



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

SEPTEMBER 2013 ISSUE 14.152

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



HOW AWESOME IS OUR GOD!

Vicar's ten - minute reflection

AWESOME GOD!



Today, teenagers apply the related word *awesome* to clothes, food, music, and cinematic effects. The word is so overused that when people sing Rich Mullins's "Awesome God," they seem to trivialize the Awe-full One and put the Trinity on the same level as toothpaste and food and clothing. As our culture has worked hard to establish equality among persons, we've somehow put God into that parity and gradually reduced our sense that this is a breathtakingly transcendent *GOD* we're talking about.

Everywhere you turn today, people are either denying the God of the Bible altogether, or redefining Him. Our television celebrity, Oprah Winfrey, has become an aggressive spokesperson for New Age doctrine and spirituality, which is not new at all. New Age doctrine displaces the God of the Bible, and sets man in His place. According to New Age thought, your search for God needs go no further than yourself. You are God! Oprah is using her popularity and influence to spread this seductive, satanic lie!

I read about a fellow who was hurting all over. He went to his doctor and said, *"Doc, everywhere I touch, it hurts. When I touch my head it hurts. When I touch my shoulder it hurts. When I touch my arm it hurts. When I touch my chest it hurts. When I touch my leg it hurts. When I touch my foot it hurts. What's wrong with me?"* After the doctor examined him he discovered that his index finger was broken.

***You are God!
Oprah is using
her popularity
and influence to
spread this se-
ductive, satanic
lie!***

There are many ills in the Christian life than can be traced to one single problem. It is our view of God and our attitude about God. One of the greatest books ever written is by A.W. Tozer entitled *The Knowledge of The Holy*. In the preface of the book Tozer writes: *"The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us...The decline of the knowledge of the holy has brought on our troubles. A rediscovery of the majesty of God will go a long way toward curing them."*

In chapter one entitled "Why We Must Think Rightly About God" Tozer writes: *"What comes into our minds when we think about God*



is the most important thing about us. The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its ideal of God." I agree. What we believe about God and

how we think of God will greatly affect our lives.

A low view of God tends to produce a low form of living. A lofty view of God tends to produce a higher form of living. Prophet Isaiah is someone whose experience of God has got a lot to teach us. His experience is like that of a little boy that was reportedly drawing a picture in his art class. The teacher walked by his desk and asked what he was drawing. He looked up and said, "I'm drawing a picture of God." The teacher said, "Johnny, no one knows what God looks like." He smiled and said, "They will when I get done."

As you read the Book of Isaiah you find many wonderful descriptions, declarations, and definitions of God. In chapter six we see a wonderful vision that Isaiah had of God. He saw that God was an awesome God.

A low view of God tends to produce a low form of living.
A lofty view of God tends to produce a higher form of living.

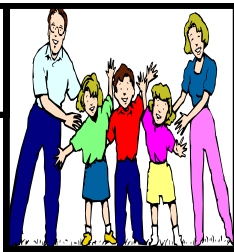
Isaiah declares that he saw the Lord. One of the first things that caught his attention was that God was ruling and reigning in all His greatness. God's transcendence was revealed to Isaiah by the infinite height of his throne. Not only is God still on his throne, when men have to give up their thrones. But while men occupy their thrones, God's throne is high and lifted up above all.

GOD IS HOLY. Holiness is arguably the most neglected attribute of God in the contemporary church. If asked to describe God, many Christians would mention his power, love, wisdom, or a list of other attributes, before they mention holiness. Yet in scripture, holiness is God's central, defining, and foundational attribute.

God's holiness is so great, his separation from his creation to infinite, and his moral excellence so brilliant, that the seraphim used two of their wings to cover their faces. It was too dangerous for them to look at God or have God to look at them. One day, Moses saw a bush on fire that wouldn't burn up. That shocked him. He had to get a closer look. But in Exodus 3:5 God said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing in holy ground." Likewise, the seraphim were on holy ground above God's throne.

(Concluded on page 13)

MARRIED TO MR UNROMANTIC



I smiled to myself as my husband, Frank, handed me a bag of Hershey's Kisses from the grocery store shelf, then said, "Here, I think you need this for Valentine's Day." When I checked my e-mail a little later, he'd sent me an electronic postcard. Lo and behold, I could print out my own Valentine! That night, at a Sunday school party, when each husband presented his wife with a red carnation, Frank handed me the long-stemmed blossom with these romantic words: "Here's your flower." Obviously, my husband is romantically challenged—in the traditional sense. But rather than voice disappointment with Frank's practical, matter-of-fact Valentine, I told him (and myself) how blessed I am to be married to him.

I have to admit, there was a time when I longed to hear sweet nothings whispered in my ear. I yearned for original poems that spoke of undying love inspired by my inner beauty and winsome ways. I dreamed of a man who would serenade me with songs written just for me. But it just didn't happen. I wasn't married to that man. Twenty years after we said "I do," I've come to appreciate Frank's unique terms of endearment. And I've learned to redefine romance in terms of what my unromantic husband has taught me about love.

How love sounds. Songs, sonnets, and sentimentality can be delivered in an attitude of pretence. I've known men whose eloquent expressions were belied by their lack of commitment and faithfulness. My husband, Frank, has taught me that words such as faithful, committed, steady, trustworthy, dependable, and industrious can be synonymous with love. Frank's never effusive with compliments, but what he says is sincere. His simple words convey deep feeling.

How love acts. I no longer expect my husband to be just like me. We have opposite strengths. Creativity's my strength; Frank has a real knack for organization. While I might elect to take a "creative" route to our destination, Frank gets us there. While I'm looking for the perfect present for any occasion (or no occasion), Frank's planning for our future and providing a wonderful home, as well as the many extras we enjoy. But it's his character that's more important to me than his personality. While Frank does remember many special occasions with gifts or flowers, it's his integrity that's by far...

Married to Mr Unromantic

his most precious gift to me.

How love looks. The love Frank and I have for each other is characterized by our mutual respect and friendship. We're often asked if we're newlyweds because of the way we treat each other, speak to each other, and laugh together. We strive to practice common courtesies with each other. We often trade smiles and winks across the room. We stand together in crises and draw upon each other's strengths.

How I can show love. I've found that the more I express love to Frank, the more loving our whole environment becomes. I've learned to search for ways to show him that love in terms he understands:

***I compliment him in front of other people.** He enjoys the compliments I give him directly, but the praise I share with others is especially appreciated. ***I encourage Frank to spend time doing things he thoroughly enjoys** (hunting, fishing, etc.). Occasionally I join him for some of those activities. ***I take the lead in situations that are more comfortable for me**, such as social settings and activities that involve verbal and written skills. Frank takes the lead in business matters in which he has the expertise and the lightning-fast calculator! ***I occasionally plan some special, creative, romantic surprises.** Frank enjoys them—he just doesn't think to initiate them. Some suggestions are:

»Send him on treasure hunts to find gifts. »Tuck love notes in his pockets. »Leave massage oil in a brown paper bag (well-sealed, of course) on his desk. »Leave a card under the sofa with a long piece of yarn tied to it. Leave the end of the yarn sticking out for him so he will discover the card. »Write "I love you" with cake decorating gel on his dessert plate. »Leave a love note written in shaving cream on the bathroom mirror. »Take to him his morning cup of coffee with some "mug mail" (a strip of paper with a loving message stapled around the handle of his coffee mug).

Most importantly, we express our love of God together. We make it a part of our formal worship as well as our times together at home. I've discovered I already have what's important in my life. God's given me a spouse whose practical side is a perfect balance to my emotional, creative side. Given a choice, I'd rather have a husband who's practically perfect than flowers, songs, and poems any day—and every day!

-Judy Chaney, Texas.

ROBBERS, LAWYERS AND NEIGHBOURS

The Trayvon Martin case highlights our broken desire to justify ourselves.

On Saturday, July 13, George Zimmerman was found not guilty for the murder of Trayvon Martin. On Twitter, people were outraged, mournful, sarcastic, and victorious. *"Justice has been declared."* *"Justice has been mocked."* "An unarmed boy was killed, his life snuffed out. A man thought shooting a gun might make him safe, but he ruined more lives than he could know. The lawsuit, heavily watched by the media and the world, raised questions about racism, our judicial system, and just how fearful of our neighbours we really are.

What I keep thinking about is this: a lawyer once asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus (like he usually did) turned around and asked a question of his own: "What do you read in the Law?" The lawyer answered correctly, the good student that he was: "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself." Jesus agrees, telling the lawyer, "do this and you will live."

But then the gospel of Luke tells us something important about the lawyer, the one asking the question about eternal life, right living, and pleasing God. In chapter 10, right after Jesus told him he was correct, the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus: "and who is my neighbour?"

Jesus, instead of giving a succinct answer, launched into a parable (like he usually did). This is a famous one, a story that surely most of us could recite if called upon: the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus tells the tale of the priest and the Levite, the good and holy people of the Book, passing by a man who was beaten by robbers and left for dead. Later, the poor man is helped by a Samaritan nobody, a shocking thought in that day and age. After he tells the story Jesus asks the lawyer: "which one of these three, do you think, proved to be a good neighbour to the man who fell in among the robbers?" The lawyer replies: "the one who showed him mercy." Jesus, who had no interest in justifications, then put a mighty responsibility on the shoulders of that one lawyer: Go, and do likewise.

Robbers, Lawyers and Neighbours

What does this mean for us in our day? The question of who our neighbour is seems more important than ever, as does the spirit of the question itself. The narratives consuming our national consciousness lately have been full of questions of justice: the Zimmerman trial, the Paula Deen debacle, the Bangladesh factory collapse—leave us wondering: what do these events say about our level of complicity in broken systems? About how well we are doing at our task of loving our neighbours?

It is very easy to love our neighbour who closely resembles us. It is quite another to love our neighbours who are different, especially those who have been beaten and bruised by the systems that have treated some of us just fine. Most people, like the Pharisee and the Levite, find it easier to ignore the ones who have fallen in among the robbers—perhaps because facing these injustices implicates us in ways we are not comfortable with. Because once we start loving our neighbour as Jesus commanded, after we get down on the ground and start loving those who have fallen in among the robbers, things get tricky. Perhaps, after we have helped our 6th, 7th, or 8th oppressed person, we might start asking questions about the systems that create such bruised and battered souls. We might start asking questions about who the robbers are, and why we let them do violence.

The headlines from the past week are grim reminders that the robbers are out there, in all sorts of ways. There are people being left to die on the streets of our cities, safely out of sight for most of us. There are undercurrents of privilege and fear, prejudice and anger flowing through many communities right now. But under all of that I also see a reason for hope: people are longing for justice.

Like the lawyer long ago, we are all wondering how we can justify ourselves. Cases like the Zimmerman trial bring this out in full force. But Jesus, in his infinite compassion and quest for reconciliation, never lets his people off the hook. In an earlier chapter in Luke, Jesus identifies who our most forgotten neighbours are, the ones we pass by on the road: the poor, the imprisoned, the sick and the oppressed. He then goes on to say that it is our job to proclaim to them, to ourselves, and to the systems that create both robbers and victims: the year of the Lord's favour is at hand.

(concluded on page 17)

GLEANINGS FROM MY QUIET TIME - D.A.

Manipulating God

In those days, it was believed that if a person possessed an image of a god, then he had power to control that God. In his wonderful book *The Trivialization of God: The Dangerous Illusion of a Manageable Deity*, Donald McCullough points out that we so easily drift into this sin - imagining God to be what we want Him to be.

McCullough goes on to list some of the 'gods' that we can try to make God into: the god of my cause (I'm passionate about this, hence so is He), the God of my experience (this is what happened in my Christian life, so it must be real), the God of my comfort and my success (who only exists to make me happy), and the God of my nation (I like where I live, so God must think that my nation is the centre of the earth too). Let God be God.

-Life Everyday, 25 July 2013

Covenant Love

Throughout the scriptures we are told that our salvation depends on God *remembering* His covenant promises, just as it does on Him forgetting the sins He forgives! God's memory is our hope! He will not forget you or His covenant promises which include you. The Creator's love for His people is a *listening and loyal love*.

-Everyday with Jesus, 7 Jul 2013

God is everything

When the great conductor Toscanini had finished conducting a brilliant performance of Beethoven's 5th Symphony the audience leapt to their feet, applauding wildly and shouting their delight. Toscanini waved his arms equally wildly, imploring those who were cheering to stop. As soon as they did he turned to the orchestra and shouted hoarsely, 'You are nothing!' Next he pointed to himself and said, 'I am nothing!' Then he cried, 'Beethoven is everything, everything, everything!' That in effect, is what we do when we worship God. When we worship we are saying 'God is everything, everything, everything.'

Everyday with Jesus 8 Sep. 2013

THE STORY BEHIND KING JAMES BIBLE

The commissioning of the King James Bible took place in 1604 at the Hampton Court Conference outside of London. The first edition appeared in 1611. The King James version remains one of the greatest landmarks in the English tongue. It has decidedly affected our language and thought categories, and although produced in England for English churches, it played a unique role in the historical development of America. Even today, many consider the King James Bible the ultimate translation in English and will allow none other for use in church or personal devotions. However, the story behind the creation of this Bible translation is little known and reveals an amazing interplay of faith and politics, church and state. To understand what happened, we need to go back to the world of the early 17th century.



Try to imagine what it was like to live in the England of 1604. There was not a world like ours where speed, change, and innovation are consciously cultivated and thoughtlessly celebrated. Their world moved at a much slower pace and continuity was prized over change. In their world, the crowning of a new monarch was a grand event that deeply affected the life and identity of the nation. The monarch would rule for life. There was no continuous cycle of election campaigns in their world as there is in ours.

The Puritans Miscalculate

Consider the mood that must have prevailed at the time of Queen Elizabeth's death. Her rule had provided a great sense of security and stability for her country.

The Puritans were eager to continue the work of the Reformation, and the death of Elizabeth seemed their opportune moment. Scotland's James VI succeeded her, thus becoming James I of England. Because James had been raised under Presbyterian influences, the Puritans had reason to expect that James would champion their cause. They were gravely mistaken.

James was acquainted with many of their kind in Scotland, and he did not like them. However, they were a sizeable minority, serious, well educated, highly motivated, and convinced of the righteousness of their convictions. Regardless of personal antipathy, James did not consider it politically wise to ignore them.

(Continued on page 10)

The Story Behind the King James Bible

(Continued from page 9)

James wanted unity and stability in the church and state, but was well aware that the diversity of his constituents had to be considered. There were the Papists (as they were called then) who longed for the English church to return to the Roman fold. There were also the Puritans, loyal to the crown but wanting even more distance from Rome. They insisted that England's Reformation did not go far enough, because it still retained too many Catholic elements. They had no trouble agreeing with John Knox's description of Elizabeth as "neither good Protestant nor yet resolute papist."



The Presbyterians wanted to do away with the hierarchical structure of powerful bishops. They advanced what they believed was the New Testament model of church administration under elders or presbyters.

The Nonconformists and Separatists, some of whom would later become America's Pilgrims, wanted the state out of church affairs altogether. They were not seen as a potent force at the time, but their movement was slowly developing.

Then there was Parliament -- eager to expand its power beyond the role it had at the time. There was a significant Puritan influence and representation in the Parliament.

To keep our alliteration, let's refer to the next group as the "Prayer Book" establishment or the Bishops and the hierarchy of the English church. They were a genuine elite, holding exceptional power, privilege, and wealth. To them, Puritan agitation was far more than an intellectual abstraction to be debated at Oxford and Cambridge. If the Puritans were to prevail, this hierarchy had much to lose.

James Comes to the Throne

As James prepared to take the throne, strong stirrings of discontent caused him grave concern. Elizabeth died on March 24, 1603, after ruling 45 years. James received word of his cousin Elizabeth's death and his appointment to the throne, and on April 5, he began his journey from Edinburgh to London for his coronation.

(continued in next issue)

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

! ? Stewardesses is the longest word that can be typed with only the left hand.

! ? An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

! ? White Out was invented by the mother of the Monkees Michael Nesmith.

! ? A pregnant goldfish is called a twit.

! ? In England the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.

! ? To escape the grip of a crocodile's jaws, push your thumbs into its eyeballs. It will let you go instantly.

! ? If a cat falls off the seventh floor of a building, it has about 30% less chance of surviving than a cat falling off the twentieth floor. It takes about 8 floors for a cat to realize what is happening, relax, and correct itself.

! ? The Monongahela River's name translated into English means "high banks breaking off and falling down in places."

! ? A mathematical wonder: 111,111,111 multiplied by 111,111,111 gives the result 12,345,678,987,654,321.

! ? No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, and purple.

! ? Canada is an Indian word meaning "Big Village."

! ? "I am" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

! ? Mel Blanc, the voice of Bugs Bunny, was allergic to carrots.

! ? A "jiffy" is the name for an actual unit of time—1/100th of a second.

! ? The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.

! ? The only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible is the cat.

ISAAC WATTS' BIRTHDAY SERMON

In the annals of hymn writing, Isaac Watts shines as a leading luminary. In most Reformation countries, hymns were employed in worship but seldom in the English church before Watts was born. Anglicans sang the Psalms. Psalm singing, which had at first been a welcome innovation, become a dreary, unmelodious chanting. Each line was first read out by a clerk and then sung. Through Isaac Watts' influence, that changed.

Watts was born in Southampton, England on July 17, 1674. He fell under conviction in 1688 and learned to trust Christ in a personal way a year later. No doubt his father's influence was felt here, for his father was twice imprisoned for refusing to bend to the Church of England beliefs. Later Isaac refused to take an all-expenses-paid education rather than conform himself to the Church of England. After attaining his education under more difficult circumstances, Watts became a preacher. He gave his first sermon on his birthday, July 17, 1698, at Mark Lane in London. His qualities were such that the church soon named him its assistant pastor. Shortly afterward he became seriously ill and suffered such poor health the remainder of his life that he was often unable to carry out his church duties.

A kindly friend, Sir Thomas Abney, took him under his roof and there he lived thirty years. The church also showed much wisdom and charity in continuing to support him despite his fevers and neuralgia. A lady who fell in love with him from reading his hymns is said to have rejected him close up upon finding him small and far from handsome.

Despite his lack of beauty, Watts wrote inspiring poems which were attractive to worshippers. Scarcely a hymnbook today in the English speaking nations is without one or more of his hymns. Psalm singing had fallen into a sad state and church leaders were seriously questioning what to do. Watts boldly called for a new kind of psalm, rewritten in light of the New Testament gospel. "We preach the gospel and pray in Christ's name, and then check [stifle] the aroused devotions of Christians by giving out a song of the old dispensation."

(Concluded on page 17)

Awesome God!

(Continued from page 3)

They didn't have sandals to take off. But they did have wings. So they used them to cover their feet. (Isaiah 6:1-3). Isaiah was so overwhelmed by what he saw that he cried: "*Woe is me.*"

GOD IS GRACIOUS. The thing that makes Christianity unique is the doctrine of grace. The good news of amazing grace is uniquely Christian. Every other religion teaches people how to reach up to God, in one way or another. But Christianity begins by declaring that all of us are sinners who can never earn the righteous merit needed to fully satisfy God's demands. But God in his grace has reached down to reconcile us to himself by the impeccable life, atoning death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "*By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*" God is gracious. And God's grace is seen in Isaiah's vision as the awesome God cleansed and made him fit for his assignment.

***People are re-
turning to spirit-
uality, however
it is a spirituality
that has been
disconnected
from the reality.***

Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes, that God has set "the word, 'olam' or 'eternity' in our hearts." When man removes the knowledge of God from his life, it leaves a God-shaped void. Nothing can fill that void, not money, not possessions, not pleasure. This void is God-shaped, and only God can fill it. It is like the missing piece of a jig-saw puzzle.

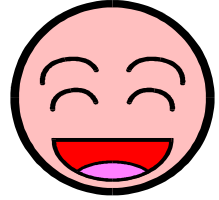
There is a real danger before us. The world is coming full circle. Having fed on the dry husk of materialism, secularism, and naturalism, it has created a spiritual thirst in humanity. People are returning to spirituality, however it is a spirituality that has been disconnected from the reality. While it is a good thing for mankind to once again realize that he or she is a spiritual creature, a spirituality that is not based on biblical revelation is dangerous! John warns us in I John 4:1, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*" There are voices present in the world, "*seducing spirits,*" which will turn you away from the God of the Bible. This is why you need God's Word more than ever, in your life today. You can be deceived!

-Dele Agbelusi

LAUGHTER LINES

Walking in Moses' Shoes

To help my Sunday school class of nine-year-olds understand the difficulty of Moses' job of settling disputes as leader of the Israelites, I asked the children to role-play. Zackery was given Moses' part while the others worked in pairs to come up with problems for him to tackle.



The first duo, Jessica and DaNae, approached their leader and said, "We have no food." Moses thought for a minute and nervously answered, "Go kill some animals."

The next pair were the Terrence children. The problem? "Someone's been killing our animals."

—Loren McCune, Newnan, Georgia. *Christian Reader*, "Kids of the Kingdom."

This Little Light

When my husband and I taught 2- and 3-year-olds in Sunday school, a Bible verse we helped them memorize was (Psalms 56:3), "When I am afraid, I will trust in you." Our preschool son, Mark, was one of our pupils. One stormy night, as lightning flashed and thunder boomed, the electricity suddenly went off. "I'm not afraid," Mark assured us as we groped in the dark for candles and matches. Expecting him to quote the Bible verse he recently learned, I proudly prompted him, "And tell us why you aren't afraid."

"'Cause I've got my flashlight."

—Ann Beck, North Carrollton, MS. *Today's Christian Woman*, "Heart to Heart."

Acts 2:38

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, "Stop - Acts 2:38!" (..turn from your sin...) The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you." "Scripture?" replied the burglar, "She said she had an AXE and two 38's!"

- Doris White, USA

LAUGHTER LINES

Pandemonium in Hell

The Pope, Billy Graham, and Oral Roberts were in a three-way plane crash over the Pacific Ocean. They all died and went to heaven together.

"Oh, this is terrible," exclaims St. Peter, "I know you guys think we summoned you here, but this is just one of those coincidences that happen. Since we weren't expecting you, your quarters just aren't ready... We can't take you in and we can't send you back...."

Then he got an idea. He picked up the phone, "Lucifer, this is Pete. Hey, I got these three guys up here. They're ours, but we weren't expecting them, and we gotta fix the place up for 'em. I was hoping you could put them up for a while. It'll only be a couple of days. What d'ya say?"

Reluctantly, the Devil agreed.

However, two days later, St. Peter got a call.

"Pete, Lu. Hey, you gotta come get these three clowns. This Pope fellow is forgiving everybody, the Graham guy is saving everybody, and that Oral Roberts has raised enough money to buy air conditioning."

-Alicia Coop, Integrity Online

A few words!

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100." The third boy, not to be outdone thought for a long time and said "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

The Bible According to KIDS

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals come on to in pears. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night. Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

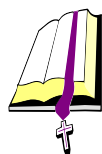
WHAT'S ON: SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Order</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Texts</u>
1st SEPT	10:30am	(MP)	Superior to angels	Hebrews 1
	6:00pm	(EW)	Elijah- a man like us (Introduction)	James 5:13-18 1 Kings 16:29-33
8th SEPT	10:30am	(HC)	Don't drift from the word	Heb. 2:1-5 John 14:1-7
	6.00pm	(EW)	Elijah in God's School	1 Kings 17:1-7
15th SEPT	10.30am	(AA)	Greater than Moses	Hebrews 3
	6.00pm	(EW)	Advanced Training at Zarepath	1 Kings 17:8-16
22nd SEPT	10:30am	(MP)	A perfect High Priest	Heb. 4:14- 5:10
	6.00pm	(EW)	Standing in God's Shadow	1 Kings 17:17-24
29th SEPT	10:30am	(HA)	Press on to Maturity	Hebrews 6
	6:00pm	(EW)	The God who answers by fire	1 Kings 18:1-2, 17-40
6th OCT	10:30am	(MP)	I will forgive them	Psalm 15; Hebrews. 8
	6:00pm	(EW)	God's promises are 'Yes and Amen'	1 Kings 18:1-2, 17-40
13th OCT	10:30am	(HC)	Purified to serve	Hebrews 9:1-22; John 13:1-17
	6:00pm	(EW)	At the threshold of Depression	1 Kings 19:1-21

Note: (HC) - indicates Holy Communion (Common Worship); (MP) - Morning Prayer; (AA) - All Age/Parade Service; (HA)- Healing and Anointing. There is Holy Communion Service every Sunday at 8am using the Book of Common Prayer.

MEMORY VERSE

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. Deuteronomy 10:17



Isaac Watts' Birthday Sermon

(Continued from page 12)

Acting on his own word, he published a collection of Christianized psalms in 1719. Even before this, in 1707, he published his *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*. They include "Joy to the World." These, not his sermons, are his true gift to the church and inspired Charles Wesley's even more successful endeavours.

Watts faced fierce opposition. Many church leaders were opposed to his efforts and some called his hymns "Watt's Whims." The common people, however, delighted in them. Eventually the Church of England revised its stand and began adding hymns to their worship. His most famous songs point to Christ:

*"When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride."*

- Dan Graves, MSL
Church History Timeline

Robbers, Lawyers and Neighbours

(continued from page 7)

He is telling all of us that they are our neighbour, no matter how much we might have worked to distance ourselves from that reality. He is telling us that once we get involved, we will see the justice we long for roll down like water: people will be free, people will be healed.

Do we really believe that? Now is the time for that hope, which leads to right action--both for the victims and the systems that create them. It is has always been time, to announce God's dream for the world.

Let us go now, and do likewise.

- D.L. Mayfield, July 15, 2013

D. L. Mayfield lives in the Midwest of the US. with her husband and daughter. Recently they joined a Christian order amongst the poor, where they are currently seeking life in the upside down kingdom. She has a blog and you can find her on Twitter, too.

IMPRISONED IN IRAN FOR FAITH IN JESUS

Jesus appeared to us in a dream

“Several of us came to faith when Jesus appeared to us in a dream. All of us were rejected by our families. We had no one to turn to except one another. We had no pastors or teachers to instruct us how to be followers of Jesus. There were not enough Bibles for everyone.

Exhausted from living in hiding and knowing that her family’s home was being watched by the secret police, *Niki* bravely went to the officials who were seeking her. She knew the risks and their reputation.

“Passing through those doors, I knew I might never get out alive.” They bound and blindfolded her and began to threaten her: “You know who we are - do you know what we can do to you? Whatever we like! If you disappear, no one will know.”

For eight hours they continued. Incredibly, *Niki* began to laugh. She said, “You don’t know who I am. I have nothing to lose. The only thing I have – Jesus – you cannot take from me. Your threats don’t work on me!” Her captors demanded, “Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God?” *Niki* boldly answered, “You also can be a child of God.” All the while, she sensed that the Holy Spirit was in her every word.

All you have said, has touched my heart

Amazingly, the Judge told *Niki*, “It seems you have found a faith right for yourself. All you have said has touched my heart. We were going to keep you for three months, but I’m going to release you tonight because of what you’ve said. Stay in your faith. Keep what you have found.”

Obviously, God had plans for *Niki*, big plans. Today she is a significant influence behind SAT-7 PARS, SAT-7’s satellite TV channel broadcasting in Farsi to Iran. She is passionate, visionary and bold. Her leadership and sensitivity to the needs of isolated believers, and her passion to proclaim the Gospel to her fellow Iranians in their own language are among the many reasons why SAT-7 PARS is one of the most watched satellite channels in Iran.

Niki tells of a father who had been unemployed for months. The moment he found a job, instead of buying food, he bought a satellite dish and receiver. When asked why he replied, “A little hope is much more important than bread on our table.” One of the first channels he found was SAT-7PARS, which led him to Christ!

HEAVENLY CORRESPONDENCE

E-MAIL FROM GOD (40)

File Edit View Options Tools Help

Send Contacts Spell Attach Security Save

From: **GOD, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

To: **You, My beloved child**

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. (Isaiah 53:7)

Subject: **THE LAMB THAT WAS A LION**

Dear Child,

Jesus lived a perfect life as a human being. Before He left Heaven, I gave Him a job to do on earth, and He did it exactly like I told Him.

After He was tortured and handed over to be crucified, Jesus had a chance to defend Himself. After all, He was perfectly innocent. And He was so powerful, He could have destroyed all of His accusers by just waving His hand... but He didn't. Jesus obeyed Me and kept His mouth shut so that He would die on the cross, taking all your mistakes and wrongdoing with Him. His sacrificial death earned you the chance to know My forgiveness... and Me.

So understand, the strongest person isn't the one who blows up everything or yells the loudest about how unfair life is. The strongest person is the one who silently obeys Me, even in the face of false accusations. Be strong by being humble.

The Father of Jesus,
>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 all-age/parade service once every month - usually the third Sunday of the month unless otherwise indicated.
-Evening worship - **6.00 pm.** - Summer Time
5.00 pm. - Winter Time

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- Sunday** - Choir practice in church (9.30 am)
Monday - Brownies meeting in church (5.30 pm)
- Prayer meeting in church - 16th Sept, 7th Oct
Wednesday - Fellowship Meal in church (6:30 pm) followed by, Bible Fellowship (7.15 pm)
Thursday - Homework Club (5 pm-7 pm)
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, Jibola Fapohunda, Charles Murphy
Lay Ministers: Richard Mercer, Iyabo Agbelusi
Organist: Position vacant

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; WEB: www.christchurchn8.org.uk