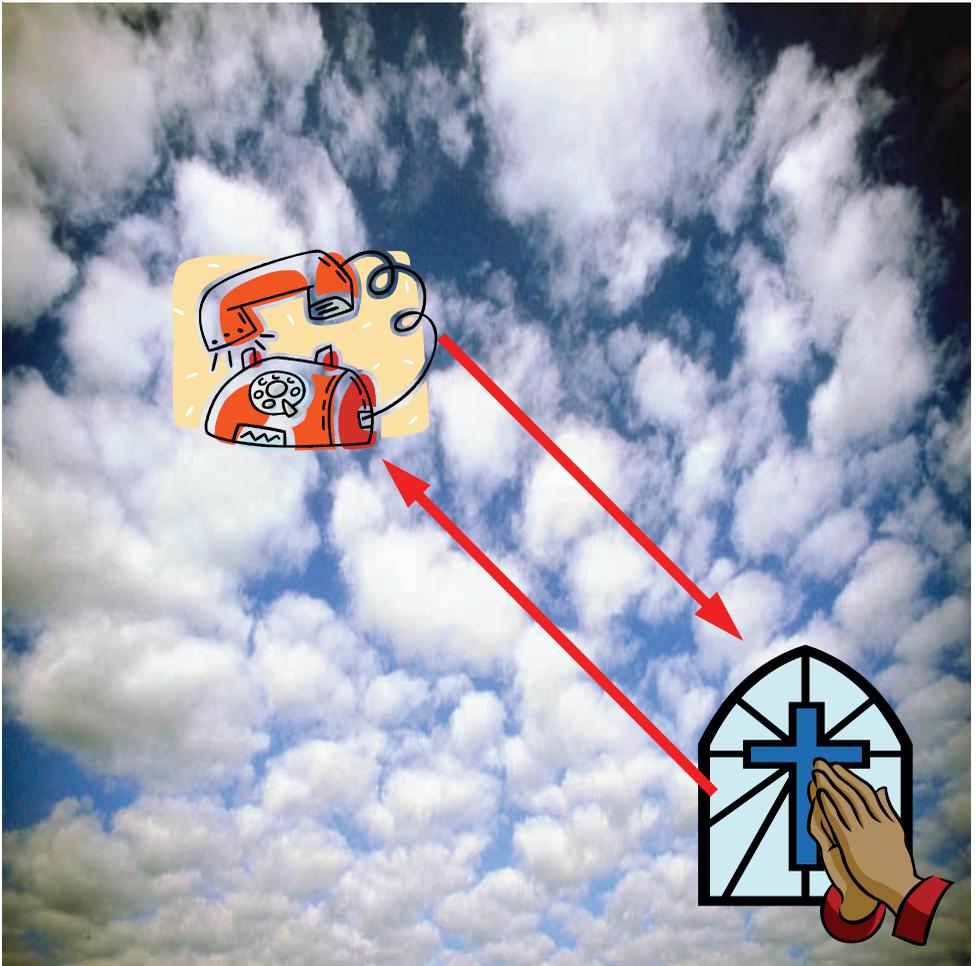




**CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS
TELEPHONE TO HEAVEN**

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



MARCH 2004 ISSUE 4.50

PRAYER—THE ROYAL TELEPHONE TO HEAVEN

Prayer 1



In the Christian life it is difficult for us to grow if we ignore or skimp the practice of prayer. It was Selwyn Hughes who once said “we either pray or become a prey to spiritual weakness, lethargy, indolence or sluggishness.” Nobody who has neglected prayer has grown spiritually.

But there are many people who find it difficult to pray. They see prayer as a verbal marathon involving the use of secret codes, but this is not true. Prayer is meant to be a simple and straight-to-the-point communication with our loving heavenly Father.

To some of us, it may be necessary to be reminded what it means to pray. Prayer means first of all the assurance of the presence of God, or as those of old well said, “coming before God,” “standing before His face.” That is not so simple. It requires an effort of the will – and more than that. When the prodigal son said, “I will arise and go to my Father,” Emil Bruer comments, “that resolution requires the courage to let God tell you the truth, the humiliating knowledge that you can no longer help yourself. Only he really seeks God, for whom all other doors are bolted. God himself meets us only when we are at the end of our knowledge and power. “

When we pray, we should try not to come up to the expectation of others – Be yourself and not someone else. God accepts you as you are, even though it is not His intention that you stay as you are. So relax.

But how do you see God? Do you see Him as distant, uncommunicative, judgemental and a kill joy? Do you see Him as mean or stingy or as a loving parent who would not withhold from you any good thing? Do you see Him as a heavenly Father who has given more than the world for you? When you come to see God as loving, caring, open, non-judgemental and forgiving, it will not be difficult to see prayer as a conversation with Him.

Do you see God as distant, uncommunicative, judgemental and a kill joy? Do you see Him as mean or stingy or as a loving parent who would not withhold from you any good thing?



It was Francis Fenelon a French archbishop who wrote “Tell God all that is in your heart as one unloads one’s heart, its pleasures, and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell Him your troubles that He may comfort you; tell Him your joys that He may sober them; tell Him your longings that He may purify them; tell Him your dislikes that He may help you overcome them; talk to Him about your temptations that He may shield you from them; show Him the wounds of your heart that He may heal them; lay bare your indifferences to good, your depraved tastes for evil; tell Him how vanity tempts you to be insincere, how pride disguises you to yourself and others – He’s your friend.”

Dele Agbelusi

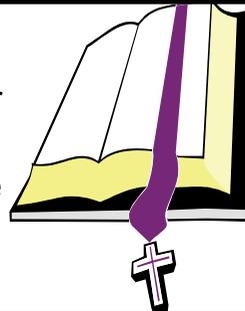
During a morning worship service, Ellen noticed a nice looking man sitting by himself on the back pew. As a single woman she had a vested interest in meeting him. She approached him with an extended hand and said, "Hi. I'm Ellen." He took one look at her and bolted out the door without saying a word. The following Sunday he returned to church and made this apology: "My name is Bob Price, and I owe you an apology for my rude behavior last Sunday. You see, my deceased wife's name was Ellen, and I had been praying, 'Dear God, please send me another Ellen.' When you approached me and said, 'Hi. I'm Ellen,' I lost it." Bob and Ellen have now been married twelve years and are both very thankful for the way God answered Bob's prayer.

Houston Post, Jan. 2, 1995, p. C-4

Memory Verse

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

John 16.24



MOTHERHOOD



I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life. There are many things a child does not remember. He rarely remembers every scraped knee every reprimand, every home-cooked meal. What a child hardly forgets are character traits of a parent and the way they manifested themselves in a pattern of consistency – If mothers make prayer a daily habit—and let their children overhear their prayers for them on a daily basis, the children may not remember each and every prayer...but they will remember you as a praying person! And that example will never depart from him. It was Billy Graham who once said to mothers 'Let your home be your parish, your little brood your congregation, your living room a sanctuary, and your knee a sacred altar.'

Every mother is like Moses. She does not enter the Promised Land. She prepares a world she will not see. She builds the self-esteem of the child. She is there to lift you up when you are there to laugh with

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And at those critical moments when you are taking your first steps, she is there to assist you. A famous painter said this of her mother: "My mother said to me, 'if you become a soldier you'll be a general; if you become a monk you'll end up as the pope.' Instead, I became a painter and wound up as Picasso." Talk more to your child about his potential than his track record. He has more potential than history!

Dele Agbelusi

QUOTES

God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers.

-- Hebrew proverb

The commonest fallacy among women is that simply having children makes one a mother—which is as absurd as believing that having a piano makes one a musician.

Sydney J. Harris (1917-1986)

WHEN ONLY GOD UNDERSTANDS

I still don't understand, nearly 10 years later. At least I don't understand why the Lord allowed my sons to be afflicted with infantile bilateral striatal necrosis. I don't understand why Jonathan died or why Christopher lived. Today he's 16 and nearly totally recovered.

All I understand is this: life is a riddle, which God wants me to experience but not necessarily solve. When I was struggling to solve it, I found 1 Corinthians 13:12, which only makes sense in the original Greek: "For now we see (or understand) through a mirror, in a riddle," the apostle Paul wrote, "but then face to face."

By keeping us in our riddle (every person's riddle is unique) God is helping us learn to walk by faith, and not by sight.

Modern Christians sometimes rush to put God's truth into little boxes, neatly systematized, categorized, organized, and principle-ized, when God's perspective on suffering is too big for any of that. While for some "spirituality" is defined by what you know, God may be more concerned with how you handle what you cannot know.

A riddle loses its mystery and its power, even perhaps its significance, once it is solved. By keeping us in our riddle (every person's riddle is unique) God is helping us learn to walk by faith, and not by sight.

-- David Biebel, author. Men of Integrity, Vol. 1, no. 2.

THOSE WHO SEE GOD'S HAND IN EVERYTHING
CAN LEAVE EVERYTHING IN GOD'S HAND.

QUOTES ON PRAYER

If we bring into one day's thoughts the evil of many, certain and uncertain, what will be and what will never be, our load will be as intolerable as it is unreasonable.

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

Leave tomorrow's trouble to tomorrow's strength; tomorrow's work to tomorrow's time; tomorrow's trial to tomorrow's grace and to tomorrow's God.

Edythe Draper

I have lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered.

Jean Ingelow

And Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.

William Cowper

God bestows many things on us out of his liberality, even without our asking for them. But that he wishes to bestow certain things on us at our asking is for the sake of our good, that we may acquire confidence in having recourse to God, and that we may recognize in him the Author of our goods.

Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

God has not always answered my prayers. If he had, I would have married the wrong man-several times!

Ruth Bell Graham

He who fails to pray does not cheat God. He cheats himself.

George Failing

NOTICE BOARD

**24th APRIL 2004
3.30 PM**

Dedication and Commissioning of our New Church Hall

The Opening Ceremonies will commence with a Celebration Service to be presided over by the Bishop of Edmonton.

This will be followed by the
Opening/Commissioning of the Hall
and refreshments.

Be a part of this celebration!!
It happens only once in a life time!!

28th MARCH 2004

CHURCH'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
will take place after the 10:30 am worship

**Don't Be Left Out of
Alpha
Coming To New Christ Church Parish Hall
Starts 04 May 2004**

Please Register Your interest Now!!

Sponsored by St. James Muswell Hill and Christ Church Hornsey Parishes

QUIZ ON BIBLE FOOD

All the various Diets in the media over how to lose weight makes this a very good opportunity to look at food in the Bible times with this quiz.

1. What four faithful young men reused to eat the rich foods of the King of Babylon?
2. Who traded his bread – and lentil stew or his brother's birth-right?
3. Who has a baker who made pastries for him?
4. According to the law what was the Passover meal to be composed of?
5. What old man was deceived when his son dressed in goat-skin gloves, and presented him with a meal of cooked goat?
6. In what book of the bible is Canaan first described as a land flowing with milk and honey?
7. What prized animal was killed for food when the prodigal son returned home?
8. Who ate honey out of a lion's carcass?
9. How was the food Daniel refused to eat described?
10. This food sets teeth on edge.
11. Israelites claimed they ate all these in Egypt?
12. God fed the Israelites with this food?

Solution on page 11

Submitted by Suzanne Ogilvie-Arendse

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

Listening and responding to the needs of asylum seekers and refugees in London

In view of the recent proposed legislation, this was the timely subject of a conference held on Saturday, 21st February, chaired by the Bishop of Edmonton. Speakers included representatives from the Refugee Council, the Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture, Bail for Immigration Detainees BID, our own Susan Jones from Caris Haringey, and Revd Timothy Gorringe, Professor of Theological Studies at Exeter University who traced asylum seekers throughout the Old Testament.

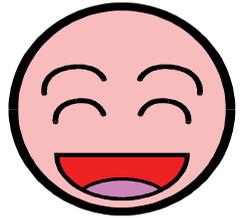
The Bible has four words for 'stranger' and the Hebrew word 'Ger' can be translated as 'alien', 'foreigner' or in today's speech, 'economic migrant'. War or famine can make any of us 'economic migrants' as it was in the case of Esther and Ruth in the Old Testament. God commanded the Israelite not to oppress 'Ger' but to treat him as a citizen, to love him as 'yourself'. He has not come to undermine our way of life but to find peace, security and rest.

Stirred up by today's media, public awareness of asylum issues is poor. According to the Press, all asylum seekers are liars, all applications are bogus and illegal, whereas in reality what refugees want is a fair hearing and to be treated with dignity as human beings. At present, a refugee can claim support only if he asks for asylum at port of entry. But many are too traumatised to realise this, and may have no documentation. They are allowed only 5 hours of legal aid, but victims of torture need longer time to piece their story together. Some understandably find it difficult to talk about their ordeals, especially women who may have been raped. They are often hungry, alone, fearful of being sent back and cannot understand why they should be imprisoned here.

In all fairness, there is real public concern and many politicians want to deal fairly and find a just solution to a highly complex problem. Perhaps we should stop seeing refugees as threats to our cosy way of life and accept each as a unique individual made in God's image. Refugees in the past have given so much to our country. By extending a helping hand we can offer those coming here today the chance to do the same.

LAUGHTER LINES

A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.



The doctor finished the exam and talked with his patient, who suffered from an ulcer. The patient was quite concerned, saying, "Doctor, I'm worried about the fact that worrying about my ulcer might make it worse!"

Houston Post, March 17, 1992, p. D-7

Rose, whats the...

An elderly man and woman had dinner at another elderly couple's house. After eating, the two old men were left talking. "We went out to a very nice restaurant last night," said the first.

"Really?" said the second. "What's the name of the restaurant?" The first man knitted his brow in obvious concentration and finally said: Aahh, what is the name of that red flower you give to someone you love?

"A carnation?"

"No, no. The other one, "the man says.

"A poppy?"

"Nahhh," growl the man. "You know—the one that is red and has thorns."

"Do you mean a rose?"

"Yes! That's it! Says the first man.

He turns toward the kitchen and yells to his wife : "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

submitted by Harold Randall

LAUGHTER LINES

A tavern was being built in a town that had previously been dry. In opposition to the tavern, a group of Christians began an all night prayer meeting and asked God to intervene. Lightning struck the tavern and burned it down. The owner then brought a lawsuit against the church and held them responsible. The Christians hired a lawyer and denied responsibility. In response to this unusual scenario, the judge said, "No matter how this case comes out, one thing is clear. The tavern owner believes in prayer, and the Christians do not."

- Illustrations for Biblical Preaching, Michael Green, editor, 1989, p. 275
-

A young lady in our church youth group had the distinction of a long career in the fast-food business. Unfortunately, she had an equally long history of absent-mindedness. One Sunday evening at a youth fellowship, the pastor called on her to bless our evening snacks. The room became quiet as heads were bowed and eyes closed. Then she greeted God with these words: "Welcome to McDonalds. May I take your order?"

Solution to Bible Quiz

1. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Daniel 1: 3-16)
2. Jacob (Genesis 25: 29-34)
3. The Pharaoh of Josephs' time (Genesis 40: 16-17)
4. A cooked lamb, unleavened bread and bitter herbs (Exodus 12: 3-10)
5. Isaac (Genesis 27: 14-18)
 6. Exodus (3:8)
 7. The fatted calf (Luke 15:23)
 8. Samson (Judges 14: 5-9)
 9. Royal food and wine (Daniel 1:8)
 10. Sour grapes (Jeremiah 31:29)
 11. Fish, cucumbers, melon, leeks, onions and garlic (Numbers 11:5)
 12. Manna (Numbers 11: 5-7)

THE IRONY OF ANSWERED PRAYERS

Much that perplexes us in our Christian experience is but the "answer" to our prayers.

We pray for perseverance and God allows suffering, because suffering produces perseverance (Rom. 5:3).

We pray for submission, and God sends suffering, because we learn trusting—obedience through our suffering (Heb. 5:8).

We pray for unselfishness, and God gives us opportunities to put ourselves aside and help others get ahead. (Phil. 2:4).

We pray for victory, and the things of the world sweep down upon us in a storm of temptation, because the conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith (1 John 5:4).

We pray for strength and humility, and some messenger of Satan torments us till we lie in the dust, crying to God for its removal (2 Cor. 12:7-11).

We pray for union with Christ, and God severs natural ties, and lets our best friends misunderstand us and seem indifferent to us (Matt. 10:34-39; John 15:18-20).

We pray for love, and God sends peculiar suffering, and puts us with apparently unlovely people. He lets them say things which rasp the nerves and lacerate the heart, because He knows that true love never gives up, and cares for others than for self. (1 Cor. 13).

An old Jamaican proverb does a good job of summarizing the biblical view of worry and prayer. It states, "If you're going to pray, don't worry; if you're going to worry, don't pray."

STRANGE! VERY STRANGE INDEED!

Isn't it strange how a 20 pound note seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping?

Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?

Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?

Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants front- row-tickets to concerts or games, but they do whatever is possible to sit in the last row in Church?

Isn't it strange how we need to know about an event for Church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events in the last minute?

Isn't it strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God to share it with others, but how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?

Isn't it strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say, but we question the words in the Bible?

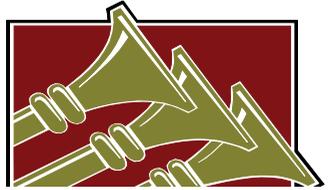
Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven, but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to get there?

IT'S STRANGE ISN'T IT?

Contributed by Dr. Gbenga Olumekun

ARE YOU A WORRIER

A businessman once made a 'Worry Chart' on which he kept a record of all his worries. After a year, he analysed the results. He found that 40 percent of the things he had worried about were now things that were very unlikely to happen...30 per cent were worries about past decisions he had made and which he could not now un-make... 12 percent dealt with other people's criticism of him...and 10 per cent were worries about his future health, only about half of which he could influence in the present. In all, he concluded that only about 8 per cent of his worries over the previous year had been legitimate.



What is that you are worried about today? Most days? Keeping a worry chart might be a good way of discovering what it is that truly concerns you most.

Because Jesus lives, I can face tomorrow.

Of equal interest in weighing one's worries would be a 'Prayer Chart' What is it that you pray about the most? When asked to analyse their prayers, many people seem to find that they actually spend very little time praying about the things that concern them the most!

Convert your worry time into prayer time. It's not only a more productive activity, but a healthier and more enjoyable one. Happy is the man who is too busy to worry by day, and too sleepy to worry at night.

It was Simon Patrick (1625-1707) , who said **'It is distrust of God to be troubled about what is to come; impatience against God to be troubled with what is present; and anger at God to be troubled for what is past.** Do you trust God sufficiently to cater for all your needs?

ASK IN ORDER TO RECEIVE

A beautiful little book, *Expectation Corners*, tells us of a King who prepared a city for some of his poor subjects. Not far from them were large storehouses, where everything they could need was supplied if they sent in their requests. But on one condition--they should be on the outlook for the answer, so that when the king's messengers came with the answers to their petitions, they should always be found waiting and ready to receive them. The sad story is told of one despondent, one who never expected to get what he asked, because he was too unworthy. One day he was taken to the king's storehouses, and there, to his amazement, he saw, with his address on them, all the packages that had been made up for him and sent. There was the garment of praise, and the oil of joy, and the eye-salve, and so much more; they had been to his door, but found it closed; he was not on the outlook. From that time on he learned the lesson Micah would teach us: "I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me" (Micah 7:7).

-Andrew Murray

ARE YOU PATIENT ENOUGH TO WAIT FOR A FEW MOMENTS , AFTER TALKING TO GOD, IN CASE HE HAS SOMETHING TO TELL YOU?

If I am to talk to my friend on the telephone, after I have dialled his number, I must wait for an answer. It is not profitable to ring up and then put the phone down. I must wait until I hear the "Hello!" or "Are you there?" from the other end. Now, it is exactly like that with prayer--we must give God time to reply. It is of no use to offer up a prayer and then "hang up." That is a mistake people often make in prayer.

D.A.

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

FINDING OUT ABOUT ...CHRIST CHURCH?

We are a congregation 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 Creche facilities

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

- **5.00pm.** Evening worship (informal)

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon**) -Term time only
- Brownies meeting in Church (**5.30 pm**)
- **Prayer meeting (1st and third Mondays of the month-8pm)**

Wednesday - Enquiry/Counselling hour
Church office (**6.30 pm-7.30 pm**)

Thursday - Home Group 17 Coleridge Road N8 8EH (**9:30 am**)

Friday - Home Group at Flat 10, 3 Waverley Road, N8 (**2.30 pm**)
- Scouts meeting in church (**6.00 pm**)

Editorial Board: Iyabo Agbelusi, Grace Macauley, Dele Agbelusi

Vicar: Revd Dele Agbelusi

Church Wardens: Elizabeth Murchie, Vera Freeburne

Reader: Richard Mercer

Organist: Harold Randall

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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