



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX

CROSSLINKS

ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



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Vicar's seven minute reflection

ORDER OUT OF CHAOS



"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters." This is a good description of the utter chaos that existed before God began the work of creation. We come to the Bible knowing there is a God and the Bible tells us we can know God exists because of what we see in creation

We struggle to understand in our previously neat, little, orderly world, the meaning of "chaos". We have a little glimpse of it when our schedule becomes overly full, but that's not real chaos. When our churches seem to be in disarray and our modern

We want solutions but we do not want God to speak. We want order but we want our decaying society to produce life when it cannot help itself. We want to be prophets of God but we think nothing of struggling for equality with Him and His word as we write our own scriptures.

day prophets receive their instruction from the secular society claiming God is old fashioned and irrelevant, we think we understand it, but that's not real chaos. When our young ones are being killed on our streets by their peers who are enraged and frustrated by the world around them, we think we understand chaos alas it is just a shade of it. We're way too busy, most of us, for our own good with things that aren't really all that important in the grand scheme of things. But chaos? I don't think we understand its ramification in the light of Genesis 1.

The earth was a formless void, real chaos, confusion, something that is nothing. Even the sound of it is dark, foreboding. A formless void. That's all there was, says the writer of Genesis, until God decided to change it. His Spirit created order out of chaos. It was the same Spirit of God that gave life to the lifeless image of man that God made. Without the Spirit of God in operation, chaos will reign and death will be the order of the day. But let God's Spirit have His way, there will be life and there will be order.

God spoke, and there was light, and it was good. I wonder how we feel as we look at the chaos that surrounds our everyday life; the chaos in our political life, the chaos on our streets and the chaos in the religious structures of our land.

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We want solutions but we do not want God to speak. We want order but we want our decaying society to produce life when it cannot help itself. We want to be prophets of God but we think nothing of struggling for equality with Him and His word as we write our own scriptures.

It was God out of His goodness that created humans and made us partners in this good creation. Man and woman are made partners with God in tending and caring for God's creation. But, not content to be junior partners, wanting to be equals with God, the man and the woman messed up and got kicked out of paradise, and consequently were forced to struggle for existence in a dry, rocky wasteland. It was time for another formless void, this time in the dusty earth east of Eden.

God's creation is decisive, but it is NOT conclusive. Chaos, the formless void, is pushed back and contained, but not destroyed. This is not creation out of nothing, but creation out of something that feels like nothing, creation out of the formless void. And the formless void always threatens to gush back to the surface, even on a pleasant spring evening.

Genesis talks about how this world sometimes feels to us. You just wake up on some pleasant, sunny summer day. Your world is in order, life is good, things are really going well for you. Then the telephone rings. The voice on the other end is a familiar one, so you can tell right away that she's been crying, is even now struggling to hold back the tears. "I hate to tell you this over the phone, but your brother ... He's dead."

You stand there for a moment, paralyzed, in shock. You place the phone back on the receiver. You stagger toward the window and look out and now it is no more sunny, summer day. What seemed to be an orderly, nearly perfect world has, in the blink of an eye, turned into chaos, a formless void. How could life have seemed so good only minutes ago? Chaos in your life, the formless void, is only a phone call away. Trust me on this one. I've been there, having lost a brother, a nephew and an uncle in the past twelve months.

That's what the creation story of Genesis is about, the story that was first told somewhere around the sixth century B. C. Israel, which had once been secure in its Promised Land, had been invaded, its cities laid to waste, and survivors carried off into exile as slaves.

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Vicar's seven minute reflection (from page3)



It was Kosovo, It was Bosnia, It is Darfur, It is Zimbabwe, It is London streets, It is our church institutions – social, economic, spiritual formless void. The Genesis story was first told to people whose world was literally being destroyed before their horrified eyes. And when the Israelites heard about the formless void, they already knew what it was. So do we.

It's the unexpected death of a loved one. It's that moment when the doctor says, "We got the biopsy back. I'm sorry, but I'm afraid it's malignant." It's that moment when someone you love more than life itself looks you in the eyes and says, "I hate you." In moments when the earth shakes, and mountains crumble, and chaos erupts, we turn like the vulnerable, fragile children that we are to an old, old story – a story we first learned in the church nursery. "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth..."

It's that moment when someone you love more than life itself looks you in the eyes and says, "I hate you."

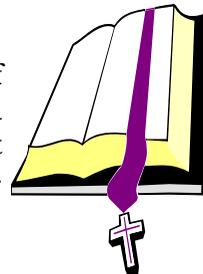
It should be good news to us as we ponder the greatness of God who alone can bring order out of chaos. The God who speaks and creates light from darkness. How I pray that we allow this God to speak to our situation. How I pray that we allow His spirit to bring life from our decaying institutions. May we be able to sing with the Psalmist: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble... The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge" (Psalm 46:1-3, 11). AMEN

Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?

Isaiah 40:12



BELIEVE IT, GOD IS REAL

THE 95% YOU DO NOT KNOW

One day, students in one of Albert Einstein's classes were saying they had decided there was no God. Einstein asked them how much of all the knowledge in the world they had among themselves collectively, as a class. The students discussed it for a while and decided they had 5% of all human knowledge among themselves. Einstein thought their estimate was a little generous, but he replied: "Is it possible God exists in the 95% you don't know?"

God created the heavens: The simple fact of God's creation is even more amazing when we consider the greatness of God's universe: A typical galaxy contains billions of individual stars; our galaxy alone (the Milky Way) contains 200 billion stars. Our galaxy is shaped like a giant spiral, rotating in space, with arms reaching out like a pinwheel, and our sun is one star on one arm of the pinwheel. It would take 250 million years for the pinwheel to make one full rotation. But this is only our galaxy; there are many other galaxies with many other shapes, including spirals, spherical clusters, and flat pancakes. The average distance between one galaxy and another is about 20 million trillion miles. Our closest galaxy is the Andromeda Galaxy, about 12 million trillion miles away.

If God created the heavens and the earth, then we must forever put away the idea that anything happens by chance. "Chance" merely describes the statistical probability of something happening. Chance itself can "do" nothing.

KING JAMES BIBLE 1716 EDITION

Be careful if your King James Bible was printed in 1716. That particular year the printer made a flagrant mistake. In John 5:14, the final copy read "sin on more" rather than "sin no more." That must have been a good year for Bible sales, because it seems like a lot of people are still heeding the advice of that old edition.

* Houston Post, Sept. 21, 1993

CREDIT CRUNCH, COUPLES PUNCH

The swansong by most finance experts nowadays is that there's a worldwide financial crisis. Money is in short supply while the prices of commodities are going beyond the reach of many families. To some of us who are privileged to pray and offer counsel to couples, we perceive that the strain of the present economic climate is contributing a lot to marital pressures. So we are devoting this column to reason together and find ways of weathering the present economic storms.



How you handle your finances is one of the greatest tests of your character—and of your marriage relationship. If you and your spouse are having trouble with your finances, you need to set a goal of working through this together and developing a biblical financial plan that will put you on solid ground. Here are a few steps:

First, begin to embrace God's perspective of money by studying what the Bible says about money. You may be surprised to learn that there are more than 2,000 verses in the Bible about money.

Two key principles every couple should know about money: God owns it all and we are stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. Consequently, God should be part of every spending decision, be it buying a car, taking a vacation, buying food, paying off debt, paying taxes, and so on. These are all uses of

His resources.

Second, commit together to put God, rather than money, at the centre of your life. You may think your money problem is that you don't have enough and if care is not taken the quest for money will take over your life completely. It becomes your lord and this ultimately places your heart in the wrong place.

Third, develop a team approach to handling your finances. At the most basic level, this means talking together regularly about your money. If you are not communicating about money, it is because you are not communicating about anything. Chances are you've experienced this in your relationship. You need to make a commitment to communicate. It is helpful for couples to develop a game plan together on three primary things:

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Credit Crunch, Couples Punch (from page 6)

Developing a monthly budget that includes a strategy for getting out of debt; a strategy for saving and investing and a plan for giving back to the Lord.

So often, at the very heart of financial trouble for a couple is disagreement on how to use their finances. Once you begin to make decisions together and start wisely watching over how you spend, invest and give, your financial struggle soon dissipates. Also, you would be wise to seek godly counsel as you reorganize your finances. Find someone who can give you practical advise and hold you accountable on reorienting your priorities, budgeting, getting out of debt, investing, saving, and giving. Here are a few tips from Deborah Mcnaughton, a financial and credit expert, and the author of *The Get Out of Debt Kit*

How to avoid a Crisis:

Talk to each other. In most cases—and especially where finances are concerned—two heads are better than one. Find a time when you and your spouse can sit down, discuss your money, and set up a workable plan for emergencies.

How you handle your finances is one of the greatest tests of your character—and of your marriage relationship.

Prioritize your bills. By determining which bills to pay in which order, you'll get in the habit of making sure your essentials are always paid first.

Be careful using credit. Sometimes a financial crisis will come not because of a layoff, but because you're overextended. Most people can afford to devote 10 percent of their net income (after taxes) to installment debt, not including mortgage or rent payments. If you pay out more than 15 percent, you need to cut back.

Establish an emergency fund. Open a savings account and start "paying yourself" 10 percent of each paycheck.

How to Weather a Storm:



Don't panic. When facing a financial crisis, stay calm. This will help you think logically and you'll avoid unnecessary arguments with your spouse.

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BIBLE STUDY ON PHILEMON (Part 2)

(See Part 1 in the June issue)

Now Onesimus was a bit of a scoundrel. He had escaped from Philemon, and done a runner

But Paul knows that however much he wants Onesimus with him, he's actually got to send him back to Philemon. Philemon is the one who owns Onesimus, and Onesimus must answer to Philemon. And so Paul writes a letter to ask Philemon to welcome him back, not just as one of his employees, but now as a brother in Christ. And it will stretch Philemon's Christian love to the limit. But this letter is much more than just a postcard from Paul in prison to an old friend. Because as we look over Philemon's shoulder at this little piece of personal post, we can learn some wonderful truths about what it means to be an authentic Christian living an authentic, sacrificial Christian life. As we consider this book, we need to ask ourselves serious questions about our Christian lives as well. Just what should our priorities be? What qualities are going to mark us as a church as we seek to serve the Lord? From the book, Philemon, we see the three principal characters modelling for us certain aspects of the Christian life:

From Philemon we see a model of Christian hospitality,

From Paul we see a model of Christian courtesy, and

From Onesimus, we see a model of total dedication to God's cause.

Verses 1-3

In the opening verses, Paul speaks of himself as a prisoner of Christ Jesus and greets Philemon in a friendly way. He also greets Apphia who was probably the wife of Philemon; Archippus is called "fellow soldier"; he ministered in the Colossian assembly (Col. 4:17). What does Paul call Epaphras in verse 23? A fellow prisoner. Again someone who had taken a stand for Christ and paid the price with Paul. In fact it was Epaphras who had first taken the gospel to Philemon's home town of Colosse! And what about Mark, Aris-tarchus, Demas and Luke in verse 24? Fellow workers. Can you see the picture Paul is painting? This little group of friends had given a great deal to the cause of Christ.

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Bible Study on Philemon (from page 8)

They had all stood by Paul for better for worse, for richer for poorer, at great personal cost for the cause of Christ. Greeting is also extended "to the church" which was gathered in the house of Philemon. While the Epistle is addressed to Philemon personally and Paul appeals to him on behalf of Onesimus, the gathered assembly was equally to be interested in this runaway slave, who was now returning as a beloved brother and therefore to be received by them in Christian fellowship. The Lord had received Onesimus and he had become through grace, a member of the body of Christ; he belonged to the Colossian assembly. Therefore in addressing the Colossians Paul had written of Onesimus as "a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you" (Col. 4:9).

verses 4-7

He thanked God for Philemon, making mention of him always in his prayers. He did not know Philemon personally, but had heard of his love and faith toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints. And he prayed for him "that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it." (The Message) With these words of commendation, recognition and encouragement, he opens the way to plead for Onesimus.

Verses 8-21

Because of love which was in Paul's heart for Philemon, he did not use his authority to compel him to receive a good-for-nothing slave, who had been saved by God's grace. He pleaded instead, and requested a big favour from Philemon . He wrote: "While here in jail, I've fathered a child, so to speak. And here he is, hand-carrying this letter – Onesimus!" (The Message) Onesimus (meaning helpful) shows the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. A miserable, unprofitable slave, a runaway thief, had become a child of God, born again, and the loving servant of the Lord presses him to his bosom, calls him "my child" and speaks of him as being now profitable to him and to Philemon. Oh! the wonders of divine grace.

(continued page 10)

Bible Study on Philemon (from page 9)

What loving words these are! He explains to Philemon that Onesimus had endeared himself in such a way that he had become as dear to him as his own heart. He would have liked to retain him and keep him at his side in Rome, for he would have performed all the services for Paul which Philemon would have rendered to him if he were in Rome. Paul wanted Philemon to release Onesimus voluntarily without feeling blackmailed to do so.

"Maybe it is all for the best that you lost him for a while. You're getting him back now for good – and no mere slave this time, but a true Christian brother! That's what he was to me – he'll be even more than that to you. How delicately he expresses it all! He does not speak of Onesimus as having run away, as trying to escape forever from serfdom, but that "he was separated for a little while." God's providence is beautifully touched upon. And so that Philemon might not take offence at Paul asking him to receive his runaway slave as a brother beloved, he tells Philemon that he is a beloved brother especially to himself--and then how much more to Philemon who had a claim on him.

Human slavery, so universal in apostolic days, so full of misery, is indirectly dealt with in this letter to Philemon. It may be rightly called the first antislavery document and petition ever written and presented.

"Paul lays down here the foundation of a new relation between master and servant, a relation in which, while there is subordination of the one to the other, there is also a common brotherhood to be acknowledged and an equality before God to be maintained. Christianity would melt the fetters from the enslaved by the fervour of its love. Men's method commonly is, to strike them off by armed revolution" (Professor Moorhead).

And Paul continues, "If you consider me a partner, welcome him (Onesimus) as you would welcome me." Verse 17 connects well with verse 12. If Philemon counted Paul as a fellow Christian, he is to receive Onesimus as if he were Paul, "receive him as myself." Onesimus had probably confessed his theft to Paul, and again he uses the choicest words to approach this delicate matter. He does not call it "theft" outright, but writes "if he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me."

Bible Study on Philemon (from page 10)

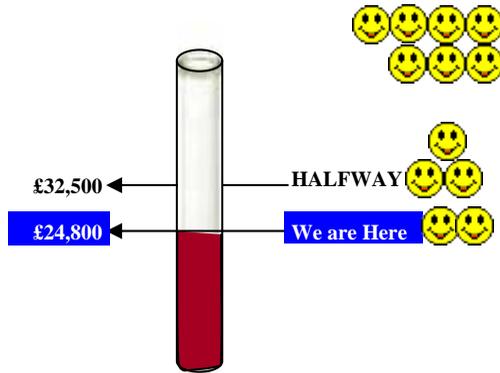
These words "charge it to me" are translated in Rom. 5:13, by the word "impute." How blessedly this illustrates the gospel. indeed this Epistle to Philemon is a perfect and practical illustration of the gospel of grace, the gospel Paul preached, and which is unfolded in the larger Epistles. What the gospel does for the poor slave of sin - how he becomes a son and a brother, profitable instead of unprofitable, a member of the body of Christ, may be traced in these verses.

An early church leader called Ignatius wrote many letters. In one letter, he refers to someone called Onesimus. He describes this Onesimus as the Bishop of Ephesus. (A bishop is the leader of the church or churches in a certain area.) Ignatius's letter is not in the New Testament. But many scholars believe that this Onesimus and the Onesimus in Paul's letter are the same person. If this is true, then Onesimus' life changed completely because of Paul's letter. Another tradition says that he became a servant of the Lord ministering in Macedonia, and that he was martyred in Rome. Whatever happened to Onesimus, we shall meet him with all the other saints in glory.

Philemon may be rightly called the first antislavery document and petition ever written and presented.

But as we finish, there is a warning for us in this letter of being self dependent rather than grace dependent people. Because in verse 24, Paul mentions one of his closest friends, a man called Demas. He'd no doubt served with Paul, as Paul calls him a fellow worker. But just a matter of a few years later, Paul laments in 2 Timothy 4 that Demas has deserted him because he loved this world. Demas had sold out and left Paul in the lurch. That is what happens when you stop living by grace, and begin to live by self. You move away from Christ until you give up the faith altogether and desert God's servants. And if it can happen to one of Paul's inner circle, then it can happen to us. Rather the antidote to such a spiritual shipwreck is to be totally dependent on God's grace. Never seek to live the Christian life on your own. You cannot do it. Rather resolve again today to be totally dependent on the grace of God. For it's the only way we'll stay dedicated to God's cause, and the only way we'll remain devoted to God's people.

D.A.



CROSSLINKS NEWS

We are giving you a bumper edition—20 pages! - because CROSSLINKS will be on recess in August, so our next publication will be in September. The Editorial Board of Crosslinks wishes you all, happy summer holiday. Please do not hesitate to share some of your experiences with us when we return in September. The contact address of Crosslinks Publication is at the back of this magazine.

CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you visited our church website? Please go to www.christchurchn8.org.uk and give us a feedback. We are still working towards uploading the sermons preached at our services.

Credit Crunch, Couples Punch (from page 7)

Quit spending money. When faced with a financial challenge, it's easy to use your credit cards. But you may run up your balance to the credit limit and not be able to afford the payments, which will result in a poor credit rating—something you won't want during a crisis time.

Prioritize your bills. Pay essential, or survival, bills first: food, mortgage or rent, utilities. Next, pay car insurance, medical needs, child support, and any loans such as automobiles and furniture that are secured as collateral. Then pay the non essential bills—those debts in which no immediate consequences occur if paid late: credit and charge cards, attorney, medical, and accounting bills, newspaper and magazine subscriptions, life insurance, childcare, gyms, or clothing.



Communicate with your creditors. If you can't pay your bills or can only pay a partial amount, your creditors may be able to help you to establish a repayment plan.

Some lenders will allow you to defer one payment a year, meaning the payment for that particular month doesn't have to be made. The deferred payment is added to the end of the contract.

Take notes of any conversations with creditors, listing the date and person with whom you spoke. Whatever arrangement you make, get it in writing from the creditor before you send in money.

Know your rights. Many collection agencies are in violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. If you feel you've been violated, get advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Find outside help. Many churches and parachurch organizations run programs to help you navigate through the financial storm. A debt management company may also be able to help you reduce your payments, lower your interest rates, and pay off your debt faster than trying to do it yourself. Such companies can also negotiate with your creditors to bring your accounts current if they're past due.

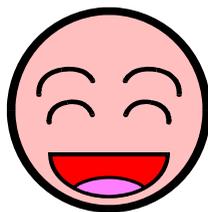
LAUGHTER LINES

Winter time

It was the beginning of the season of Advent. In school, the first candle on the Advent Crown was alight when the Vicar went in to take Assembly. He asked why the candle was there and was told, 'Because it is getting near to Christmas.'

'What do you call this season before Christmas?' he asked.

At the front, one of the youngest children put up his hand and replied firmly, 'Winter.'



Give thanks in all circumstances

A Methodist Minister was known to include a Prayer of Thanksgiving before his sermon every Sunday. He would thank God for the lovely flowers; for fellowship shared together; for the beautiful day; for inspiring worship, or anything else that seemed appropriate. However, there came a day in February, with snow on the ground and bitterly cold winds, when the congregation was reduced to the stewards, who had to be there to open the premises and switch on the lights. They speculated on what the Minister would be able to thank God for that day and thought he would find it very difficult to think of anything. But the Minister mounted the pulpit and began in his usual way. 'We do thank thee, Lord ... that we don't have many days like today.'

I recommend them all

Vicar: 'Dost thou, in the name of this child, renounce the devil and all his works; the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou will not follow nor be led by them?' 'Short-sighted God-parent, in stentorian tones: 'I recommend them all'.

LAUGHTER LINES

Abnormal family

A little boy, after attending a lesson at school on human origins, was asked to write an essay on the subject 'How life begins.' At tea-time the same evening, he asked his mother how he had come to be born. His mother replied that he had been found under a gooseberry bush.

'What about Dad?' the little boy asked. 'He came from a gooseberry bush too', said Mum. 'And Grandad?' asked the boy, (dreading the answer 'where did he come from?' 'Oh, the same,' said Mum, 'he came from a gooseberry bush too.'

After tea, the boy began his essay: 'According to my Mum, there hasn't been a normal birth in our family for the past three generations.'

Hypocrisy

The Chairman and Secretary of the local Communist Party were interviewing an applicant for a key party post. The Chairman asked him, 'If you had two houses, what would you do?' He answered: 'I would sell one and give the money to the Party.' The second question came from the Secretary: 'If you had two cars, what would you do?' 'Sell one, and give the money to the Party.' All seemed very promising. The Chairman put his last question: 'Suppose you had two bicycles, what would you do?' The applicant turned bright red with rage and stormed out of the room without answering. Surprised, the Chairman asked the Secretary: 'Why do you think he did that?' 'Ah, you see', replied the Secretary, 'he's got two bicycles.'

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

When my mother died, the family gathered at the funeral home. Some of us had been trying to explain to my 5-year-old son why his grandmother's body was still with us, but her spirit had gone to be with God in heaven.

The time drew near for the funeral home to close. In the stillness, we suddenly heard footsteps running back and forth across the floor above us. Despite our sadness, we all had to laugh when my son burst out excitedly, "Daddy! The angels are coming for Grandma!"

George Childree, Hamilton

ANGER

Anybody can become angry-that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree, and at the right time, and for the right purpose, and in the right way-that is not within everybody's power and is not easy.

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)

Control yourself! Anger is only one letter short of danger.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

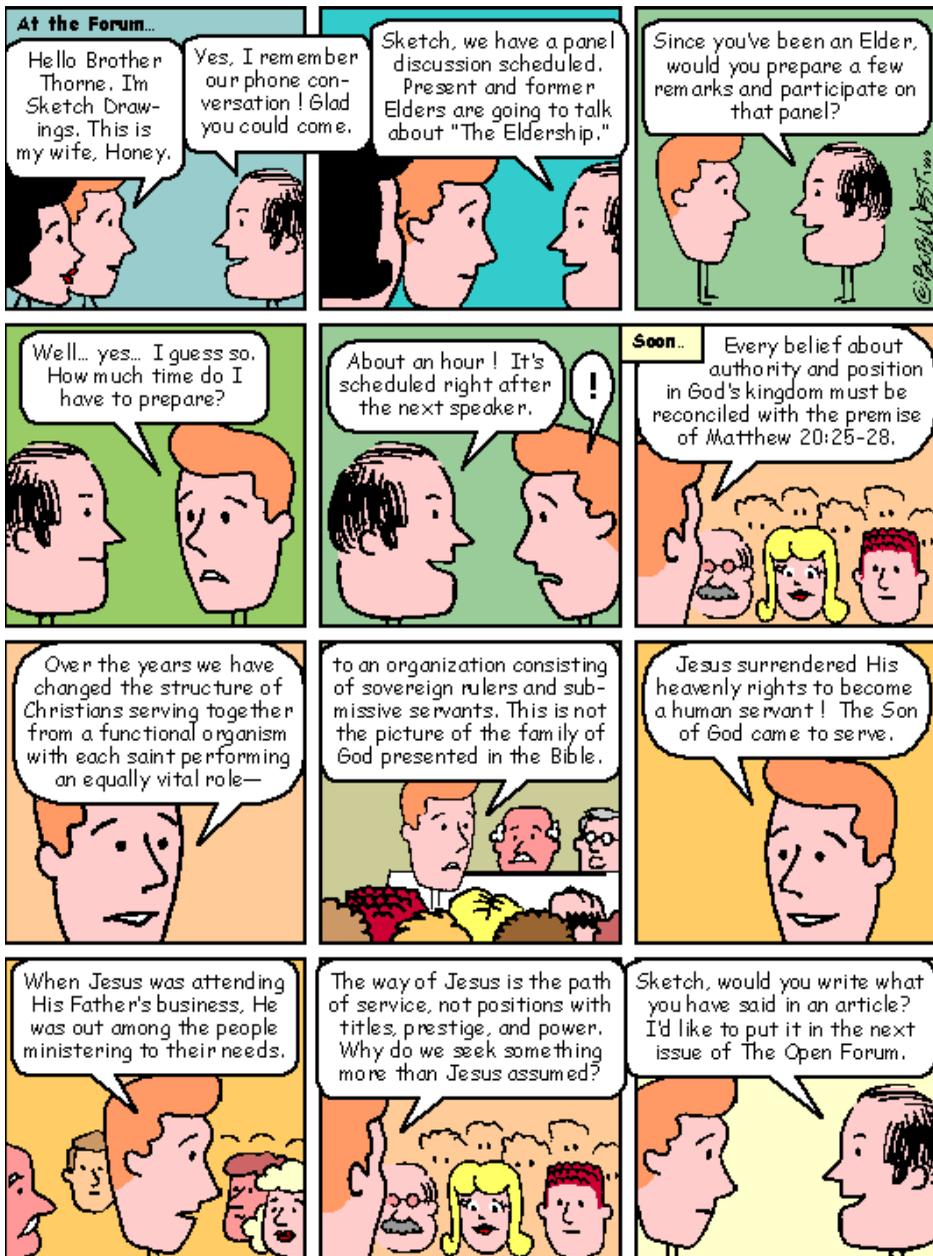
We are thanking God for answered prayers and His presence amongst us in the last Healing and Anointing Service.

We also thank God for the safe trip of our Vicar to Lagos for the burial of his late uncle.

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

Gallagher Denise; Garness Teri; Goldson Barrington and Sharon, Green Peter; Greenaway Catherine; Haggerty Mark and Funmi; Horton Betty; Horton Rosemary; Hunt Ruth; Jackson Elizabeth; Joseph Etwyn; Kambeja Harriet, Kirsakye Sydney and Bernadette; Lines Florence; Liscott Peter; Lukomona Desiree.

THEOPHILUS: THE WAY OF JESUS



DUMB EXCUSES!

“Excuse Me” or “Forgive Me”?

If you think drivers come up with some unbelievable excuses when they're trying to talk a cop out of giving them a ticket, you should see the stories that turn up on insurance companies' accident forms. Some time ago The Toronto Sun newspaper printed a few samples from actual reports:

“A pedestrian hit me and went under my car.”

“In my attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole.”

“I had been driving my car for forty years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.”

“I had been shopping all day for plants and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection, a hedge sprang up, obscuring my vision. I did not see the other car.”

“The pedestrian had no idea which direction to go, so I ran over him.”

“The telephone pole was approaching fast. I was attempting to swerve out of its path when it struck my front end.”

“Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.”

“The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.”

“An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle, and vanished.”

“The indirect cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth.”

Most of us mess up in life and we also have some pretty lame excuses. But the Bible tells us in 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from unrighteousness...” That's an incredible promise.

But it comes with a premise: “If we confess our sins...” Confession comes from a word that means “to call it the same thing.” In other words, when we sin, we don't need to make excuses, or blame



Dumb Excuses (from page 18)

somebody else, or try to wriggle out of it. We need to say, "God, this was sin. You call it sin; I call it sin, and that's all there is to it. Please forgive me."

It's been said that the only sin God can't forgive is the sin that is never confessed. Every time we take a wrong turn, or find ourselves swerving off the road, we have a choice to make. Will we confess our sin, or ask God to excuse our sin? It boils down to one of two prayers: "God, will you excuse me?" or "God, will you forgive me?"

ABSOLUTELY TRUSTWORTHY

A clergyman took a seat in a dining car on a train traveling along the Hudson River. Opposite him was an atheist who, seeing his clerical collar, started a discussion. "I see you are a clergyman."

Yes," came the reply. "I am a minister of the gospel." "I suppose you believe the Bible." The clergyman, orthodox in his views, responded, "I certainly do believe the Bible to be the Word of God." "But aren't there things in the Bible you can't explain?" With humility the minister answered, "Yes, there are places in the Bible too hard for me to understand." With an air of triumph as though he had cornered the preacher, the atheist asked, "Well, what do you do then?" Unruffled, the clergyman went on eating his dinner-- which happened to be Hudson shad, a tasty fish but noted for its bony structure.



Looking up, he said, "Sir, I do just the same as when eating this shad. When I come to the bones, I put them to the side of the plate and go on enjoying my lunch. I leave the bones for some fool to choke on."

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 43.

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 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 (**9.30 am**)
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 in church - 21st July, 8th September (**8 pm**)
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 (**6.30 pm**)

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

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Assistant Organist: Pavla Bockova

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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