



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX

CROSSLINKS
A CLOSER WALK WITH GOD

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



JANUARY 2007 ISSUE 7.81

Vicar's three minute reflection ALLOW JESUS TO HELP YOU IN 2007



I once came across a news release from a business firm called White Laboratory which reported that almost 98% of the atoms found in your body today were not present one year ago. In one sense you were a new person on January 1, 2007, compared to who you were on January 1, 2006. The Bible also talks about a God "who can make ALL things new." Paul declares in 2 Corinth 5; 17 that "if any person is in Christ Jesus, he/she is a new creation." Yes, the Bible talks a great deal about us being a new people, but it doesn't have anything to do with atoms in our physical bodies. We are new people when we have the mind and attitude of Jesus Christ living inside us. This is the priority that the Apostle Paul urged the Christians at Philippi to adopt for living out their faith. Living each day as if it were the last day of our life is not a bad philosophy. Living each day as if it were the first day of our life might be a better one. This is a new year with exciting new possibilities. The old year is gone. The mistakes we made, the obstacles we have overcome are now in the past. A new year has arrived.

**This is a new
year with
exciting new
possibilities.**

As we look at this new year we know it is filled with all kinds of possibilities: They're all in there; we just have to work at getting them out.

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 with it but 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 buyer looked at it, surprised, and asked, "What in the world is that noise?" Alas, he had been using the chain saw manually.

Many of us are like that. We have the chain saw, but we haven't found out about the power. I believe that most Christians live empty lives simply because they don't realize that all the angels of God are poised to listen to their words. The power that God offers His people is a resource you need to draw on this new year. A praying Christian is a victorious Christian. A prayerless Christian is a ready pawn in the devil's hand. He who does not pray when the sun shines will not know how to pray when the clouds roll in.

It was Charles Spurgeon who said : "Prayer pulls the rope below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly. Others give an occasional pluck at the rope. But he who wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might." So. how will you fare this year? Will you be so busy that you will have no time with God? If you have so much business to attend to that you have no time to pray, then, you have more business on hand than God ever intended you should have.

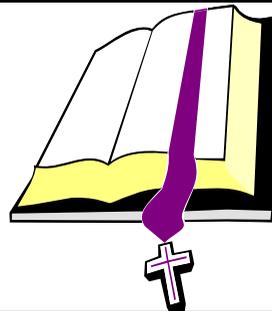
I wish you God's presence, peace and joy in 2007!

Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Psalm 25: 1-2



A NEW YEAR TO KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE AND GROW



Welcome to year 2007. I am sure many of you are excited about the 12 new months ahead of you. We are. In the past year, we went through many challenges in our personal lives and we are glad that through the grace of God, we could smile at the storms. We are glad to see 2007 usher in a new beginning! What about you? Are you looking for a new beginning in 2007?

So, as we enter into this New Year let's focus on what really matters—our commitment to each other, and to growth—even if our partner is resistant to the idea right now. Dr. William Doherty offers, a very fitting perspective for our marriage this year. It comes from his book, *Take Back Your Marriage*:

"Marriage with the long view comes with the conviction that nothing will break us up, that we will fight through whatever obstacles get in our way, that if the boat gets swamped we will bail it out, that we will recalibrate our individual goals if they get out of alignment, that we will share leadership for maintaining and renewing our marriage, that we will renovate our marriage if the current version gets stale, that if we fight too much or too poorly we will learn to fight better, that if sex is no longer good we will find a way to make it good again, that we will accept each other's weaknesses that can't be fixed, and that we will take care of each other in our old age.

This kind of commitment is not made just once, but over and over through the course of a lifetime. We cling to it during the dark nights of the soul that come to nearly every marriage; times when the love is hard to feel but the promise keeps us together." Re-read that paragraph again and let the power of his words sink in.

Now, if you're in a marriage that feels like you're "swamped", or your goals are out of alignment, or you're fighting too much, or it feels "stale" like you can't go on another day, let alone another year, we'd like to offer 31 time-tested, fool-proof principles that you can apply that will make your marriage better than you ever dreamed it could be.

(contd. on page 5)

A NEW YEAR TO KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE AND GROW

If you take just one principle per day and apply it, you'll begin to see dramatic changes in yourself and your "long view" of marriage. By the way, the reason we know they're "fool-proof" is because they're from the Bible. These are the One Another principles and any time we apply them to our marriage, the outcome can only be good for One Another.

Thirty-One One Another's:

- Day 1: Love one another deeply (1 Peter 1:22)
- Day 2: Greet one another with a kiss of love (1 Peter 5:14; 1 Corinthians 12:16)
- Day 3: Do not deceive one another (Leviticus 19:11)
- Day 4: Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- Day 5: Don't judge one another (Romans 14:13)
- Day 6: Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Day 7: Teach and admonish one another in all wisdom (Colossians 3:16)
- Day 8: Wait for one another [be patient] (1 Corinthians 11:33)
- Day 9: Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- Day 10: Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Day 11: Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Day 12: Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32 ; Colossians 3:13)
- Day 13: Be compassionate towards one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Day 14: Encourage one another (Hebrews 3:12-13, 1 Thesalonians 5:11)
- Day 15: Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21)
- Day 16: Bear with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
- Day 17: Stimulate love in one another (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Day 18: Offer hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
- Day 19: Minister gifts to one another (1 Peter 4:10)

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A NEW YEAR TO KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE AND GROW

(continued from page 5)

- Day 20: Be clothed in humility toward one another
(1 Peter 5:5)
- Day 21: Don't slander one another (James 4:11)
- Day 22: Don't grumble against one another (James 5:9)
- Day 23: Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)
- Day 24: Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- Day 25: Fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7)
- Day 26: Don't be puffed up against one another
(1 Corinthians 4:6)
- Day 27: Carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Day 28: Honour one another (Romans 12:10)
- Day 29: Prefer one another (Romans 12:10)
- Day 30: Comfort one another (2 Corinthians 1:4)
- Day 31: GOD'S PROMISE: But if we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12).

Adapted from an article by Steve and Cindy Wright

Well, that's the best way we can think of starting a new year and becoming a Marriage Keeper. We believe that as you apply these principles we'll hear even more stories of the great things God is doing in your marriages in 2007. Do not hesitate to drop us a line or two. We will be glad to hear from you.

Crosslinks Editorial Board.

I JUST FELT GOD TUGGING ON MY HEART

A twelve-year-old boy became a Christian during a revival. The next week at school his friends questioned him about the experience. "Did you see a vision?" asked one friend. "Did you hear God speak?" asked another. The youngster answered no to all these questions. "Well, how did you know you were saved?" they asked. The boy searched for an answer and finally he said, "It's like when you catch a fish, you can't see the fish or hear the fish; you just feel him tugging on your line. I just felt God tugging on my heart."

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited

NOTICE BOARD



The Vicar of Christ Church, Crouch End Hill, Rev Canon Dele Agbelusi dedicates Mr Andrew Myers-Nobbs and Mrs Carol Myers-Nobbs as District Commissioner of Haringey Scouts and Scout Leader Christ Church Group respectively.

We are pleased to report that the 1st Voice edition of Crosslinks was launched in December 2006. Please contact the Editor if you need a copy of Crosslinks on tape.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Lets give thanks to the Lord for his goodness towards us in the passing year. Please commit our forthcoming Parish Outreach to the Lord in prayer.

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This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with G, H, J

Gallagher Denise; Goldson Barrington & Sharon; Greaves Sonia; Green Peter; Green Jasmine, Green Rosanne; Greenaway Catherine; Gregory Teresa; Haggerty Mark & Funmi; Hawthorne Giles; Haynes Katharine, Horton Betty; Horton Rosemary; Hunt Ruth; Jackson Elizabeth; Jenks Jim; Jordan Carron; Joseph Etwyn.

## UNFOLDING THE ROSE

A young, new preacher was walking with an older, more seasoned preacher in the garden one day and feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was inquiring of the older preacher.



The older preacher walked up to a rosebush, picked a rosebud which he handed to the young preacher and requested that he open it without tearing off any petals.

The young preacher looked in disbelief at the older preacher and tried to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry. Because of his high respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to attempt to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact...it wasn't long before he realized how impossible it was to do so.

Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud while keeping it intact, the older preacher began to recite the following poem...



## UNFOLDING THE ROSE

It was only a tiny rosebud,  
A flower of God's design;  
But I cannot unfold the petals  
With these clumsy hands of mine

The secret of unfolding flowers  
Is not known to such as I.  
GOD opens this flower so sweetly,  
When in my hands they fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,  
This flower of God's design,  
Then how can I think I have wisdom  
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in Him for His leading  
Each moment of every day.  
I will look to him for His guidance  
Each step of the pilgrim way.

The pathway that lies before me,  
Only my Heavenly Father knows.  
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments,  
Just as He unfolds the rose.

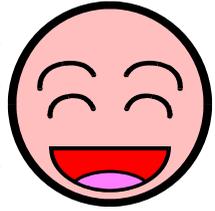
The young priest said,  
"Now I understand..."  
I hope now, that you do too.



# LAUGHTER LINES

## The Purpose of Coffee Hour

Coffee was always served at our church after the sermon. One Sunday our minister asked one of the younger members of the congregation if he knew why we had coffee hour. Without hesitating, the youngster replied, "To wake people up before they have to drive home."



—Richard Blake, San Luis Obispo, California. *Christian Reader*, "Kids of the Kingdom."

## Offering of Joy

One Sunday morning, my 6-year-old son, Joshua, was busy getting dressed for Sunday school. When it was time for us to leave, he came out of his room carrying his entire stock of neckties. When I asked him why he was doing this, he eagerly replied, "'Cause, Mom, Reverend Wyser told us to put our ties in the offering!"

—Debbie Goff, Elmhurst, IL. *Today's Christian Woman*, "Heart to Heart."



The vicar had just parked his old battered car by the roadside when a policeman approached him and asked him politely if he had reported this accident?



You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.

# LAUGHTER LINES

## Humour on "Optimism"

You can call yourself an optimist if you think the "E" on your gas gauge stands for "Enough." Leadership, July 5, 1994, p. 24

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The sum of five thousand dollars was offered as a bounty for each wolf captured alive. Sam and Jed saw dollar signs, so they became overnight bounty hunters. They scoured the mountains day and night in search of their fortune. After several days of unsuccessful hunting, they fell asleep from exhaustion. In the middle of the night, Sam suddenly awoke to see that they were surrounded by fifty wolves with flaming eyes and bared teeth. He nudged his partner and whispered, "Jed, wake up! We're rich!" Leadership, Winter 1990, p. 50

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## Parenting

During the first year of life a child frequently wakes up crying in the middle of the night. It's usually a wake up call for more food or a new diaper. One parent described these middle of the night air-raids as the most difficult part of early parenthood. He said, "The hardest part of the whole thing is seeing which spouse can pretend to be asleep the longest."

Houston Post, May 2, 1991

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There is a time for everything

Bill: Have you ever realized any of your childhood hopes for the future?

Peter: Yes, when my mother used to comb my hair, I often wished I didn't have any.

STORY OF THE MONTH

WHO ARE YOU?

A certain man went through a forest seeking any bird of interest he might find. He caught a young eagle, brought it home, and put it among the fowls and ducks and turkeys, and gave it chicken food to eat even though it was an eagle, the king of birds.



Five years later, a naturalist came to see him and, after passing through his garden, said, "That bird is an eagle, not a chicken."

"Yes," said the owner, "but I have trained it to be a chicken. It is no longer an eagle, it is a chicken, even though it measures fifteen feet from tip to tip of its wings."

"No," said the naturalist, "it is an eagle still; it has the heart of an eagle, and I will make it soar high up to the heavens."

"No," said the owner, "it is a chicken and it will never fly." They agreed to test it. The naturalist picked up the eagle, held it up and said with great intensity: "Eagle, thou art an eagle; thou dost belong to the sky and not to this earth; stretch forth thy wings and fly."

The eagle turned this way and that, and then looking down, saw the chickens eating their food, and down he jumped.

The owner said, "I told you it was a chicken."

"No," said the naturalist, "it is an eagle. Give it another chance tomorrow."

So the next day he took it to the top of the house and said, "Eagle, thou art an eagle; stretch forth thy wings and fly." But again the eagle, seeing the chickens feeding, jumped down and fed with them.

Then the owner said, "I told you it was a chicken."

"No," asserted the naturalist, "it is an eagle, and it has the heart of an eagle; only give it one more chance, and I will make it fly tomorrow."

The next morning he rose early and took the eagle outside the city and away from the houses, to the foot of a high mountain.

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A LESSON FROM JOSEPH FOR 2007

Have you ever considered what surely must have been the terrible trauma of Joseph of Nazareth when he first learned about Mary and the Baby? You know he was engaged to be married to Mary. And I think Joseph was a good man, honest, gentle, kind, and clean. How intense must have been the pain within him upon learning that the reverent and beautiful Mary was pregnant!

What then must have been the awesome impact of the vision which came to him in a dream that night. An angel appeared to him and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-21).

Think, my friend, of awakening from a dream like that! Into his plans for the future had suddenly been interjected vast and unprecedented elements of mystery, with dimensions of meaning and impact far beyond his power to understand or even guess.

But what did the Joseph do? He did precisely what the angel said he should. He took Mary as his wife, waited for the Child to be born, and when he was, he named him Jesus. Joseph didn't panic in the presence of the unknown; he moved into the future as though he believed in it.

Well, you and I, struggling with the problems of the day and the unanswered questions concerning tomorrow, do not always have an angel to come and tell us what's happening and what we ought to do. We have to move into the future without the benefit of angels - at least the kind of angels that visit us in our dreams and show us which way to go. Yes, perhaps we have our angels that speak in other forms and other ways, and I'm sure we do. But, whatever the source and mode of the guidance we get, we have to move into the future by faith, the faith of the pilgrim and

(continued on p.14)

A LESSON FROM JOSEPH FOR 2007 (continued from p.13)

the pioneer, the faith of one who walks where no one has ever walked before, the faith that is for the uncharted way. And for this kind of going on, I recommend the Christian Faith.

This Christian Faith is not the answer to all the questions of the universe. It does, however, offer an answer which renders most of the questions unnecessary. The Christian Faith is not a solution to all the mysteries of life; but it does provide a solution in the light of which the mysteries are no longer seen as enemies, but as our friends and allies. This Faith is not an automatic answer to every question, but is rather a way of making the questions tolerable and meaningful and helpful.

As we stand at the edge of the unknown, the year 2007, let us hear the far voices, and not ever fear them. Let us learn from Joseph, who entrusted his hand into the hands of the One who orders the future, who stills the seas. His name is Jesus Christ.

D.A.

Who are you? (continued from page 13)

The sun was just rising, gilding the top to the mountain with gold, and every crag was glistening in the joy of the beautiful morning.

He picked up the eagle and said to it: "Eagle, thou art an eagle; thou dost belong to the sky and not to the earth; stretch forth thy wings and fly."

The eagle looked around and trembled as if with new life. Yet it did not fly. The naturalist then made it look straight at the sun. Suddenly it stretched out its wings and, with the screech of an eagle, it mounted higher and higher and never returned. It was an eagle, though it had been kept and tamed as a chicken.

We have been created in the image of God, but men have made us think that we are chickens, and so we think we are; but we are eagles. Look up to the Lord Jesus! Stretch forth your wings and fly! Don't be content with the food of chickens! James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988)

THEOPHILUS: Brother Fairsee and the Battle Plan

Be clothed with the Lord and the power of His strength...our fight is not against men. No, it is...against world powers of darkness, and against evil spiritual beings in the heavenly world.
—Ephesians 6:10-12

Isn't it exciting Comrades?! We're winning the battle!!!

You fool! Do you soon forget what you saw at Calvary?

Who can forget that!

We thought our master had won, but The Enemy outwitted us.

How were we to know that on the cross Jesus would pay the price for the sins of all mankind. Or that He wouldn't stay in the grave.

Ha! What good is that if humans don't repent? Most of them are serving our master as we speak.

Soon the whole world will be his!

If we could just keep them from hearing the story of Jesus—but many have already heard.

Doesn't matter—they're easily distracted.

The master is subtle. All he has to do is get them to take their eyes off Jesus.

Yes, but some humans want to serve The Enemy.

Let them be religious. Make them think they're serving The Enemy. Just help them focus on something other than Jesus.

You mean like "the Church"?

I shudder when I remember how humans gave their lives to Jesus after His resurrection and ascension. They were fully committed to Him. Their numbers grew at an alarming rate. It was awful!

Well, we didn't sit idly by. We helped them organize!

I'm still amazed at how successful that tactic has been.

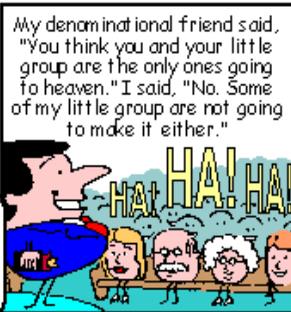
It took a few hundred years, but look at the result: their organization, its building, its liturgy, its doctrines, and many other distractions to occupy time and resources.

One of my students was a Bible translator. I helped him change a word here and there to justify the church system they had developed.

After that, humans started lots of churches. It was fun helping them. Each time they claimed their's was the one Jesus started.

Now we've got them fighting over which one of their churches is the "one true church." And deciding who can be a member.

They even think Jesus is pleased with this. Look at my student for example...



Brethren, we laugh, but this is serious business! Some members of the One True Church are not faithful. They're not here

every time the doors are open. They don't give like they should. When we have a work day, they don't always show up. And what about the rest of us? Here we sit on padded pews in air-conditioned comfort with the truth. There's a lost and dying world out there. They don't know about the One True Church. They're either members of the wrong church or they're

not members of anything! We've got the right organization, the right terms of membership, right worship, and right work. Are we going to hide our light? Many places are not as fortunate as we are. They don't have a One True Church. Some who do don't have a beautiful building like ours to meet in. So be generous when the collection basket is passed...

See how easy it is to take their minds off Jesus.

Pride, you've done your job well.

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 meetings 29th January; 12th & 26th February (**8pm**)
- Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:30pm**)
- 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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YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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