



CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
LONDON N8 8AX  
**CROSSLINKS**  
IN CRISIS?

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



CRISIS

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2005 ISSUE 6.67

## Vicar's three minute reflection CAUGHT IN A CRISIS?



Crises are inevitable in life and many of us have been there or will be someday. Perhaps, it was a retrenchment, a severe illness, a shattered dream, a broken family, the loss of a loved one, or even a time where God seemed uncommunicative and far away. Let's face it; there were times when we felt like throwing in the towel and calling it quits! Yes, if we are not careful, a crisis may even cripple our faith and distort our perspective of God.

**When you're in a crisis, it doesn't hurt to have God on your side.**

Often, we may not be able to change our external circumstances instantly. But I have found out that the most important thing to bear in mind during a crisis is the sovereignty of God. What we know of God (i.e. our theology) must address our experience with the truth of sovereignty, even though that truth may seem to run counter to what we are experiencing. The psalmist did this in Psalm 42-43. Three times he asked, "why are you downcast, o my soul? Why so disturbed within me. Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my saviour and my God. (Ps. 42.5,11; 43:5). The Psalmist addresses his experience with what he knows of the sovereignty of God.

Many times God immediately reassures the believer when he encounter crisis. But He does not always act that way. Sometimes, God allows us to be subjected to long silences, which some have called the "dark night of the soul" It is usually very difficult to go through these periods of silence, but they ultimately deepen our faith.

We can rest assured that because we are citizens of the kingdom of God, we can keep the event and troubles of earth in their proper perspective. That is not to say that we should not express our hurts as we cry out to Him in despair or sing a hymn in the heights of our celebration. If we are honest to God and trust in



in His providence and goodness, we will find comfort during times of struggle and distress.

In Psalm 27:4, David said, "One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to see him in his temple." At this time, David was probably looking for divine guidance or action that would satisfy his aching heart. When you're in a crisis, it doesn't hurt to have God on your side. Don't set the stage for your exit from His protection and blessings by tuning out the things of God. Instead, surround yourself with the things of God

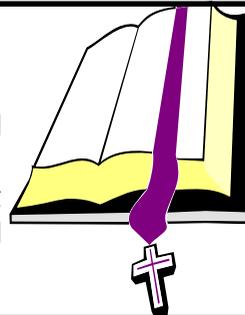
When facing a crisis, we have to conscientiously make that decision to seek God through prayer. Place your circumstances into His hands and have faith in His ability to make things work out. We serve a mighty God who is unlimited in resources, yet we often take matters into our own hands. In reality, we only make things worse. Praying is something both powerful and practical that we can do when we are faced with a crisis, but that can also be one of the toughest things to do.

We must also read the Bible daily to find strength; and to know whom our God really is. God is love and He loves us so much that he sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins. If God did that much for us, he will not withhold anything less unless there is a reason which the sovereign God knows. Don't give up reading God's Word during your crises; it's your lifeline.

Dele Agbelusi.

### Memory Verse

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."  
Romans 12:2



## STICKING IT OUT



There is woven into the fabric of marriage a sense of something *ongoing*. One woman, one man, together for a lifetime. They don't have to be "communicating" or having fun or constantly setting goals. They do have to be together—and intend to stay that way. This is faithfulness to each other and to God.

Too many people think marriage should always be fun, or fulfilling, or entertaining. Then they get married and find out it's not always like that. So they keep searching and find even more frustration with another marriage partner.

**"Is this *life*? Why am I married to this person, anyway?"**

As I read Scripture, I don't see teachings on happiness as a first principle. Joy, yes—the kind of joy that flows from obedience, from service, from glimpses of the Holy. God wants us to do that which glorifies him—to be faithful, to keep his commandments, to *seek* first his Kingdom.

Sticking it *out* comes first in God's eyes— through the times when you're secretly thinking, "Is this *life*? Why am I married to this person, anyway?"

Sticking it out means being faithful, and out of faithfulness there is peace. I see that peace in couples who have been married years and years. These are the couples who have come to terms with their choices, they accept each other wholly, and somewhere along the line they embraced sticking it out as a first principle.

Elizabeth Cody Newenhuyse

## THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Abdulai Janet, Adeneye Lolade, Agbelusi Dele, Iyabo, Bolu, Tolu and Sope; Aiyegbusi Olufunke, Alvis Daisy, Anand Luke and Renu, Angus Graham, Arulanantharajah Emmanuel and Grace.

# FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

## SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

October 4<sup>th</sup> is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. When Francis came to God people thought he had gone mad, even his own father disowned him. But Francis' simple way of life soon attracted others. He and his companions went out to preach 2 by 2. Unlike the preachers and priests that people were used to, they wore sackcloth and went barefoot. They were different in other ways too; they lived a very simple life and celebrated creation. And to Francis all of God's creation was equally important. In one famous story a wolf had been eating human beings. The town wanted to kill the wolf but Francis talked the wolf into never killing again. And the townspeople made sure that the wolf always had plenty to eat. Even blindness did not discourage Francis' spirit when he **wrote his beautiful 'Canticle of the Sun' praising God through the miracle of His creation. Francis died aged only 45, worn out with years of poverty and wandering.**



## SWIM, FISH, SWIM

How do you make a paper fish swim? Cut a fish shape from a sheet of ordinary writing paper. Make it 10-12cm long, and decorate it making sure that the colours won't run when the fish gets wet. In the centre of the fish's body cut a small circle and then a very narrow slit from the tail to the circle.

Now, keeping its surface dry, gently lay the fish on the surface of a bath or large bowl of water and carefully place a few drops of cooking oil into the central hole. The oil will expand through the slit and drive the fish through the water.

nnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnn

**Why do gorillas have big nostrils?**

Because they have big fingers.

**What's black and white and goes round and round?**

A zebra stuck in a revolving door.

**Why did the homeless turtle cross the road?**

To get to the Shell station.

From Parish Pump

## STORY OF THE MONTH

### IT COULD BE YOU

An unemployed graduate woke up one morning and checked his pocket. All he had left was \$100. He decided to buy food with it and then wait for the end, as he was too proud to go begging.

He was frustrated, as he could find no job; nobody was ready to help him. As he sat down to eat, an old man and two little children came along and asked him to help them with food as they had not eaten for almost a week. He looked at them. They were so lean that he could see their bones coming out. Their eyes had gone into the socket. With the last bit of compassion he had, he shared with them all the food he had. The old man and children prayed for him that God would bless and prosper him and then gave him a very old coin. The young graduate said to himself "you need the prayer more than I do".

With no money, no job, no food, the young graduate went under the bridge to rest .



As he was about to sleep, he saw an old newspaper on the floor. He picked it up, and suddenly he saw an advert asking for people with old coins to come to a certain address. He decided to go there with the old coin the old man gave him. On getting to the place, he gave the proprietor the coin. Alas, the proprietor screamed, brought out a big book and showed the young graduate a photograph.

This same old coin was worth \$3M. The young graduate was overjoyed as the proprietor gave him a bank draft for \$3M within an hour. He collected the Bank Draft, went in search of the old man and little children. By the time he got to where he left them eating, they had gone. He inquired from the owner of the canteen who told him that they even left a note for him. He quickly opened the note thinking it would lead him to find them. But alas, the words in the note read thus: "You gave us your all and we have rewarded you back with the coin" Signed God the Father, The Son and The Holy spirit.

- Anon

Submitted by Gbenga Olumekun

# 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 up to 17.5 hours a week, Sunday inclusive. Please contact the vicar for more information.

## GREIG CITY ACADEMY EXAM RESULTS

We have a very much improved exam result this year going from 26% 5A\*-C to 52%. This makes us easily the most improved Academy in the country. Everyone is very pleased at the DfES.

Tom Peryer

## FAMILIES ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday 30th October @ 4PM

A special service to remember our loved ones who have passed away. Please invite family and friends.

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE & FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

Sunday 20th November 2005 @ 10:30 am.

Everyone is invited.

## MORRIS HOUSE COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 12 November from 10.30 to 12 noon. Stalls for books, home-made produce, etc, and a bran-tub for children. Coffee and cakes will be served. Proceeds go into the Residents' Amenities Fund. Aside from fundraising, the Coffee Morning is enjoyable for residents and visitors.

**Do come and support it.**

Sheila Wheeler

***Congratulations!***

*Crosslinks rejoices with Mrs. Iyabo Agbelusi, one of our editors, who was licensed as a lay Reader (minister) on 24<sup>th</sup> September by the Rt. Rev Peter Wheatley. She has since assumed duties at Christ Church Hornsey London N8. This is the culmination of an intensive three-year studies in Theology and Pastoral ministry. We pray for Iyabo that she will have a fruitful ministry as Christ's witness under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

## LORD, YOU HAVE HIDDEN YOURSELF FROM ME

Lord, You have hidden Yourself from me  
behind high and jagged rocks that I can't climb ...  
Your beauty is disguised by the heavy cloak of pain  
that You have cast on me.

I have forgotten the music of Your voice.

I barely remember the fragrance of Your presence.

I try to mould You from the fragments of my memory  
but they run through my hands like dust ...

I no longer have the energy to seek You.

My sore and blistered feet have wearied on the way.

Did I love You once? ... I know I did.

I remember the long times when You were all my life ...  
my only hope ... my one desire ...

when to live or die was of no account since You were,  
and You and I were bonded close, as one.

Sweet memory!

but yet the pain of that remembering  
is more than I can bear!

I thought that love would never die nor even fade ...

The promise of love I gave You,

I thought eternal ...

But, so, too, were the promises You made -  
never to leave or to forsake me!

I believed my love - and myself -  
to be strong.

Only to find both to be as weak, as fragile, as my breath.

Is it love that's gone ...

or only strength?

If I do not love You would I weep

as now I do?

© Jenny Kyriacou 1997

**Read the sequel in the next issue**

## WELCOME TO THE HOT LINE !!!

A man experiencing a crisis in his life called the toll-free Psychiatric Hot Line listed in the phone directory. This is what he heard:

Welcome to the Psychiatric Hot Line.

If you are obsessive-compulsive, repeatedly press 1.

If you are co-dependent, ask someone to press 2.

If you have multiple personalities, press 3, 4, and 5.

If you are suffering from paranoia, we know who you are and what you want. Stay on the line until we trace the call.

If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a little voice will tell you which number to press.

If you are bipolar, it doesn't matter which number you press. No one will answer.

If you are depressed, push any button you wish. It won't make any difference anyhow.

Thank you for your call.

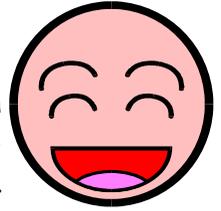
### WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

Next time you need help, keep in mind that God always hears and answers your prayers. **When you call on God, you aren't going to get a voice-mail system, nor will you be put on hold.** God wants you to come to him every day to tell him what's on your mind.

And if you're in the middle of a crisis, remember that you're not the only one who can pray you through it—people in your church will pray with you and for you. That's why the church is called the Body of Christ. The church is the visible presence of Jesus in the world, providing advice and support based on Jesus' teaching. In the same way that Jesus cares about you, members of your church care. Professional counselling is appropriate, of course, when you face serious problems; but Christians have been commanded to "bear each others' burdens" (Galatians 6:2).

# LAUGHTER LINES

## THE BISHOP'S VISIT



Little Johnny's dad was the pastor of a small church in the Midwest. One day, he told Johnny that a very important church leader, a bishop, was coming to the church and would be staying with them in their home.

Little Johnny became very excited about meeting the bishop. "What do I get to do?" he asked. "Your job," father answered, "will be to take his morning tea up to the guest room." "What shall I say?" little Johnny asked. Just remember to say, 'It's the boy, my Lord, it's time to get up.'" Little Johnny was very excited. He rehearsed his lines, repeating them over and over. Finally the day came, and little Johnny had learned all his lines. At the appointed hour, the bishop's tea and a biscuit were set on a tray and given to little Johnny to take to the guest. Knocking on the visitor's door, the boy become so excited his lines got all mixed up, so when he finally spoke, he said, **"It's the Lord, my boy, and your time is up."**

"From The World's Greatest Collection of Church Jokes, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission."

## SHOCKER

Mr. Johnson, a businessman from Wisconsin, went on a business trip to Louisiana. He immediately sent an E-mail back to his wife **Jean**. Unfortunately, he mistyped a letter and the E-mail ended up going to a Mrs. **Joan** Johnson, the wife of a preacher who just passed away. The preacher's widow took one look at the E-mail and promptly fainted.

When she was revived, she nervously pointed to the message, which read, **"Arrived safely, but it sure is hot down here"**.

"From The World's Greatest Collection of Church Jokes, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission."

# LAUGHTER LINES

Admiring a handsome brooch worn by an acquaintance, my friend's mother-in-law asked - "Anniversary?" "No", was the reply "Quarrel".

submitted by Suzanne Ogilvie-Arendse

## OH! NOT THAT MAN

The Rev. Ian Roy tells of two boys who had each been given a goldfish. One morning it was discovered that the goldfish belonging to the younger boy was dead. The older boy sought to comfort his younger brother by saying that it was all right, that his gold fish had gone to be with Jesus. **'Oh not that man,'** said the little boy, becoming even more distraught. **'He will feed him to the five thousand.'**

From the collections of Rev. James A Simpson

# Church Mice

A Christian comic by Karl Zorowski



## Church Mice

Copyright 2005 Karl A. Zorowski



## POETRY FROM SALLY ROBERTS

### TRANQUILLITY

Tranquillity is a beautiful word,  
it paints a picture of peace.  
It gives to a face an infinite calm,  
the light in the eye, doesn't cease.

**T** the key letter spells out simply TRUST,  
**R** is remembering things that we must.  
**A** says appreciate all that's around,  
**N** tells us No to the bad things we've found.  
**Q** says don't question, when we are in doubt,  
**U** brings us unity, IF WE GIVE OUT.  
**I** is the letter that tells us inspire!  
**L**  
**L**  
**I**f is for LOVE, that we all so desire.                      we are  
quiet and think for a while  
Today or tomorrow our hearts will smile,  
**Y**earning, not for possibility,  
for  
we will have found  
TRANQUILLITY.

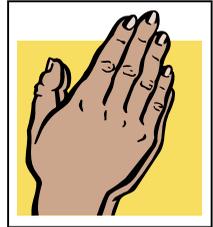
Sally Ruby Roberts (1922—2005)

### WHAT IS LOVE?

It is **SILENCE** when your words would hurt  
It is **PATIENCE** when your neighbour is curt  
It is **DEAFNESS** when the scandal flows  
It is **THOUGHTFULNESS** for another's woes  
It is **PROMPTNESS** when stern duty calls  
It is **COURAGE** when misfortune falls  
Anon

## PRAYER - AN UNSUNG HERO

There is a little card that reads, 'No Christian is greater than his prayer life.' I have come to a gripping realization that prayer is probably one of the greatest contributions we can make to advance the Kingdom of Christ. Yet, we as Christians, seldom capitalize on this resource. Surveys show the average Christian prays 15 to 30 minutes a week. If the statement, "No Christian is greater than his prayer life," is true, then it would explain, in part, why so much of the world is still not evangelized, and why so many Christians are not living fulfilled lives.



Why do we spend so little time in prayer? Why is prayer one of the first things we neglect as we drift away from God? Many pastors have preached sermons condemning us for spending up to 3 hours a day in front of a television set while we pray less than 30 minutes a week. Although there is a need for such sermons, I have no intention of pointing out something for which you are probably already painfully aware. It is my desire to encourage you, to share with you what I have learned from my struggles in this area. We, as Christians, often condemn ourselves because we do not pray as much as we think we should. Often, the simple task of praying only 15 minutes a day seems almost impossible! Of course, we can understand why it is easier to sit in front of the TV than devote time to prayer. TV is relaxing and prayer is work. I do believe energy is drained from us when we pray.

I am convinced, though, the main reason we do not pray as much as we should is not because it is too much work. There are many sincere and dedicated lay-Christians who spend as many as fifteen hours a week working on Christian projects, yet find it difficult to spend a significant amount of time in prayer. With all this time spent on Christian projects, their lack of prayer cannot be considered laziness.

(continued on page 14)

## PRAYER - AN UNSUNG HERO (from page 13)

Satan understands the power of prayer, and I believe he is fighting fiercely to reduce its impact. An obvious military strategy is to concentrate attacks on the targets, which are the greatest threats. For example, in war, primary targets are radar installations, ammunition depots and weapons factories. Limited military resources are not used on non-strategic targets such as the officers' dining hall (although many soldiers would probably welcome the relief from military food). It is my conviction that Satan knows the biggest spiritual battles are won or lost because of our prayers. Therefore, why would Satan not try to blind our eyes to the need and urgency of prayer?

**The biggest spiritual battles are won or lost because of our prayers.**

The attitude with which we as non-Christians first approached God is what released the dynamic power of salvation through Jesus Christ. It was essential when we came to God, we recognized Jesus Christ as our total redemption. Our human abilities played no part in the salvation process. We had to trust God fully. Likewise, when we (now) as Christians approach God, He still wants us to trust Him fully and understand that many of the solutions to our problems lie beyond our abilities. It is this recognition that releases the power of God. Prayer is an expression of the commitment and trust we have in God.

When we come before God in prayer and give Him full control of a situation, we are acknowledging His sovereignty in that area. As a result, God begins to work on the problem with His mighty power. God desires to be involved in every area of our life. He wants us to specifically commit each of our concerns to Him. I have found that the more specific we are in our prayers, the more direct and effective will be the answers. For example, the prayer, "God, please bless the missionaries," will not be nearly as effective as naming specific missionaries and their particular needs. 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)

## SATAN UNMASKED

Dearly Beloved, Misconceptions about Satan and the powers he exercises abound resulting in many Christians having an unhealthy fear of Satan and demons. We credit Satan with every 'negative' thing or experience, talk much about his exploits and devote most of our praying time to binding and casting him; yet he shows up again every time. The facts that we have from scripture are: 1) Satan is Lucifer who was the highest ranking angel in Heaven. 2) God sent him out of heaven after his aborted coup but without stripping him off of his power. 3) Satan is not competing with God nor is he fighting God. He is subjected to God as everything else is. This is the very reason why God did not have to strip him of his power. 4) Satan cannot force you to do anything because God did not give him that power. What he does is to intimidate and deceive people who then voluntarily choose to follow his orders. 5) Unlike God, Satan is not every where, he is not all powerful, he does not know everything. 6) Satan certainly is stronger than any of us; but when we are in Christ he is no match for us **"because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."** 1 John 4:4. Stop being obsessed with Satan and stop giving him glory by crediting him for things done or not done. Instead glorify God through Jesus Christ and sing of His victories and goodness.

Sunday and Grace Bwanhot

### DO YOU BELIEVE THESE 7 LIES OF SATAN?

1. Christianity is no better than any other faith. All religions lead to God.
2. Why should I believe the Bible? The Old and New Testaments contradict each other countless times.
3. People's memories of their past lives prove that reincarnation is true...and that the Christian view of Heaven and Hell is not.
4. Properly interpreted, the Bible does **not** condemn homosexuality.
5. If the Church truly followed Jesus, they'd sell their lavish art, property, and architecture, and give the money to the poor.
6. There's no such thing as absolute truth. What's true for you may not be true for me.
7. I don't need to go to Church. As long as I'm a good person, that's all that really matters.

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 31st October and 14th, 28th November (**8pm**)

- Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:45pm (tea time) for 8pm start**)

- 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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**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

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