



CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
LONDON N8 8AX  
**CROSSLINKS**  
NOW REMAIN IN MY LOVE

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



**SPECIAL ISSUE FOR RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS**  
**FEBRUARY 2010    ISSUE 10.115**

## Vicar's three-minute reflection

### PEACE, BE STILL



Dr. William Barclay was one of the most respected Bible scholars in the world. His life was devastated at one point when his only daughter drowned just a few days before she was to be married. Sometime later, commenting on our scripture lesson for today, Dr. Barclay said this: "I am not so concerned as to whether Jesus stilled the tempest on the sea. What I do know is He stilled the tempest in my heart."

Throughout the last 20 centuries there have been millions of people who have heard Christ speak his sweet message of comfort and hope: "Peace," he says. "Peace. Be still." He calms the storms, and He brings us peace. That is our good news for the day. He calms the storms.

When Robinson Crusoe was shipwrecked on his lonely island, he made a chart with two columns. In one column he put how evil had affected him, and in the other he wrote what was good about his situation. He was stranded on a desolate island, but he was not starving. The rest of his ship's company had drowned at sea. He was away from human society, but he was still alive. The little island could support his basic needs. He had no clothes, but he was in a hot climate and did not need them. He was without any means of defence, but he saw no wild beasts such as he had seen on the coast of Africa. He had no one to talk to, but God had sent the ship so near to the shore that he could get everything out of it that would help him survive. So, he concluded, there was no condition in the world so miserable that one could not find something to be grateful for. There's that secret again.

**"I am not so concerned as to whether Jesus stilled the tempest on the sea. What I do know is He stilled the tempest in my heart."**

There will be times in our lives when there is a lot of thunder. We have seen the storm clouds rise, and we have felt the winds howl and the waves begin to beat into the ship. The boat is rocking hard, and slowly filling with water. It is beginning to list to one side, and in a few moments it surely will dump all of us into the sea.



Meanwhile, Jesus is asleep in the back of the boat. Let's be honest. There are times when we are troubled and wonder if God is sleeping. The disciples woke the Master, and hit Him with a harsh question: "Master, don't you care that we perish?"

Of course He cares. That's the secret of handling life's storms. After Christ rebukes the storm, He rebukes the disciples, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" Slowly we realize that that is the critical problem in our own lives. **It is not what is happening to us but what is happening in us.** The way we handle life's storms is always directly proportional to our faith. We can hear that gentle voice just as William Barclay heard it. It is the voice of Him who has dominion over the wind and the waves. "Peace, be still," He says. Mark says it best: "the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

Are you going through a tempest in your life? The circumstances may vary from one person to another. Call unto Jesus and let Him speak calmness to your situation.

**It is not what is happening to us but what is happening in us.**

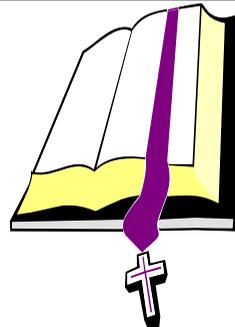
I wish you a pleasant read of this special edition of Christ Church monthly Parish magazine (Crosslinks). It will feature some of our past articles on the family and marriage and some of my addresses on the same topics.

Dele Agbelusi

### Memory Verse

**"The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house" says the Lord Almighty, "And in this place I will grant peace," declares the LORD Almighty."**

Haggai 2: 9



## DOES YOUR MARRIAGE NEED A TUNE-UP?



What causes this once smooth-running machine to knock and sputter?

Couples generally enter marriage with engines revving, but sooner or later find their relationship "idling." The thrill is gone, arguments easily become overheated, and the pressure of jobs, kids and a mortgage is on. What causes this once smooth-running machine to knock and sputter?

### WARNING LIGHTS

The biggest culprits are dangerous patterns of thinking. When conflicts become habitual, it's not surprising that you begin to think far more negatively about your marital prospects. Here are a few of the warning lights. Any of these look familiar?

**Feeling bored** with your spouse. Before you were married, getting to know each other and establishing a deep commitment were welcome challenges. But now you've "been there...done that" on just about everything. Both of you sense the lack of excitement and because your life is so crowded it's easy to stop making the effort to learn more about each other.

**Focusing on differences.** The same opposite traits that you once found so charming are now simply annoying. I can't tell you how many times I've caught myself thinking: "We'd get so much more accomplished if Chris [my wife] would just do things my way."

**Fixating on a fantasy.** It's easy to fall into a habit of daydreaming about your "perfect spouse" as an escape from dealing with the real one. Some of this is natural—at times the fantasy is a lot simpler to handle. But you can take it too far, especially when you become disappointed because your spouse doesn't meet the impossible standards of your fantasy. Wake up! Dreams are just that—dreams.

**Avoiding your mate.** Setting aside a little time for yourself is healthy. But if you're avoiding contact with your spouse, or if the time you spend together feels like a chore, that's a clear warning that you need to spend even more time together.

**Pursuing individual goals.** Couples often get discouraged when they find it difficult to establish joint goals. When communication starts to break down, you're quick to think, "My spouse isn't going

## Does your marriage need a tune up?

to listen to me anyway. So I'll just go ahead and make this decision myself." Before you know it, you're focusing on what you want instead of what's best for both of you.

**Reaching the boiling point.** When everything your mate does seems to make you crazy, irritable and just plain mad, that's a clear signal that your attitudes are mired in negativity. But if you think back, you'll remember a time when your relationship was full of promise. What changed?

**Under the Hood.** If you can identify with some of the above warning signals, don't panic. The warning lights simply tell you when to stop and check things out. Here are some ways you can give your marriage the tune-up it needs.

**1. Get intentional.** Create a positive experience for you and your spouse - on purpose. Blow a wad on a great date night or a surprise for your mate. Then do it again in a few weeks.

**2. Study your spouse.** What kinds of things does he or she get excited about? What are your mate's dreams? What does your spouse think would make his or her life more fulfilling? One way to make your partner feel appreciated is to express genuine interest. Even better, you'll both experience joy as you help make your spouse's life more satisfying.

**3. Sort through the negatives.** Which problems are negligible - things you can live with - and which ones are important and must be resolved? As you sort them out, you may be surprised at how few "biggies" there really are. Also, as you tackle one or two problems together, the next one that comes along won't seem so insurmountable.

**4. Set mutual goals.** Offset the tendency to focus on yourself by finding one or more areas that you can purposefully work on together.

**5. Don't let ill feelings fester.** Find the time and energy to resolve disagreements as they come up—even if it requires a "late-nighter." Long-term resentments can use up more energy than a few hours of wrestling through a problem.

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## Does your marriage need a tune up?

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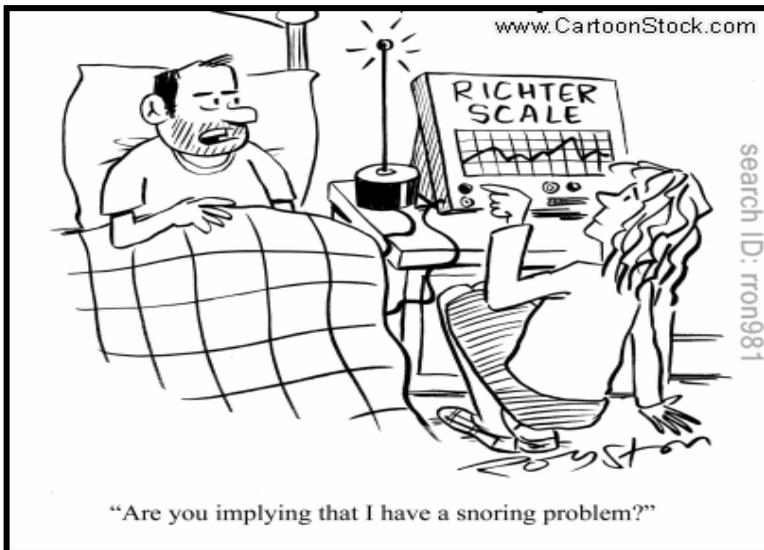
**6. Focus on reality.** Guess what? The grass is *browner* on the other side of the fence. The perfect spouse doesn't exist—anywhere. So look for what you love and appreciate about the one you've chosen.

**7. Be a servant.** This is how Christ won over the multitudes. So make your mate the target of some good deeds this week. Serving your spouse will actually make *you* feel better.

**8. Seek excellence.** Work as hard to maintain your marriage as you do to advance in your career or to excel in raising your kids. What areas need extra attention? How will you know if you've met your goals? Generate new energy and creativity and apply them to your marriage.

**9. Do not allow the challenges of the road to throw you off track. A positive relationship is a destination worth pursuing—together.**

Michael Lacey  
(Crosslinks May 2009)



## FORGIVENESS IN RELATIONSHIPS

One of the most important messages we can share this Easter is the very reason Christ came to earth—to sacrifice Himself so that we could experience forgiveness for all we've done wrong. We also believe one of the most important messages we can proclaim to the world we live in today is that the single greatest gift we can ever give someone is forgiveness.

In our 27 plus years of marriage, Iyabo and I have had to give the gift of forgiveness to each other many times. It's never been easy, but we both know that if we hadn't "forgiven as Christ has forgiven us", our relationship would not be what it is today. Steve and Mary Prokopchak in their book "Called Together" share some principles about forgiveness that we all need to remember and employ if our marriages are to be truly "Christ-like".

**1. Choose to forgive.** Just as Jesus "chose" to forgive us, so we must choose to forgive our spouse when they hurt or sin against us. Forgiveness begins with a decision that, in Jesus' name, we will obey God and forgive the one who has hurt us. Ephesians 4:32 says "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."



**But what about feelings?** Forgiveness doesn't start with feelings but with a decision. You don't need to wait for the right "feeling" before deciding to forgive. Just think where we'd all be if Jesus waited until He "felt" like forgiving us. We do need to be alert too. Satan may try to bring some feelings of resentment back into your life (1 Peter 5:8-10). You don't need to feel guilty about these temptations but you do need to deal with them. Since you've already made your choice to forgive, you need to stand firm on having already forgiven your spouse in "Jesus' name".

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## Forgiveness in relationships

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**2. Confess your sin to God.** This can be a hard truth to swallow but unforgiveness is a sin against God. It's disobedience to His command to forgive others as He has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32). There's no place in the Bible that "lets us off the hook". **Our unforgiveness can keep people from experiencing God's forgiveness.** Our unforgiving attitude will sometimes make others "slam their ears shut" and block the way of their seeing the revelation Christ has for them.

**3. Ask forgiveness of those you wronged.** Once we recognize that we are the guilty party in a situation with our spouse—we should make the first move to restore the relationship. Accept responsibility for the wrong you've done and ask your spouse for forgiveness. If you don't know what you did wrong, ask God to show you. Simply ask for forgiveness.

Don't go into details that would do more harm than good. It's good to look right at the person when you tell him/her what you did wrong and ask, "Will you forgive me?" Wait for an answer. If they say, "Yes, I'll forgive you," this will bring a release to them also. **However, regardless of their answer, by confessing your sin and asking for forgiveness, you have been obedient. You can now leave the situation in God's hands.**

**4. Ask God to bless the person who hurt you.** "Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Luke 6:28). Ask God to truly bless the person who hurt you. And as you do this, follow the example of Jesus in asking God to bless them by forgiving them!

**5. Do something nice for the person who hurt you -** expecting nothing in return. "Do good to those who hate you (Luke 6:27). "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

## Forgiveness in relationships

**6. Accept your spouse the way he or she is, even when they're wrong.** Don't defend what they've done, but defend them as a person. You're not approving of their behaviour but you still need to treat them with dignity, respect, love and kindness anyway. " Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:7)

**7. Look at your spouse through the eyes of faith and believe God to change them.** Don't concentrate on areas of weakness, sin or irritation. Rather concentrate on seeing that person as God wants him or her to be. Believe that God will answer your prayers for them. Begin to think and speak positively about them (1 Corinthians 13:7). Love "always trusts, always hopes..."

Marriages heal when we stop looking at what our partner should do to make our marriage better and instead, look at what we need to do. The first step in all of this is to forgive as we have been forgiven - looking to Christ as our example, and as One who can give us the power to "set the captive free". Eventually **we'll discover that we have been the captive all along for as long as we have failed to forgive.** There is a damage that an unforgiving spirit does to us and to everyone else whose lives we influence.

With Christ as our example, it's our prayer that God will show us in our marriages how to empty ourselves of all but love - to give love, forgiveness, and grace as we've been given love, forgiveness, and grace - through all that Christ did for us in His life here on earth - through all He did for us through His death on the cross - and all He did for us through His resurrection. May we never forget! Because of Christ.

Dele Agbelusi  
(Crosslinks April 2006)

## IT IS GOOD TO LAUGH

### MARRIAGE COUNSELLING BREAKTHROUGH

After months of working with a fighting couple, the marriage counsellor saw a ray of hope when the wife addressed her husband as "Hon." "There's still hope for this marriage if you can call him 'Hon,'" the skilled counsellor pointed out. "Huh! I've been calling him that for years," said the wife. "Attila the Hun."

Seven World's Publishing, May/June 1991



### YOU ARE GOING TO DIE

A woman accompanied her husband to the doctor's office for a check-up. Afterwards, the doctor took the wife aside and said, "Unless you do the following things, your husband will surely die. Every morning make sure he gets a good healthy breakfast. Have him come home for lunch each day so you can feed him a well-balanced meal. Make sure you feed him a good, hot dinner every night. Don't overburden him with any household chores. Also, keep the house spotless and clean so he doesn't get exposed to any unnecessary germs." On the way home, the husband asked his wife what the doctor said. She replied, "You're going to die."

American Health, March 1992, p. 73



**"How can you say I'm not romantic? Yesterday I almost thought about maybe buying you some flowers!"**

# MARRIAGE TITBITS

## A TINY ROWBOAT

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

David Robert Reuben

## HOW TUNING FORKS PRODUCE TONE

Consider a tuning fork. It delivers a true pitch by two tines vibrating together. Muffle either side, even a little, and the note disappears. Neither tine individually produces the sweet, pure note. Only when both tines vibrate is the correct pitch heard.

## WHAT IS IT LIKE BEING MARRIED TO ME?

I do not believe there is a marriage in existence today that would not benefit from both partners asking themselves: 'What is it like being married to me?'

Ed Young

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

Ed Young

## I GIVE MYSELF

An evangelist had held a service, at the close of which a little girl presented a bouquet of flowers, the first spring had brought forth. He asked, "Why do you give me these flowers?" She answered, "Because I love you." "Do you bring the Lord Jesus such gifts of your love at times?" he inquired. "Oh," said the little one, with an angelic smile, "I give myself to him!"



That surely is the highest kind of giving, and without it, all other giving is in vain. To so give takes love, and without love every sacrifice is profitless according to 1 Cor. 13:3.

## WOW!!!

When a marriage works, nothing on earth can take its place.

Helen Gahagan Douglas

# HOW TO BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

## **20 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR WIFE FEEL SPECIAL**

1. Ask her to dance when you hear your love song.
2. Polish her shoes for special occasions.
3. Have good conversations.
4. Give her a back rub with no expectations of lovemaking.
5. Buy and plant a rose bush as a surprise.
6. Keep your home repaired and in good order.
7. Make sure the car has good tires and is in good running condition.
8. Hold her hand when you lead the family prayer.
9. Write out a list of all your important documents and where you keep them.
10. Find a way to save something from every pay cheque.
11. Ask her input before making decisions.
12. Hold her tenderly when she cries and tell her it's okay.
13. Ask her out and plan the complete date yourself— including making the reservations.
14. Occasionally, eat quiche and dainty desserts with her at a local restaurant.
15. Understand when she forgets to enter a check in the ledger.
16. Shave on your day off.
17. Call if you're going to be more than fifteen minutes late.
18. Encourage her to take time out with her friends.
19. Remember to carry Kleenex or a clean handkerchief when you go to a romantic movie.
20. Tell her she will always be beautiful when she worries about getting older.

## **20 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR HUSBAND FEEL SPECIAL**

1. Don't interrupt or correct him when he is telling a story.
2. Complement him in front of his children, your parents, his parents and friends.
3. Be as concerned about your looks as you were when you were dating.
4. Let him have some time to relax when he first gets home.

## How to build strong relationships

5. Develop a genuine interest in his work and hobbies.
6. Admire him for his strength and significance.
7. If he wants to take a lunch to work, pack it or him.
8. Try to be home (and off the phone) when he gets home from work, and up in the morning when he leaves.
9. Help your kids be excited about dad coming home.
10. Buy him new socks and underwear on ordinary days instead of giving these as gifts on holidays and birthdays.
11. Keep your bedroom tastefully decorated and clutter free.
12. Understand when he wants to spend time enjoying sports or hobbies with his friends
13. Keep his favourite snack on hand.
14. Stick to your budget.
15. Watch his favourite TV sporting events with him.
16. Try to go to bed at the same time he does; understand if he falls asleep in the recliner after a hard day.
17. Trade babysitting with friends so you have some nights at home alone.
18. Keep lovemaking fresh and exciting, and remember he probably has more frequent desires than you have.
19. Bake homemade cookies for him to take to work.
20. Ask yourself one question everyday: "What's it like being married to me?"



(Crosslinks February 2003)



## **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN**

To enable you appreciate your spouse where it matters

### **MEN**

More self-focused  
Needs less intimacy  
Fears engulfment  
Needs less approval  
More independent  
Often detached  
An attention-getter  
Highly competitive  
Strong drive for power/money

Respect very important  
Often obsessed with sports  
Talks mostly about "things"  
Less talkative in private  
Takes things literally  
Language more direct  
Less responsive listener  
Decisions made quicker  
Gossips less  
Engages in put-downs  
Focuses more on solutions  
Less apologetic  
Tells more jokes/stories  
Less willing to seek help  
Boasts about performance  
Nags less often  
Often intimidates others  
Issues orders  
Often seeks conflict  
Likes to be adored  
Fearful of commitment  
Sexually jealous of mate  
Accepts others more  
Thrives on receiving  
More polygamous  
More sadistic  
More sex-oriented  
Has fewer close friends

### **WOMEN**

More other focused  
Needs more intimacy  
Fears abandonment  
Needs more approval  
Less independent  
Often emotional  
An attention-giver  
Less competitive  
Less important drive for power/  
money  
Respect less important  
Sports less important  
Talks mostly about "people"  
Less talkative in public  
Looks for hidden meanings  
Language more indirect  
More responsive listener  
Takes more time to decide  
Gossips more  
Engages in backbiting  
Likes to discuss problems  
More apologetic  
Tells fewer jokes/stories  
Seeks help readily  
Boasts less frequently  
Nags more often  
Seldom intimidates others  
Makes suggestions  
Tends to avoid conflict  
Likes to adore others  
Eager for commitment  
Emotionally jealous of mate  
Tries to change others more  
Thrives on giving  
More monogamous  
More masochistic  
More love-oriented  
Has many close friends

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## SOME GOLDEN RULES OF LIVING

If you open it, close it.  
If you turn it on, turn it off.  
If you unlock it, lock it up.  
If you break it, admit it.  
If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.  
If you borrow it, return it.  
If you value it, take care of it.  
If you make a mess, clean it up.  
If you move it, put it back.  
If it belongs to someone else and you want to use it,  
get permission.  
If you don't know how to operate it,  
leave it alone.  
If it's none of your business,  
don't ask questions.  
If it isn't broken, don't fix it.  
If it will brighten someone's day,  
say it.  
If it will tarnish someone's reputation,  
keep it to yourself.

(Crosslinks November 2006)

## Differences between men and women

### MEN

Likes group activities  
Worries less about others  
More sensitive to stress  
Less trusting  
More aggressive  
Initiates war  
Posture leans back more  
Cooler/seductive sexiness  
Has more testosterone  
Less into dieting  
Less concerned about health  
Worries less about appearance  
Takes more physical risks  
Shops out of necessity

### WOMEN

Prefers intimate encounters  
Worries more about others  
Less sensitive to stress  
Often too trusting  
Less aggressive  
Doesn't make war  
Posture leans forward more  
Warmer/animated sexiness  
Has more estrogen  
More into dieting  
More concerned about health  
Worries more about appearance  
Takes fewer physical risks  
Often shops for enjoyment.

(Crosslinks November 2006)

## RESOURCES TO LIVE BY

There was a man who went into a hardware store with a chain-saw. He threw the chain-saw down at the store owner's feet and said, "This is a piece of junk. You told me that I could cut down forty trees a day, and I couldn't cut down any more than three." The owner said, "Well, maybe the teeth on the saw need to be sharpened." Once that was done, the man took the saw back home, only to return three days later. The man said, "It's still a piece of junk. It's a little bit better, but not much. Now I can only cut down five trees a day and you said I could cut down forty. I want my money back." The store owner responded, "I really don't understand it. This is a good piece of equipment. Let's try it." The store-owner pulled the starter rope and the chain saw started right up. The man looked at it, surprised, and said, "What in the world is that noise?"

We're like that. We have the chain saw, but we haven't found out about the power. Are you tapping into the power available to enrich your marital relationship?

Most Christians live empty lives simply because they don't realize that all the angels of God are poised to listen to their prayers. The power that God offers His people is a resource you need to draw on and a good marriage cannot live without this.

Dele Agbelusi  
(Crosslinks February 2006)

### **NEGATIVE THINKING**

A guy blew a tire while driving through the country. To his chagrin, there was no jack in his trunk. Looking down the dark road he saw a distant farmhouse with a light on. It was his only recourse, so he started walking. During his journey he started thinking, "What if nobody's home?" A little later he thought, "What if they're home, but they don't have a jack?" His adrenaline started pumping even more when he asked himself, "What if they have a jack but won't let me use it?" This private conversation escalated to the point that when he finally arrived at the house, he simply yelled at the farmer, "You can just keep your stupid jack!"

"What Leaders Expect From Followers," John Maxwell, Vol. 8 No. 10, 1993  
(Crosslinks January 2006)

## WHO OWNS YOUR CHILDREN?

A recent conversation with my wife Pamela stimulated my thoughts about ownership. With a renewed understanding of who "owns" our children, she shared with me a new attitude of prayer. As she prays for Emily, Julia and Catherine, she says, "Dear God, be with *your* Emily, *your* Julia and *your* Catherine." She explained that it enables her to seek God's desire for the girls more earnestly, rather than focusing upon her desires for them. It is an issue of perceived ownership.

The Bible repeatedly stresses the perspective of stewardship rather than ownership. It impels us to re-examine the way we treat what God has given us. In Genesis 2:15, the Lord put Adam in the Garden of Eden, asking him to work and care for it. God's design is stewardship; however, man's proclivity is ownership. When we choose ownership over stewardship, the results are often not God's best.

A friend once asked me how I would respond if my stockbroker, entrusted with the stewardship of my money, used my money to buy himself a nicer home and a luxury car. I was confused by his question until he continued by asking if I thought God was displeased by the way people used and controlled His possessions, given only to us for our guardianship. I imagine that He is often not pleased.

Let us carefully assess our hearts' attitudes toward that which God has given to us. Is our attitude one of stewardship or one of ownership? Is our stewardship of God's earthly gifts worthy of His trust?

"So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" (Luke 16:11, NIV)

Bob Snyder M.D.  
(Crosslinks June 2004)

## ONCE UPON A TIME...

Once upon a time, there lived a stonecutter who went every day to the mountain to cut stones. And while he worked he whistled and sang, for though he was poor, he had everything he wanted. He was a happy man.

Then one day he was called to work at the mansion of a very rich man. When he saw the man's beautiful house, the stonecutter felt a pang of desire for the first time in his life. He said, "If only I were rich, I would not have to earn my living with hard work and sweat." Suddenly a voice from heaven boomed, "Your wish is granted. From now on, anything you want will be given to you."

When the stonecutter returned home that evening, to his amazement, he found a mansion in place of his small hut! The stonecutter gave up cutting stones and began to live the life of the rich. One day he was sitting in front of his mansion when he saw a king and all of his noblemen passing by. He said to himself; "I wish I were a king, sitting in the cool comfort of a royal carriage."

No sooner had he made his wish than he found himself riding in a cool, comfortable carriage, dressed in royal garb and surrounded by servants. As he continued, the day got warmer and the interior of the carriage became unbearably hot. The stonecutter/king looked out the carriage window and marvelled at the power of the sun. He said to himself, "I wish I were the sun."

Once again his wish was granted and he became the sun, sending out waves of heat to the entire universe.

All went well for a while. Then one rainy day, the stonecutter/king/sun tried to make his heat penetrate a thick bank of clouds. But he couldn't do it. The clouds were too dense. The people below the clouds could not feel his heat.

"I wish I were a cloud," he said. And that's what he became. As a cloud, he enjoyed his power to prevent the sun's heat from reaching the ground.

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## Once upon a time...

Soon, though, the stonecutter/king/sun/cloud felt himself being pushed by a great force. He realized that the force was the wind and that he was no match for it. "I wish I were the wind," he said. And that's what he became. As the mighty wind, he blew clouds and rain all over the kingdom. Sometimes he even blew down trees and buildings with the strength of a hurricane.

But it wasn't long, though, before the stonecutter/king/sun/cloud/wind found something that he could not move by blowing. It was a huge, towering stone, glorious in its sheer size, weight, and strength. No matter how hard he tried, he just couldn't move that stone.

"I wish I were that stone," he said. In an instant, he became the stone, stronger than anything on earth.

But while he stood there in all of his stony glory, he heard the sound of a hammer and chisel pounding into solid rock. He looked down and saw a stonecutter cutting chunks of rock from his feet.

And the stonecutter/king/sun/cloud/wind/stone said, "How can a tiny creature like that be more powerful than a mighty rock like me? I want to be a man!" The stonecutter was instantly transformed into a man again.

And today he can still be found going up to the mountain to cut stone, singing and whistling all the way. It was John Henry Newman who said: "Let us take things as we find them. Let us not attempt to distort them into what they are not. We cannot make facts. All our wishing cannot change them. We must use them."

Do you wish you were created differently and with better opportunities than what you have at the moment? Or do you just make the best of what you have and who you are and learn to put God between you and your "problems". He always makes a difference when he is considered as part of the Great Equation of life.

D.A.  
(Crosslinks June 2004)

## MOTTO/TEXT FOR THE YEAR

**‘I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES  
ME STRENGTH’ PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

### FINDING OUT ABOUT ...CHRIST CHURCH?

Tel/Fax: 020 8340 1566

We are a family of men and women, boys and girls who are trying 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**
- **8.00am.** Holy Communion ( Book of Common Prayer)
  - **10.30am.** Main service with Crèche facilities. There is family/parade service once every month– usually the third Sunday. Anointing/Healing service is on the fifth Sunday of any month unless otherwise indicated.
  - **6.00pm.** Evening worship (Summer Time)
  - **5.00pm.** Evening worship (Winter Time)

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Sunday - Choir practice in church (**9.30 am**)
- Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group and Brownies **meetings in church**
- Prayer meetings - First and Third Mondays every month
- Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (**7:45 pm for 8.00pm start**)
- Thursday - Christianity Explored - West Chapel (**7:30pm**)
- Friday - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (**2.00 pm**)
- Scouts meeting in hall (**6.30 pm**) - **Scout meetings in church**
  - Music Team practice in choir vestry (**6.30 pm**)

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

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**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

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