



**CHRIST CHURCH
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CROSSLINKS**

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LISTENING TO GOD

Vicar's fifteen - minute reflection LISTENING TO GOD



One of the concerns often referred to me by many well meaning Christians is: "I don't hear God speak to me like other Christians claim he does to them". The impression is given that God speaks to some people who belong to the elite circle of "superchristians". Because of this general problem, I am devoting a lot of space to address the topic, "Listening to God". Why? Because the problem is not that God is not speaking to us, but that we are not listening.

I will begin with a story, retold in "Youth Specialties":

A Native American and his friend were in downtown New York City, walking near Times Square in Manhattan. It was during the noon lunch hour and the streets were filled with people. Cars were honking their horns, taxicabs were squealing around corners, sirens were wailing, and the sounds of the city were almost deafening. Suddenly, the Native American said, "I hear a cricket." His friend said, "What? You must be crazy. You couldn't possibly hear a cricket in all of this noise!" "No, I'm sure of it," the Native American said. "I heard a cricket." "That's crazy," said the friend.

The Native American listened carefully for a moment, and then walked across the street to a big cement planter where some shrubs were growing. He looked into the bushes, beneath the branches, and sure enough, he located a small cricket. His friend was utterly amazed. "That's incredible," said his friend. "You must have super-human ears!"

"No," said the Native American. "My ears are no different from yours. It all depends on what you're listening for." "But that can't be!" said the friend. "I could never hear a cricket in this noise." "Yes, it's true," came the reply. "It depends on what is really important to you. Here, let me show you." He reached into his pocket, pulled out a few coins, and discreetly dropped them on the sidewalk. And then, with the noise of the crowded street still blaring in their ears, they noticed every head within twenty feet turn and look to see if the money that tinkled on the pavement was theirs. "See what I mean?" asked the Native American. "It all depends on what's important to you."

What's important to you? What do you listen for?



Some people say that there is no God, and that he never speaks to us anymore. But perhaps they can't see or hear him because they aren't listening for him. They are living for themselves, not for God.

Sometimes I think we are much like the crowd walking down the street. We fail to hear the most important things in life. We've filled our lives with so much noise and things that it's difficult to hear anything anymore. And when we do hear, we often mistake what we are hearing for what we *want to hear* instead of what we should be hearing. There are lots of things we can choose to listen to today. There are lots of voices vying for our attention and action. TV, radio, all types of media outlets are screaming for our attention. You can't drive down the road without a sign staring at you from somewhere. **If we're honest, too, most of us will have to admit that we don't like it too quiet. We're afraid of the quiet – and maybe we are afraid of what we might hear.**

But there is a lot to be said for simply listening. **James 1:19** tells us we should be "quick to listen, slow to speak". That is never more true than when we are listening to God. There's a lot God wants to share with us...if we will just listen.

We should learn not to fill every moment of our devotions by talking and never waiting to hear what God might want to say. God is great enough to manage the rest of the universe but he cares enough to know the number of hairs on my head (Matthew 10:30). So, he wants to speak to me and wants me to understand more and more of him. At first, there may be the ghostly whisperings of the subconscious self, the clamour of personal ambition, the song of unbridled imagination but fifteen minutes of such listening may give us a sure instinct for the Divine that a month's interaction with humans will not.

How will you feel if your friend or son comes to you with a list of what he wants you to do for him and as soon as he hands the list to you, turns back without even waiting for you to say a word? You will feel bad won't you? But that is how we treat God.

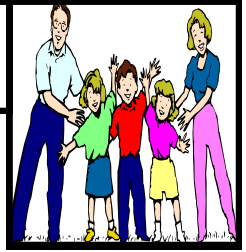
John Stott said: "Unlike heathen idols which being dead are dumb, the living God has spoken and continues to speak...and since God speaks we must listen.

So how does he speak to us?

(continued on page 8)

PATIENCE UNVEILED

(Continued from March 2013 issue)



Abraham was a patient, longsuffering man. Perhaps at times he may have felt impatient, restless, and eager to get on with it, but that did not change his fundamental attitude toward God and His promises. The fulfilment of God's promises was long in coming, but Abraham responded to the delay not with anger and mistrust but with faith and persevering patience. We see, therefore, that a patient response to our current troubles is rooted in our faith and what that faith tells us about the future. We can wait patiently through the difficulties of today, because we are confident that they are temporary.

WHAT PATIENCE IS NOT

Patience is Not just a feeling. The spiritual attribute of longsuffering, or patience or perseverance arises from the will; it is a decision to endure that is rooted in our faith, in our growing belief that God will keep His promises for the future.

Patience is Not an instantaneous supernatural power.

Although we very rightly see patience as part of the fruit of the Spirit, we would be wrong to believe that the Spirit usually bestows such patience instantaneously. The biblical picture of sanctification suggests that patience will be a growing quality, one that emerges through God's work in our lives in the midst of trials. In other words, we may very well find ourselves going through seasons where we are *not* patient, where we struggle to put up with each other and to continue trusting God. Often God uses exactly those sorts of struggles to teach us patience in the long run. Such trials force us to confront our beliefs about the future and our trust in God's promises; as our faith and trust grow, so does our patience.

Patience is Not just external behaviour.

Patience is a description of an inner attitude, a new set of motives and beliefs; it is not just an outward behaviour. If the hope of the gospel is not capturing our hearts, then at best we can only fake patience. When difficulties come, we can plaster on a smile and play the brave Christian, even if inside we are just building up resentment against God. But a mature and growing faith will be learning the perspective of the farmer: I am working for a reason; the harvest is coming. When others let us down, we can grit our teeth and

Patience Unveiled

suppress our irritation, even if inside we are seething. But a mature and growing faith is learning to see the faults of others in the light of the future. God will make all things right, both judging evil and rescuing us from it. If He can save an evil person like me, He can certainly be counted on to deal with everyone else as well.

Patience is Not passive and indifferent. Sometimes we mistakenly think that the patient person will show a passionless serenity, a bland indifference to the vicissitudes of life. This is far from the biblical picture of longsuffering and patience. A mature faith is content with the present only because God has promised to overcome and redeem it. God's people can and will have a strong desire for change. Today we groan, just as creation itself is groaning, waiting for our ultimate redemption tomorrow. We weep, even as Jesus wept. We long for Jesus to return and make things right. Christianity does not advocate the end of desire; it advocates that we set our hearts on the right things and trust God to bring them about.

Can you truthfully say that you are a patient person?

Robert Kearns had to be patient. In 1962, Kearns was tinkering in his shop and in the process invented a phased windshield wiper that was just the ticket for intermittent light rain. You probably enjoy his invention in your car today.

Kearns, a Detroit native, was sure that the "Motor City's" Big Three car manufacturers would be ecstatic over his find. But to his surprise, American cars began appearing on sales floors with his device, but without his permission. His complaint to them about compensation was fruitless. Gaining no satisfaction from auto executives, in 1978 he decided to take his case to court. Twelve years later, Kearns' patience paid off when a court ruled in his favour to the tune of \$10 million (and that was just from one of the Big Three).

A prolonged ordeal is enough to test anyone's patience. However, the Christian enjoys the guarantee that one day God will not only make all things right, but also deliver an eternal payoff. Meanwhile, the Bible suggests that we: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Rom. 12:12 NIV). That Big Three is a key to your earthly peace of mind.

WHY THE EMPHASIS ON THE CROSS?

In our secular society, there are many who would love to rewrite the good news about the redemptive work of Jesus ensuring that the Cross is edited out of the script! Inasmuch as this may be the politically correct thing to do, in order to accommodate all other views about Christ, we will be doing Jesus Christ a disservice if we rewrite his mission statement in order to please ourselves.

The claims of Jesus gives us insight to His person and what He came to do. His utterances give us a glimpse to His ministry, His mission, His life and His death. It is very significant that when the Gospels were written, a disproportionate amount of space was devoted to the last week of Jesus' life on earth. Luke gave a quarter of his volume - Mathew and Mark about a third and John as much as a half. And the reason for this emphasis is not far fetched. The death of Jesus was central to His mission and person.

On various occasions, He predicted his death, saying that "the Son of Man must suffer many things ... and ... be killed" (Mark 8:31; 9:31). He saw His death as inevitable and that His mission could only be completed by His death.

So the church is right to choose the cross as its symbol for Christianity. According to John Stott "It could have chosen the crib in which the baby Jesus was laid (as an emblem of incarnation), or the carpenter's bench (affirming the dignity of manual labour), or the boat from which He taught the people, or the towel with which He washed and wiped His disciples' feet (as symbols of humble service), or the tomb from which He rose again, or the throne He occupies today (representing his sovereignty)..."

Why then is this relentless emphasis on the Cross?

The Cross of Christ is the only basis on which God forgave sins. While forgiveness may be a plain duty to man, it is the profoundest of problems to God.

Why the emphasis on the cross?

God is left in a very difficult position, where He has to reconcile His holy love, with His justice, and He resolved this divine dilemma on the cross. For on the cross when Jesus died, God himself in Christ bore the judgement we deserved, in order to bring us the forgiveness we do not deserve. The death of Christ on the cross also reveals the character of God to us.

But God demonstrates His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). His death on the cross gave a final blow to the work of evil. The early Christians knew this. They spoke of victory in Christ Jesus. The Jews regarded *Christ crucified* as a **stumbling block**; perhaps this is better understood as an *offense* or a *scandal*. The Greeks regarded *Christ crucified* as **foolishness**. But God did not respond to the polling data. He kept to His gospel, because for those who believed it (**both Jews and Greeks**), *Christ crucified* is **the power of God and the wisdom of God**.

Let every pulpit rightly say, "**we preach Christ crucified!**" I read about a strong church which once inscribed these words on an archway leading to the churchyard. Over time, two things happened: the church lost its passion for Jesus and His gospel, and ivy began to grow on the archway. The growth of the ivy, covering the message, showed the spiritual decline. Originally it said strongly, **we preach Jesus Christ crucified**. But as the ivy grew, one could only read **we preach Jesus Christ**, and the church also started preaching "Jesus Christ the Great Man" and "Jesus Christ the Moral Example" instead of Jesus Christ crucified. The ivy kept growing, and one could soon only read, **we preach**.

The church eventually lost Jesus Christ in the message, preaching religious platitudes and social graces. The church had become another social gathering, all about 'we' and not about Christ. May we never lose sight of the Cross of Christ for on it he died to buy us back from the slavery to sin and death.

Dele Agbelusi

Listening to God

(continued from page 3)

The main way God speaks to us is through Scriptures. That is why reading the Bible should be an integral part of our devotional times. God is able to 'quicken' a verse or passage of Scripture to us so that, though the Scripture is a written text, it also becomes a living message. He spoke once through the Bible and he still speaks through it. If I do not hear God speaking to me when I read his Word, it is not because God is dead or silent but because I have not learned to listen or I am dull of hearing. John Stott said: "If we are cut off during a telephone conversation we do not jump to the conclusion that the person on the other end has died. No. It is the line which has gone dead. We must adopt Samuel's attitude: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10) and not 'Listen Lord, your servant is speaking'.

In these days when many people's lives and opinions are moulded by the magazines, newspapers, television and the internet, we need the Berean spirit back again to search the Scriptures whether these things are so. The Bible is a talking Book which we neglect to our peril.

However, it is possible to wait before God and try to listen to him without any sense of expectation. This is so because a lack of expectation may be a defence that helps us not feel disappointed if God does not speak to us. Let us note that the voice of God does not merely approve or disapprove; it encourages, reassures, informs and instructs. The closeness of our walk with God, the Divine Shepherd, determines the degree to which we recognise His voice when he speaks to us. And when God speaks, there is a quiet sense of authority. The trained ear recognises that as the voice of the Shepherd and says with the prophets of old: "Thus saith the Lord."

The Bible shows us the benefit of listening to God. Listening to God proves you are His child: John 8:47 "*Anyone whose Father is God listens gladly to the words of God...*" Listening to God makes you wise: Matthew 7:24 "*Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.*" Listening to God gives you a solid foundation to build the rest of your life upon and keeps your heart soft.

Listening to God

Listening to God protects us from those who wish to do us harm: John 10:8 "All others who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them." Listening to God keeps us from stumbling: 1 Peter 2:8 "They stumble because they do not listen to God's word or obey it" listening to God keeps us from drifting: Hebrews 2:1 "So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it."

We live our lives on shaky ground when we do not listen to God. We are unwise in our decisions when we do not listen to God. We get hard hearted when we do not listen to God. We stumble when we do not listen to God. And we drift away from God's purposes and plans for our lives when we do not listen to God. When God says, "Can you hear me now?" We need to be ready to respond, "Yes, Lord, your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10).

So how do you hear God? From experience, there are times when God will shout to us in the situation we find ourselves, but most often God speaks softly, gently and simply waits for us to tune our ears and listen. How do we do that? How do we get ourselves to the place where we really *hear God*? I'm not talking about some phony person who goes around telling you or me that "they've heard from God" and use that as an excuse to do whatever they want – I mean living with the confidence that God is really speaking to us and we can act on His Words. I'm talking about learning to really listen to God and making sense out of what He is telling us!

Young Samuel gives us three keys to learning to listen to God. You may want to turn to 1 Samuel 3. Notice first that young Samuel was **Practicing his Purpose**, that is, he was doing all that he knew to do. "the boy Samuel was serving the LORD by assisting Eli" (1 Samuel 3:1). He was serving in the temple. You might be thinking, "Well, that's easy for Samuel, he already knew what he was supposed to be doing. I don't have a clue what God wants me to do with my life." Well, think again, because the whole point of the passage is that Samuel didn't know the whole story. He didn't know that God was about to call him as a prophet and judge over Israel.

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Listening to God

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Samuel didn't know that God was going to use him to share his message with the High Priest. All that Samuel knew was what he was supposed to be doing right then! He was supposed to be taking care of Eli the priest. He was supposed to be listening to Eli's call.

Sometimes we get stuck waiting to hear what we are supposed to be doing next and we fail to do what we are supposed to be doing right now. Wherever we are, our chief desire should be to serve God and others, consciously letting God decide the next step to take.

How about you? Are you sitting worried about what God wants you to do? Why not just get busy doing the things you already KNOW you should be doing. My dad used to say it this way, it's a whole lot easier to turn a moving car than one sitting still. So get moving! Do the things you already know you should be doing. Practice your purpose. Practice the things you can do and God will begin telling you what's next.

Not only was Samuel practicing his purpose, **he had an attentive spirit.** It is interesting to note that when God spoke to Samuel he was able to give 100% attention. It was night time. It was quiet. There were no distractions. So there Samuel was...in the quiet...being still...without distractions...*when God spoke.*

Here is a powerful key to hearing from God...get rid of the distractions. We don't hear God when He's speaking because there are too many things in the way. You all know how it is...it's hard to focus with the computer staring at me, the TV on, the list of projects sitting on my desk...sometimes it's just hard to pay attention!

So imagine yourself trying to listen to God, having a conversation with Him, and there are a million and one distractions around you. How much do you assume you are going to hear? Get rid of the distractions. Psalm 46:10 is probably a verse that all of us should memorize. It says, "Be still and know that I am God..."

In the story of God speaking to the prophet Elijah (1 Kings 19:11-13), God tells Elijah to stand in the opening of a cave and He will speak to Him. First God sends a hurricane, then an earthquake, and then a fire...and the passage says that God did not speak to Elijah

Listening to God

through any of those things. But after the storm, earthquake, and fire...God spoke to Elijah in a quiet whisper...a still, small voice. It's not that God won't speak to us in the huge things of life...but most often He wants us to simply be quiet and still before Him without any distractions. What about you? What's distracting you from hearing God?

Maybe you should take time to just get away - sometimes in the garden, a park, a creek, just somewhere away from everyone, alone. But do get alone, be quiet and try to listen to God. When you learn to hear the whisper of God in your life it will obviously be much easier to recognize when He shouts!

Samuel was in the proper place. Did you notice where Samuel was living...right there in the Tabernacle of God? Right there near the "Holy Place". Very often we do not hear from God because we're not listening and because we are in the wrong place - We're living a lifestyle far from God...accepting practices in our life that we know God does not want. I don't have to spell out a list of sins right now, just let me ask it this way... what do you know that you are doing that God doesn't want you to be doing?

Do you know what I do when I really want to hear what someone says to me? I get my ears close to them, sometimes right up to their mouth.

Do you realize that sin is like putting ear plugs in your spiritual ears? Sin deafens our heart to God's voice. Sin, the things we know God tells us not to do, deafens our ability to hear some of God's sounds...and if we don't take the precautions to protect our spiritual hearing we may lose those sounds forever! Do you know what I do when I really want to hear what someone says to me? I get my ears close to them, sometimes right up to their mouth. I get as close as I can so I can hear every word, understand every meaning, to fully grasp what they are saying. Samuel was living in the presence of God. He was living as close to God as he could possibly live. What about you? Where would you put yourself in relationship to God? Close...far away...fiddling' in the middle somewhere at a comfortable distance...not that close, not that far? Don't lie to yourself. Anywhere but close to God is too far away.

(concluded on page 13)

WHILE THE TITANIC SANK JOHN HARPER PREACHED

The clear April night sky was filled with sparkling stars as the largest and finest steamship in the world sped through the calm seas of the icy North Atlantic. Many of the passengers had gone to bed, but some still could be found in the lounges, enjoying the *Titanic's* luxury. No one was alarmed by the slight jar felt around 11:15, but many noticed when they no longer felt the vibrations of the engines. Ignoring iceberg warnings, the *Titanic* had been steaming full speed ahead. Suddenly she struck a large iceberg which ripped her side. Within fifteen minutes the captain realized the danger of the situation, and the wireless operator put out a call for assistance.

Sailors made lifeboats ready and ordered women and children to get into them first (Christian culture had stamped the ideas of chivalry into men, making them willing to give up their lives for women and children as their protectors, something rarely seen in other cultures). There were 12 honeymooning couples on board the ship. Though all of the brides were saved, only one of the grooms survived. The captain ordered the band to play to keep up the spirits of the passengers. It began playing a rag-time tune, but soon turned to playing hymns.

There were only twenty lifeboats on the huge ocean liner-- barely enough for 1/3 of the passengers and crew. Not all of them could be lowered. All 85 engineers continued to work to keep the ship afloat as long as possible. At the end many people knelt together in prayer until the waters covered them.

Throughout the mournful, evacuation, with loved ones being tearfully separated, the band continued to play. There is some dispute about what was played that night. Several people in the life boats heard "Nearer My God to Thee."

One of the passengers travelling on the ship was evangelist John Harper. He put his six-year old daughter into a life boat and then ran through the ship warning others of the danger and talking to them about the eternal destiny of their souls. When he was finally forced to jump into the icy water, he clung to a piece of wreckage and asked another man, "Are you saved?" When the man

While the Titanic sank John Harper preached

answered no, John said to him, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."

When the *Titanic* sank early in the morning on April 15, 1912, John Harper was among the 1,522 people who died. The band went down with the ship. The last hymn they played was "Autumn," which concludes with the prayer :

*Hold me up in mighty waters
Keep my eyes on things above,
Righteousness, divine Atonement,
Peace, and everlasting Love.*

Dan Graves, MSL

From: <http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1901-2000/>

Listening to God

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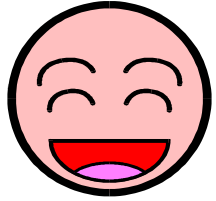
Are you practicing your purpose? Are you doing the things you already know God wants you to do? He won't tell you what's next until you finish with what's now! Are you in the proper position? Are you taking time to be quiet and still before the Lord without all the distractions? By the way...there is a spiritual habit that has been practiced by Believers for thousands of years, it's called a "Daily Quiet **Time**". A *quiet time* is taking time every day to just be quiet before the Lord and listen to Him. **Are you in your proper place?** Another way to ask this question is what's keeping you from living close to God? God is waiting in heaven, just waiting for us to tweak our ears toward Him so He can speak to us. He wants to speak to you. He's just waiting for you to hear Him now!

Dele Agbelusi

LAUGHTER LINES

Green Chicken!

A South African priest, now working in England, tells how he attended a Rural Deanery Lunch there. A cold buffet was the order of the day. Standing eating the cold chicken, he asked the Archdeacon, 'Have you seen the colour of the chicken?' It was a distinct shade of liturgical green. The Archdeacon looked in horror and then glanced at the questioner's plate. Both discovered with horror that they were consuming green chicken and decided the best plan of action was to feed the chicken to the dog that was languishing in the African sun just off the veranda. They then glanced around and everyone else's chicken appeared green, and chortled to themselves. 'We will be all right this afternoon; heaven help the others.' It was only while eating Vanilla Ice Cream, which also appeared green, that they realised they were standing under green plastic sheeting over the veranda which, because of the sunlight, made everything appear slightly tinted (green). There was much laughter, but it was generally agreed that the dog 'had the last laugh' as he really enjoyed the 'green chicken'.



Bishop's Brew

First lesson on how not to swear from an enraged Daddy!

Mummy had heard dear Johnny utter a swear word and that was too, too awful because Daddy was the Vicar. 'Off you go straight to bed, you naughty, naughty boy,' she said. 'No tea for you, and just wait until Daddy hears about this!' When Daddy arrived home, Mummy told him the sorry tale. 'He swore, did he?' said Daddy. 'I'll teach him to swear,' and set off up the stairs. Unfortunately, Johnny had left one of his roller skates on the next-to-the-top-step and Daddy came crashing down as he stepped on it. After almost five minutes of invective, during which Daddy never repeated himself once, Mummy said, 'All right, Daddy, that will do for the first lesson.'

Bishop's Brew

LAUGHTER LINES

God Says, 'Go To Bed'

My 3-year-old son, Ian, enjoys the Bible story about Samuel hearing God's voice at night. One evening after reading the story to Ian, I asked him if God had ever spoken to him. To my surprise, he answered, "Yes." "What did God say to you?" I asked.

Ian thought and then said in his deepest voice, "Ian! Go to bed!" That explained why Ian settles down more quickly when I'm outside his room and tell him to go to bed.

-Deborah Hough, Auburn, Wash. *Christian Reader*, "Lite Fare."

Where's the Vicar?

The Funeral Director's car was waiting outside the Chapel after the Service and, having made arrangements to be transported, the Vicar sat himself in the front passenger seat. Because of the head rest, he was not readily visible from the rear of the vehicle. Having loaded the flowers into the Estate Wagon through the back door, the rather impatient driver posed the question, 'Now where's the b...y Vicar?' and got the shock of his life when a voice from the front seat replied, 'The b...y Vicar's here.'

Bishop's Brew

The Vicar and the Police

The Vicar is on his bike and the police puts up his hand to stop him. Squeal of brakes and the Vicar just manages to pull up in time. 'Nearly got you that time,' says Police. 'You'll never get me, Constable; you see God is with me. God is always with me.' 'Ah, that's it. Got you this time, Vicar,' says the police - 'two on a bike.'

Bishop's Brew

POPE FRANCIS PRAYS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

In his most recent Sunday sermon, Pope Francis addressed the topic of the persecuted church, a gesture which suggests that perhaps the new pontiff will focus part of his holy career on helping the millions of persecuted Christians throughout the world.

"Let us pray especially for Christians who suffer persecution," he said during his sermon on the third Sunday of Easter at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy, in front of a crowd of nearly 80,000 Christians. The pope then proceeded to draw a comparison between the persecution Jesus' apostles endured to the persecution of modern-day Christians.

"[The apostles'] faith was based on so powerful and personal an experience of Christ crucified and risen, that they were not afraid of anything or anyone, and even saw their persecution as a badge of honour, that made them capable of following in the footsteps of Jesus and to be like Him, bearing witness with their lives," the Pope said.

"... and in these times, there are many Christians who suffer persecution, a great many, in many countries: let us pray for them from our heart, with love, that they might feel the living and comforting presence of the Risen Lord."

The Pope also dedicated Sunday's sermon to discussing the credibility of the Christian church, which he says is under attack due to hypocrisy among Christians and pastors alike. "Let us all remember this: one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one's life," he told the crowd on Sunday, as previously reported by The Christian Post.

"Those who listen to us and observe us must be able to see in our actions what they hear from our lips, and so give glory to God!" Since his election as Pope on March 13, Pope Francis has gained international recognition as a Catholic leader expressing unconventional acts of humility and focusing primarily on helping the lowliest in society.

The Pope's recent statements regarding religious persecution provide many Christians with a sense of hope for the new religious leader and his priorities in helping those who suffer for their faith.

According to International Christian Concern, 200 million Christians across the world suffer persecution due to their faith.

-Katherine Weber, Christian Post, April 15, 2013

APRIL/MAY SERVICES AT A GLANCE

<u>Date</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>	<u>5:00PM</u>
28th APR	(HC) Mission Unstoppable Acts 11:1-18; John 13:31-35	The Baptism of Jesus Mark 1:9-13
5th MAY	(MP) Come Over...And Help Us Acts 16:6-15	NO EVENING SERVICE
12th MAY	(MP) This Same Jesus Will Return Acts 1: 1-11; Luke 24:44-end	The Transfiguration of Jesus Luke 9:28-36
19th MAY	(HC) PENTECOST I Will Pour Out My Spirit Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17	The Teaching of Jesus Matthew 5:17-20
26th MAY	(FS) The Blessed Trinity John 16:12-15	NO EVENING SERVICE

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.

MEMORY VERSE

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” Matthew 7:24



QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Solitude, reflection, study and meditation do not make God speak. They help us to position ourselves to listen."



"We need a spiritual reality that operates at the level of the kitchen sink."

"The gym of spiritual discipline is life itself. We might give ourselves to seasons of prayer and fasting, but there is no 'quick fix' programme to spiritual maturity. Rather, we are called to establish daily patterns that will cause us to grow as we do everyday life."

"Jesus Himself didn't have to scabble around for some biblical quotes when He was tempted in the wilderness. His habit of immersing Himself in scripture meant that He was prepared, both in terms of what He knew and who He was."

"God walks with us...He scoops us up in His arms or simply sits in silent strength until we cannot avoid the awesome recognition that yes, even now, He is here."

Gloria Gaither

A joyful heart is like a sunshine of God's love, the hope of eternal happiness, a burning flame of God...And if we pray, we will become that sunshine of God's love-in our own home, the place where we live, and in the world at large.

Mother Teresa

"Night by night I will lie down and sleep in the thought of God."

"God wants us to lay our burdens on Him and rest in His love. It's His responsibility to work out the purpose and plan in our hardships."

Joni Eareckson Tada

HEAVENLY CORRESPONDENCE

E-MAIL FROM GOD (36)

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From: **GOD, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

To: **You, My beloved child**

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

Subject: **WHY DID JESUS SUFFER?**

My Child,

Jesus was intense. Roman soldiers whipped Him so much He almost bled to death. Then they made Him carry a huge beam of wood on which they later hung Him by driving nails through His hands and feet. There they left Him, suffering for hours on the cross until He finally died.

Why? Why did My Son let them torture Him in that horrible way? Because of His love for you! He made it possible for you to escape punishment for your wrongdoing. He made it possible for you to live forever in Heaven with us.

On the cross, Jesus earned eternal life for you. It was a trade-off. Take advantage of it!

The Father of the Crucified,

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 hand.

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 - Brownies meeting in church (5.30 pm)
- Prayer meetings in church - May 6th and 20th
Wednesday - Fellowship Meal in church (6:30 pm) followed by, Mid-week Fellowship (7.15 pm)
Thursday - Homework Club (5.00-7.00 pm during term-time)
Friday - 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:

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