



CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
LONDON N8 8AX  
**CROSSLINKS**

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL

For all these and more



We thank you God

SEPTEMBER 2007 ISSUE 8.88

## Vicar's three minute reflection

### Be the One in Ten who is Always Grateful!



Twenty centuries ago, Jesus, the Son of God, was walking through the human experience. One day, close to Jerusalem, he came across ten lepers. The nationality of the entire group is unclear, but we know one of them was a despised Samaritan.

Leprosy was a scourge of humanity in those days. Men and women who had the disease were subjected not only to the reality of great suffering, slowly leading to death, but also to the tragedy of exile from their communities and separation from those whom they loved. Ancient Egyptians called leprosy "death before death".

Recognizing Jesus, they did not cry "unclean, unclean" as tradition required them when they were coming close to people. Instead they called out and said, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" Jesus had compassion on them and simply said, "Go show yourself to the priests." Miraculously, on their way, they were totally healed. But sadly, only the Samaritan returned: "He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him" (Luke 17:16 NIV). He was one out of ten lepers that were healed.

What strikes us as supremely ironic is that as soon as nine of these men were healed, they became like everybody else. They once spoke with one voice now they have scattered. They once called Jesus "Master", now they forget him. They once cried for help, but when they got it only one of them gave thanks. Perhaps the other nine would be thanking their luck as many of us do.

Is there someone in the course of your life you have forgotten to thank?

In the United States of America, there is a bank holiday for Thanksgiving. I wonder how many people actually utilise this opportunity to say "thank you" to others. I won't be surprised if the delights of most hearts will be the holiday from work so they can labour at the variety of digestible delights. Yet, folks are still waiting to be thanked.

Take this week and survey your life. Ask God to bring instances to your mind when you completely forgot to thank some benefactor. Maybe it was a small favour. Perhaps you were just one of a group to which the gift was given. Make an effort to thank at least one person you failed to thank earlier. That one will be surprised, delighted--and thankful.

Why don't you be the "one" in ten who is always grateful.



One year when Christmas Day came on a Sunday, a farmer decided to go to church. (Like some people, he thought he was fulfilling his religious obligation by going to church twice a year--at Christmas and Easter!).

The sermon that day was preached from the text, "The ox knows his owner, and the donkey his master's manger: but Israel does not know, my people do not understand" (Isaiah 1:3). Isaiah is saying that man is more dumb than the animals.

After church the farmer returned home and stood among his cows. One of them began to lick his hand--a practical demonstration of the sermon he had just heard. Strong man though he was, the farmer began to weep as he thought, "God did much more for me, and yet I never thanked Him. My cow is far more grateful than I am. What do I ever give her other than grass and water?"

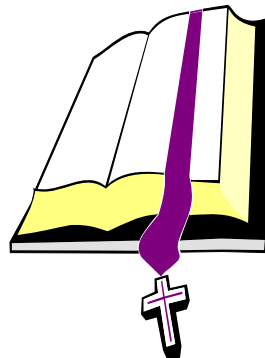
Will you give thanks to God for His goodness towards you, even when you are going through difficult times? When you drop your offerings in the bowl at church, does your gift reflect an act of gratitude to God for His many blessings? Or are you so blessed that small gifts are inconsequential to you? When you wake up in the morning, do not forget to give thanks to the Lord for the gift of another day. Oh that men and women will praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works.

Dele Agbelusi

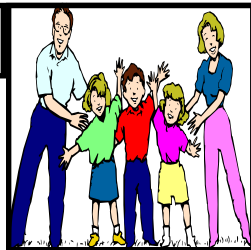
## Memory Verse

I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will thank you for ever and ever. Every day I will thank you; I will praise you for ever and ever. The Lord is great and is to be highly praised; his greatness is beyond understanding.

Psalm 145: 1-3



## RANDOM WORDS OF THANKS



**When was the last time you said, "Thanks" to your spouse?** Oh, we don't mean saying "Thanks" for passing the salt or even "Thanks" when they get something for you that you couldn't get on your own. Most people do that. We mean saying "Thanks" for some of the little niceties that your spouse does that you may overlook in expressing thanks. And yet those "niceties" probably make your day a little brighter when they do them! So why not thank them?

Even in the most difficult of situations there is some overlooked blessing that we may not be focusing on because of the bigger situation that's receiving our attention. The Bible says in 1 Thesalonians 5:18 says to, **"give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."** This means that there is always something, either apparent or hidden, for which we can be thankful. We may not understand why God has allowed certain things to happen to us but we need to trust His heart and His ultimate plans for the world (including us) that He will work some kind of good out of it. For that we can find reasons to be thankful!

You may have heard the term performing "Random Acts of Kindness" — which is finding ways to bless others by intentionally doing something kind for them. It's random because it's done spontaneously (and is usually unexpected). It may be taking them out to lunch, or washing their car (without being asked), or tucking a little gift of money in a place where they will eventually find it with a note that says "This is a little something for you to use. Enjoy!" Those are just a few examples of doing random acts of kindness for others. But what about expressing to our spouse "Random Words of Thanks"?

**Some examples of "Random Words of Thanks" would be to:**

- **Thank them for getting up each morning to go to work.** There are many spouses who decide to be lazy and not provide financially for their family so they don't roll out of bed to go to work. If you have a spouse who does go to work-look for different times and different ways to express your thanks.

## Random words of thanks (continued from page 4)

This may surprise them, but tell them you appreciate their commitment in doing this. It's nice to know someone notices things like that sometimes.

- **Thank them for planning the meals, and shopping for the food, and all the work they put in for preparing what you eat each day.** Even if you helped in doing part of this, the initiative they showed in making sure everything was done should be appreciated. Some might say, "Well, this is all part of being married. This is what is expected of my spouse"! The question is, "Why"? Where is it written in the marriage contract that they HAVE to do this because they married you? This is an expectation— be it societal, cultural, or personal— it's still an expectation. So why not express thanks from time-to-time that your spouse actually does it? Some spouses don't and won't do it.

- **Thank them for being dependable and honourable.** When we have a spouse who is dependable and obviously honours the marriage commitment it would be nice to let them know you appreciate who they are and how they make their choices to honour your marital partnership. Realize that you're blessed to have a spouse who is a "Promise Keeper." Now let them KNOW you realize it by thanking them.

- **Thank them for the little things they do that may have gone unnoticed in the past** like: cooking, changing a light bulb when it's burned out, or filling the automobile with gasoline when it needs it... Those are just a few things for which you can thank them. But go ahead... think of others. And then *express* your thanks. Being thankful is great. But sometimes we need to also verbally express it.

We've known of marriages where the spouse has left the other for someone else because they said they felt "unappreciated" or "taken for granted" and eventually found someone else who lavished their appreciation upon them or have made them feel needed and "special" again. We're not saying it is right for them to have done this, because it is not.

(continued on page 9)

## A HYMN FROM A GRATEFUL HEART

Imagine a man conducting forty to fifty funerals a day, burying nearly 4500 people in all. Among those dead was his wife. Towards the end, the deaths were so frequent that the bodies would just be placed in trenches, without burial rites.

Imagine also that this person would be so thankful even in such a grim situation that he would write a hymn that would be sung by Christians 300 years later all over the world. It is unbelievable, isn't it?

Not if you're describing Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor of Germany during the Thirty Years' War. During that period, rival armies from across Europe roamed through his parish in his native Saxon village of Eilenburg. It was a walled city, the walls being the reason it was a place of hiding for thousands of refugees. To make matters worse, the village was struck with the plague in 1637. More than 8000 of the inhabitants perished, and Rinkart himself buried 4,000 of his parishioners, some days conducting mass funerals for as many as 50 a time. In the midst of this terrible plague, and the severe famine that came in its wake, the Swedish forces that were occupying Eilenburg demanded a tribute of 30,000 thalers from the stricken inhabitants. Rinkart appealed to them and managed to reduce the sum to 2,000 thalers. He also appealed to the Almighty, telling his parishioners, "We can find no mercy with men; let us take refuge in God." All other officials and pastors fled, leaving Rinkart alone to care for the dying. The experience of Rinkart did not take away from him a heart of gratitude to our loving God! The hymn he composed was: "Now Thank We All Our God, With heart and hands and voices. Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices; Who from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way, With countless gifts of love, And still is our today." (I encourage you to look up the rest of the hymns). Rinkart has demonstrated that our gratitude to God should not depend upon our circumstances but on the assurance of God's love, His sovereignty, and His Word.

D.A.

## NOTICE BOARD

### Sunday, 30th September 2007

Our next **Healing and Anointing Service** is on Sunday 30th September at 10.30 am. Join us as we worship the Lord and ask for his intervention in the things that matter to us. We have testimonies of His past mercies and God wants to give you a blessing to which you also can testify.

### Sunday, 25th November 2007 **Confirmation Service at 10.30 am**

### Opportunity to Grow in the Word

A lot of exciting opportunities await you this current quarter. On **Sunday mornings** we are listening to the good news from Dr Luke in our sermons and during the **evening worship** we have an opportunity to share in the great news from Isaiah which you cannot ignore. In our **mid-week bible study** we are looking at the Book of Daniel. It is amazing that in spite of the relocation of Daniel and his friends from the palace to a refugee status in a strange land God demonstrates at every turn that He is still in control. Join us to learn more about the Great God we worship.

**PrimaDivas** Go West—*well...* North London Really!  
singing at Christ Church, Crouch End Hill. Saturday, October 6 7:30 pm

Kate Fun and Maryliese Happel are singing in a fund-raising concert for North London Hospice, on **Saturday October 6** as a part of the Voices for Hospices 2007 – The World Hospice and Palliative Care Day. This official bi-annual occasion is billed as “the world’s largest regular singing event” but the donations will go toward the local named center—North London Hospice.

The PrimaDivas concert ropes in songs from classical to the cinema in a popular program with tickles, thrills, and trills. North London pianist, Krystyna Budzynska, “our pardner” will accompany.

**Tickets are only £5** in the hope that more people will donate to such a wonderful cause. As if that weren’t enough, refreshments will be available in the intermission!

To buy tickets, please contact **The Hap’ning Place Studio** Tel: 07908771984  
Email: [info@hapingplace.com](mailto:info@hapingplace.com); [www.voicesforhospices.org/www.worldday.org](http://www.voicesforhospices.org/www.worldday.org)  
Voices for Hospices is kindly sponsored by Help the Hospices.

## EVERY DAY A DAY OF THANKSGIVING?

Recently, I ran across a touching Thanksgiving prayer by Dr Jim Moore. I like the prayer and I wanted to share it with you this month as we pause to give thanks to God for His mercies, protection, provision and love for us as His church.

“Just this once, Lord, I want to come to You with no problems, but simply to say, Thank You:

For Your forgiveness when I fail

For the sheer joy of sleep when I'm terribly tired

For the justice of Your laws when people are cruel

For the remedies for sickness when I am ill

For the simplicity of orderliness when I face confusion

For the joy of helping others when I see people in need

For the fun that refreshes when everything gets too serious

For the renewal of moments of silence when I'm dizzy being busy in a hectic world

Thank You, Lord, for all these things. But most of all, thank You for your abiding presence that makes every day I live a day of thanks.”

D.A.

## SMILE AND GIVE YOUR FACE A CHANGE

I can recall a “chorus” which we loved to sing when I was a member of the “Nigerian Youth Life Club” in the early seventies: “Smile a-while, and give your face a change...” Whenever we sang that song, we tried to ensure that we were actually smiling. There are some people who find it difficult to give a smile. But I have found out from experience that a smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor that he cannot be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet, **it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.**

D.A.



## Random words of thanks (continued from page 5)

However, everyone wants to feel appreciated. And every marriage could use a little more tender loving care to make sure that each marital partner isn't feeling neglected or taken for granted.

We didn't take each other for granted before marriage, which helped us to fall in love with each other in the first place, so now that we're married, we need to still make the effort to express our appreciation to each other. Our needs don't go away just because we place a wedding ring on our fingers and sign a marriage contract.

Do you express a heart of thanksgiving with your spouse? If not, then NOW is the time to begin!

"A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver" (Proverbs 25:11). "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:3-6).



Thanks! It is a beautiful garden, to be sure, but I am not the gardener. I am just the waterer of these plants.

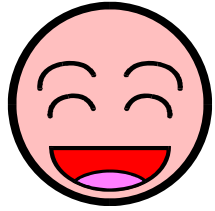
Neither the one who plants or waters is anything, but God causes growth.

1 Cor. 3:7

## LAUGHTER LINES

### **I want my remaining fifty minutes of labour!**

A feisty seventy-year-old woman named Frances had to call a repairman to service her furnace. He quickly located the problem and fixed it. He handed Frances an itemized bill, which included seventy dollars for labour. She exclaimed, "Seventy dollars for labour? It only took you five minutes!" The repairman explained his company had a one hour minimum charge. To that line of reasoning Frances said, "Then I want my remaining fifty-five minutes of labour!" With that she handed him a rake and he bagged leaves for the rest of the hour.



Reader's Digest, Oct. 1991,

### **Thou preparest a table before me**

A ten year old girl had had a really bad day. She had been scolded several times by her parents. That night at dinner, when her father asked her to say grace, she prayed, "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies".

The Laugh shall be first- Very Rev. Dr. James A Simpson.

### **Dishonesty**

Two women happened to meet on a bus, and one confessed to her friend, "You know, I'm a bit ashamed about this, but I managed to get on without paying the fare." Her friend replied, "Oh you shouldn't feel bad about that, everybody does it. But mind you, honesty does pay. I paid my fare with a five-pound note, and the driver gave me change for a tenner."

Adapted from William L Self and Caroline Shealy Self, *Confessions of a Nomad*

# LAUGHTER LINES

## Payment in arrears

A plumber once did an installation job for a teacher. After two months, when no pay was forthcoming, the plumber phoned the teacher. "Look, you don't have to pay the whole bill at once, but at least pay part of it."

When the teacher explained that he was waiting to see if he done a good job, one that would last, the plumber, instead of reacting angrily, said, "I bet you are glad teachers are not paid on that basis". There was a burst of laughter at the other end of the phone. The next day the bill was paid in full.

The Laugh shall be first- Very Rev. Dr. James A Simpson.

## Health and humour

Patrick Mahoney tells what he claims is a true story about a cardinal who was noted for his seriousness. When he lay dying, his relatives, seeing his helplessness, began sharing his belongings. He lay there watching them, too weak to object. Then he noticed his pet monkey pick up his cardinal's hat, put it on his head, and admire himself in the mirror. At this the old man burst out laughing, and laughed himself back to health.

The Laugh shall be first- Very Rev. Dr. James A Simpson.

## Titles

In California, an individual, Venture, has been awarded twelve university degrees and ordained as a minister. What makes this remarkable is that Venture is a Labrador. His owner, Dr. Diana Dawne, applied for the qualifications to show how easy it is to get awards by mail order in the United states. Venture's degrees subjects included psychology, philosophy, law, archaeology and naturally, zoology.

Simon Coupland

## STORY OF THE MONTH

### THE ANSWER IS IN YOUR HANDS

Two brothers were arguing about the wisdom of their parents. "Father is very wise," said the first brother. "We should listen to him and do what he says."

The second brother disagreed. "Father is not so wise! Why, we are just as smart as he is. I'll prove it to you!"



The next day the second brother went into the woods near his home and captured a small bird. He brought the bird home and said to his brother, "Let's go find our father. I will show you that he isn't so smart!"

The two brothers went into their father's study, the second one holding the small bird between his cupped hands. "Father, I have a question for you," he said. "I hold a small bird in my hands. Tell me, is this bird dead or alive?"

The boy was confident that his father would not answer correctly because if he said that the bird was dead, the boy would simply open his hands and show that the bird was alive. If his father answered that the bird was alive, he would crush the bird between his hands and reveal that the bird was dead. Then he would prove to his brother that his father was not so wise after all.

The boys' father considered the question for a moment and said, "My son...the answer is in your hands."

Sometimes we come to our Heavenly Father with questions that are just as impossible to answer. "Tell me, God, what should I do with my life? Who should I marry? Where should I live? What will my future hold?" We expect God to arrange our lives for us and make everything work out just right. After all, isn't that what an all-powerful, all-knowing God is for?

The answer is no. In his wisdom, God created us with free will. In effect, He says to us, "My son, my daughter, the answer is in your hands."

(continued on page 13)

## The answer is in your hands (continued from page 12)

While God does know the future—and most certainly has the power to determine it—he has graciously given us control over our own lives. He created us in his own image; that is, with the ability to choose, to decide what we will do, how we will live, whom we will serve.

He chose not be a cosmic puppeteer, simply pulling the strings of our lives and making us into people who would automatically serve him and love him. Instead, he gave us the ability to decide for ourselves whether to love him or not, whether to obey him or not, and whether to serve him or not. He wants us to have eternal life (see 2 Peter 3:9), but the “answer is in our hands” (see Deuteronomy 30:19 and Joshua 24:15).

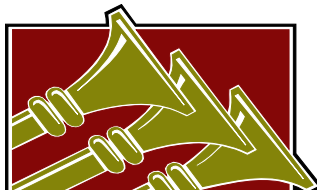
Youth Specialties

A true Christian is a man who never for a moment forgets what God has done for him in Christ, and whose whole comportment and whole activity have their root in the sentiment of gratitude.

John Baillie (1741-1806)

Thou hast given so much to me  
Give one thing more—a grateful heart:  
Not thankful when it pleaseth me,  
As if thy blessings had spare days,  
But such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise.

George Herbert (1593-1633)



**Because Jesus lives, I can  
face tomorrow.**

## CAN I INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE?

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale was one of the most sought after speakers of the 20th century. Shortly before his death, he spoke for his good friend Robert Schuller in the Crystal Cathedral. Dr. Schuller began his introduction by saying: "I want to introduce you to the most dynamic person you will ever meet in your life. He is exciting, positive and winsome. He can reach down inside of you more deeply than anyone else you have ever known before. He will give you self-confidence and courage, and a whole lot of other things you have always wanted in your life but have not had."

Dr. Peale was astounded. He had never been introduced like this before. How could he possibly respond to the invitation? As he was trying to think of some introductory remarks, he heard Dr. Schuller continue: "The person of whom I am speaking, of course, is Jesus Christ. And here to tell you about Him is my friend, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale."

**Even though you face many challenges, you can be victorious by placing your trust in Jesus Christ. And even though your life may be touched by strife and sorrow, you can have peace because Christ is your living hope. He is infinitely stronger than anything you are facing.**

Yes, Jesus Christ came to free us to be all that God wants us to be. From that moment when Jesus Christ entered the human race at Bethlehem there came power and there came light. There came life and there came future. No matter how hard circumstances seem to be, there is never a time in the life of a child of God when he ought to conclude, "That's it! I quit! I throw in the towel! I give up!" If God can reach down and touch the earth in all its darkness and sin and win the victory, he can handle your situation.

If freedom is the ability to fulfill the purpose for which you were created, then fear is that power which attempts to destroy that purpose and goal.

(continued on page 15)

## Can I introduce you to someone? (continued from page 14)

Christ knew the awesome power that fear could unleash into the life of a believer. He saw his own disciples when fear was ruling the day. He also saw how liberating love and freedom was when it directed the thoughts and footsteps of a believer. Did Jesus say in John 10:10--I came that they might have fear, or I came that they might have life and abundant life at that? Does Jesus Christ come to cause us pain and suffering (the aches), or does he come to give us strength to sing our alleluias over the aches.

There are situations in life that, if not dealt with properly, leave us depressed and weary. These are times when, from our perspective, things appear as if they will never change. However, from God's perspective all things are working together for our good and His glory.

Even though you face many challenges, you can be victorious by placing your trust in Jesus Christ. And even though your life may be touched by strife and sorrow, you can have peace because Christ is your living hope. He is infinitely stronger than anything you are facing. With God's strength flowing through you, you can live to fight another day.

### THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with M, N, O, P, Q.

Macauley Grace; Madada William; Mamas Helen; McFarlane Su, Mercer Richard & Mary; Miller Lisa; Mole Andrew, Mucha Joanna; Murphy Charles; Musolo Bright, Mutyaba Joy; Myers-Nobbs Andrew; Nabirya Rose; Nobadula Thembekile; Ogilvie-Arendse Adrian and Susan; Oshodi Olufunmi & Christabel; Osibona Adebusola; Owusu Jennifer; Pacham-Becessar Cynthia; Perrin David; Quintyne Angela.

Motto /Text for the year  
"I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES  
ME STRENGTH" *PHIL. 4:13*

### FINDING OUT ABOUT ...CHRIST CHURCH?

Tel/Fax: 020 8340 1566

We are a family of men and women, boys and girls who are trying to live for God in a world that has largely chosen to ignore Him.

We believe that it is God's world and that He has given the answer to all human problems in Jesus Christ.

As a body of believers, we offer to all who come regular opportunities for worship and service that point the way to God as our strongest resources in all aspects of life.

We will be pleased to welcome you to any of our activities. You will find a warm welcome at Christ Church.

#### Times of worship and fellowship are shown below:

- Sunday** - **8.00am.** Holy Communion ( Book of Common Prayer)  
- **10.30am.** Main service with Crèche facilities

There is family/parade service once every month– usually the third Sunday of the month unless otherwise indicated.

- **6.00pm.** Evening worship

#### ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

- Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon**) -  
- Brownies meeting in Church (**5.30 pm**)  
- Next Prayer Meetings 17th September, 1st & 15th October (**8pm**)
- Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:45pm**)
- 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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