



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

FEBRUARY 2012 ISSUE 12.137

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Vicar's ten - minute reflection **THIS IS MY SON, LISTEN TO HIM.**



Many of us have had them; those times when we felt like we were on top of the world, really happy, confident that we could solve any problem that came up. These were times when we felt that we were really close to God, really in tune with God's plan for us. The moment might have come at some exciting event in your life: graduation, baptism, your first kiss, your first day on your first job, your wedding, the birth of a child. It might have been something really spiritual, like a week at church camp or a church retreat. Or it might have been something of a smaller, quieter nature, like a very intimate conversation with your father or mother when you felt that they honestly understood what you were saying and why you felt the way you did. We call these "mountaintop experiences," and how we hate to come down off that mountain! We want to hang on to that moment for as long as we can. "Let's just stay right here and let the rest of the world go by for a while," we say. But to freeze that one moment in time, shuts off the possibility of the next moment.

It had been a very busy week for Jesus and his disciples. The disciples witnessed their Master feed a multitude of people with just a few loaves and fishes. They then saw him give vision to a man who was, for all practical purposes, blind. Then he revealed to them his mission as the Messiah and predicted his death and resurrection, and swore them to secrecy. Then, says Mark, "After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone."

There they stood on the mountain when suddenly Jesus was "transfigured" right before their eyes. We don't know exactly what that means, but according to the Gospels, Jesus' "clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus."

God could not have sent better representatives to talk with Jesus. They were the experienced veterans who could talk about what they had encountered. And talk they did. Mark records simply that they "were talking with Jesus." (continued next page)



The evangelist Luke is the one who tells us that they talked about "his departure which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem" (Luke 9:31). They were preparing Jesus for what he still had to face.

So, we have here on the Mount of transfiguration Jesus in the presence of the prophet Elijah and Moses the law-giver, central figures in the Old Testament. We cannot ignore our roots. Our faith is built on the entire biblical narrative. The centre of our faith, however, is Jesus. Notice how this transfiguration story ends. After Elijah's and Moses' dramatic appearance, says Mark, just as mysteriously, "a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!' Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus." That's significant. Moses and Elijah had been with them, but now, "they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus."

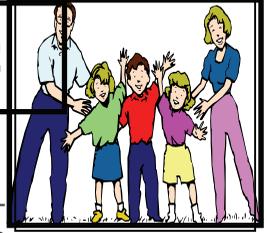
We treasure the scriptures, both Old Testament and New. But the centre of our faith is Jesus. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. If you come to a passage in scripture that you do not understand, look at it again from your knowledge of Jesus. Does the passage reflect the love and compassion of Christ? If not, then it is probably one that Jesus would say to us, "You have heard it said . . . , but I say to you . . ." Christ is the perfect revelation of the Creator. As the voice said to the three disciples on the Mount of transfiguration: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" That is the good news for the day: Listen to Christ!

Whether the disciples got the point or not, I do not know. Mark tells us that their main reaction was fear. They did not know what to say. Peter (naturally it would be Peter) thought they should say something. "Master," he said, "it is well that we are here."

We have had our own mountain top experiences of glory. We know something of what Peter experienced. When Peter saw Jesus in His glory he must have said to himself: "All right! This is how it should be! Forget this business about suffering, being rejected, and crucified! Let's build some shelters so we can live this way with the glorified Jesus all the time." The last words we had heard from Peter were words of rebuke. He rebuked Jesus for his announcement that he must suffer and die. Peter did not want anything to do with that. Peter did not want anything to do with the cross.

(continued on page 6)

FLIP SIDES - TRUE EXPERIENCE



I'm learning to appreciate my husband's most annoying traits.

When my husband, Pete, and I were first dating, we laughed when we discovered each other's favourite Winnie the Pooh characters. Mine is Eeyore: the sweet, sensitive donkey, quietly munching on thistles and bemoaning the loss of his tail—again. Pete's is Tigger: the scene-stealing, eternally bouncy, silly orange tiger. Clearly we'd chosen each other wisely. As with all analogies, this one's not precise. Pete doesn't mope around saying, "Woe is me." He's just the guy in the corner, keeping his thoughts to himself, watching the world with his big, soulful eyes. And I don't bounce into every room singing (unless I've had an extra cup of coffee). But I am goofy, and I feel things deeply, and I let the world know about them. Rather loudly.

I adore Pete's Eeyore-ness. It settles my heart, much like a warm cup of cocoa at the end of a cold, windy day. And apparently he's fond of my Tiggerish traits. Either that, or I heard him wrong when I thought he proposed, and he was too polite to correct me. I wouldn't put it past him. But here's the tricky part: when we were dating, and through the first few years of our marriage, I relished his quietness, his ability to let things slide without pitching a fit, his careful decision-making. So why do I now complain about his "silence," his "lack of assertiveness," and his "foot-dragging"? It seems to me that every trait has a flip side... Pete's gentleness is inseparable from his hesitation to make waves. I can't have one without the other.

When I first started this article, I sent Pete an e-mail at work and asked him to tell me the flip sides of my Tigger traits. In my email, I explained the concept, told him not to be scared of telling me the truth... and signed off with "Thanks—and hurry if you can." I didn't expect him to come up with much—can you imagine Eeyore telling Tigger to pipe down? Pete's eventual response: "All I can think of right now is impatience."

Shall I remind you how I closed my original email? Hurry. There was no way for me to deny the obvious, so I laughed. Then I followed the laugh with a few moments of deep sadness,

(continued next page)

Flip sides- True Experience

since impatience truly is the worst thing about me, leading to impulsive (stupid) decisions as well as temper tantrums that hurt the people I love.

Before I started thinking about this concept of flip sides, I might have been angry that he had come up with only one thing. I had asked him for examples. Plural. But Pete is Pete. He's not going to write out a comprehensive list, sorted from most annoying to least. Of course, it could be that I have only one annoying trait. Maybe. Okay, no.

The reason Pete struggled to come up with even one example (and an obvious one at that) is because he doesn't have as many annoyance nerve endings as I do, and even when one is triggered, his immediate reaction is not to yelp in protest. Thank goodness, or there'd be a whole lot of yelping around here. My high-speed, intense way of life can morph quickly from exciting to overwhelming for a sweet Eeyore like Pete. My impatience, as I mentioned, leads to ridiculous temper tantrums—I blurt out horrible, cutting remarks, sending Eeyore to huddle in his little twig house. And I worry that my silliness overshadows Pete, robbing our friends and family of getting to see and know and enjoy him for who he really is.

So has this concept of flip sides taught me to never be put out with my Eeyore again? Let's remember: I'm the Tigger in this scenario. Tigger never learns any lesson for long. But I have managed to pause every now and then... and consider the situation. If something that Pete is doing (or not doing) has me frustrated, I handle things much better when I stop to consider the flip side. Is he hesitant to raise a hand to get the waiter's attention after we've been ignored for half an hour? If he were to snap and wave, he wouldn't be the man I married. The man I married is more concerned with giving people room to blunder than he is with getting his way. Is he taking so long to decide on a paint colour that I'm afraid our favourites will be discontinued and we'll have to start over? First of all, it's just paint colour, so Tigger needs to chill. But truly, I love that Pete is careful and resists impulse buys. We've been burned by my own impulse buys so often that I'm practically on a first-name basis with the return-desk clerks at the mall.

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This is My Son, listen to Him

(continued from page 3)

But the glory, Ah, that was different. Peter loved the glory. Peter got a glimpse of God's glory. He wanted it to last forever. We often get into trouble when we speak like Peter did, not knowing what to say. We also see that Peter spoke out of fear (for they were greatly afraid). But "Peter was openhearted, bold, and enthusiastic. To my mind, there is something very lovable about Peter; and, in my opinion, we need more Peters in the church of the present day. Though they are rash and impulsive, yet there is fire in them, and there is steam in them, so that they keep us going." (Spurgeon)

What Peter said was so foolish because he put Jesus on an equal level with Elijah and Moses - one shelter for each! But Jesus isn't just another Moses or Elijah, or even a greater Moses or Elijah. Jesus is the Son of God. This is My Son whom I love. Listen to Him. The voice from the cloud of glory makes it clear that Jesus is not on the same level as Elijah and Moses. He is the beloved Son - so listen to Him! "Whatever He tells you to do, do it." It is from such obedience that God is pleased and His power shown.

"There are thousands of ministers in the world who say, 'Hear us'; but the Father says 'Hear him.' Many voices clamour for our attention: new philosophies, modern theologies, and old heresies revived, all call to us and entreat us to hearken, but the Father says, 'Hear him.'" (Spurgeon)

The disciples wished to detain Moses and Elijah that they might hear them: but God shows that the law which had been in force, and the prophets who had prophesied, until now, must all give way to Jesus; and he alone must now be attended to, as the way, the truth, and the life. We must not forget that it is the same Jesus who led the disciples to the mountain where they saw a glimpse of His glory. The experience must not loom larger than Jesus himself.

We could bask in the glory of this victory forever. However, just as Jesus would not allow Peter, James and John to build shelters on the mountain of transfiguration, neither will he let us dwell in the glory at this time. (concluded on page 7)

This is My Son, listen to Him

(continued from page 6)

"Come with me down from the mountain," Jesus says to us. "Deny yourself. Take up your cross and follow me. Let the moments of glory be your inspiration for years of service in this world. Life in this world is not lived on the mountaintop. Life in this world is lived mostly on the plains and in the valleys. You can make this world a better place to live as Jesus becomes King in people's lives. Your neighbour's life can be lifted from despair. You can make it so. The light of my victory over the principalities and powers of evil and death can shine upon lives caught in their darkness. You can make it so."

We must take notice of what is added to God's words that were not present at Jesus' baptism. God adds an exhortation: "Listen to him!" If we miss the significance of the exhortation, we will misunderstand the Transfiguration. The experience of the disciples is revelatory about Jesus but more importantly it is prescriptive for their lives. The defining moment of the Transfiguration is found in God's call to obedience. The true meaning of Jesus is to move beyond recognizing his identity and to realign our lives around his words and life. Every experience that we have with God is a reminder of the necessity of a moment-by-moment walk with Jesus as we follow him into the world on mission. Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

**Then a cloud appeared and covered them,
and a voice came from the cloud: "This is
my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"**



Mark 9:7

Continued from page 5 - **Flip sides**

When I stop bouncing, take a breath, and consider the flip side, I realize that if I were to rid myself of whichever trait of Pete's is frustrating me, I'd lose a part of him that I adore. It's much easier to accept every bit of him in the first place. To slow down, let Eeyore go at his own careful pace, and be glad there's something about Tigger that makes him smile.

Mandy Houk

FEBRUARY AND MARCH SERVICES

Date 10:30AM

5th FEB **(MP)** I must preach
Mark 1: 29-39

12th FEB. **(HC)** He is the LORD, GOD
Col. 1:13-20; John 1:1-14

19th FEB **(FS)** This is my Son
Mark 9: 2-9

22nd FEB.

26th FEB **(HC)** Tempted Yet Undefined
1Peter 4:12-20; Luke 4: 1-13

4th MAR **(MP)** Self Denial
Mark 8: 31-38

11th MAR **(HC)** In My Father's House?
1 Cor. 1:18-25; John2: 13-22

18th MAR **(FS)** The Travails of Motherhood? **NO EVENING SERVICE**
(MOTHERING SUNDAY)
Luke 2: 33 - 35, John 19: 25-27

5:00PM

An eye for an eye? No.
(Matthew 5: 38-42)

Love your enemies
(Matthew 5:43-48)

Giving- God's Way
(Matt. 6:1-4)

Ash Wednesday
(HC) 7:15pm

When You Pray
(Matt. 6:5-8)

When You Fast
(Matt. 6:16-24)

Why Worry?
(Matt. 6:25-34)

**Note: (HC) - indicates Holy Communion (Common Worship);
(MP) - Morning Prayer; (FS) - Family Service;
There is Holy Communion Service every Sunday at 8am
using the Book of Common Prayer.**

CHRIST CHURCH IS 150 IN 2012

Christ Church Crouch End will be celebrating its 150 years Anniversary in 2012? We have got a variety of activities that are being lined up for the celebrations. The climax is the Holy Communion Service on September 16 at which the Bishop of London will preside. Watch this space for more information.

NEWS AROUND THE UK

THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Imagine attending a service which was taking place simultaneously not just throughout the country but all over the world. Same hymns. Same prayers. Same Bible readings. And in churches of every kind of Christian denomination.

Every year this remarkable service takes place on the first Friday of March. The whole thing is organised and run by women (though men are very welcome to attend), and is called the Women's World Day of Prayer. It was started in the United States, and has been taking place in England for 79 years.

In the Hornsey area the service this year will take place at Middle Lane Methodist Church on Friday the 2nd March, at 11am. It has been written by the women of Malaysia, and the theme is, 'Let Justice Prevail'. It includes lots of tuneful songs, readings and prayers. You are invited to stay for a light lunch after the service, and a chance to meet people from other churches in Hornsey. Remember, these enjoyable and inspirational services are attended by both men and women. Come and be part of an act of worship that will be taking place all over the globe.

Sheila Wheeler

LET US PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo, international director of U.K.-based Barnabas Fund, said at a lecture hosted by Family Research Council that the "Arab Spring" is a good example of how the United States and other nations are enabling the spread of Islamism, especially in Libya and Egypt. In Libya, he said, the support given by NATO and the U.S. to the rebel group, known as the NTC, is a matter of concern.

"We had to support the NTC, which was the rebel group," said Sookhdeo, who added that "they were a coalition of groups that included al-Qaida." "We have removed one dictator and replaced that dictator with a political ideology rooted in a religion that wants our destruction..." Sookhdeo, a former Muslim now heads a Christian persecution watchdog group.

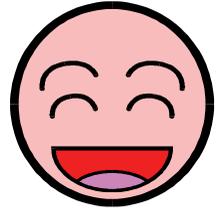
LAUGHTER LINES

DON'T CHEW GUM IN SINGAPORE

Don't get yourself in a sticky situation in Singapore where chewing gum is prohibited. The law was introduced because it became difficult and expensive to remove stuck chewing gum from public spaces.

The sticky stuff even stopped the Mass Rapid

Transit trains from moving when it was stuck on the doors.



DON'T FLUSH THE TOILET AFTER 10PM IN SWITZERLAND

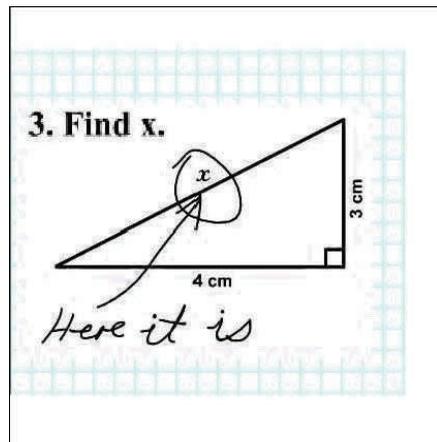
If you're staying with friends or family in Switzerland and they live in an apartment, you may want to think again before having a drink before going to bed as it's still illegal to flush the toilet after 10pm in most apartment houses. We like how polite the Swiss are that they don't want to wake the neighbours with their toilets roaring in the late hours, but what about the unpleasant build-up in the toilet bowl?

<http://travel.aol.co.uk/2012/01/03/weird-laws-around-the-world>



"The board wants to know if this is coming off your conference time or your vacation."

**BUSINESS IS
BUSINESS**



**MATHEMATICS FOR
BEGINNERS**

LAUGHTER LINES

GIVING FROM THE PIGGY BANK

In our town's elementary school at the beginning of the year, the school secretary routinely collects the lunch money from the new kindergartners. This solves the problem of lost money. But for nervous 5-year-olds, it took a few days to understand what was happening.

For two days, the secretary would come into the room and ask in a loud voice, "Does anybody have any lunch money for me?" Her question was met with no response.

On the third day, one little boy came in at the bell, walked hesitantly to the teacher's desk, held out his hand and whispered, "Here is lunch money from my piggy bank for the poor lady nobody gives money to."

—June Spivey, *Christian Reader*, Vol. 34.

WIRED FOR SOUND

Back in the days before many churches had wireless microphones, a preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mic, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mic cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

GREAT MAN - ATHANASIUS

When you open a Bible, you see at once that it is made up of many shorter books. Do you ever wonder how people decided which books should be included in the Bible?

It was important for Christians to know what was true scripture. For one thing, they needed to know what teachings they should follow. For another, they needed to know what writings they should protect if they had to, because they didn't want to be tortured or killed trying to save a book that wasn't God's word.

About a hundred and thirty years after Christ's resurrection, bishops began making lists of the writings that they regarded as Scripture. Their lists were usually close to each other but did not always agree exactly.



At the beginning of the year 367, Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria sat down to write an Easter letter to his church. He wrote these "festal" letters every year to put his people into the right frame of mind for celebrating Easter. That year, he saw that his people were being fooled by books that claimed to be Scripture but weren't. For instance, they might wonder if the *Epistle of Barnabas* was to be obeyed. Or they might fall for *The Gospel of Peter* by the Gnostics, a group who claimed secret knowledge of God. Peter's name was given to the work to give it credibility although he had nothing to do with writing it.

Athanasius realized that the best defence against error was a clear understanding of scripture... but which writings were actually scripture? In his festal letter, written on January 7, 367, he wrote, "Inasmuch as some have taken in hand to draw up for themselves an arrangement of the so-called apocryphal books and to interperse them with the divinely inspired Scripture...it has seemed good to me...to set forth in order the books which are included in the Canon and have been delivered to us with accreditation that they are divine." (to be concluded in March Issue)

QUESTIONS RELATING TO FASTING

Despite the Bible's clear teachings on fasting, it can often be the subject of much misunderstanding and bad practice, which can put people off from trying this important spiritual discipline. We'd like to encourage you to give it a go – but if you've never done it before, or have your own questions about fasting, read on for more information.

How to fast

Know what fasting is about

Fasting is giving up certain things in order to give more time and spiritual energy to God and prayer (1 Corinth. 9:24-27).

Fasting is:

- **Biblical** – both the Old and New Testaments mention it, Jesus did it and taught about how to do it (Matthew 6:16-18) and the early church included it as part of their normal spiritual life.
- **Active** – it is a demonstration of our priorities to God, that we love him before other things and want to be closer to him (Joel 2:15-17).
- **Serious** – it indicates how much we care about God, his way in the world and the things that we are praying about (Isaiah 58:5).

Fasting Is NOT:

- A mark of spiritual superiority (Luke 18:12).
- An attempt to persuade a reluctant God to fulfil our desires – prayer is about relationship with God rather than getting our way (Ezra 8:22,23; 2 Chronicles 20:3).
- A diet plan!

Prepare yourself

- *Pray beforehand* – come to the day in a right frame of mind, and deal with any sin or broken relationships by bringing them to God or making them right.
- *Read up* – check out some of the Scriptures listed here; ask God to speak and expect to hear him reply. Remember what your fast is about at all times.
- *Clear distractions* – they might keep your mind off the fast but make sure you're able to focus on the reason for doing it in the first place!

Be practical

Choose your approach: (continued on page 14)

Questions relating to fasting

- A total fast – no food or drink. Only recommended for short periods, good reasons, by those in good health and with some experience.
- A partial fast – it may be for a limited period, or only refrain from certain types of food.
- A good 'first time fast' could be a 12-hour fast from food; from sunrise to sundown or just going without lunch.

Tips and advice:

Keep your fluid intake up – water or fruit juice is ideal.

- If you drink a lot of tea or coffee, remember that caffeine is addictive and can cause unhelpful withdrawal symptoms!
- If you have any health concerns or conditions, please seek medical advice before fasting.

Further reading:

Bible verses on fasting, as associated with:

- **Repentance:** Joel 2:12–15; Jonah 3:4; 1 Samuel 7:6; Nehemiah 1:4–11; 9:1.
- **Intercession,** especially in times of special need: Judges 20:24; 2 Chronicles 20:3; Ezra 8:21–23; Esther 4:16; Joel 1:14; 2 Samuel 12:16; Acts 13:3; 14:23.
- **Finding God's will:** Judges 20:24; 2 Chronicles 20:3; Matthew 4:1–10; Acts 14:23.
- **Maintaining a close relationship with God:** Luke 2:37; Acts 13:2.

THOUGHTS ON FASTING

- Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God. Andrew Murray
- Why are you fasting? Is it for spiritual renewal, for guidance... etc. Ask the Holy Spirit to clarify His leading and objectives for your prayer fast. He will enable you to pray more specifically and strategically. Remember, through fasting and prayer we humble ourselves before God so that the Holy Spirit will stir our souls and awaken our churches

HEAVENLY CORRESPONDENCE

E-MAIL FROM GOD (35)

File Edit View Options Tools Help

Send Contacts Spell Attach Security Save

From: **GOD, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

To: **You, My beloved child**

*Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.
Psalm 63: 7*

Subject: **YOU ARE MY ADVERTISEMENT**

My Child,

If I have done anything good for you, I want you to tell others about it. Don't keep it to yourself.

Maybe I answered a prayer, or maybe I protected you when you needed Me. If I've been good to you in any way, and you know it, then write a song or a poem about Me. Or just tell someone about Me. I want everyone to know how great I am and how much I love him or her. You're just the one to tell that person about Me.

Seeing a commercial for a new movie is not nearly as good as hearing your friend tell about it. You are My advertisement. Tell people about Me. Then they'll want to see for themselves. Share what I've done for you.

Your heavenly Father,

God

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

MOTTO/TEXT FOR THE YEAR

“...I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.

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 resource 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

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) - On recess
- Brownies meeting in church (5.30 pm)
- Prayer meetings in church - 6th, 20th Feb. and 5th March. (8 pm)
- Wednesday** - Fellowship Meal in church (6:30 pm) followed by,
Bible Fellowship (7.15 pm)
- Thursday** - Homework Club (5 pm-7 pm)
- Friday** - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (2.00 pm) - On recess
- 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 (7-8 pm)

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

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YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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