



CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
LONDON N8 8AX  
**CROSSLINKS**  
WAITING ON GOD

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



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## Vicar's three minute reflection

### WAITING ON GOD



It was Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his letters and papers from prison who said : Everything has its time, and the main thing is that we keep step with God, and do not keep pressing on a few steps ahead--nor keep dawdling a step behind. It's presumptuous to want to have everything at once... Looking at the life of Moses in the Scriptures, we have a lot to learn about patience.

It was through the providence of God that Moses was not killed when he was a baby. There was a pervading edict of death that hung over the head of "every boy that is born" of Hebrew parents in Egypt. The male babies had to be thrown into the Nile.

It was at this time that Moses was born. His parents hid him for three months until this was no longer practicable. Finally, they got a little basket-boat, placed the child in it and set it afloat into the Nile!

**Second only to suffering,  
waiting may be the  
greatest teacher and  
trainer ...**

I would not know what was in the mind of the parents but I am sure they would have been singing "Dead March In Saul" to express their grief as they bid their child a sad farewell. But God was not finished with them yet. Time would reveal God's own "joker". Some people would call it chance but I repeat, it is God's providence.

God intervened. He caused the daughter of Pharaoh to discover the baby and God was at work to ensure that the hired nurse to look after the baby, in Pharaoh's court, was the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter adopted the rescued baby and raised him as a prince of Egypt and she gave him the name Moses— because he was "pulled out" of the water.

Over about 40 years, Moses grew up in Pharaoh's court. He learnt of his background and must have realised that God had rescued him so he could deliver the children of Egypt from slavery. Without any hesitation and relying on his resources and position, he set about the work of delivering the people of Israel. But he failed so woefully that he had to flee Egypt.



Moses had to learn patience from God's school. For the next 40 years of Moses' life, he was a sojourner in Midian, earning his livelihood as a shepherd. The self-proclaimed deliverer of men was in near obscurity "delivering" sheep from the dangers of wolves and poachers and also contending with the foolish ways of sheep.

When God finally appeared to Moses after 40 years in the desert, he had become a changed man. God asked him to go and lead the children of Israel out of bondage. ***But Moses pleaded with God to send someone else. He felt incompetent.*** But it is people like that, who have learnt to wait on the Lord that He can use.

Second only to suffering, waiting may be the greatest teacher and trainer in godliness, maturity, and genuine spirituality most of us ever encounter.

Do not be in too great a hurry. There is time for everything that has to be done. He who gave you your life-work has given you just enough time to do it in. The length of life's candle is measured out according to the length of your required task. You must take necessary time for meditation, for sleep, for food, for the enjoyment of human love and friendship; and even then there will be time enough left for your necessary duties. More haste, less speed! The feverish hand often gives itself additional toil. "He that believes shall not make haste."  
Dele Agbelusi

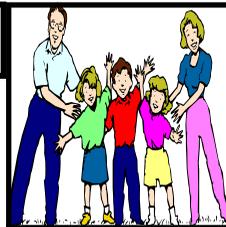
### Memory Verse

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.



James 5: 7-11

## COPING WITH ANNOYING HABITS



What's your husband's most annoying habit? Is it the way he slurps his cereal or cracks his knuckles? Is it the way he *breathes*, as one woman once complained? The longer you've been married, the longer your list is bound to be. It's not so much that your husband has added more bad habits over the years, but simply that the ones that were easy to put up with in the early days of your marriage have gradually eaten away at your nerves. Now they've reached that really tender spot that makes you yell "Ouch!" — and the honeymoon spirit has worn off.

**How can you deal with irritating habits?** Try speaking the truth — in love (Ephesians 4:15). Point out to your husband, in a calm voice and preferably with a sense of humour, that what he is doing really irritates you. Perhaps he'll make an effort to change his ways. Old habits are very hard to break, though, so don't expect miracles. Once the behaviour has been named, you can express your feelings the next time he repeats it. It's far better to say, "You're really irritating me again," than to actually be driven crazy by holding in the anger.

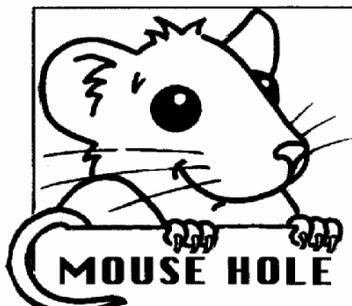
Meanwhile, try to admit that you may have irritating habits yourself. Perhaps if you ask your husband to identify your little quirks and then spend time working on those, you won't keep concentrating on his.

If this approach doesn't work, consider wearing a "What Would Jesus Do?" bracelet. The bracelet itself might not be an ideal choice for your jewellery collection, but its motto is well worth remembering — especially at stressful moments. I've been thinking about printing "What Would Jesus Do?" on a sticky note and attaching it to our bathroom mirror. Then the next time I find the cap-less tube of toothpaste lying in a pool of sticky, cool mint gel, I might not lose *my* cool. Don't forget to pray for your husband. Ask for patience. Take your complaints to the Lord and leave them there.

Don't forget to pray for your husband. Ask for patience.

(continued on page 6)

# PUZZLES



**MOUSE HOLE**



**FIND THE BROTHERS**

ANDREW      JOHN

ABEL          JACOB

JAMES      JAPHETH

SHEM          CAIN

JOSEPH      AARON

MOSES        PETER

ESAU          BENJAMIN



Use the clues to find the names.  
The last letter of one name is the first of the next name.

J      S

- Mary's first child  
*Luke 1: 30-31*
- Hannah's son  
*1 Samuel 1: 20*

7      7

- He wrote the third Gospel
- Followed Elijah  
*2 Kings 2: 15*

A      7

- The first man  
*Genesis 2: 20*
- Baby in a basket  
*Exodus 2: 1-10*

S

- A wise king  
*1 Kings 4: 29*
- He built an ark  
*Genesis 6: 13-14*

Z      H

- Wrote the 28th book of the Bible



**WHICH BOOK IN THE BIBLE...**

...is the first?

...is the last?

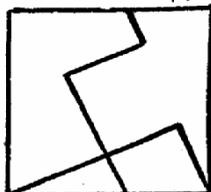
...has the most chapters?

...is the last in the Old Testament?

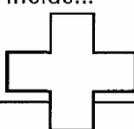
**HOW**

...many books are there in the Old Testament?  
**New Testament?**  
and **whole Bible?**

Enlarge this puzzle, cut out the shapes inside...



then make into a cross



**CAN YOU FIND JESUS AND ALL THE APOSTLES?**  
ANDREW • THOMAS  
MATTHEW • SIMON  
BARTHOLOMEW  
THADDEUS • PETER  
PHILIP • JOHN  
JAMES  
JAMES  
JUDAS



J	O	J	E	S	J	U	D	P	H	T	E	J
M	J	U	D	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	A	E
A	O	D	J	A	M	E	S	I	M	O	N	S
T	H	A	D	D	E	U	S	L	E	H	D	U
T	N	S	I	M	S	T	H	I	W	O	R	S
N	O	T	H	O	M	A	S	P	E	T	E	R
A	B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W	S

Trust Him to make things better between the two of you.

It might also help to write a list of things that are irritating you to distraction. When you look at it, you'll see how insignificant most of the items are. True, fleas and ants are irritating despite their tiny size. But we need to develop a new attitude about this small stuff, heeding the title of Richard Carlson's book *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff . . . and It's All Small Stuff*. Let's stop sweating and start counting to 10.

Once we've calmed down, we can start developing compassion for our mates — in spite of their irritating habits. (This sounds like something Jesus would do, doesn't it?) As author Claudia Arp notes, it helps to remember that we are to "cleave" (Genesis 2:24) to our spouses for life. "Cleaving," writes Claudia, "means sticking together no matter what and giving each other permission to be less than perfect." (This probably includes eating one's cereal in a less than perfect way.) She suggests that we lighten up. "There are times in marriage where you'll either laugh or cry. Dave and I have decided if at all possible, we'll choose laughter over tears."

By Mary Ann Cook

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## HAPPINESS NOW

People seem to believe that they have an inalienable right to be happy--"I want what I want and I want it now." No one wants to wait for anything and, for the most part, no one has to anymore. Waiting is interpreted as pain. ... People walk into my office and say they are Christians, but I see no difference except that they want to be happy and now expect God to make it so.

The problem is that, in this country, you can have what you want when you want it most of the time. ... People like the fact that they can buy a 50-foot tree and instantly plant it in their yard. Why on earth would anyone want to wait on relationships or wait on God?

Psychologist Kim Hall, interviewed in *The Door* (Sept.-Oct. 1992). *Christianity Today*, Vol. 37, no. 9.

## NOTICE BOARD

### **YOUTH WORKER**

The church is looking for a Christian youth worker who loves the Lord passionately and is able to work with the church's team to develop our Youth and Community ministry. The applicant is expected to put in 17.5 hours a week - two week-days and Sundays. Please contact the vicar for more information.

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### **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**A service Prepared by Christian Women of South Africa**

**Theme: SIGNS IF THE TIMES**

**Friday 3rd March 2006**

**11am:**

**Holy Innocents, Tottenham Lane, N8**

**8pm:**

**Christ Church, Crouch End Hill, N8**

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### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HORNSEY**

**LENT COURSE 2006**

**Theme: FALLING BACKWARDS ON GOD**

**Every Wednesday**

**From 8th March to 5th April**

**Venue: Christ Church Parish Hall**

**Time: 7:45pm (Tea/Coffee) 8pm Start**

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### **NEW HYMN BOOKS APPEAL**

I want to give thanks to God and also say thank you to all who contributed towards the purchase of Complete Mission Praise (Hymn Books) for use during worship at church. Our prayer, as also expressed by the compilers, is that "God will use the hymns and the songs to bring people to His presence through praise and worship and to enable them express their relationship to Him through words and music."

D.A.

## AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD TALKS ABOUT GOD

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way, He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and others, pray at other times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He



hears everything there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. There aren't any who come to our church. Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK.

His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore, He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important. (continued on page 9)

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to hear you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to Church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong! And, besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

**If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can.** It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim very good and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases. And that's why I believe in God."

Danny Dutton, aged 8 for his homework assignment to "Explain God."

## **COMFORT**

God does not leave us comfortless, but we have to be in dire need of comfort to know the truth of his promise. It is in time of calamity . . . in days and nights of sorrow and trouble that the presence, the sufficiency, and the sympathy of God grow very sure and very wonderful. Then we find out that the grace of God is sufficient for all our needs, for every problem, and for every difficulty, for every broken heart, and for every human sorrow.

Peter Marshall (1902-1949)

**A pastor needs the tact of a diplomat, the strength of Samson, the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon--and a cast-iron stomach.**

-- James Street, Christian leader, 1903-1954. Men of Integrity, Vol. 1, no. 1.

# LAUGHTER LINES

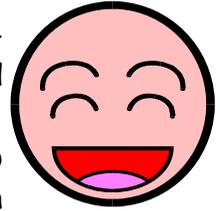
## MAIN ENTRANCE

The shopkeeper was dismayed when a brand new business much like his own opened up next door and erected a huge sign which read BEST DEALS.

He was horrified when another competitor opened up on his right, and announced its arrival with an even larger sign, reading LOWEST PRICES.

The shopkeeper panicked, until he got an idea. He put the biggest sign of all over his own shop-it read... **MAIN ENTRANCE**

[www.cybersalt.org/cleanlaugh](http://www.cybersalt.org/cleanlaugh)



## CHOCOLATE

A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine's Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the inscription; 'To Helen, with all my allowance.'

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LION

A Sunday school teacher was telling her youngsters about Daniel and the Lion's Den. To illustrate the lesson she drew a picture of Daniel standing, brave and confident, with a group of lions around him. Suddenly, one little girl started to cry. The teacher said, "Don't cry. The lions are not going to eat Daniel."

Snuffling back the tears the girl replied: "That's not what I'm crying about. That little lion, over in the corner, isn't going to get anything to eat."

From Parish Pump

## DEMOCRACY INDEED!

"I intend to open this country up to democracy, and anyone who is against that, I will jail, I will crush."

Gen Baptista Figueiredo, elected President of Brazil, 1979.

**Patience** is something you admire in the driver behind you, and scorn in the one ahead of you.

From A Bundle of Laughs, J John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.

## LAUGHTER LINES

Before performing a baptism, the priest approached the young father and said solemnly, "Baptism is a serious step. Are you prepared for it?" "I think so," the man replied. "My wife has made appetizers and we have a caterer coming to provide plenty of cookies and cakes for all of our guests." "I don't mean that," the priest responded. "I mean, are you prepared spiritually?"

"Oh, sure," came the reply.

"I've got a keg of beer and a case of whiskey.



## X-RAY DAVID, SAUL, ABRAHAM

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

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

There are many examples of people who were patient in the Bible. The prophets were patient men, waiting on God, sometimes for years. They sometimes had to wait for God to speak or to act. This took faith, patience, and perseverance. David is another Bible character who waited patiently for the Lord to fulfil promises earlier made to him. He had been anointed as king over Israel by Samuel, yet he had to wait for years even at the peril of his life, to realise what has been promised and given.

David knew of the event that led to the rejection of King Saul, his predecessor. Saul could not wait for God. He had been commanded to wait until Samuel, God's prophet and priest, should come to make the sacrifice. Saul, flushed with victory, DID IT HIMSELF. That was his undoing. David had learned a lesson from the man whose place he was to fill.

(Continued on page 13)

## X-RAY DAVID, SAUL, ABRAHAM (continued from page 12)

On two occasions he had the opportunity of slaying Saul and gaining the office of king, to which God had anointed him. But he was prepared to wait for God's time. David said in the Psalms, "I waited for the Lord!" The revelation of what happens if you don't wait for God made David all the more determined to wait for Him.

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

Abraham was a man who received great promises from God, but he had to wait for them. He was promised a child, a descendant who would found a nation and bring blessing to the world, but Abraham would not see the child for many years. He was promised a homeland, but he himself spent much of his life wandering that land as a stranger. He was promised a blessing, but most of that blessing did not come to him in his lifetime. How did he respond? The author of Hebrews tells us; he offers Abraham as a model of those who "through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:12). Abraham was a patient, longsuffering man. Perhaps at times he may have felt impatient, restless, and eager to get on with it, but that did not change his fundamental attitude toward God and His promises. The fulfillment of God's promises was long in coming, but Abraham responded to the delay not with anger and mistrust but with faith and persevering patience.

We see, therefore, that a patient response to our current troubles is rooted in our faith and what that faith tells us about the future. We can wait patiently through the difficulties of today, because we are confident that they are temporary.

D.A.

## WHAT PATIENCE IS NOT

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

**Patience is Not an instantaneous supernatural power.** Although we very rightly see patience as one of the fruits of the Spirit, we would be wrong to believe that the Spirit usually bestows such patience instantaneously. The biblical picture of sanctification suggests that patience will be a growing quality, one that emerges through God's work in our lives in the midst of trials. Such trials force us to confront our beliefs about the future and our trust in God's promises; as our faith and trust grow, so does our patience.

**Patience is Not just external behaviour.** Patience is a description of an inner attitude, a new set of motives and beliefs; it is not just an outward behaviour. It's the mindset of a person captivated by the good news of Christ. A mature and growing faith will be learning the perspective of the farmer: I am working for a reason; the harvest is coming. God will make all things right, both judging evil and rescuing us from it. If He can save an evil person like me, He can certainly be counted on to deal with everyone else as well. Patience keeps us relaxed because God is in control.

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

## A RARE ATTRIBUTE

Patience is a rare attribute for those of us living in the 21st century. In the past it took 3-6 months to travel to overseas and people that had to travel patiently endured that. Two weeks delay was nothing to fuss about. Today, the same trip takes between 8-24 hours only and yet an hour delay at any point in the trip raises tempers. In the past it took several hours to cook a good meal; today it takes much less time - micro wave takes only 2-5 minutes and yet the wait seems forever. In the past it took weeks to get a mail; today we question the integrity of the Post-Office if our mail does not get delivered in 2-3 days. In the past it took hours for worship services in churches; today one hour is the average time people can 'endure' before they get impatient. We are an "Instant Generation". Technology is designed to deliver instantly. Sadly, we carry this concept into our relationship with God. When we spend 5-10 minutes in devotion, we feel that we have done enough and God should be pleased with our sacrifice. We approach God in prayer in the same manner we make phone calls - no pleasantries - we go straight to the point and hang up as soon as we have delivered our message ... and we expect God to answer us?

Will that be the way you will treat God in 2006? Is patience foreign to you even though it is part of the fruit of the Spirit that you possess? You can change if you are willing.

Sunday and Grace Bwanhot

### **THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with K, L, M, N

Kafta Lillian; Kasozi Rose; Kirsakye Sydney & Bernadette;  
Kovar Jan & Elizabeth; Lalobo Caesar; Lawson Eddie; Lebon Brian; Lester Eve; Lines Florence; Liscott Peter; Lukomona Desiree; Macauley Grace; Mamas Helen; McFarlane Susan, Meadows Patricia; Mercer Richard & Mary; Mercer Andrew; Miller Lisa; Moore Nadja; Morrison Karen; Murphy Charles; Myers-Nobbs Andrew; Nobadula Thembekile

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.

- **5.00pm.** Evening worship

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

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

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

- Prayer meeting 20th February, 6th&20th March, 3rd&24th April (**8pm**)

Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:30pm**)

Wednesday - Home Group 17 Coleridge Road N8 8EH (**10:00 am**)

Friday Home Group at Flat 10, 3 Waverley Road, N8 ( **2.30 pm**)

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

Enquiry/Counselling - please phone 020 8340 1566

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**Vicar:** Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi

**Church Wardens:** Peter Green, Charles Murphy

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**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

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