



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

JANUARY 2011 ISSUE 11.125

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



WELCOME TO 2011

Vicar's ten - minute reflection
I WISH YOU GOD'S PEACE ...



I love Christmas and what it stands for. I also love the new year especially because of the various prayers and wishes that are exchanged by all and sundry. Some of the prayers are meaningful, thoughtful, and theologically sound while some of them are mere wishful thinking. How do you place this prayer that someone sent to me: Dele this new year, God will supply all that you desire without any labour from your hand. No problem or sickness shall come your way and money and prosperity shall be your companion! Waow! So where do I start claiming what is mine this year? I want to see my children and Grandchildren in Coventry (I live in London) and I don't want to drive or go by train. I just want to wish it and bang, I am there. How I wished life is that simple.

Selwyn Hughes shared in one of his devotional readings the following story: *I was told that a few months previously an earthquake had demolished a church building causing hundreds of deaths, whilst a brothel next door was unaffected. Around the same time an earthquake in one of the cities in Burma brought down everything - all except a missionary's home, which was left standing. How can we explain this? Did God for some reason known only to Himself work a miracle in Burma that he did not feel constrained to work in India? Earthquakes strike without asking whether you are good or bad. It is simply not true that earthquakes hit the bad and spare the good. I know some Christians believe that, but the idea does not fit the facts. If the idea were true, multitudes would flock to our churches and take out Christianity as one would take out a fire insurance policy. Religion would degenerate into magic and we will carry our faith as some people carry a talisman.*

A Christian friend once said that 'if ever a disaster overtakes me, I pray to be delivered from those Christians who view themselves as God's comforters'. He is referring to those Christians who believe they have (continued next page)



the answers to every problem and whose voices prove not consoling but confusing and condemning.

So as we begin our journey into the new year how should we pray? Let us take a look at the prayer of Sir Francis Drake (1577), explorer and naval pioneer:

Disturb us, Lord when we are too well pleased with our selves, when our dreams have come true because we have dreamt too little, when we arrive safely because we have sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity; and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.

What a prayer! You cannot but appreciate straightaway that the person who uttered that prayer has eternity with Christ in focus. He is in the world but he has not allowed the things of the world to displace his desire to please God and bring glory to Him.

Yes. I believe we need to pray. We need to pray that our hearts be ignited and inspired to do things of eternal consequence. The pursuit of happiness for its own sake is a frustrating, disillusioning, often futile effort. Happiness usually hides from those addicted to its sugar, while it chases after those caught up in something more lasting than momentary excitement.

While we discuss the problem of not praying aright, how about those who are too busy to pray. They have time for every other thing (business) but there is no time for prayer. Because God has been shut out (continued on page 6)

THE MOST ROMANTIC THINGS



We have funny ideas about romance. We think of it as candlelight, being showered in gifts, and a stolen kiss. That may be sort-of romantic, but at my age those things have worn kind of thin. And I think they have for a lot of people.

Take Mr. Darcy from *Pride and Prejudice*, for instance. He's probably the most romantic figure in fiction. Women hold him up as the ideal that they're looking for. But what is he like? For most of the story he's cold, distant, and insulting. He certainly never does the candlelight and gift thing. He doesn't even steal a kiss! But he's a man of action. When it comes right down to it, he moves heaven and earth for the one he loves at great cost and inconvenience to himself.

And isn't that what we all ultimately want? Someone who truly cares and will be there when we really need them?

The dictionary defines romance as: Ardent emotional attachment or involvement between people. I like that definition. One of the most romantic things my husband ever said to me was when I was puking my guts out after an airline flight. Feeling like the scum of the world, I apologized that I'd once again put a damper on our trip by getting airsick (for about the 3,000th time). His response? "You're the bravest person I know." In that moment, I felt an ardent emotional attachment that was much greater than if he'd bought me 10 dozen roses and suitcases full of candy.

So what's the key to having an ardent emotional attachment and involvement? I can think of at least five things.

1. You have to set aside time together. Regularly make a date to get away from jobs, ministry, kids, and the phone. If you're living in the same house and never interacting, that isn't ardent emotional attachment. (continued on page 5)

The most romantic things

Continued from page 4.

2. Become each other's warrior and defender. Stick up for each other in front of the kids, in front of extended family, and in front of your friends. That doesn't mean that you don't see the other's faults and face them, but do that privately after much prayer and thought. On a daily basis, make a commitment to build that person up whenever possible.

3. Return blessings for arrows. Whenever possible, return kindness for unkindness. Not only will it improve your marriage, but it will make you more Christ-like.

4. Talk about everything. If you're afraid to talk to your spouse about how you really feel about something, you won't feel an ardent emotional attachment. You'll feel that you're placating him so that you don't have a blow out. That will end up feeling like walking on eggshells after a while. I'd rather see a couple have a shouting match about something they disagree on than refuse to talk about it at all. Every once in a while, my husband and I have a good old yelling match, which lets us know how strongly we're feeling about the subject, then we calm down and really talk about it.

5. Sincerely desire the other person's best. Most times that I'm angry with my husband, it's because I didn't get my way. When I step back and think about how I can help him be everything he can be in Christ, I feel a lot more compassion for him—indeed I feel an ardent emotional attachment that I would call romance.

What about you? What do you think romance truly is?

JoHannah Reardon

Disturb us Lord.

of their day to day experience they imply that because 2010 had a catalogue of unrealised dreams and shattered hopes, there is no hope in the new year. They have become blind to the possibilities of unforeseen goodness through God's intervention. It is so easy to become cynical about hope. But prayer is a discipline which gives all who practise it great rewards. It is only a fool who will not want to take every opportunity to be in the presence of the King of kings. Many of us have felt degraded in heart and mind by the consciousness of our many failures. But the glory of the Christian faith is the glory of the unforeseen. Will you pray this new year and pray right and fervently?

It was Charles Spurgeon who said : "Prayer pulls the rope below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly. Others give an occasional pluck at the rope. But he who wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might." So, how will you fare this year? Will you be so busy that you will have no time with God? If you have so much business to attend to that you have no time to pray, then, you have more business on hand than God ever intended you should have.

I wish you God's presence, peace, joy and a closer walk with Jesus Christ in 2011.

Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

Though the fig-tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

Habakkuk 3:17-19



POEMS FOR THE NEW YEAR

I said to the Man

who stood at the gate
of the year,
"Give me a light that
I may tread safely
into the unknown."

And he replied,
"Go out into the darkness
and put your hand into
the hand of God.
That shall be to you
better than light
and safer than
a known way!
— Minnie Louise Haskins

What will the New Year bring me?

I may not, must not know;
Will it be love and rapture, or
loneliness and woe? Hush! Hush!
I hear His whisper; I surely shall
be blessed; "My presence shall
go with you, And I will give you
rest."

Another Year Is Dawning

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

--Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)

INSPIRATIONAL NEW YEAR QUOTES

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year.
It is that we should have a new soul. **G. K. Chesterton**

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours,
and let each new year find you a better person.

Benjamin Franklin

Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with
all the wisdom that experience can instil in us. **Hal Borland**

NOTICE BOARD

WORSHIP TIMES AND THEMES IN JANUARY/ FEBRUARY

Date	10:30am	<u>5:00pm</u>
16th Jan. (FS) Youth Sunday		No evening service Churches Together Joint Service at Middle Lane Methodist Church (5pm)
23rd Jan. (HC): COME FOLLOW ME 1 Cor. 1:10-18; Matt.4:12-23		GOD'S 'FOOLISHNESS' 1 Corinth. 1:18-2:5
30th Jan. (HS) HIS WAYS ARE PAST FINDING OUT		TRUE WISDOM 1 Corinth. 26-16
6th Feb. (MP) BEING SALT AND LIGHT Matthew 5:13-20		DIVISION! DIVISION! 1 Corinth. 3:1-23
13th Feb. (HC) BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDES 1 Cor. 3:1-9; Matt. 5: 21-37		UNBELIEVABLE 1 Corinth.5:1-6:20
20th Feb. (FS) AN EYE FOR AN EYE. (Matt. 5:38-end.		FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE 1 Corinth. 8:1-9:27

Note: HC denotes Common Worship Holy Communion; MP— Morning Prayer; FS, Family Service; HS— Healing and Anointing Service

THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Imagine attending a service which was taking place simultaneously not just throughout the country but all over the world. Same hymns. Same prayers. Same Bible readings. And in churches of every kind of Christian denomination.

Every year this remarkable service takes place on the first Friday in March. The whole thing is organised and run by women (though men are very welcome to attend), and is called the Women's World Day of Prayer. It was started in the United States, and has been taking place in England for 75 years.

In the Hornsey area the service this year will take place at Christ Church, on Friday the 4th of March at 11am. It has been written by the women of Chile, and the theme is, 'How many loaves have you?'

NOTICE BOARD

It includes lots of tuneful songs, readings and prayers. You are invited to stay for a light lunch after the service, and a chance to meet people from other churches in Hornsey. Remember, these enjoyable and inspirational services are attended by both men and women. Come and be part of an act of worship that will be taking place all over the globe.

DEADLY BLASTS ROCK NIGERIAN CHURCHES

MAIDUGURI/JOS (**Worthy News**) - Authorities in northern and central Nigeria tried to restore calm on Saturday, December 25, after suspected Muslim militants targeted churches and other sites in Christmas Eve attacks that killed as many as 38 people, police and church leaders said.

Police chief Mohammed Abubakar told reporters that members of Boko Haram, a radical Muslim sect, attacked two churches in the northern city of Maiduguri late Friday, December 24.

Secretary of Victory Baptist Church, Danjuma Akawu, said about 30 men attacked his church on Christmas Eve, killing five people. The attackers reportedly threw petrol bombs igniting the building. News reports said a Baptist pastor was among those killed. Nigerian Compass Newspaper identified the man as Reverend Bulus T. Narya.

Elsewhere in the city, a security guard died when three men attacked the Church of Christ in Nigeria, confirmed Reverend Has-kanda Jessu.

Also in Jos, Plateau State, the attacks claimed the lives of over 30 people in multiple bomb blasts. Choji Gyang, a special adviser to the governor of Nigeria's Plateau state, said two bombs went off in the Angwa Rukuba area of Jos. Within five to 20 minutes, three more blasts happened in the area of Kabong, he said. "We have a lot of casualties and are struggling to cope," Gyang admitted to reporters.

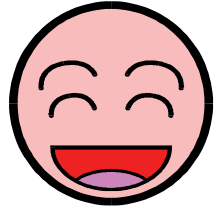
Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is under international pressure from human rights groups to improve security for Christians in predominantly Muslim areas. Please pray for persecuted Christians in Northern parts of Nigeria.

LAUGHTER LINES

Politically incorrect vocation:

In the grim days of 1939 and 1940, notices about National Service were posted up in Employment Exchanges throughout Great Britain. The official message stated that 'All persons in the above age-groups are required to register for national service except lunatics, the blind and Ministers of Religion.' Some felt it was a very appropriate grouping!

Bishop Ronald Brown (Bishop's Brew)



Hair Cut and Holy Communion

A vicar looked at his diary and read, '9:30 a.m. H.C.' So, he went to church, put on his robes and got ready for the service. Not a single person arrived. He couldn't understand it until he got home and his wife said, 'I thought you were having your hair cut this morning.'

Bishop Ronald Brown (Bishop's Brew)

Chinese Adam & Eve:

If Adam and Eve were Chinese, we would still be in paradise because they would have ignored the apple and eaten the SNAKE

Anon

Don't be fooled

Wife reading from an astrology magazine, to husband:

"Just think of it - if you had been born Two days late you would have been kind, generous and witty".

Anon

Out of the mouths of babes

A child of 10 was explaining to her 5 year old brother how wrong it was to work on Sunday. The younger brother said: "But policemen work on Sundays, won't they go to Heaven?"

"No" said his sister, "They're not needed up there."

Sue Ogilvie-Arendse

LAUGHTER LINES

Difference

A man went for an interview and was asked by a member of the Board of Directors: "Tell us the difference between "COMPLETE" and "FINISH".

The man replied: "I will elucidate the question with an example"; "When you marry a right person you are "Complete" and when you marry the wrong one you are "Finished".

Howlers

Practitioner: 'Well, madam, What's the trouble?

Old lady: Pains in my arms, so can hardly lift them above my head, and the same with my legs.'

Practitioner: 'Don't grow old—just grow up'.

Sue Ogilvie-Arendse



Do you know?

Do you know—behind every successful man is an astonished Mother-in-law.

Sue Ogilvie-Arendse

Forty babies. Not in my house

Three guys were gisting at a beer parlour. The first guy said: " when my wife was pregnant she read a book "A tale of two cities" and she gave birth to twins. The second said his wife read the three musketeers and she gave birth to triplets. The third guy dropped his beer bottle and started running home. When his two friends got to his house they saw him burning a book and asked why. He said his wife was reading Ali Baba and the **forty** thieves and she is pregnant.....not in this houseit cannot happen!

Gbemi Agbelusi (Lagos)

DIFFICULT PASSAGES IN THE BIBLE : FALLING AWAY OR TURNING AWAY?

In looking up again at some of the verses which speak about falling away or turning away, I found it interesting that the term 'fall away' was used by the Lord Jesus of His 11 disciples at the time of His arrest. The disciples deserted Jesus as was predicted and Peter obviously denied Jesus three times. This was said to be a 'falling away'. (see Matt 26:31-35) Obviously, this is not a loss of salvation. For the true believer it may involve a temporary period of backsliding or time of being out of fellowship with God. It is times when for one reason or another, the believer is having difficulty in his Christian walk. The believer would not however deny what they believe in their heart, even though their walk would not match what they believe. But note that even though Jesus said they would 'fall away', in the very same context, he also said to Peter that he had prayed that his faith would not fail and when he returned, to strengthen his brethren. (Luke 22:32) In other words, true believers may fall at times but their faith does not fail because Jesus intercedes for them. Concerning this intercession we are told 'hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him (*true salvation*), since He always lives to make intercession for them.' And when do true believers need Jesus' intercession more but when they are struggling? See also John 17:6-12 concerning this intercession by Jesus for His believers. In this 'High Priestly' prayer, Jesus makes it clear that the ones that God has given Him he keeps safe! See also Rom 8:32-34 where Jesus' intercession is used as one of the points to show that we cannot be separated from the love of Christ.

In contrast to this are several other passages which speak of apostasy. The first, falling away, is temporary and is in regard to their walk. For a true believer however, they will never deny their faith in the Lord Jesus. And, like the true prodigal son, they will return. (continued on page 14)

SEE WHAT YOU ARE MISSING!

A Bible falling apart belongs to someone who isn't!

A Bible that is falling apart, usually reveals a life that isn't

Brush up on your bible: It prevents Truth decay.
Don't know God? Read the Bible.



Dusty Bibles Lead To Dirty Lives

Fight Truth Decay...Study The Bible
Daily



God wrote only one book, don't you think you should read it?

If you only sample the Bible you never acquire a taste for it.

If you're searching for nuggets of truth the Bible's a gold mine.

If you're too busy to read the Bible you're too busy.

Read the Bible as if God were speaking to you, He is!

Read the Bible, It was written just for you!

Spend less time on Facebook, and more time with His Book

Store the Bible in your heart not on a shelf

The Bible is God's prescription for the health of your soul.

B— BLESSED
I — INFORMATION
B— BRINGING
L— LIFE
E— ETERNAL

B— BASIC
I — INSTRUCTION
B— BEFORE
L— LEAVING
E— EARTH

DIFFICULT PASSAGES IN THE BIBLE

Falling away or turning away?

(continued from page 12)

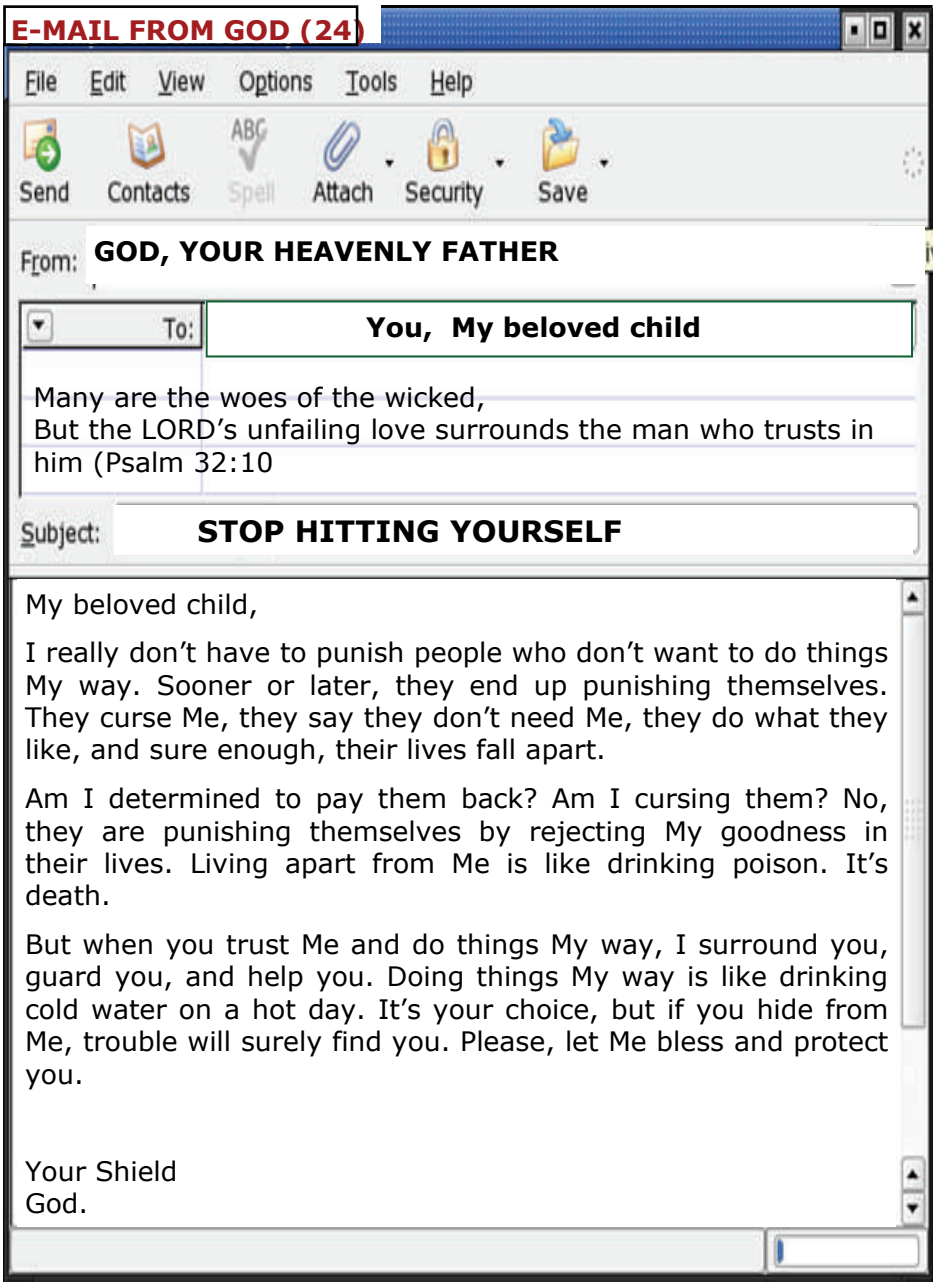
Apostasy however, as mentioned in Heb 6:6 and 1 Tim 4:1 amongst other verses, speaks of a falling away from the faith - an abandonment of the faith and truth of the gospel. This is prophesied to increase greatly in the end times. As Heb 6:4-7 states this is done by those who very much look like they are genuinely saved believers. They have known everything that is needed to be saved; they have felt the conviction and drawing of the Holy Spirit, maybe even seen other signs that enable them to make a genuine decision. They may even go along with Christian teaching for a while... but they become apostates... and turn away from it all, deny the truth and go back to the mud. Apostle John says: "They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us"(1 John 2:19).

Concerning apostasy (deliberately falling away and turning from the truth of the faith) William MacDonald writes in the Believers Bible Commentary - *'Apostasy is a sin which is only committed by unbelievers, not by those who are deceived, but by those who knowingly, and wilfully and maliciously turn from the truth... Apostasy should not be confused with backsliding. A true believer may wander very far from Christ. Through sin his fellowship with God is shattered. But he can be restored to full fellowship as he confesses and forsakes his sin.'*

Titus 1:10-16 also talks of those that 'turn from the truth' calling them 'empty talkers and deceivers'... those who are 'defiled and unbelieving' and it says that they **profess** to know God but by their deeds they deny Him.' This is no sheep of God we are talking about here. More like a wolf!

D.A.

HEAVENLY CORRESPONDENCE



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

MOTTO/TEXT FOR THE YEAR

**“I WANT TO KNOW CHRIST AND THE POWER OF HIS
RESURRECTION... (Philip. 3:10)**

FINDING OUT ABOUT ...CHRIST CHURCH?

Tel/Fax: 020 8340 1566

We are a family of men and women, boys and girls who strive 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 resource 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

Sunday - Choir practice in church (**9.30 am**)

Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**9.30 am –11.30am**)

- Brownies meeting in church (**5.30pm**)

- Prayer meetings –17th Jan; 7th and 21st Feb. in church(**8 pm**)

Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in church - (**6.30 pm for 7.15pm start**)

Friday - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (**2.00 pm**)

- Scouts meeting in hall and church(**6.30 pm**) -

- Music Team practice in choir vestry (**6.00 pm**)

Enquiry/Counselling/Prayer Lifeline - please phone 020 8340 1566

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YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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