



**CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS
PEACE BE WITH YOU**

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL

Jesus came and stood among them and said, Peace be with you! After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20: 19b-21)



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Vicar's three minute reflection

PEACE BE WITH YOU



It was Francis Bacon who said "When Christ came into the world, peace was sung; and when he went out of the world, peace was bequeathed." The experience of Jesus' disciples after his death illustrates this.

The disciples were in a state of denial, fear and confusion. The future looked so bleak. How else would it seem when they felt deserted by their Master. "...they were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20.19) He fulfils the promise to give them peace in the midst of a troubled and fearful situation. This is the peace of Galilee which the raging storm could

when "God takes life's pieces and gives us unbroken peace."

not disturb. It is the peace experienced by Jesus during the crisis in Gethsemane though he was in deep agony. This is the peace that is now established by the cross which Rome erected on which Jesus died. W.D. Gough describes it as what happens when "God takes life's pieces and gives us unbroken peace." The world and all it stands for cannot give it and neither can it take it away. It is the peace that we experience as a result of the atoning work of Jesus. This peace is a special gift to the beloved.

Nice people must see themselves as nasty, sinful people before they can find this peace. When they exchange their proud and diabolical belief that they never did anything wrong, for a Divine gift of Mercy and reconciliation in Jesus, then the civil war in their nature will be brought to an end, and they shall be at peace with themselves because they are at peace with God. They are no longer enemies of God, subject to his wrath (cf. Rom. 9-11). This concept of peace, though directed toward God, is the basis for peace with others and ourselves. Do you have this peace? If you do, I rejoice with you. If you are in doubt and want to find out more about it, please write :The Editor Crosslinks , 32 Crescent Road, London N8 8AX.



My Prayer

Lord, in the quietness
reach out and hold me.
Draw me gently into your peace.
And in the loving silence at your heart,
attune my ears to hear the sounds I never listen to.

The harmony that lies in you,
The discords in the world you've put me in.
The Laughter and the tears
In other people's lives

Eddie Askew

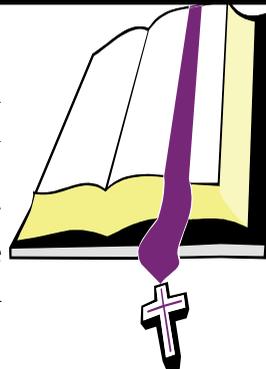
Quote on Peace

Five great enemies to peace inhabit us, namely,
avarice, ambition, envy, anger, and pride.
If these enemies were to be banished,
we should infallibly enjoy perpetual peace

Petrarch

Memory Verse

Jesus came and stood among them and said, Peace be with you! After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the father has sent me, I am sending you."
(John 20: 19b-21)



KEEPING YOUR MARRIAGE STRONG IN THE FACE OF INFERTILITY



Infertility produces a lot of stress in many marriages. There's a tendency, subtly or not, to focus on "who's to blame." As a result, one partner may feel superior and the other inferior. One may feel disappointment over the other's "inadequacies," while the other feels guilt for the same. One partner may be relieved that he or she is not "the problem," while the other becomes depressed because she or he is.

But fertility is a couple's problem. It's one of the few known medical conditions that involve two people! The trouble isn't an infertile wife or an infertile husband, but an infertile couple. Until you understand that fact, you may experience a great deal of solitary and unnecessary pain. God said that "a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Becoming "one flesh" refers to much more than the sex act; it means that a husband and wife work at being "one in sharing their hopes, dreams, and joys—as well as the burdens, sad times, and challenges. The marriage vow that is made on the wedding day expects the couple to share in poverty and wealth, good health and illness, sunshine and rain, winter and summer...

Communication between husband and wife is crucial if the stresses that accompany infertility are to be dealt with effectively. But there's no question about it—most men and women handle communication differently. Do wives, for example, tend to feel a greater sense of pain and loss over their inability to be mothers than husbands do over their failure to be fathers? This is a controversial question. Each time we speak to infertile groups on this issue, it raises a flood of disagreements. Still, the majority response is usually something like, "Of course most husbands hurt as much as their wives do, but they just show it differently." Those feelings of frustration, guilt, anger, and isolation are not unusual. When couples struggle with infertility, it's usually the woman who feels the greater emotional involvement and who tends to suffer more. It's typically the woman who seeks treatment first, and who initiates conversations about "our problem." It's the woman who sees the pregnant lady on every street corner. It's the woman who tends to read the books and magazine articles on infertility—and who, for the most part, writes them. When husbands and wives refuse to recognize that there may be significant differences in the way they view infertility, they're setting themselves up for marital strife.

(Continued on page 5)

Keeping your marriage strong ... (from page 4)

Wives shouldn't assume that their husbands understand the depth of their pain; husbands need to remember that their wives may view motherhood as essential to their fulfillment.

A Marriage Survival Kit

Many couples who experience infertility discover that their marriage is on a survival mission—and it's not just a training exercise! How can you and your spouse preserve your relationship—and even improve it—during this difficult time?

Husbands need to learn that they don't have to fix the pain or the problem or explain it away. They can't! More helpful than "fixing" is simply going to your wife, putting your arms around her, and saying, "You're really hurting today, aren't you? I can't make it better, but I want you to know that I love you—and when you hurt, I hurt too."

Wives like to talk more than their husbands do. Many women find it therapeutic to talk —it is a way of relieving stress. Men, on the other hand, often find that talking about an issue produces stress." What's going to happen when these two come together for the evening? Tension, not tenderness!

Here's where the **stopwatch** comes in. It can remind a couple of what has often been called the "Twenty-Minute Rule." Having discussed their infertility often and in depth in the past, the couple agrees that if one of them brings up the topic, they'll discuss it for 20 minutes and no longer. After 20 minutes they'll move to another subject. This is a good rule! When it's practiced, several things happen. The wife knows she has to focus her comments clearly or she'll miss her chance. The husband, instead of listening with one ear while the other is trying to catch the football score, concentrates on what his wife is saying because he knows it's not going to be an all-night conversation. Best of all, they have the rest of the evening to talk about and do other things.

For many couples undergoing infertility treatment, **romance** is an early casualty. Though some report that the experience draws them closer, many find it takes a toll on intimacy and spontaneity. How can you keep your romance alive? Try little things—a love note in lipstick on the bathroom mirror, a love poem tucked into a briefcase,

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Keeping your marriage strong ... (continued from page 6)

a night at a cozy bed-and-breakfast, a long evening walk together. Sometimes all it takes is a bit of creativity.

Sometimes even the closest of couples run out of patience, hope, or energy. When the challenges of infertility tax your resources to the limit, help can be just a phone call away. Don't hesitate to consult a **counsellor** or **pastor** or **family friend**, even if it's just a few sessions to get your relationship back on track.

Thankfully, many of us have spouses who understand and care. In these marriages, husbands accompany their wives to doctors' appointments and are present for every procedure. They bring their wives a bouquet or arrange for dinner out on those dark days when gloom is running high and hope is running low. Husbands like that are "peaches." And in these marriages, wives understand their responsibility to support their husbands—especially when the husband appears to have the main medical problem. These wives know that being told by a physician, "You're not in the major leagues in terms of sperm production or motility," or, "I'm afraid you're sterile," is difficult for any man to take.

The above article is indebted to the book, "When the Cradle is Empty ... *Answering Tough Questions about Infertility*," written by John and Sylvia Van Regenmorter, and published by Tyndale House Publishers.

Emmaus Walk - Ministry to the Confused (from page 15)

Jesus can be right in front of you, walking with you and sitting down with you at every meal - and your eyes can be restrained from seeing Him, especially when your mind is fixated on a 'Jesus' of your own description - A Jesus who must spare you from pain and a cross, but who must guarantee you relief and a crown. A 'Jesus' who must satisfy you with the glory of Easter but guarantees your escape from the shame of Good Friday. Let us strive to allow the Word of God speak to us rather than making it say what we want to hear. We therefore should pray that God would open our eyes to see Jesus as He is, as being with us all the time. Even when they didn't know it was Jesus, even when they didn't believe He was risen from the dead, their heart still burned because of the ministry of God's Word and of Jesus, the Living Word of God. God's Word has that power, but man's word and wisdom does not.

Dele Agbelusi



CURIOUS BUT TRUE!

The persecution of Christians around the world is a tragic reality. However, in the midst of this persecution are some of the boldest stories of faith you will ever read. Now you can learn about today's persecuted church, discover practical ways you can help, and be encouraged by their incredible stories :

A Sudanese Christian boy has his knees and feet nailed to a board and is left to die. When rescued he says he forgives the man who did this because Jesus was also nailed and forgave him.

A Vietnamese pastor is sentenced to two years in prison. When he is offered an early release, he declines stating that he has a group of new Believers in the prison he has to disciple.

A Colombian missionary is kidnapped and told she only has two hours to live. She tells her captors that if she only has two hours to live, she wants to spend it telling them about Jesus.

The Voice of the Martyrs monthly newsletter

SO SEND I YOU

Jesus said "As my father has sent me so send I you. To labour **unrewarded**, To serve **unpaid, unloved, unsought, unknown**".

This was the CHARGE John Fawcet (1740-1817) the writer of the song 'Blest be the tie that binds' received from the Lord when he was called to ministry...I wonder if you were the one will you still answer the call to a fulltime service with the Lord?

Many today are serving God for what they can get out of service instead of serving God because they love Him. Many others serve God for material gains- a desire to be loved, sought after and known.

Let us check again our motive for being in the Lord's service. May the LORD depend on you.

Joshua and Funmi Odeyemi

GOD HAS A PICTURE OF YOU ON HIS DRESSER

We all need affirmation and love, and the greatest show of love to humanity is the Cross. There, Jesus hung and died to set the sinner free from the consequences of their sins; sins of the past, present and future. As long as I keep this wonderful truth and my experience of God's love and forgiveness in focus, I will not doubt His love. It is through this act of forgiveness in Christ Jesus, that I know that there is no condemnation for me and I have passed from death to life. Whenever we allow the world and its values, its issues, and other problems to press in so much upon us, God and His love become marginalized. But, we must learn that, when we lose God and His love we lose touch with reality.

God is utterly trustworthy in all He says and does, and this is the rock-bottom reality on which everything in the universe depends. In an age when so much unfaithfulness abounds, how good it is to lift our eyes to the heavens and realise that there we have the One who will never let us down, never have to apologise for failing us, and never go back on His Word.

A woman is dying of an incurable disease. A priest is summoned. He attempts to comfort her, but to no avail. "I am lost," she said. "I have ruined my life and every life around me. Now I'm going painfully to hell. There is no hope for me." The priest saw a framed picture of a pretty girl on the dresser. "Who is this?" he asked. The woman brightened. "She's my daughter, the one beautiful thing in my life."

"And would you help her if she was in trouble, or made a mistake? Would you forgive her? Would you still love her?" "Of course I would!" cried the woman. "I would do anything for her! Why do you ask such a question?" "Because I wanted you to know," said the priest, "that God has a picture of you on His dresser."

D.A.

LAUGHTER LINES

The Father of Communism

In the Kremlin of Moscow is the preserved body of Vladimir Lenin. He has been dubiously named the father of Communism. Lenin died in 1924, but each day a long line of visitors still parade by to see his remains. His contribution to humanity was hardly benevolent, yet the inscription next to his body reads: "He was the greatest leader of all people of all time. He was the lord of the new humanity. He was the savior of the world." Fortunately, the nation that was crafted by Lenin is now recognizing the true Lord and Savior whose crypt is empty. * Baptist Standard, Jan. 6, 1993, p. 7



Woman Gets Rude Awakening

A woman was sitting in the waiting room for her first appointment with a new dentist. She noticed his DDS diploma, which bore his full name. Suddenly, she remembered that a tall, handsome, dark-haired boy with the same name had been in her high school class so many years ago. Could this be the same guy I had a crush on way back then? she wondered.

She quickly discarded any such thought when she met the balding, gray-haired man with the deeply lined face. He's way too old to have been my classmate, she thought to herself.

Still, after he examined her teeth, she asked, "Did you happen to attend Morgan Park High School?"

"Yes! I'm a Mustang," he gleamed with pride. "When did you graduate?" she asked. "1959," he replied. "Why do you ask?"

"You were in my class!" she exclaimed.

"Really?" he said, looking at her closely. "What did you teach?"

From Christianity Today

LAUGHTER LINES

Man Vs. Woman

Success:

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

The Morning:

Men wake up as good-looking as they went to bed. Women somehow deteriorate during the night.

Money Management:

A man is a person who will pay two dollars for a one dollar item he wants. A woman will pay one dollar for a two dollar item that she doesn't need.

Humorous Lessons from Noah

There is a well-known book titled, *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Let me suggest another: *Everything I Need to Know I Learned from Noah*:

- Don't miss the boat. We are all in the same boat.
- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something big.
- Don't listen to critics; just do the job that needs to be done.
- Build your future on high ground.
- For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Speed isn't always an advantage.
- The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- When you're stressed, float a while.
- Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

STORIES THAT TOUCH THE HEART

My brother Kevin thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped outside his closed door to listen.

"Are you there, God?" He said. "Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed."



I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room. Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humour. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in.

He was born thirty years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labour. Apart from his size (he's six-foot-two), there are few ways in which he is an adult. He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a seven-year-old, and he always will.

He will probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Claus is the one who fills the space under our tree every Christmas, and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them.

I remember wondering if Kevin realized he was different. Was he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life? Up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our dog spaniel, returning to eat his favourite macaroni and cheese for dinner, and later to bed. The only variation in the entire scheme were laundry days, when he hovered excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child.

But, he does not seem dissatisfied. He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7.05 eager for a day of simple work. He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove for dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's laundry chores. And Saturdays –oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculate loudly on the destination of each passenger inside.

I don't think Kevin knows anything exists outside his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent.

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Stories that touch the heart (from page 12)

His life is simple. He will never know the entanglement of wealth or power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. He recognizes no difference in people, treating each person as an equal and a friend. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be.

His hands are diligent. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it. He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and does not leave a job until it is finished. But when his tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax. He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others.

His heart is pure. He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologise instead of argue. Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry, or sorry. He is always transparent, always sincere.

And he trusts God. Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God—to really be friends with him—in a way that is difficult for an “educated” person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity, I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above mortal questions. It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap—I am.

One day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God is to our hearts, I’ll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed. Kevin wont be surprised at all.

Kelly Adkins –from Campus life.

EMMAUS WALK - MINISTRY TO THE CONFUSED

Reading Luke 24:13-33 before proceeding with this article is helpful.

Now behold, two of them were travelling that same day to a village called Emmaus. As they talked, they spoke of the things that were biggest on their hearts - all of these things which had happened, the things regarding the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus came along side these disciples, and went with them for a while. Yet for a time they were miraculously prevented from seeing who Jesus was.

Jesus opened the conversation by asking them what they had been talking about. From this, we know that Jesus had walked silently with them for a while, just listening as they carried on the conversation. It was evident in their countenance - and perhaps even in their manner of walking - that they were sad. Jesus knew both what they already knew (that they were sad) and what they did not yet know (that they had no reason to be sad).

These two disciples were heading off in the wrong direction—away from Jerusalem. We do not really know what they were going to do in Emmaus but it was not the direction to head to when the other disciples, together, were still trying to make sense of what had happened to their leader Jesus. In spite of this, Jesus is prepared to walk at their speed so that he can talk to them (Luke 24:15). Grace means slipping alongside someone who is not walking towards Jesus or even interested in Him.

Jesus then asked them a question, and in spite of their ridiculous answer, he does not laugh at them but graciously asks another one. (Luke 24:17)

“Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened here in these days?” Jesus probably smiled when they said this. He knew pretty well what had happened here in these days. “What things?” In saying this, Jesus skillfully played along with the conversation, encouraging the men to reveal their hearts. Jesus longs for us to tell Him our hearts, even though He already knows. There is great value for us in saying to Jesus what we know about him: They knew His name and where He was from. They knew He was a Prophet. They knew He was mighty in deed and word. They knew He was crucified and they knew He promised to redeem Israel. They also knew that others had said He rose from the dead. (continued on page 15)

Emmaus Walk—ministry to the confused (from page 15)

These disciples had a hope they felt was disappointed. Their hope was really not disappointed; but in some ways their hope was misguided (that it was He who was going to redeem Israel). But really, their hope was fulfilled in a much greater way than they could have ever dreamt. The report of the women meant little to them, and the report of Peter and John who had seen the grave clothes meant little - because they did not see Him.

Jesus wanted to know from them what He wants to know from us today: can we believe without seeing with our own eyes? Can we believe based on the reliable testimony of the Scriptures?

Then Jesus told them that the problem with their belief was more in their heart than their head. We often think the main obstacles to belief are in the head, but they are actually in the heart. Jesus then expounded to them in the Scriptures. The idea of expounding is to simply let the text speak for itself; exactly what a Bible teacher is expected to do. The ancient Greek word for expounded (*diermeneuo*) has the idea of sticking close to the text. Jesus didn't go off on speculative ideas. He expounded, which means He stuck close to the text.

Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? They should have believed what all the prophets had spoken, that the Messiah would suffer first and then be received in glory. Many people are still unwilling to confront the reality of a suffering Saviour. Calvary is too gruesome for those who like their religion bright and breezy. But to turn from the cross in order to avoid the scandal of a crucified Messiah is to turn our backs on salvation. If there is no cross and its associated suffering, our debt due to our sins is still unpaid and Christ can not justifiably be our saviour. But He suffered and He died and that made the difference.

After Jesus had spoken the truth about His Mission, He helped the disciples to understand the Scriptures and he challenged them. They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem; their lives turned around. Their confusion was clarified, their fears were overcome, and their despair dispersed. They became changed people.

(concluded on page 6)

Motto /Text for the year
"I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES
ME STRENGTH" *PHIL. 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 resources 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 of the month unless otherwise indicated.

- **6.00pm.** Evening worship

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday - Choir practice in church (**9.30am**)

Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon**)

- Daytime Alpha - West Chapel (**12.30 pm**)

- Brownies meeting in church (**5.30 pm**)

- Next Prayer meetings 28th April, 12th May (**8pm**)

Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (**7:45pm for 8.00pm start**)

Friday - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (**2.00 pm**)

- Scouts meeting in church and hall (**6.00 pm**)

- Music Team practice in choir vestry (**6.30pm**)

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

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