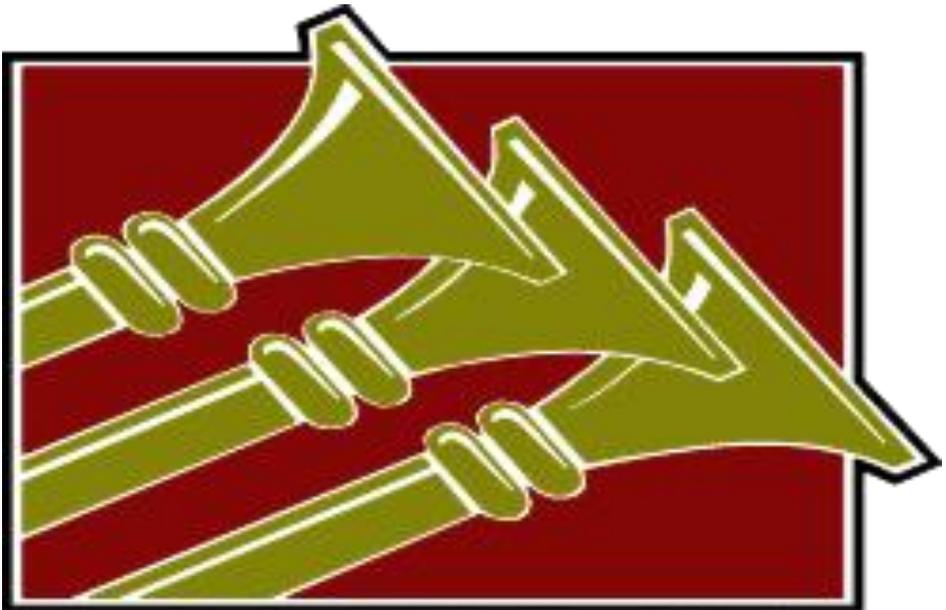




**CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
LONDON N8 8AX  
CROSSLINKS**

**MARCH 2013    ISSUE 13.145**

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



**ALLELUIA**

**Because Jesus lives,  
I can face tomorrow.**

**JESUS DIED IN YOUR PLACE**

## Vicar's ten - minute reflection JESUS DIED IN MY PLACE



The doctrine of atonement is under attack today across the world. But that is nothing new. St. Paul noted that even in the First Century, the preaching of the Cross was regarded as foolishness to many.

Today most Muslims around the world respect the person of Jesus, but they reject the cross of Christ and regard atonement as ridiculous. In 1900 German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, regarded the concept of God on a cross as preposterous. He said, "I can accept Jesus as a martyr, but his suffering meant nothing more than that." Even in the last few years, numerous theologians and some clergy/ministers have rejected atonement; one minister referred to it as "divine child abuse." A professor at Union Seminary in New York declared, "We don't need to hear about somebody hanging on a cross, and blood dripping, and all that stuff." And when she made that statement, the interdenominational audience exploded into applause.

**Thanks be to God,  
our beliefs are not  
dictated by truth-  
denying professors  
and apostate  
ministers.**

Thanks be to God, our beliefs are not dictated by truth-denying professors and apostate ministers. Our beliefs are anchored in God's holy word. Listen to what the Bible says about the cross and atonement. Listen to what John the Baptist said about Jesus: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." In First John we read, "Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." St. Paul said it this way to the Corinthians: "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for

us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." God hates our sin as a parent hates the malignant tumour that threatens her child's life.

**"God made Him  
who had no sin to  
be sin for us, so  
that in Him we  
might become the  
righteousness of  
God."**

Because God is just and holy and altogether righteous, He could not ignore sin. Sin is a direct challenge to everything God represents.

In this world God built on righteous foundations, sin cannot be forgiven and set aside unless somebody pays for it.



Only God was great enough and good enough to make atonement for the sins of the whole world. So God came to planet Earth as a man named Jesus. He became the scapegoat for the sins of the world. He suffered and took my place on the cross. He took your place on the cross. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3: 16)

Let's try out a metaphor for atonement. In his book, "On Christian Truth," Harry Blamires suggests that we think of the human race as the passengers aboard a hi-jacked jetliner flying through time. God himself directed its takeoff from the divine control tower. Somehow the Devil managed to get a boarding pass. When the plane reached cruising altitude, the Devil produced his weapons, threatened the pilot, and took control of the aircraft. Thus the plane hopped on fearfully through history from airport to airport until it was caught on the tarmac at Jerusalem, an outpost of the Roman Empire, during the reign of Tiberius Caesar. There the Son of God offered himself as the sole hostage in exchange for the passengers and crew. That is the truth of atonement.

**Jesus took the place of Barabbas on Calvary's cross. He took my place, and He took your place,**

The heart of the Christian faith is the declaration that the Son of God died in our place. Jesus took the place of Barabbas on Calvary's cross. He took my place, and He took your place, too. Have you received the gift of atonement offered by Jesus for your sins? If yes, thank God. If not, do not hesitate to write to me. I am waiting to share this great good news with you.

Dele Agbelusi

### Memory Verse

**We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

**Isaiah 53:6**



## A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS



I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life. There are many things a child does not remember. He rarely remembers every scraped knee, every reprimand, every home-cooked meal. What a child hardly forgets are character traits of a parent and the way they manifested themselves in a pattern of consistency.

If mothers make prayer a daily habit—and let their children overhear their prayers for them on a daily basis, the children may not remember each and every prayer...but they will remember you as a praying person! And that example will never depart from him.

It was Billy Graham who once said to mothers 'Let your home be your parish, your little brood your congregation, your living room a sanctuary, and your knee a sacred altar.'

**Every mother is like Moses. She does not enter the Promised Land .**

**She prepares a world she will not see.**

Every mother is like Moses. She does not enter the Promised Land . She prepares a world she will not see. The mother builds the self esteem of the child . She is there to lift you up when you are down. She is there to laugh with you when you are happy. And at those critical moments when you are taking your first steps, she is there to assist you. A famous painter said this of his mother: "My mother said to me, 'if you become a soldier you'll be a general; if you become a monk you'll end up as the pope.' Instead, I became a painter and wound up as Picasso." Talk more to your child about his potential than his track record. He has more potential than history!

Dele Agbelusi

## QUOTE

**The commonest fallacy among women is that simply having children makes one a mother—which is as absurd as believing that having a piano makes one a musician.**

Sydney J. Harris (1917-1986)

## **WHEN EASTER BECAME REAL FOR MARY**

Reading through Mark 16 , Easter did not become real for Mary until it became personal, until the Risen Christ called her by name. When the risen Lord said, "Mary", it became a personal experience for her. It became real, genuine, powerful, authentic, life-changing, and at that moment, Mary was resurrected too! She got a new life !

Mary Magdalene had come early to the tomb. The stone which had been covering the opening to the grave had been rolled away. She looked inside. She was startled to see that Christ's body was gone. She thought someone had broken into the grave and stolen the body. She was crushed, heart-broken, devastated.

She had come to the tomb that Easter morning looking for a dead body and found instead a Risen Lord. And with that discovery, Mary was resurrected, too! No more weeping and wailing, no more heavy sighing, no more tears of sorrow. He sent her running and shouting the good news: "I have seen the Lord! I have seen the Lord! He is Risen". She had passed from the Good Friday experience to Easter.

Indeed, none of us has any right to celebrate or share in the victory of Easter Day who has not been through a Good Friday experience in which sin is seen as very grievous in God's sight and thus we are compelled to throw ourselves upon the mercy of Christ, saying: "Nothing in my hand, I bring . Simply to thy Cross I cling."

Sometimes the "Good Fridays" of the world do indeed make us shake our heads and mutter: "The nailing to the cross. The pains, trial and rejection of the mob and the death on the cross. What a pity. What a shame." And all these done for me?

But then along comes Easter to remind us that: There is no grave deep enough. No seal imposing enough. No stone heavy enough. No evil strong enough to keep Christ in the grave.

### **QUOTE**

**"The worst moment for an atheist is when he or she feels thankful but has no one to thank!"** Anon.

## When Easter became real for Mary

Continued from page 5

He has won! Goodness has triumphed! Truth has won! Love has won! And, through faith in Christ, the victory can be ours as well.

If that doesn't encourage you, I don't know what will. That's the joy of Easter and that's the encouragement of Easter.

The resurrection was a star which shone brightly in the darkness evoked by the crucifixion. The grave could not hold Jesus. He arose, and the resurrection brings great results to all who believe. The truth, the forgiveness, the resurrection, the peace, the power, and the task which Jesus gives us is no small offer. Accept these today. Live as someone who believes that Jesus is alive.

D.A.

### DIFFICULT PASSAGES OF THE BIBLE

Peter the apostle was modest enough to admit that some passages in Scripture could be hard to understand. He said ... there "are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest ... into their own destruction" (2 Peter 3: 16).

But before taking up those specific difficulties and seeming "contradictions" that have caused the most trouble to seekers of truth, let us first consider how difficulties in general should be dealt with.

First of all, be honest to acknowledge the particular passage is difficult. Do not try to dodge or obscure it. Admit it frankly to whoever mentions it. If you cannot give a good, honest explanation, do not attempt any at all. Untold harm has been done by those who in their zeal for the infallibility of the Bible have attempted explanations of difficult passages that do not commend themselves to the honest fair-minded man. And the Bible instead of being helped has been injured by the unintelligent zeal of "foolish friends."

continued on page 7

## THE GREAT DECISION - A TRUE STORY

There is a true story of a little boy whose sister needed a blood transfusion. The doctor explained that she had the same disease the boy had recovered from two years earlier. Her only chance of recovery was a transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the disease. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was an ideal donor.

"Would you give your blood to Mary? The doctor asked. Johnny hesitated. His lower lip started to tremble. Then he smiled and said. "Sure, for my sister." Soon the two children were wheeled into the hospital room. Mary, pale and thin. Johnny, robust and healthy. Neither spoke, but when their eyes met, Johnny grinned. As the nurse inserted the needle into his arm, Johnny's smile faded. He watched the blood flow through the tube. With the ordeal almost over, Johnny's voice, slightly shaky, broke the silence.

Doctor, when do I die?...He thought giving his blood to his sister would mean giving up his life.

"Doctor, when do I die?" Only then did the doctor realize why Johnny had hesitated, why his lip had trembled when he agreed to donate his blood. He thought giving his blood to his sister would mean giving up his life. In that brief moment, he had made his great decision.

Adapted from 'Close to His Majesty'  
by David C. Needham

### DIFFICULT PASSAGES OF THE BIBLE (from page 6)

Secondly, let us approach the Scripture with humility. Recognise the limitations of your own mind and knowledge, and do not for a moment imagine that there is no solution just because you have not found one.

Thirdly, approach the Scripture with patience. Do not be discouraged because you do not solve every problem in a day.

Continued on page 10

## FROM PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER

It was not everyone who was happy about Jesus coming into Jerusalem. There were some of the people who called themselves the leaders of the Jews, who thought Jesus was dangerous and working against them. They wanted Jesus to go away and be silent. If Jesus would become king like the people wanted, then they knew that they could no longer be the leaders.

But the people kept shouting and waving their banners. Everywhere you went you could hear things being said like "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord." Those were dangerous and frightening words, to the people who disliked Jesus. These men told Jesus to tell his disciples to be quiet. But they would not be quiet. The disciples had waited a long time for a day like this and they loved it!

People were putting palm branches in his path, some were even putting their own robes down. "Oh, what a great day this is for Israel!" "The Romans will be crushed; we will be free once more." "Hosanna, Jesus is the King." But it is not to be, at least, not according to the crowd's expectations.

As Jesus began to speak, the people were utterly disappointed: "The kingdom that is coming is the kingdom of God."

"Oh, no, not that kingdom of God business again. Tell us where we sign up for your great army, I'm ready to fight!" "Can't you see that's what we want?" But Jesus would not be deterred on his way to Calvary.

"He's a phony; he's not a general!" "All our dreams, our hopes, our prayers - ruined!" "Get rid of this charlatan - we don't need a talk about kingdoms, we need action!" "Send him away. Lock him up!" "Yeah, give us Barabbas, at least he's honest - he steals our money; this one steals our dreams!"

And the choice is made. Crosses erected and the punishment executed with typical Roman precision. And there he hangs - "The King of the Jews" - to be mocked, to be scorned, to die. That scene is replayed over and over again - rejection, disappointment, crucifixion.

## From Palm Sunday to Easter

Listen! It's happening again! Another rejection of God -- this time the hammer is called "apathy." "God? Jesus? So what? Who cares?" "What difference does it all make?" "Religion is just a crutch for the weak." "Crucify him!" Another nail into his flesh. But there is more.

What about our rationalization, our excuses? "This Jesus is too religious, and I'm no fanatic." "Listen, preacher, I work six days a week, and Sunday is my day of rest." .

Is the reality of the cross a vision of some bygone era? Think about that for a moment. Is it a symbol of torture used by cruel people in an alien culture? Or is it a reality which we know only too well; even today, even now. The crosses of despair, and emptiness, and meaninglessness, and loneliness? Do we know such crosses? We've hung on them, haven't we? And for those who reject Jesus' cross, theirs become so much heavier. For without him, we carry them ourselves. Can't we see that in his death, ugly as it is, life is made possible? Because now, forgiveness has been made real, love has become flesh, grace has been poured into the very fabric of our being. His death translates to life in abundance for me, for you.

**The Gospels do not explain the Resurrection; the Resurrection explains the Gospels.**

I must tell you, the greatest blessing ever bestowed on humanity is the resurrection of Jesus. **For any follower of Christ, the resurrection of Jesus is proof and preview of our own.** This is so true that even Satan cannot deny it. Christ's resurrection and victory over sin, death and hell is greater than all heaven and earth. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?

The Gospels do not explain the Resurrection; the Resurrection explains the Gospels. **Belief in the Resurrection is not an appendage to the Christian faith; it is the Christian faith.** Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed.

## PATIENCE UNVEILED HOW DO YOU MEASURE?

Margaret Thatcher once said, "I am extraordinarily patient provided I get my own way in the end." When everything is going your way, patience is easy to demonstrate. The true test of patience comes when your rights are violated; when the sports car cuts you off in traffic; when a group of teenage boys are hogging the tennis courts; when your co-worker derides your faith, or when you are endlessly waiting to experience some "goodies" God has promised to give to you.

Although most people consider patience to be a passive waiting or gentle tolerance, most of the Greek words translated "patience" in the New Testament (KJV) are active, robust words. Consider, for example, Hebrews 12:1: "...let us run with perseverance/faith..." Does one run a race by passively waiting for slow-pokes or gently tolerating cheaters? Certainly not! A Christian runs the race patiently by persevering through difficulties in the hope of heaven. **In the Bible, patience is persevering towards a goal, enduring trials, or expectantly waiting for a promise to be fulfilled.**

There are many examples of people who were patient in the Bible. The prophets were patient men, waiting on God, sometimes for years. They sometimes had to wait for God to speak or to act. This took faith, patience, and perseverance.  
(Continued on page 12)

### **How to deal with difficult passages in the Bible. (from page 7)**

Fourthly, endeavour to allow the Scripture speak for itself. If you find a difficulty in one part of the Bible, look for other Scriptures to throw light upon it and dissolve it. Nothing explains Scripture like Scripture. And be careful not to explain texts out of context.

In the fifth place, deal with the difficulty prayerfully. It is simply wonderful how difficulties dissolve when one looks at them on his knees.

## From Palm Sunday to Easter

It was Rev Baring Gould who remarked that when we wander through a graveyard and look at the tombstones, or go into the church and examine the old monuments, we see one heading to them all, "Here lies." Then follows the name with the date of death, and perhaps some praise of the good qualities of the deceased. But how different is the epitaph on the tomb of Jesus! It is not written in gold nor cut in stone, it is spoken by the mouth of an angel; and it is the exact reverse of what is put on all other tombs: "He is not here."

The stone which had been covering the opening to the grave had been rolled away. Easter has overtaken the sighs, the pains, the trial, the rejection and the death of Good Friday. Christ has won! Goodness, mercy and love have triumphed. And through faith in Jesus Christ, the victory is ours as well. Tell me. Why should I not be happy? Why should I not give thanks to the Lord who has done this great thing?

Dele Agbelusi



**BIRD'S EYEVIEW OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES**

## Patience unveiled. How do you measure?

David is another Bible character who waited patiently for the Lord to fulfil promises earlier made to him. He had been anointed as king over Israel by Samuel, yet he had to wait for years even at the peril of his life, to realise what has been promised and given.

David knew of the event that led to the rejection of King Saul, his predecessor. Saul could not wait for God. He had been commanded to wait until Samuel, God's prophet and priest, should come to make the sacrifice. Saul, flushed with victory, DID IT HIMSELF. That was his undoing. David had learned a lesson from the man whose place he was to fill. On two occasions he had the opportunity of slaying Saul and gaining the office of king, for which God had anointed him. But he was prepared to wait for God's time. David said in the Psalms, "I waited for the Lord!" The revelation of what happens if you don't wait for God made David all the more determined to wait for Him.

Patience in the biblical sense, therefore, is not just a question of temperament or restlessness; patience is a way of thinking about and responding to the difficult circumstances of our lives. The biblical quality of longsuffering is rooted in our beliefs about the future. As believers, we are learning to take the long view. We endure, we wait patiently, because we believe that our present difficulties will be resolved.

Abraham was a man who had great promises from God, but he had to wait for them. He was promised a child, a descendant who would found a nation and bring blessing to the world, but Abraham would not see the child for many years. He was promised a homeland, but he himself spent much of his life wandering that land as a stranger. He was promised a blessing, but most of that blessing did not come to him in his lifetime. How did he respond? The author of Hebrews tells us; he offers Abraham as a model of those who "through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:12).

To be continued next month

# CARTOON EXTRA FROM Church laughs

## STATISTICAL TOOLS for your church



### SPREAD SHEET:

For determining how many people will fit in each pew.



### PIE GRAPH:

For organizing the dessert table at fellowship dinners.



2 HOURS - Knee deep  
3 HOURS - Waist deep  
4 HOURS - Neck deep  
5 HOURS - Tidal Wave

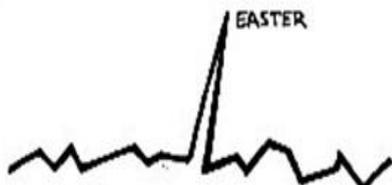
### FLOW CHART:

For measuring how long it takes to fill the baptistry.



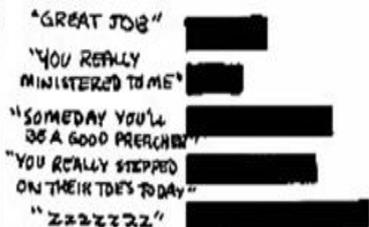
### BALANCE SHEET:

For noting your progress in keeping the whole congregation happy.



### - ANNUAL STATEMENT:

For keeping track of members who only attend once a year.



### RECORD OF APPRECIATION AND DEPRECIATION:

For noting comments about the sermon.

RICHAUS-

## LAUGHTER LINES

### YOU MEAN THESE PEOPLE?

Three-year-old Shawn accompanied his dad to church at Easter. The father wanted his son to understand the meaning of Easter, so he tried to explain the significance of the cross which hung at the front of the church. He said, "Jesus died because people nailed him to the cross." The little boy's eyes widened as he scanned the church. He asked his dad, "You mean these people?"



Stories for preachers

### BROWNIES FOR DADDIES

A man overheard his young daughter and her best friend discussing his activities: "What's a Rotarian" asked her friend. The daughter replied: "A sort of Brownies for daddies"

Sue Ogilvie-Arendse

### CAUGHT IN THE ACT

Boss to staff: Do you believe in life after death?

Staff (emphatically): No. There is no proof of it.

Boss: Well there is a proof now. After you left for your grandmother's funeral she came looking for you.

Submitted by Grace Macauley

### EMPTY HEADED TEACHER

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face."

"Yes" the class said. "Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?"

A little fellow shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty."

Submitted by Remi Adeneye

## LAUGHTER LINES

### WHO LET THE DOG OUT?

On Easter Sunday our minister, trying to emphasize the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, asked the children if they had noticed any changes in the music from previous weeks. "For the last few Sundays, the music has been slow and sombre," he reminded them, "but today it's upbeat and joyful. Do you know why?"

No one ventured an answer until the organist's three-year-old daughter jumped up, "Because Daddy's been practising all week!"

-- Lyn Hill, London, Ontario. Christian Reader, "Kids of the Kingdom."

### WILL CHRIST BE IN CHURCH TODAY?

While driving to church on Easter Sunday two years ago, I told my children the Easter story. "This is the day we celebrate Jesus coming back to life," I explained. Right away, my 3-year-old son, Kevin, jumped up from the back seat, "Will He be in church today?"

Peggy Key, Portage

### TROUBLESOME MAMA

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

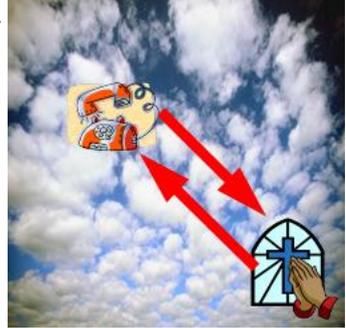
The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Mama, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

Submitted by Remi Adeneye

## PRAYER

In the Christian life it is difficult for us to grow if we ignore or skimp the practice of prayer. It was Selwyn Hughes who once said "we either pray or become a prey to spiritual weakness, lethargy, indolence or sluggishness." Nobody who has neglected prayer has grown spiritually.

But there are many people who find it difficult to pray. They see prayer as a verbal marathon involving the use of secret codes, but this is not true. Prayer is meant to be a simple and straight-to-the-point communication with our loving heavenly Father.



To some of us, it may be necessary to be reminded what it means to pray. Prayer means first of all the assurance of the presence of God, or as those of old well said, "Coming before God," "Standing before His face." That is not so simple. It requires an effort of the will – and more than that. When the prodigal son said, "I will arise and go to my Father," Emil Bruer comments, "That resolution requires the courage to let God tell you the truth, the humiliating knowledge that you can no longer help yourself. Only he really seeks God, for whom all other doors are bolted. God himself meets us only when we are at the end of our knowledge and power. "

When we pray, we should try not to come up to the expectation of others – be yourself and not someone else. God accepts you as you are, even though it is not His intention that you stay as you are. So relax.

**But how do you perceive God? Do you see Him as distant, uncommunicative, judgmental and a kill joy? Do you see Him as mean or stingy or as a loving parent who would not withhold from you any good thing? Do you see Him as a heavenly Father who has given more than the world for you?**

When you come to see God as loving, caring, open, non-judgmental and forgiving, it will not be difficult to see prayer as a conversation with Him. (Continued on page 17)

## Prayer (continued from page 16)

Prayer is the key that opens heaven's doors. However, if prayer is that powerful, we cannot use words that slip off our tongues with very little meaning, and we cannot afford to be unserious when we pray. Jesus knew how important prayer is and he took pains to teach His disciples how to pray – and Jesus' prayer contains some key elements.

The first of these is reverential worship. "Our Father, who is in heaven, may your name be praised, (Matthew 6:9). To hallow something is to reverence it. The word "hallow" is derived from a Greek word (hagiozo) which means to venerate, to set apart for God and to make holy.

**When you come to see God as loving, caring, open, non-judgmental and forgiving, it will not be difficult to see prayer as a conversation with Him.**

We cannot add to God's qualities and we cannot detract from them either. However, we can give Him the recognition He rightly deserves. **Our prayer starts with recognising the supremacy, love, sovereignty, holiness, compassion, mercy and might of God.** Selwyn Hughes comments that "if prayer does not begin by giving God a pre-eminent place in our hearts and minds, then it is not prayer in the biblical sense of the word."

Self and all its needs must come second when we approach God if we are to follow the principle laid down by Jesus. We must overcome our great problem of being overly concerned about getting things from God than giving Him the glory that is due to His name. When we gaze into the beauty, loveliness, holiness of God, it produces reflection and transformation to us. Our life acting as the mirror is changed by the reflection of the Holy falling on it, and we gradually start to reflect perfection – but we have to learn to be still before the Lord.

As we do this, we cannot overlook thanksgiving. Thanksgiving and praise could be tied together as both are expressions of our gratitude to God. **Our prayer life cannot grow unless we have a conscious intention to give thanks to God for His past mercies.**

D.A.

## WHEN ONLY GOD UNDERSTANDS

I still don't understand, nearly 10 years later. At least I don't understand why the Lord allowed my sons to be afflicted with infantile bilateral striatal necrosis. I don't understand why Jonathan died or why Christopher lived. Today he's 16 and nearly totally recovered.

All I understand is this: life is a riddle, which God wants me to experience but not necessarily solve. When I was struggling to solve it, I found 1 Corinthians 13:12, which only makes sense in the original Greek: "For now we see (or understand) through a mirror, in a riddle," the apostle Paul wrote, "but then face to face."

Modern Christians sometimes rush to put God's truth into little boxes, neatly systematized, categorized, organized, and principle-ized, when God's perspective on suffering is too big for any of that. While for some "spirituality" is defined by what you know, God may be more concerned with how you handle what you cannot know.

A riddle loses its mystery and its power, even perhaps its significance, once it is solved. By keeping us in our riddle (every person's riddle is unique) God is helping us learn to walk by faith, and not by sight. - David Biebel, author. Men of Integrity, Vol. 1, no. 2.

**By keeping us  
in our riddle  
(every person's  
riddle is  
unique) God is  
helping us  
learn to walk  
by faith, and  
not by sight**

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

" We should never be afraid of tears. They soften our hearts, wash our eyes, and clear our vision."



" Those who leave everything in God's hand will eventually see God's hand in everything; worries end where faith begins to be faithful." Author Unknown

"In life, everyone goes through trials; even Christ went through them. Trials do not mean that God has forgotten about you. All they mean is that life needs to be given a meaning, working toward getting something right."

# 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**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)

Subject: **JESUS MADE YOU INNOCENT**

My Child,

I want to talk to you about some deep stuff. Because My Son Jesus died for all your wrong thoughts, words, and actions, you're not guilty anymore. But the devil still wants you to feel guilty, so he condemns you. In other words, he makes you feel bad about yourself for no specific reason.

Sometimes when you do something wrong, I'll cause you to feel bad about that one thing so you'll tell Me you're sorry and start afresh. But I'll never make you feel bad about who you are. That's different. I love who you are, and if you've asked My Son to live in your heart, you will feel My love.

I want you to be free from feeling bad about yourself and free from doing bad things. That's why Jesus died for you - to set you free! My love will always lift you up!

The Lord of Freedom  
God.

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

## TEXT FOR THE YEAR (Isaiah 41:10. NLT)

**Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right**

### 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 - April 1st and 15th  
**Wednesday** - Fellowship Meal in church (6:30 pm) followed by,  
Mid-week Fellowship (7.15 pm)  
**Thursday** - Homework Club (5 pm-7 pm during term-time)  
**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** - Intercessors prayer meeting in church (7-8 pm)  
**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, Charles Murphy  
**Lay Ministers:** Richard Mercer, Iyabo Agbelusi  
**Organist:** Jan Hazucha

**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

**PLEASE WRITE TO THE EDITOR AT:**

**CROSSLINKS, THE VICARAGE, 32 CRESCENT ROAD, LONDON, N8 8AX**

**E-MAIL: [christchurchN8@aol.com](mailto:christchurchN8@aol.com); WEB: [www.christchurchn8.org.uk](http://www.christchurchn8.org.uk)**