



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS

SHELTER IN TIME OF STORM

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



OCTOBER 2008 ISSUE 9.100

Vicar's five- minute reflection
JESUS, DON'T YOU CARE THAT WE DROWN?



There is hardly any family which is not affected by the variety of storms that are raging in our world today. We have had to contend with natural disasters ranging from flash floods to very destructive hurricanes and each of these disasters has left in their wake, not only destruction of property, but also a loss of lives.

Of recent, we have been experiencing another type of disaster. The world economy of which British economy is a part, has been hit by a category 5 financial hurricane. Debt experts are predicting a record number of personal insolvencies this year as rising mortgage payments and soaring food and fuel costs force thousands of people over the financial edge and into bankruptcy. Our churches are not immune. When members of the church find it hard to meet their financial obligations from month to month, the body of Christ also suffers with them. We not only lose incomes to the church from these sources, we also have to be our brothers' keeper at a time of hardship.

Our Economic gurus have had to revise their theories because the present economic situation defies established patterns. There is fear in every quarter and in every home. Sooner or later everyone will feel the pinch of the financial monster that is threatening our well-being. At such a time like this, does the Scripture have anything to say? Yes.

In Acts 27:13-44 Paul encountered real danger during his journey to Rome. Paul's experiences at sea stand as an example for you and me. As we journey toward Heaven, we sometimes must sail over stormy seas. Sometimes, the sailing is smooth, v.13. Most of the time, it is not, v.14! Often the storms that rock our lives seem to threaten the very foundations that we stand upon. Many times, these storms cause us to become discouraged and we too want to give up. I believe there is help here for everyone who is sailing one of life's stormy seas. Let's examine Acts 27:13-44 and find the help we need.



In verses 13-20 we see that stormy times are not the times to despair. Calm seas usually fool us into believing that the storms will not come. But the Bible says they will. (Job 14:1; 5:7; John 16:33; Eccl. 5:15-17) When the severe storms come our way, we often feel as if events are out of our control and many of us fall into discouragement and despair.

The storm should make us take an inventory of our life and discard anything we do not need (Acts 27:18-19). We should remember that nothing happens to a child of God without His knowledge and if He allows it, it is because it will work for our growth in Him and with Him! (Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 4:17) But this could be difficult times which do not last.

In bleak times, let us not give up hope as Luke said they did in Acts 27, verse 20. Let us learn from Job whose example is a good one for us. When he was squeezed by Satan, he shouted in the devil's face (Job 1: 20-22). Simon Peter gives us an example that is to be avoided. When he was squeezed by life, he crumbled (Luke 22:31-32 and Matt. 26:69-75).

Here is some positive help and hope for your storm!

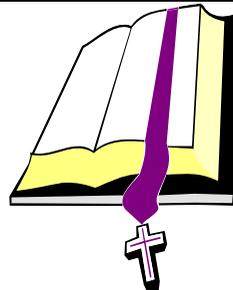
Get Anchored (Acts 27:29b) - Paul tells us they cast out four anchors to secure the ship. Still terrified, they anchored their ship but Paul was not afraid. The reason? He was anchored deeper and higher than human hands could reach.

(concluded on page 6)

Memory Verse

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

Psalm 57: 1



TEAMWORK: PARENTING AS A MARITAL TEAM



If you hope to survive parenthood with your marriage intact you must become unified with your spouse in all you do. Being unified means understanding that this is not a one-person show.

However, no matter how much the two of you agree to make your parenting and discipline decisions together, there will be times where one of you is put in a position of having to make an on-the-spot decision. Although your basic, agreed-upon guidelines will help in making that decision, that is no guarantee that you will end up choosing what your spouse would have chosen. Disagreements are bound to occur. How you handle these situations will tell both you and your children just how united the two of you really are. **Here are some suggestions to help keep up a united front:**

1. Don't argue about parenting or discipline decisions in front of the children. If you are both present and struggling to come up with an agreeable solution, call a time-out. The two of you should retreat... and discuss this situation privately. During that private time, work on a solution you can agree on. When you return to your child, present the decision with a united front.

2. Support the decisions your spouse makes. Let's say you were gone for the afternoon and came home to find that your spouse has banned your son from the computer for two weeks for what seems to you like a minor offence. Don't say, "Two weeks? You have to be kidding!" All that does is undermine your spouse's authority and inform your son that there is a weak link in the parenting team. Even if you do not agree on how the situation was handled, show support of your spouse in front of the child. Take time later to talk about it privately and hear the whole story. You may realize that you can now better understand the outcome.

If you still are not in agreement with your spouse, you have two choices. First, you may decide within yourself whether this is really a battle worth fighting.

Teamwork: Parenting as a marital team

Is the world going to end if you decide to support and follow through with the decision already made? Probably not. So unless the situation is really going to cause some long-term damage, seriously consider supporting it.

The second option is to express to your spouse the reasons for your disagreement. Once the two of you have reached a mutually agreed-upon resolution, present that to your child as a team. Let your child know that the two of you have discussed this and have decided together to overturn the previous decision.

3. Don't allow your kids to play you against each other. "Mom said I could play next door".. "Dad told me it was okay to listen to that CD." Sound familiar? If you fall into the trap of simply believing that the other parent actually did say whatever your child claims, you likely will find yourself arguing with your spouse before you even check it out. *"I can't believe you told [him] he could listen to that CD"...* And before your spouse can confirm or deny saying that, you two are off and arguing (and your son is listening to his CD). [Children] may keep asking until they get the answer they want. Many children will ask one parent to do something. If the child does not like the answer, it's off to ask the other parent. Without knowing that you have already said no, your spouse may say yes. Now having gotten the "right" answer, your child gleefully goes about doing whatever he or she had been told not to do (at least by one of you). This not only shows your children that your team is not unified, it also likely will be the source of additional conflicts between the two of you.

The best defence against this strategy is a simple, "Let's go check with your mom (or dad) about this." Once your children know that you will be checking in with each other and making decisions together, you will have rendered this technique useless.

(concluded on page 7)

Jesus, don't you care that we drown? (from page 3)

Notice four anchors that will hold you in any storm:

1. **The Assurance of God's Presence and faithfulness.**

(Acts 27:23); Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5

2. **The Promises Of God (v.24-25).** His promises are steadfast and true - Rom. 4:21. Notice some of the promises we have to assure us of total security.

- a. Brighter Days - Psa. 30:5;
- b. Deliverance - Psa. 34:19 ;
- c. Everything is for our Good - Rom. 8:18; 28; 32 Cor. 4:17;
- d. Divine Grace - 2 Cor. 12:9;
- e. Ultimate Glory - Rev. 21:4.

God's promises are based in and on His Word. It is pure, inspired and will stand even when the world is in flames.

3. **The Providence Of God (v. 24).** God was working out His plan in Paul's life and He is doing the same in yours! It may be simple faith, but I still believe that God is Sovereign! Psa. 57:1; Isa. 25:4.

4. **The Performance Of God.** Everyone made it safely to shore. God is able to work it all out! He will get you through your storm and land you safely beyond it!

You must learn to await your deliverance (41-44). In the passage, Paul and his co-travellers saw the end of their storms. Yours will end too! Until it does, submit to the Lord, serve the Lord and whatever he tells you to do, do it.

If your sea is rough, I encourage you to cast your anchor upon the solid Rock and tie yourself up to Jesus right now. He already knows what you face, but He wants you to depend on Him to meet your need. In His presence is the place where storms are conquered.

Teamwork: Parenting as a marital team (from page 5)

Co-parenting happens when the couple decides to cooperate in all areas of parenting. It means doing things together and accepting that you are both equally responsible for raising your children. When you co-parent, you work together to set family rules and consequences; decide on family responsibilities and manage the daily requirements of the home. Anything that involves parenting involves both parents.

Successful teams are the ones whose members have learned to work together to accomplish their mutual goals. They understand and respect the importance of each [other's] contribution to the [family]. They have learned that they can accomplish so much more when they do it together than if they were each trying to go it alone. Successful teams have learned to cooperate rather than compete.

One of the most important points to remember as you work to develop a co-parenting team is to avoid comparing yourself to others... Each parenting team is unique and holds within it a unique set of strengths and weaknesses. When you realize that no two teams are alike, you will understand why comparing your[selves]... to any other team is just asking for trouble. What you find that seems to work best for your [family] may not work for others. And what they discover works for them may fail miserably within your home...

Focus on the strengths and talents God has created within your team. When you focus on being who God has asked you to be and doing that to the best of your ability, you will become the best spouse and parent you can possibly be.

WHEN I SAY, 'I AM A CHRISTIAN'

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!" I'm whispering, "I get lost! That's why I chose this way"

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't speak with human pride; I'm confessing that I stumble-needing God to be my guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong; I'm professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success; I'm admitting that I've failed and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't think I know it all; I submit to my confusion asking humbly to be taught

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect; My flaws are far too visible but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain; I have my share of heartache which is why I seek His name.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I do not wish to judge; I have no authority--I only know I'm loved. Carol Wimmer

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with O, P, Q, R, S, T, V, W.

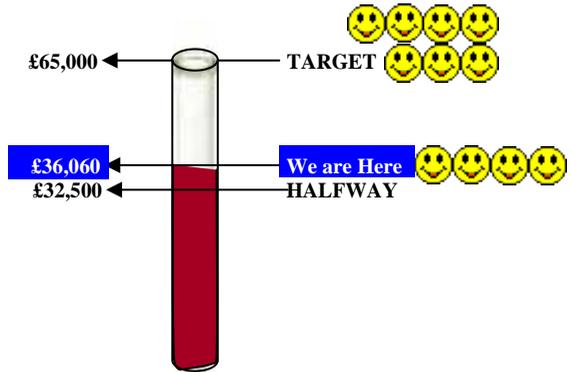
Ogilvie-Arendse Adrian; Oshodi Olufunmi & Christabel; Osibona Adebusola; Owusu Jennifer; Pacham-Becessar Cynthia; Perrin David; Quintyne Angela, Randall Harold; Redman Byron; Stockwell Muriel; Topping Roger and Constance; Tucker Diana; Turner Carol; Van-Anderson-Redman, Keith, Dolores, Karel and Shireen; Walters Carol; Watson Granville; Wharton Nikki; Wheeler Sheila.

NOTICE BOARD

Update on Church Renovation Appeal

We have raised £36,060 in cash and kind thus far, out of a target of £65,000. We have already completed works on the flooring and part of the internal redecoration has commenced. Our architect has sent in his recommendations on the bids received and the Church Council should be deliberating on this shortly.

Thank you very much for your generous donations and prayers. We will continue to count on your goodwill and support as we raise all the funds required to complete the works as planned.



Healing and Anointing Service: 30th November 10.30am

This will be the last in the series for 2008! How time flies. Let us come together in God's name and strength and pray our "walls of Jericho" down. Please pray for God's outpouring of His power on us at the service.

God is calling you as a Youth worker to Christ Church

Do you love the Lord Jesus and are interested in working with Young people; can spare Sundays and possibly one week-day? Let us meet and discuss the terms. Please contact the vicar on 02083401566 for a brief chat.

Church Away Day 4th October

Christ Church family met at Oakhill College on 4th October to pray and seek the Lord's face concerning his mandate for us in the next three years(2009-2012). A big thank you to all of you who attended and took part in all the prayers and deliberations. Special thanks to the Rev. Philip Sudell of Grace Church who was our main speaker.

LAUGHTER LINES

Weep for Me

John, the Curate, announced that he was moving on from the church and a few days later the Vicar was stopped in the public library by a worried-looking parishioner. 'Is it true that John is leaving?' she asked. 'I'm afraid so' replied the Vicar. 'Oh, I am sorry. 'E does a lovely funeral and I wanted him to do mine. 'E gets 'em all crying and I want 'em all to cry at my funeral.'



- - Bishops Brew

Resurrection

A man goes on vacation to the Holy Land with his wife and mother-in-law. The mother-in-law dies.

They go to an undertaker, who explains that they can ship the body home but that'll cost over \$5,000, whereas they can bury her in the Holy Land for only \$150.

The man says, "We'll ship her home."

The undertaker asks, "Are you sure? That's all awfully big expense and we can do a very nice burial here."

The man says. "Look, 2000 years ago they buried a guy here and three days later he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance."

- - A Bundle of Laughs

Stressed?

Stressed is desserts spelled backwards.

Stress:
When your body sweats bullets and
your mind shoots blanks.

- - A Bundle of Laughs

LAUGHTER LINES

Much Ado About Nothing

A church was considering the purchase of a new chandelier. A parishioner who was unable to attend the business meeting where it was initially discussed wrote a note to the head deacon to express her opinion.

The note said simply:

I am definitely opposed to buying a new chandelier for the church, for three reasons:

1. I can't spell chandelier.
2. If we got one, who goes to play it?
3. If we've got that kind of money in the treasury, why don't we buy a new light fixture to brighten up the church?

-- A Bundle of Laughs

A Pig for a Vicar?

Dr. Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, tells this story about an incident when he was Bishop of St. Albans. He was on his way to an evening engagement when he happened to see some fine hams hanging in a butcher's shop in the high street of a village through which he was passing. The shop was still open and he asked his driver to hurry and buy one before the shop closed. He himself followed behind. He was just in time to hear the butcher say, 'Certainly, the Bishop can have one with pleasure; and if he can get rid of our present Vicar, I'll send him the whole ... pig.'

- - Bishops Brew

BIBLE STUDY : MATTHEW 8:23-27

Matthew 8:23-27: Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him... Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping... Please read the whole text in order to make real meaning of our exposition.

It's fascinating to me that Matthew used a very specific word to describe this storm. The word "*storm*" appears five times in the English New T, but only once does it come from the word Matthew used here: *seismos*, which means a *commotion, shaking*. We use this word whenever we say *seismic* or *seismograph*—which is used to measure the intensity of earthquakes. In fact, every other time this word appears in the NT, it is not translated as "storm" but as "earthquake" (10) or "earthquakes" (3). Apparently Matthew wanted to describe an extremely violent storm, one that shook them viciously.

Don't you wonder: Why Jesus was asleep? And how could he sleep in the midst of all that chaos?

Just a short time before the disciples had been in the thick of Jesus' miracles and power. They would have been excited about all the miracles they had seen. They would likely have been brimming with confidence: "Jesus is AWESOME! And we're on his team!" But now these guys suddenly were reduced to whimpering, wet men who were scared to death. So these panic-stricken disciples went to Jesus, who was sleeping in the boat, and woke him up. "Lord, save us!" they shouted over the noise of the wind and the thunder. "We're going to drown!"

Don't you wonder: Why Jesus was asleep? And how could he sleep in the midst of all that chaos? "Why" probably has a simple answer: He was sleeping because he was exhausted. He'd been working hard ministering to people. Jesus was God, but he was also human. And he felt the same kinds of physical limitations that we feel.

BIBLE STUDY : MATTHEW 8:23-27

The "how" question might be a bit more difficult. I don't care how tired you are, sleeping through a thunder storm in a storm-tossed, water-drenched boat seems impossible.

The fact that Jesus could sleep in impossible conditions tells me not just that he was tired, but that he was able to completely and totally relax. He didn't have to worry because he had complete trust in his Father.

"There's a whole lot of shaking going on!" When troubles come suddenly with no warning and shake us, we do what the disciples did. We run to Jesus with our fears and our questions. The disciples came to Jesus all in a panic, and shook him awake. "Don't you care?" they asked. Sometimes we ask God the same question, don't we? We feel abandoned and alone. We feel like we're facing a storm without his help or support. He seems to be sleeping—because he's not answering our prayers. And we want to scream, "Where are you, God? Don't you care?"

But of course Jesus cares. It's just that he's not worried. He knows things we don't know. He doesn't have to wonder or wait to see what he's going to do. He knows, even before we ask. And when the time is right, he'll bring us through the storm. Jesus knew all along. He wasn't worried. But don't think for a moment that he doesn't care.

Verse 26 says that Jesus got up and rebuked the winds and the waves—but before he rebuked the wind and the waves, he rebuked the disciples: "You of little faith! Why are you so afraid?" Now, I want you to catch this: Jesus was rebuking two different storms. One storm was on the lake—the howling winds, the crashing waves, the shaking thunder. But the other storm was inside the disciples—the doubts and fears that were swirling within their hearts and minds. Jesus asked them, "Why are you so afraid?" It seems obvious why they were afraid, Jesus didn't need to ask, but he was making a point. He was saying there was really no reason to be afraid. The external storm was real, but they made things worse because they permitted an inner storm to blow through their souls.

(concluded on page 14)

Bible Study - Matthew 8:23-27 (from page 13)

They allowed fears and doubts to take hold of them. In fact, as bad as the storm was on the lake, the storm inside their hearts was even worse. **Fear and doubt can sink you** before wind and waves ever do.

When our world is shaken, when the seismograph registers 10 on the Richter Scale, our emotions can become like a loose cannon within—rolling around with a force that can tear us apart. That's when we have to remember that Jesus has everything under control—even though it may not feel like it to us. That's when we must hang on to our faith and allow Jesus to calm the inner storm. He can help us regain our stability! He can tie down our fears and anxieties that crash around inside us.

Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen who knew a lot about boats and water. But the storm stretched even them beyond their skills and ability to cope. They didn't need a seasoned sailor as it would be of no use; or someone who knew how to deal with the nautical situations. They needed the Son of God who could control the winds and the waves. Someone who could settle the storm and panic within their hearts. Jesus stood and spoke to the wind and the waves; the waves died down and the winds became calm and there was peace—both outside the boat and within their hearts.

Remember, when events are unpredictable and emotions are undependable, God's presence is absolute when Jesus is in the boat with us. He is with us in our storms. He said, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." He said, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." He said that we could cast all our anxiety upon him because he cares for us. He said that despite trouble in the world, we should be encouraged because he has overcome the world. (Heb 13:5; Matt 28:20; 1 Pet 5:7; John 16:33)

For Jesus to speak and control the winds and the waves was nothing; after all, he created them! And the Creator is in the boat with us. He is living life with us ...as we cross through the seas and go through ...the toughest of times. All we need to do is call out to Jesus and He will help us through.

D.A.

HEAVENLY CORRESPONDENCE

E-MAIL FROM GOD (2)

File Edit View Options Tools Help

Send Contacts Spell Attach Security Save

From: **GOD, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

To: **YOU, MY BELOVED CHILD,**
“What will happen when the storm comes?” ... read on.

Subject: **PSALM 127:1**

My beloved child,

In some parts of the world, where storms are terrible and regular, people build their houses out of bamboo and paper; every year or so, storms wipe out everything. Because the people realize their houses are just going to get knocked down, they don't waste time and effort trying to build strong houses. This is smart.

You can't build a strong, successful life on all your own. Apart from Me, you'll work to make your life look good, but something will always come along to knock it down. I am the only One with enough power and wisdom to build a life that will withstand the storms.

So get smart. Forget your own plans. Let Me show you My plans and help you build a strong, successful life. My work lasts.

Your Lord and Master Architect,
God.

Adapted from 'e-mail from God for Teens'-Clonigers

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**)
- Brownies meeting in church (**5.30 pm**)
 - Next Prayer meetings in church - 20th October, 3rd & 17th November (**8 pm**)
- Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (**7:45 pm 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

Editorial Board: Iyabo Agbelusi, Grace Macauley, Dele Agbelusi

Voice Edition: Sheila Wheeler, Peter Green, Dele Agbelusi

Vicar: Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi

Church Wardens: Peter Green, Charles Murphy

Lay Preachers: Richard Mercer, Iyabo Agbelusi

Assistant Organist: Pavla Bockova

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

**PLEASE WRITE TO THE EDITOR, CROSSLINKS,
THE VICARAGE, 32 CRESCENT ROAD, LONDON, N8 8AX
E-MAIL: christchurchN8@aol.com**