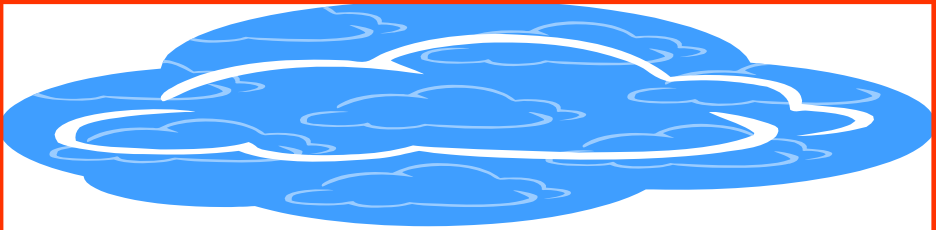




CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS
THE BIBLE

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



The Bible is the pilgrim's staff, the traveller's map, the Christian soldier's sword, the lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell closed...

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005 ISSUE 6.68

Vicar's three minute reflection

THE BOOK WITH THE DIVINE AUTHOR



Our world is full of ideas and one of our greatest challenges is trying to sort through the hundreds of messages about life that swirl overhead every day. The Bible is written with the intent to communicate the knowledge and will of God to man. It has value both as literature and as a guide for our lives. Someone who will benefit from the Scriptures has to approach its study with a desire to be taught by the text of the Bible. My theology or personal beliefs are not as important as an honest reading and understanding of the text as it presents itself. If the learner is honest, the text will speak what it has to say. We cannot sit over the Scriptures and expect it to speak to us. Our posture must be under it, treating it with respect to be accorded a Substance with Authority. The Bible is God's Word. Although it contains a great variety of material, written by many human authors over a long period of time, it holds together as a unity. Fundamentally, it is just one Book written by One Author revealing Himself as the One who shapes history from the beginning of the age to the end, through Jesus the Son.

The Bible tells us about the character of God and His relationship to us and His world. For instance, when Genesis was written, God's people at that time were surrounded by various competing world-views and ideologies about how the world came to be. Genesis was meant (I believe) to say, this is the way it was, and is and shall be. And we are also surrounded today by even more competing ideologies and the Bible is there to say, "this is the way it is meant to be". If we approach the Bible in this way, and not make it conform to our ideologies or idiosyncrasies, we will benefit immensely from the wisdom of God through the pages of the Scriptures.

Why do we need the Bible? Because there is so much CORRECTION AND REFORMATION that needs to take place in our own lives and in the world. You see, it is unfortunate that some people prefer "established error" to a new profound truth from God's word.



I don't for a minute think that people reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them. As a believer in Christ, our life should not depend on the fluctuating fortunes of the world around us – or our prevailing circumstances. There is nothing wrong in being concerned by these things but our life support should not take its bearings from them. God and His word should be enough for us at every turn. The Bible should be treated like food-spiritual food.

God wants us to read, and digest His Word in the same way that the food we eat is assimilated into all parts of our body and issues forth in speech and action. For maximum benefit, spiritual food must be appreciated and then assimilated and this takes place in our times of togetherness with God. The Bible is God's nutrient to prevent your Christian life from being spiritually stunted.

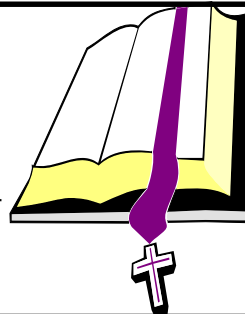
Nowadays, some people approach the Scriptures with set agenda – expecting the Scriptures to take side with their point of view-on current socio -cultural matters and when it does not, they either explain it away or conclude that the Scriptures cannot be relied upon absolutely in the modern age! What a pity to have this uninformed view of the Scriptures!

They want it to be “food for thought” like other academic and socio-cultural information that abound but it is much more than that, “it is food for faith in God the Trinity.” I wonder where you are in relationship to your Bible and God.

Dele Agbelusi

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17



THE LORD WILL CARRY YOU



What is it that makes couples happy? You'll be surprised to find out what it's not! Money, success, health, beauty, intelligence or power have little to do with a couple's subjective feelings of wellbeing.

Research has shown that the level of a couple's joy is determined by each partner's ability to *adjust to things beyond his or her control*. Happy couples learn to find the right attitude in spite of the conditions they're in.

When trials come your way, you have a choice. You can throw up your hands in frustration, give in to self-pity and become mired in resentment and defeat. Or you can raise your hands to God in prayer, search out alternatives, move ahead and ultimately trust the Lord to carry you through. If your hearts are heavy, do what you can to meet one another's needs. Then rely on God to get you through your beyond-belief ordeal. Your capacity to adjust to undesirable circumstances is the real secret to building the happy marriage that you both desire.

If your hearts are heavy, do what you can to meet one another's needs.

Les and Leslie Parrot

MARRIAGE COMMITMENT

With the rising divorce rate and the trend toward total truthfulness these days, it is almost as though the marriage vows are being changed from "till death do us part" to "till something better comes along." The ties of a durable marriage are not like the pretty silken ribbons attached to wedding presents. Instead, they must be forged like steel in the heat of daily life and the pressures of crisis in order to form a union that cannot be severed.

HE COUNTS THE HAIR ON YOUR HEAD

One night my 11-year-old daughter Eva noticed I was distracted as I tucked her in to bed. I told her about a friend's teenage daughter whose hair was mysteriously falling out and I encouraged Eva to pray for Amy. Her simple words, "Jesus, please hold Amy's hair on her head," touched me.

As the doctors experimented with different treatments, Amy continued to lose her hair. Eva continued to pray the same prayer.

After six weeks the doctors determined Amy had *alopecia*, an extremely rare disorder where hair loss is unpredictable but can be complete and permanent. When I told Eva, she took my hand and closed her eyes. This time her prayer was different. "Dear Jesus, if you won't hold Amy's hair on her head, would you please hold Amy?" Tearfully, I realized how sometimes God doesn't move mountains; he moves us.

Tearfully, I realized how sometimes God doesn't move mountains; he moves us.

Elisa Morgan in Christian Parenting Today. Christian Reader, Vol. 34.

REMEDY FOR HEADACHE

Six-year-old Molly complained to her mommy that her stomach hurt. Realizing it was lunch time, Mom told Molly, "Your stomach is empty; you'll feel better after you put something in it." Later that evening the pastor came over for a visit. During the conversation he mentioned he had a headache. Molly piped up with the solution: "That's because your head is empty. You'll feel better once you put something in it."

* Christian Parenting Today, Nov./ Dec. 1991, p. 93

TO BE A HEALTHY CHRISTIAN, DON'T TREAT THE BIBLE AS SNACK FOOD

THE POETS' CORNER

I'm Glad I'm me

So this is me, a being so small
When I think of the great—I'm no one at all, yet
I've no ambition to be at the top,
for sometimes the great ones don't know where to stop.
I guess, after all there's a lot to be said for the person
who uses the heart—not the head.
Quite often I find
I see things others miss,
perhaps being small helps me see it like this.
If my days are HAPPY, I'm well and I'm free
and Jesus loves me, I'm Glad I'm me

Sally Ruby Roberts (1922 - 2005)

I NEED TO BE ALONE

(Sequel to Lord You have hidden yourself... from last months' issue)

I *need to be alone* with You, Lord, sometime in the day.
I need it now. The stillness and the quietness
just to be with You, To hear You speak, to learn
to grow in knowing You. I want to know You, Lord.
I need to know You if I'm ever to be complete
a whole person as You intended me to be.
Make me a bit more like You Lord
as I wait before You now.
Take just a little fragment of my life and make it Yours.
Oh my God, Oh my God, You can take all my pain
and turn it to spun gold, like the sun on the rain.
You can take too, my tears, and turn them to jewels:
to rubies, to diamonds, to sapphires, to pearls...
You are the One who has power to transform-
to make a new garment from one that is worn.
The worn cloth of my body, my heart and my soul
I give them to You, Lord: You can make whole.

©Jenny Kyriacou June 1997

NOTICE BOARD

YOUTH WORKER

The church is looking for a Christian youth worker who loves the Lord passionately and is able to work with the church's team to develop our Youth and Community ministry. The applicant is expected to put in 17.5 hours a week - two week-days and Sundays. Please contact the vicar for more information.

Worship with us this Christmas (December 2005) at Christ Church Crouch End Hill, London N8

Sunday 11th December

10.30am: Christingle and Family Carol Service
5.00pm: Evening Worship

Sunday 18th December

10.30am: Morning Prayer
3.30pm: Christmas Carols and Nine Lessons

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

11.15pm: Carols/Midnight Holy Communion

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

10.30am: Parish Holy Communion

Saturday 31st December

11.15pm : New Year's Eve Praise and Worship

Sunday 1st January 2006

10.30am: Morning Prayer

8.00 am all Sundays: Holy Communion Service (B.C.P.)

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with B.

Banfield Fiona; Banfield-Nwachi Joy; Benda Nathanier, Benjamin Janet, Becessar Devin; Beckford Glen; Bentham Mervin and Anita; Billot Natasha; Botterill Allan and Patricia ; Burrell Cecil; Byron Barbara.

READER'S COLUMN

"I am writing to thank you for placing me on the mailing list to receive your magazine, Crosslinks, which I enjoy and receive much help from in a spiritual way. My family look forward to the new magazine arriving each month when printed and get much pleasure and help from reading the copies over and over again. Much has come into our lives which have made us a more spiritually aware family than we were and I thank God for that ..."

Inspiration has come to me to send you a piece from "Mr Jones, Meet the Master" by Peter Marshall... (Part of the piece under reference is reproduced below).

"A Christian is not a man who is trying to do something.
He is a man who has received something ...
a man to whom something has happened ...
and who simply cannot keep it to himself.

Christianity is not something to be attained.
It is something to be obtained.
And here it is –
ready and waiting for you this very day.

And yet, you must not expect any cut and dried formula or set of rules about how to become a Christian, or how to feel the reality of God's presence in your life.

It's not like the recipe for baking a cake.

It's more like being born –
or falling in love.

It's a process –

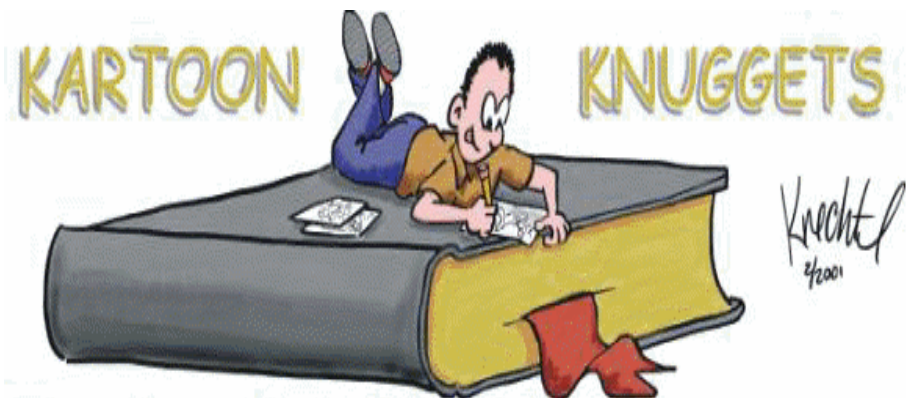
A growing thing –

submitted by S. Millar, Portadown

Crosslinks appreciates readers comments on any of our publications. Your comments are helpful to us in that we are encouraged to know that we have been of help, or that we need to consider areas of improvement. Within the constraints of space that we have, we will endeavour to publish your articles.

QUOTES

- "There is more than one way to burn a book. And the world is full of people running about with lit matches ...You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."
Ray BRADBURY U.S. science-fiction writer (1920-)
- The Bible is the world's best-seller ; about 1,250,000 copies are sold in the United Kingdom alone yearly. It is sad that many people have a copy, very few ever read it.
- THE BIBLE PROVIDES COMFORT FOR THE CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE.
- THE BIBLE HAS OUTLIVED ITS CRITICS AND THOSE WHO ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY IT
- THE BIBLE CONFIRM'S GOD'S TRUTH AND INSIGHTS FOR LIFE.
- THE CHURCH MUST ONCE AGAIN CLAIM AND BE CLAIMED BY THE BOOK THAT NO OTHER CAN MATCH.

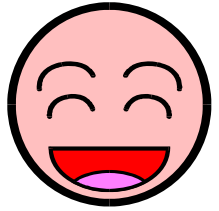


Draw close to God and He will draw close to you James 4:8

LAUGHTER LINES

IGNORANCE OF THE BIBLE.

A police inspector went to visit a primary school, where he was asked to take a Scripture class. He began by asking, 'Who knocked down the walls of Jericho?' There was a long silence as the children shuffled nervously on their seats. Eventually, a little lad put up his hand and said, 'Please sir, my name is Bruce Jones. I don't know who did it but it wasn't me.'



The policeman thought that reply very cheeky, so he reported the incident to the headmaster. After a pause the headmaster replied, 'I know Bruce Jones; he's an honest chap. If he said he didn't do it, then he didn't.' The inspector was exasperated. The headmaster was either rude or very ignorant.

The inspector wrote to the Department of Education to complain, and received this response: 'Dear Sir, We are sorry to hear about the walls of Jericho and that nobody has admitted causing the damage. If you send us an estimate we will see what we can do about the cost.'

Editors comment:

Can you retell the story of how the walls of Jericho fell? Read Joshua 6.

NOT A GOOD EXAMPLE

A rather pompous, self-righteous Sunday School teacher was trying to make the point that good Christians don't keep their faith a secret. With her head held high and her chest thrust out, the teacher strutted impressively back and forth across the room. She asked, "Now, class, why do you think people call me a Christian?"

The room was silent for a moment. Then one of the boys slowly raised his hand and said, "Probably because they don't know you."

LAUGHTER LINES

FORGIVE US OUR DAILY BREAD

When our granddaughter was 4, she came to the table one day in a disgruntled mood. She complained loudly about every dish on the table. Hoping to change the mood, her mother suggested that she give the blessing. After a sullen pause, she prayed, "OK, God, I forgive you for this food."

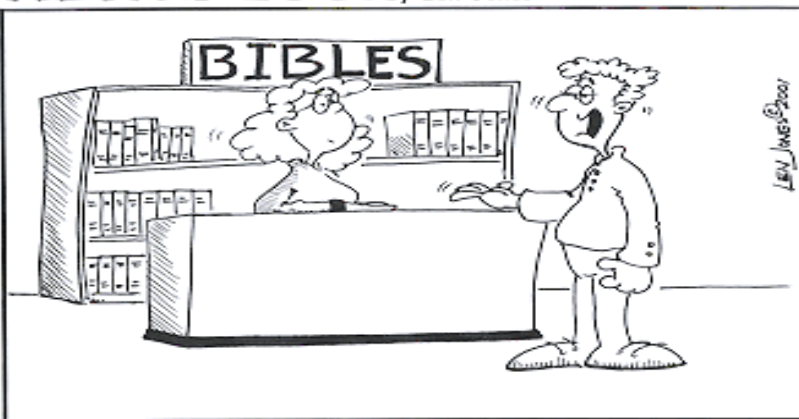
-- Arden Taylor, Goldwaite, Tex. "Lite Fare," Christian Reader.

TITHES AND OFFERING

My 5-year-old son was proud of the fact he had graduated from bow ties to a necktie just like Dad's. But one Sunday morning, with his hand clutching the tie, I heard this panicked whisper, "Dad, why did the pastor say they're going to collect the ties and offering?"

—G. Brian Manning, Sudbury, Ontario. "Kids of the Kingdom," Christian Reader.

ALTAR EGO by Len Jones



"What I really need is a translation that won't leave me feeling guilty, convicted, or in need of making some kind of decision."

ARE YOU SURE GOD LOVES YOU?

It is not possible to believe God loves you, without that knowledge raising your level of confidence. Who is this God we are talking about? He is the Creator, the Master of the universe, the Lord of glory, the King of kings. If you believe that God loves you, it will raise your level of confidence to where you feel like you are somebody. Somebody worth getting to know, and can make a contribution, because God happens to love you. It is a wonderful thing.

The Apostle John is a good example of someone who is so proud to announce to everyone who cares to listen that God loves him. Three times in the gospel of John, he says, "I am the disciple whom Jesus loves." There is such a marvellous truth in that statement, that if you're not careful you will miss it. When he said, "I am the disciple whom Jesus loved." He was not saying that in pride. He was not strutting around saying, "God loves me, I am something." Is it that Jesus loved John more than the other eleven? Of course not. John was so overwhelmed by the love of Jesus for him in spite of who he was. He is saying, "Look at me, who am I that God loves me so much? It meant so much to John, that he didn't care as much about his own name, as he cared about being designated as the one whom Jesus loved.

When you really believe God loves you, it gives you a level of confidence such that you can look anyone in the eye and feel at home in any situation. You're no better than anyone else, but you are just as good. You keep company with the King.

You can tell if a person believes God loves them by the way they hold their head, they feel good about themselves, they have a good level of confidence and I'm not talking about pride and arrogance.

When you believe that God loves you, what else matters, as long as God feels good about you? You are special to God. You say, "how special?" Special enough for Jesus to die for you.

D.A.

HELP IN TIME OF NEED

The Way of SALVATION	John 14:6 Acts 16:31 Romans 10:9
Comfort in Time of LONELINESS	Psalm 23 Isaiah 41:10 Hebrews 13:5, 6
Comfort in Time of SORROW	2 Corinthians 1:3-5 Romans 8:26-28
Relief in Time of SUFFERING	2 Corinthians 12:8-10 Hebrews 12:3-13
Guidance in Time of DECISION	James 1:5,6 Proverbs 3:5,6
Protection in Time of DANGER	Psalm 91 Psalm 121
Courage in Time of FEAR	Hebrews 13:5,6 Ephesians 6:10-18
Peace in Time of TURMOIL	Isaiah 26:3, 4 Philippians 4:6, 7
Rest in Time of WEARINESS	Matthew 11:28, 29 Psalm 23
Strength in Time of TEMPTATION	James 1:12-16 I Corinthians 10:6-13
Warning in Time of INDIFFERENCE	Galatians 5:19-2.1 Hebrews 10:26-31
Forgiveness in Time of CONVICTION	Isaiah 1:18 I John 1:7-9

WHAT THE BIBLE IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT

The Gideons International aptly defines what the Bible is: "The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its stories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveller's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labour, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents".

The Bible is not only inspired, it is also inspiring. Down through the centuries, some of the greatest art and literature have taken its inspiration from the pages of Scripture. Less spectacularly, though just as importantly, individual believers take inspiration for their lives from passages which speak in a special way to them. While this is just as it should be, we will also do well to remember that the Bible is far more than a collection of inspirational writings, or a resource book to be dipped into for readings to meet varying needs and moods.

The Bible is bigger than any single believer. We should be wary of approaching it with the idea that we have grasped it, or that we are doing no more than returning to old, familiar territory. Even the most well-thumbed passage in our Bible may grasp us in a new way, but this is more likely to happen if we try to guard against excessive familiarity. In our encounters with the Bible, we would do well to approach it as something wild and unpredictable, rather than as something domesticated.

(continued on page 15)

WHAT THE BIBLE IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT

(continued from page 15)

Much of the Bible is quite obscure to many people, and a natural reaction to this is to stick to the familiar.

Do we run away from the challenging passages? It is highly unlikely that anyone might have as a favourite passage Matthew 5:28, where Jesus warns, 'I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.' Equally unlikely candidates for favourite-passage status might be such challenging passages as 1

**Its doctrines are holy,
its precepts are binding,
its stories are true, and
its decisions are immu-
table. Read it to be
wise, believe it to be
safe, and practice it to
be holy.**

John 4:20, Jeremiah 7:1-15, or Matthew 5:21-26. We are more readily drawn to consolation than to challenge, but we need both.

Having some understanding of the context of a particular passage will help us to understand the passage itself, and to see how it might speak to our own context. If we wish to take the Bible seriously, we may eventually need to apply ourselves to reading and reflecting on books in their entirety, and perhaps to learning something about the background to the Bible. This extra knowledge can inject a lot of fresh life into our reading of the Bible.

For very many people, religion is something of a 'fire service,' which they call upon in times of emergency. We must realise that it may be difficult to find faith sufficient for a time of crisis if there has not been a regular exercise of faith. Rather like a muscle, faith can atrophy if it is not exercised. Something similar is the case with the Bible. It can be approached as though it were a kind of emergency literature, almost like the family medical encyclopaedia, which remains on the shelf until someone feels an urgent need to consult it; but the word of God will have power only in the lives of those who turn to it regularly.

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?

Tel/Fax: 020 8340 1566

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

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

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

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

Times of worship and fellowship are shown below:

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

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

- **5.00pm.** Evening worship

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

- Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon**) -Term time only
- Brownies meeting in Church (**5.30 pm**)
Prayer meeting 28th November, 12th Dec (**8pm**)

Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:30pm**)

Wednesday - Home Group 17 Coleridge Road N8 8EH (**10:00 am**)

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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Vicar: Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi

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YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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