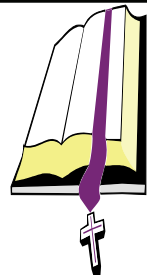
The commentator Matthew Henry, while reflecting on the fact that someone had stolen His wallet, prayed like this: 'First, Lord, let me be thankful that I had never been robbed before. Second that the thief did not take my life. Third, that because he took all I had possessed it was not much, and fourth, because it was he who robbed and not me.' There is never a time in anyone's life when there is nothing for which to be thankful. So, let me encourage you to think - and give thanks.

Gratitude is to be expressed. We are commanded to "give thanks." Now that is excellent advice because a grateful person will be a happier person; a grateful person will be a healthier person; a grateful person will be a holier person. But this is more than just good advice. It is a command. Gratitude is not an option, it is an obligation. It is a sin to be ungrateful.

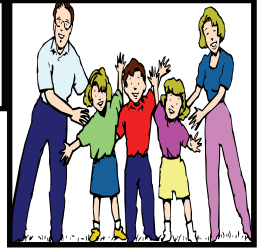
Dele Agbelusi

### Memory Verse

**They know God, but they do not give him the honour that belongs to him, nor do they thank him. Instead, their thoughts have become complete nonsense, and their empty minds are filled with darkness. (Romans 1:21)**



## **GOLDFISH WIFE**



A man had been dating a woman for several years, and she was wondering if they would ever marry. He told me he didn't know he could marry her because she didn't make him happy.

I asked him why not, which was a mistake. He explained all the reasons why she didn't make him happy.

Finally, I interrupted and asked, "What kind of wife would make you happy?" The more he described what he was looking for in a wife, the more convinced I became that what he really needed was a goldfish, the pretty kind with the long tail that floats around. A goldfish just looks pretty and doesn't ask you to communicate. It doesn't ask you how your day was or expect you to listen to how its day was. The last thing he needed was a wife, because his whole understanding of why the world existed was to meet his needs.

A wife or husband will not meet your needs, but neither will friends, the church, or even a fish. You have needs that are important and ought to be met. But for that, you will have to pray to God, who alone can be your Saviour when it comes to human need. Then you can be useful to the people around you.

M. Craig Barnes

### **Marriage Titbits**

A marriage is like a long trip in a tiny rowboat: if one passenger starts to rock the boat, the other has to steady it; otherwise they will go to the bottom together.

David Robert Reuben (1933-

A belligerent husband wised off to his wife by asking, "How can you be so pretty, yet so dumb?" She appropriately replied, "I'm pretty so that you will love me. I'm dumb so that I will love you."

Winning Walk, Ed Young

An ideal wife is any woman who has an ideal husband.

D.A.

## WHAT SHAMU TAUGHT ME ABOUT HAPPY MARRIAGE

After twelve years of marriage, journalist Amy Sutherland was still irked by some of her spouse's habits. It took some advice from animal trainers to help her. In a column in *The New York Times*, Sutherland wrote:

These minor annoyances are not the stuff of separation and divorce, but they began to dull my love for Scott. I wanted – needed – to nudge him a little closer to make him into a mate who might annoy me a little less, who wouldn't keep me waiting at restaurants, a mate who would be easier to love.

So, like many wives before me, I ignored advice books and set about improving him. My nagging only made his behaviour worse: he'd drive faster instead of slower; shave less frequently, not more; leave his reeking bike grab on the bedroom floor longer than ever.

A breakthrough came when Amy went to a school for exotic animal trainers in California to research a book. She wrote:

I listened, rapt, as professional trainers explained how they taught dolphins to flip and elephants to paint. Eventually it hit me that the same techniques might work on that stubborn but lovable species, the American husband.

The central lesson I learned is that I should reward behaviour I like and ignore behaviour I don't. After all, you don't get a sea lion to balance a ball on the end of its nose by nagging. The same goes for the American husband.

Back in Maine, I began thanking Scott if he threw one dirty shirt into the hamper. If he threw in two, I'd kiss him. Meanwhile, I would step over any soiled clothes on the floor without one sharp word, though I did sometimes kick them under the bed. But as he basked in my appreciation, the piles became smaller.

Amy Sutherland, *The New York Times* (June 25, 2006)

## ARE YOU A MEMBER OF CLUB 99?

Once upon a time, there lived a king who, despite his luxurious lifestyle, was neither happy nor content. One day, the King came to one of his servants who was singing happily while he worked.

This fascinated the king; why was he, the supreme ruler of the land, unhappy and gloomy, while a lowly servant had so much joy? The king asked the servant, "Why are you so happy?"

The Servant replied, "Your Majesty, I am nothing but a servant, but my family and I do not need too much - just a roof over our heads and warm food to fill our tummies." The King was not satisfied with that reply. Later in the day, he sought the advice of his most trusted Adviser.

After hearing the King's woes and the servant's story, the adviser said, "Your Majesty, I believe that the Servant has not been made part of the **Club 99**." "Club 99? And what exactly is that?" the King inquired. The adviser replied, "Your Majesty, to truly know what Club 99 is, place 99 gold coins in a bag and leave it at this servant's doorstep."

The king did as he was told. When the servant saw the bag, he took it into his house. When he opened the bag, he screamed for joy... so many gold coins! He began to count them. After several counts, he was at last convinced that there were 99 coins. He wondered, "What could've happened to that last gold coin?"

Surely, no one would leave 99 coins!" He looked everywhere he could, but that final coin was elusive. Finally, exhausted, he decided that he was going to have to work harder than ever to earn that gold coin and complete his collection.

## Are you a member of Club 99?

From that day, the Servant's life changed. He was overworked, horribly grumpy, and castigated his family for not helping him possess that 100th gold coin. He stopped singing while he worked. Witnessing this drastic transformation, the king was puzzled. When he sought his adviser's help, the adviser said, "Your Majesty, the servant has now officially joined Club 99." He continued, "Club 99 is a name given to those people who have enough to be happy but are never contented, because they're always yearning and striving for that extra "1" saying to themselves: **"Let me get that one final thing and then I will be happy for life."**

We can be happy, even with very little in our lives, but the minute we're given something bigger and better, we want even more! We lose our sleep, our happiness; we even hurt the people around us. All these at a price for our seemingly growing needs and desires.

The moral of this story:

Always be grateful and contented with what you have, for there in lies your happiness! inspiration and moral!

Thank God in all situations. There is someone out there whose situation is worse than yours. Those whom you envy may have unknown pains and burdens they are dealing with, but are still cheerful, so much so that you feel they are better off than you are. Just thank God whenever you wake up because where there is life, there is hope.

Dr. G.A Agbelusi (Lagos University)

**You can:  
Advance in your career...**

**Fall in love...Own a home, cars, and more...  
Build a family...**

**But NOTHING can make you feel whole  
like a relationship with God.**

## NOTICE BOARD

23rd Oct	<b>Date</b> <b>10:30am</b> <b>(HC)</b> Doubt Your Doubts Mark 9: 14 – 27	<b>6:00pm</b> Give us this day (Luke 11: 1 – 4)
30th Oct	<b>(HS)</b> Ask, Seek, Knock Matt. 7: 7 – 12 Isaiah 62: 1 - 12	<b>5:00pm</b> Deliver us from evil
6th Nov	<b>(HC)</b> Are You Watching? 1 Thess. 4:13-end Matt. 25: 1 - 13	Defend God's Message (Jude 1 - 4)
13th Nov	<b>(FS)</b> Does Your Talent Count? 1 Thess. 5: 1 - 11 Matt. 25: 14 -30	Remember God's Justice (Jude 5 - 16)

**Note: HC denotes Holy Communion (Common Worship);  
MP— Morning Prayer; FS, Family Service;  
HS— Healing and Anointing Service**

**There is Holy Communion Service every Sunday at 8am using  
the Book of Common Prayer**

### ISRAEL GRANTS RESIDENCY TO JERUSALEM'S ANGLICAN BISHOP

In a statement to his supporters, Bishop Dawani Suheil said: "It is with great pleasure, and with God's help, that I and my family have received our Residency Permits"... "I want to thank all of you, my friends and colleagues throughout the Anglican Episcopal Communion and the Worldwide Christian Community, for your continued support throughout this time..."

Bishop Suheil was denied the renewal of his Residency Permit by the government in August last year. Initially he had sought confidential support through religious and diplomatic channels...After many months of little success, Bishop Dawani resorted to the law and his legal advisor sent a letter to the Attorney General of Israel seeking an explanation of the allegations against him which had been the basis for the denial of the residency rights for himself and his family. What it was that finally resulted in him and his family being granted the Residency Permits has not been revealed.



## CHRISTIAN NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

### Speak out for Algerian Christians' right to believe

All Karim Siaghi did was give his neighbour a Christian **CD**. **Now this Algerian Christian has a five-year prison sentence hanging over him.**

Karim also received a fine of 200,000 Algerian dinars (approx. £1,700). Just days before the Governor of Béjaïa Province ordered all churches of the Protestant Church of Algeria in his area to close. These are the latest incidents seriously violating Algerian Christians' right to freedom of religion.

In recent years an Algerian law which regulates the religious activities of non-Muslims has been used to justify the detention of Christians and orders to close churches. Ordinance 06-03 prohibits any Christian activity from taking place outside of state-recognised church buildings, and bans evangelistic material and attempts to evangelise Muslims. Breaking the law can result in fines of up to one million dinars (£8,370) and a maximum of five years in prison.

**Algerian believers themselves have protested about Ordinance 06-03. Now they are asking you to add your voice to help reach a critical mass that the authorities cannot ignore.**

**Please write today to the Algerian Ambassador, Mr Mohammed Salah Dembri, expressing your concern about Karim's sentence and urging the Algerian authorities to rescind Ordinance 06-03.**

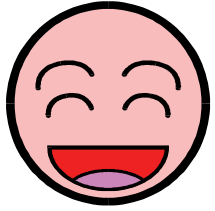
Thank you for using your voice to speak out for our Algerian brothers and sisters' right to believe. Please pray that through this campaign there will be greater freedom of religion for Algerian Christians.

Advocacy Manager  
Open Doors UK & Ireland

# LAUGHTER LINES

## SURPRISE PROPOSAL

Our daughter, Julie, met a young man, Mark, while they were working on a ranch in Colorado. After Julie came home, Mark decided to pursue the relationship and came to visit her.



Our pastor, while greeting visitors from the pulpit, welcomed the young man who was "Julie's future husband." Embarrassed, Julie leaned over and whispered, "I'm sorry, Mark."

Mark whispered back, "Why?" She replied, "Because, you've never asked me to marry you."

He said, "Will you?" She said, "Yes," and suddenly they were engaged.

They were married in that same church

Jean Johnson, Fremont, Mich. Christian Reader, "Rolling Down the Aisle."

## DELIVERIES IN THE REAR

My cousin, Bill, was excited and nervous about the birth of his first child. When the anticipated day arrived, the father-to-be drove his wife Betty quickly to the hospital, speeding past the admitting entrance.

"Bill, that's where we're supposed to go," Betty said.

"No, Honey," Bill said. "I saw a sign that said DELIVERIES IN THE REAR."

—Robin Greenspan, Chester, Massachusetts. Christian Reader "Lite Fare."

# LAUGHTER LINES

## DOGGED DETERMINATION

The Saturday wedding took place on a hot June day, so the front door to the church was open. The bride, who lived a few houses from the church, arrived not realizing she had been followed.

Her German Shepherd came in the door and walked to the front of the sanctuary, lying motionless at her feet during the ceremony.

After the benediction, the couple embraced. Immediately, the dog leaped up and grabbed the groom's trouser leg, ripping it with a snarling tug. The newlyweds wisely postponed the kiss as the three of them recessed down the aisle.

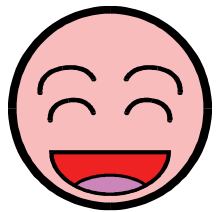
—Edward Vanderhey, Red Bank, N.J. Christian Reader "Rolling Down the Aisle."

## DIVINE CALLING

My family is close friends with another family who faithfully attends our church. Often we spend Sunday afternoons together relaxing at our house. Recently, when I phoned our friends, their 4-year-old daughter, Alicia, answered and politely asked who was calling. To tease her, I said kiddingly,

**"Alicia, you come to my house almost every Sunday and you don't know who I am?"** In a reverential voice, she replied breathlessly, "Jesus?"

—Stacy Penalva, Indianapolis, IN. Today's Christian Woman "Heart to Heart."



## **CELEBRITY PROFILE**

### **MEET PETER**

Peter is one of those great, larger than life individuals.

Prepared to leave his livelihood and follow Jesus without knowing where it would lead (Mark 1:16-18).

Spending time with Jesus and seeing him at work.

Ready to step out of the boat – only to find that he lacked the faith to proceed (Matthew 14:22-36)

Having a deep insight into the nature of Jesus as the Son of God, but completely misunderstanding what that meant and being rebuked (Matthew 16:13-20)

Refusing to have his feet washed and then demanding that all of him be washed (John 13:1-11)

Waving swords in the garden and then finding himself unable to speak for Jesus when challenged by a housemaid (John 18:10,11, 15-18,25-27)

He is a brash, impulsive, inconsistent, unreliable, perhaps insecure individual. But also determined, courageous, willing to try anything.

Desolated by his denial he went back to his fishing only to be met by Jesus on the beach to experience the gentle rebuilding and restoration (John 21:15-19)

His time with Jesus was life transforming. The scene on the beach was crucial but so was the filling with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. When he preached he did so with a new power and authority (Acts 2:1-41)

And yet the journey is still not over. He has to discover that the good news is for Gentiles too (Acts 10:1-48).

**In his hope and his failure, his trust and his doubt, we meet someone we can identify with. The way in which Jesus forgives and restores him reassures us. Seeing him empowered by the Spirit gives us hope.**

John Grayston

**Often when the storms of life are blowing, we suppose that Jesus has forsaken us. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Jesus is still in the boat!**

## **BIBLE TRANSLATOR**

### **WILLIAM TYNDALE STRANGLED AND BURNED**

How many Bibles do you have in your house? For most of us, Bibles are easily accessible, and many of us have several. That we have the Bible in English owes much to William Tyndale, sometimes called the Father of the English Bible. 90% of the King James Version of the Bible and 75% of the Revised Standard Version are from the translation of the Bible into English made by William Tyndale, yet Tyndale himself was burned at the stake for his work on October 6, 1536.



Back in the fourteenth century, John Wycliffe was the first to make (or at least oversee) an English translation of the Bible, but that was before the invention of the printing press and all copies had to be hand written. Besides, the church had banned the unauthorized translation of the Bible into English in 1408.

Over one hundred years later, however, William Tyndale had a burning desire to make the Bible available to even the common people in England. After studying at Oxford and Cambridge, he joined the household of Sir John Walsh at little Sudbury Manor as tutor to the Walsh children. Walsh was a generous lord of the manor and often entertained the local clergy at his table. Tyndale often added spice to the table conversation as he was confronted with the Biblical ignorance of the priests. At one point Tyndale told a priest, "If God spare my life, ere many years pass, I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the Scriptures than thou dost."

It was a nice dream, but how was Tyndale to accomplish this when translating the Bible into English was illegal? He went to London to ask Bishop Tunstall if he could be authorized to make an English translation of the Bible, but the bishop would not grant his approval.

However, Tyndale would not let the disapproval of men stop him from carrying out what seemed so obviously God's will. With encouragement and support of some British merchants, he decided to go to Europe to complete his translation, then have it printed and smuggled back into England. (continued on page 14)

## **Bible Translator**

### **William Tyndale - strangled and burned.**

In 1524 Tyndale sailed for Germany. In Hamburg he worked on the New Testament, and in Cologne he found a printer who would print the work. However, news of Tyndale's activity came to an opponent of the Reformation who had the press raided. Tyndale himself managed to escape with the pages already printed and made his way to the German city Worms where the New Testament was soon published. Six thousand copies were printed and smuggled into England. The bishops did everything they could to eradicate the Bibles -- Bishop Tunstall had copies ceremoniously burned at St. Paul's; the archbishop of Canterbury bought up copies to destroy them. Tyndale used the money to print improved editions!

King Henry VIII, then in the throes of his divorce with Queen Katherine, offered Tyndale a safe passage to England to serve as his writer and scholar. Tyndale refused, saying he would not return until the Bible could be legally translated into English. Tyndale continued hiding among the merchants in Antwerp and began translating the Old Testament while the King's agents searched all over England and Europe for him.



Tyndale was finally found by an Englishman who pretended to be his friend but then turned him over to the authorities. After a year and a half in prison, he was brought to trial for heresy -- for believing, among other things, in the forgiveness of sins and that the mercy offered in the gospel was enough for salvation. In August 1536, he was condemned; on October 6, 1536 he was strangled and his body burned at the stake. His last prayer was "Lord, open the King of England's eyes." The prayer was answered in part when three years later, in 1539, Henry VIII required every parish church in England to make a copy of the English Bible available to its parishioners.

# HEAVENLY CORRESPONDENCE

**E-MAIL FROM GOD (31)**

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From: **GOD, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

To: **You, My beloved child**

Subject: **CELEBRATE YOUR UNIQUENESS**

Dear Child of Mine,

There's no bigger waste of time than comparing yourself to others. Someone will always come out looking better than you look, and that will just make you feel jealous. Or someone else will come out looking worse, and that will make you feel prideful and superior. Believe Me, you don't need those bad attitudes. They will smother your joy like sand on a fire.

Listen, I made you who you are. You're priceless! I gave you wonderful gifts, and only you can fulfill My plan for you. Just as each snowflake is different, so each person is unique and precious to Me. And just as I created thousands of species of fish and flowers in every colour of the rainbow, so I created people of all different colours and races. I love variety! Celebrate who you are!

Your Unique Creator,

God

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

## MOTTO/TEXT FOR THE YEAR

**“I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH” *PHILIPPIANS 4:13***

### 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.
- **6.00 pm.** Evening worship

#### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE**

- 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 - 17th Oct., 7th and 21st Nov. (8 pm)
- Wednesday** - Fellowship Meal in church (6:30pm) followed by,  
Bible Fellowship (7.15pm)
- Thursday** - Homework Club (5pm-7pm)
- 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)
- Saturday** - Cell group prayer meeting in church. 7-8pm
- Enquiry/Counselling/Prayer Lifeline** - please phone 020 8340 1566
- Editorial Board:** Sheila Wheeler, Iyabo Agbelusi, Dele Agbelusi
- Vicar:** Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi
- Church Wardens:** Peter Green, Mervin Bentham, Charles Murphy
- Lay Ministers:** Richard Mercer, Iyabo Agbelusi
- Organist:** Position vacant

**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

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