



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

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**A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL**



**O LORD MY GOD, HOW GREAT THOU ART!**

## Vicar's five - minute reflection

# THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE OUR ONLY HOPE



God isn't late with his promises as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change." (2 Peter 3:9 The Message)

There is no tardiness in God but the way many of us go about dealing with our perplexing situations seems to suggest that God is found wanting. The clouds at times become so thick that we erroneously think that the sun has permanently called it a day.

Yes. I agree we need help. In these times of economic collapse, problems in our families, pay cuts, record amount of lay-offs, problems in our church families, shootings at schools and so on, it's easy for our faith to diminish. Now more than ever, we definitely need our faith to be strong. To those of us who are ministers of the word, our congregation needs to see our faith at work whenever we stand behind the pulpits on Sunday. They need to hear and feel our unwavering faith as we preach messages of hope in times of despair, of peace in time of trouble, and of love in a time of world dissension.

All in all, we need a faith lift. In fact, we cannot be pleasing to God unless we are demonstrating faith, according to the writer of Hebrews. (Heb. 11:6)

In Jeremiah 31:8, God says: "I'll bring my people back from the north country; And gather them up from the ends of the earth, gather those who've gone blind; And those who are lame and limping..." (The Message). Though the prophet addresses this teaching to the children of Israel in exile, it contains truth that is ageless and perpetually useful. People act preposterously when they measure God's favour according to present appearances and circumstances. This mistake which is in our DNA involves all our thoughts and feelings. It also produces a lack of confidence in God. All of God's promises then grow cold to us or at least lose their true value.

Imagine how hard it would have been for the Jews to receive these promises in so dark a time, and yet, they were fulfilled. We often doubt God's amazing promises because our present circumstances seem so bleak. Until we learn to fully lean on God and his promises, understanding that darkness and light are both alike to him (Ps. 139:12), our faith will not be victorious.



Our dilemma is that when God promises a thing, we look around us and ask, "How can this be done". We say "It is impossible and cannot be done." And because our minds cannot comprehend the way and manner that a promise can come true, we then reject what has proceeded from the mouth of God.

Those who are convinced of God's kindness toward them and hold securely to his promises are able to stand firm in the heaviest afflictions. They are able to say with Paul, "trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, or danger of the sword cannot separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:35) The apostle does not simply say that nothing can tear God away from loving us, but that the knowledge and lively sense of God's love is so vigorous in our hearts that it shines in the darkness of afflictions. For as clouds may obscure the clear brightness of the sun, yet we are not wholly deprived of its light, so also God sends forth through the darkness of adversities the rays of his favour lest trials should overwhelm us with despair. The ground of the assurance that we have to come boldly to God is based on his promise: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy..." (Hebrews 4:16) Whenever we shun the promise of God we shun the ground of assurance to come boldly before his throne which is adorned with grace through the redemptive work of Christ on the cross.

Let us not treat the gospel of our Lord, and the promises of God as if they are subject to our judgment, but let us subject our understanding and minds to them. Our faith must not waver but rest on the sure immovable foundation of God's truth as contained in the gospel. With this right attitude, faith in the certain Word of God can flourish and we can be assured that we stand on a sure foundation.

Dele Agbelusi

### Memory Verse

**Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need**

**Hebrews 4:16**



## YOU ARE HUMAN TOO!



*I couldn't understand how my husband could lose so many things, until . . .*

My husband has a history of losing things—or at least not keeping track of them as diligently as I'd like. On one of the most legendary occasions, he lost our chequebook and couldn't find it for weeks. We scoured our house and when it didn't turn up after a few weeks, we decided we'd better close our account. So we went to the bank and went through the rigmarole of closing the account and opening a new one, letting the cheques clear, and starting over. About a week later, we went somewhere in the car he drove to work. Guess what? There was the chequebook, sitting on the dashboard right in front of him. He'd been overlooking it for weeks. Yeah, that went over well.

This may be the most legendary of my husband-losing-things stories, but it doesn't stand alone. Stories of what he's lost and forgotten are woven through our 17-year history as a married couple. Those 17 years have been quite happy, and he's a fantastic husband. But when you need someone to keep track of something, remember something, or make sure it gets done, you might want to find someone else. For a more recent example, my mother-in-law sent \$50 gift cards to our daughters this fall so they could buy some back-to-school clothes. Guess who lost them? Yeah, that's right. He threw away \$100.

Anyway, with a history like that, can you blame me if I'm a little quick to get irritated when something goes missing? For example, last month, as we were doing some Christmas shopping, we picked up some Starbucks gift cards for our kids' teachers. A couple of days later, as we were checking our list and checking it twice, he realized he didn't know where those gift cards went. He hadn't seen them after we got home. Since my husband had bought the cards with the kids while I was playing sneaky Santa in the toy department, I'd never seen the cards at all. Somehow he'd lost them. (continued on page 5)

## You are human too

You can imagine my irritation at the prospect of replacing the cards—not a huge expense, but wasted money nevertheless. My husband, who of course felt pretty bad, searched the house and the cars to no avail. Great—gone. And just to make sure he really felt the remorse he should, I made sure he felt my irritation and heard my martyr-like sighs.

Now imagine my surprise the next day when I saw an e-mail announcement at work, saying that the local community centre really appreciated the toys our staff had donated, but they were wondering about the Starbucks gift cards and teacher appreciation cards that were included in the collection. Maybe they'd accidentally tagged along with someone's donation?

Yeah. A big pie in the face for me. I'd brought the donated toys—which we'd purchased at the same time as the gift cards—to work and put them in the pile without checking to see whether anything else was in the bag. Oops.

I'm thankful that my husband is a wonderfully forgiving man, and we had a good laugh. But I learned a thing or two anyway. Pride, indeed, "goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). And love "keeps no record of being wronged" (1 Corinthians 13:5). Two lessons I already knew but would have done well to remember.

How beautiful that God isn't like me. For those who've embraced Christ's atoning sacrifice on our behalf, he doesn't hold our sins against us. He doesn't shake his head at our weaknesses and sigh in irritation when we fail—again. Instead, he offers us grace at his own sacrifice. He covers our sins with that grace and makes us his children. How undeserving I am—and how grateful I feel to be called his child. At the start of a fresh new year, my shortcomings and sins once again remind me of our tremendously forgiving God and the tremendous grace he gives freely to all who believe. Happy new life!

Amy Simpson

## GOD IS AT WORK. DON'T DISTURB

A farmer had one old horse that he used for tilling his fields. One day the horse escaped into the hills and when all the farmer's neighbours heard about it, they sympathized with the old man over his bad luck. "God is in charge. Who knows what he is doing?" said the farmer.

A week later, the horse returned with a herd of wild horses from the hills and this time the neighbours congratulated the farmer on his good luck. "God is in charge. Who knows what he is doing?" said the farmer.

Then, when the farmer's son was attempting to tame one of the wild horses, he fell off its back and broke his leg. Everyone agreed that this was very bad luck. Not the farmer, who replied, "Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?"

Some weeks later, the army marched into the village and forced every able-bodied young man to go fight in a bloody war. When they saw that the farmer's son had a broken leg, they let him stay. Everyone was very happy at the farmer's good luck.

"God is in charge. Who knows what he is doing?" said the farmer.

Life is a lot like that. Sometimes it seems like things are going well, and at other times, things seem to be going badly. And we let those things dictate our feelings and our outlook on life. When things are going well, we're happy and we think God is with us. If they are going badly, we get discouraged and think that God must have abandoned us. We end up being tossed around by our circumstances.

But the apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4 that he had learned to be content, even happy, in all circumstances. He was happy when things were bad (he was in jail at the time), and he was happy when things were going well. That's the great thing about being part of God's family. We really don't have to worry in our circumstances, because no matter what, we have hope in Christ. "We know that in everything, God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28).

## AN EXHIBIT OF GOD'S WORKMANSHIP

A new year gives us an opportunity to set aside the failures of the past year and press on to new heights. Certainly God has plans for you: "For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works..." Eph 2:10.

You are an exhibit of God's workmanship - the quality of work God has done. Your physical appearance, although unique, is not the master piece God is exhibiting. God's workmanship is the taking of wretched and rotten sinners and transforming us into saints - all cleaned up and made perfect to dwell in heaven with our Holy Father. Wow!

As we march into heaven, angels are stunned and speechless and Satan is all green and jealous. As for us, our exuberance swells into a high crescendo as we march, shouting and singing "Amazing Grace ..."

God wants to showcase you to a watching world of what He can do and wants you to express your gratitude by doing **"good works."** Jesus went about doing good. Acts 10:38; "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Matt. 5:16 "Live such good lives among the pagans that... they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." 1 Peter 2:12 Live for Him who died for you. 2Corth 5:15.  
**Have a blessed 2011**

Sunday Bwanhot—Chicago

## WARM=NOT SO HOT

In my senior year of ministerial studies, I preached part-time in a small local church. Six months passed and none of my professors had come to hear me. Finally, my faculty advisor agreed to attend one Sunday.

After the service, he shook my hand and said, "That was a very warm sermon." My delight was short-lived as he continued. "You know what the definition of warm is, don't you?" he asked.

Before I could respond, he answered, "Not so hot."

Bill Smith, San Francisco, CA Christian Reader "Lite Fare."

## NOTICE BOARD

### WORSHIP TIMES AND THEMES IN FEBRUARY/ MARCH

Date 10:30am

5:00pm

27th Feb. **(MP)** Do not Worry  
Matt.6:25-34

WARNINGS FROM THE PAST  
1 Cor. 10:1-11

6th Mar. **(HC)**:  
THIS IS MY SON LISTEN TO HIM  
2 Pet.1 16-end; Matt. 17:1-9

WHOSE LAW?  
1 Corinth. 11:2-16

13th Mar. **(FS)** TEMPTED AS WE ARE  
Matt. 4: 1-11

THE BODY OF CHRIST  
1 Corinth. 12

20th Mar. **(M.P.)**  
JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ONLY  
Rom. 4:1-17

LOVE IS THE KEY  
1 Corinth. 13

27th Mar. **(H.C)** THE WATER OF LIFE  
Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

ORDER! ORDER!!  
1 Corinth. 14 1-26

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

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

Christ Church Annual General Meeting will take place on April 10 after a brief Morning Prayer. Articles and reports for the meeting should be sent to the church Office on or before 17th March 2011.

At the meeting we shall consider reports of the church activities (January—December) and appoint Church Officers and Sidespersons. We shall also consider the examined Church's Financial Statement from January—December 2010. Please pray along and be there. If you have any item you want discussed, please get this across to the Church Secretary, Sheila Wheeler before 17th march.

## NOTICE BOARD (Mission Aviation News)

It has been 42 years since missionaries Phil Masters and Stan Dale were martyred in the Seng valley of Papua, Indonesia, by members of the Yale tribe. Phil's daughter Crissie Rask is today serving with MAF.



Phil and Stan's sacrifice helped sow the seeds of the Gospel in that remote area. Those seeds have matured, reproduced and are spreading the Good News from generation to generation, including Kimyal people. Translator Rosa Kidd describes the day when several generations of Kimyal received the Word in their language, the newly completed New Testament.

"Korupun is a very isolated gravel strip that sits at about 5,800 feet up in the middle of some of the highest mountains in the Eastern Highlands of West Papua, Indonesia.

"One MAF pilot said that he alone had made 20 flights into Korupun for the Bible dedication. The celebrating was going on almost day and night. Singing and dancing could be heard throughout the valley late into the night.

"The noise was very loud until after the plane [carrying the New Testaments] had landed and one of the Kimyals started bringing the first box of Bibles out of the plane. Then, if you could have heard a pin drop in gravel and mud, you would have heard a pin drop. Four of the local pastors went forward to receive the Bibles. Behind them followed a group of some of the oldest believers in our area."



### **From generation to generation**

The first box was very solemnly given to the pilot, who placed it into the hands of the pastors. It was then passed on to the elder believers, who gave the box to a group of young people, challenging them to take the Word and apply it to their lives, thus symbolising how the Word of God is passed from

generation to generation.

The young men then picked up all the other boxes and carried them the full length of the airstrip and back, over 900kg of New Testaments, all delivered by MAF plane.

### **Everything and everyone had to come in by small plane.**

This momentous day was long awaited by the Kimyal church. The terrain is so rough and isolated that virtually every Bible translator and all of their supplies had to be delivered by aircraft. Our planes also supported the work of the missionaries throughout this translation project.

MAF has seen that God is faithful throughout all generations, and has been part of bringing God's Word to this remote community for the very first time.

# LAUGHTER LINES

## POWER OF INTERPRETATION



Several centuries ago, the Pope decreed that all the Jews had to convert to Catholicism or leave Italy. There was a huge outcry from the Jewish community, so the Pope offered a deal. He'd have a religious debate with the leader of the Jewish community.

If the Jews won, they could stay in Italy ; if the Pope won, they'd have to convert or leave.

The Jewish people met and picked an aged and wise rabbi to represent them in the debate. However, as the rabbi spoke no Italian, and the Pope spoke no Yiddish, they agreed that it would be a 'silent' debate.

On the chosen day the Pope and rabbi sat opposite each other. The Pope raised his hand and showed three fingers. The rabbi looked back and raised one finger. Next, the Pope waved his finger around his head. The rabbi pointed to the ground where he sat.

The Pope brought out a communion wafer and a chalice of wine. The rabbi pulled out an apple. With that, the Pope stood up and declared himself beaten and said that the rabbi was too clever.

The Jews could stay in Italy !!! Later the cardinals met with the Pope and asked him what had happened.

The Pope said, 'First I held up three fingers to represent the Trinity. He responded by holding up a single finger to remind me there is still only one God common to both our beliefs. Then, I waved my finger around my head to show him that God was all around us. He responded by pointing to the ground to show that God was also right here with us. 'I pulled out the wine and wafer to show that God absolves us of all our sins. He then pulled out an apple to remind me of the original sin. 'He bested me at every move and I could not continue.'

Meanwhile, the Jewish community gathered to ask the rabbi how he'd won. 'I haven't a clue' the rabbi said. 'First, he told me that we had three days to get out of Italy , so I gave him the finger.

(continued next page)

# LAUGHTER LINES

## DADDY DOES MUMMY DUTY

As I was preparing to leave for a two-day conference, my 7-year-old daughter became clingy and teary. I was a little perplexed by her emotional reaction until I overheard her say to my husband, "I have a loose tooth. If it falls out while Mommy is gone, do you know how to handle this tooth fairy thing?"

—Karen, *Today's Christian Woman*

## SPRINKLED BAPTISTS

I grew up in a suburb that had many churches. Church-sponsored events drew people from every denomination.

One event was a hymn-sing held at the high school football field. I attended with family and friends from the local Baptist church. Halfway through the evening, the field's automatic watering system suddenly came on, showering our "Baptist section." Scrambling for drier seats, one of the men deadpanned, "Some people will do anything to get us Baptists sprinkled!"

Sharon Monasmith, Rayland, Ohio Christian Reader

## BOUND TOGETHER IN LOVE

One Sunday my husband and I disagreed about everything from the moment we woke up till we got to church. We felt bad, because we don't usually disagree, but we seemed unable to snap out of it.

In church, our pastor asked the congregation to rise to sing, and as we stood, my sweater caught on my husband's key ring. But our tension turned to laughter when the congregation began to sing "Bind Us Together in Love!"

Terri Reed, Carmichael, CA Christian Reader "Lite Fare."

## Power of Interpretation (From page 10)

'Then he tells me that the whole country would be cleared of Jews and I told him that we were staying right here.' 'And then what?' asked a woman. 'Who knows?' said the rabbi. 'He took out his lunch so I took out mine.'

Gbemi Agbelusi, Lagos

## USE ME O LORD, BUT NOT JUST NOW!

### WHEN?

As soon as I'm out of college,  
And pay all the debts I've carried;  
As soon as I've done my army stint,  
As soon as I've gotten married;  
As soon as I get promoted,  
As soon as my house is built;  
As soon as my psychiatrist  
Says that I'm freed of guilt;

As soon as I've paid the mortgage,  
As soon as my kids have grown;  
As soon as they've finished college,  
As soon as they're on their own;  
I want you to use me, O Lord,  
Use me, O Lord, but not just now!

And then comes the concluding verse:  
As soon as I've reached retirement,  
As soon as they're getting ahead;  
As soon as I draw my pension,  
Just as soon as I am dead!  
I want you to use me, O Lord,  
Use me, O Lord, but not just now!

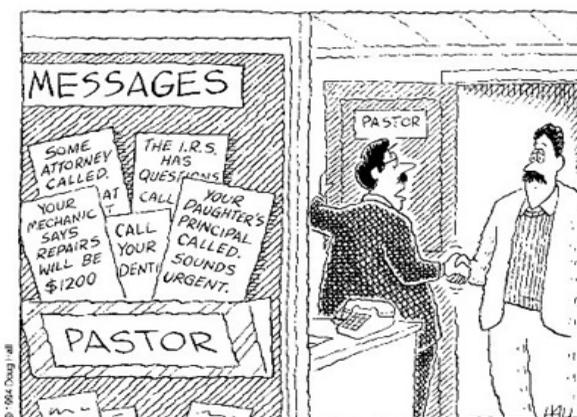
When Jesus healed the invalid at the pool, he commanded him to "Get up! Pick your mat and walk." (John 5 8). Through this "third sign" John is saying to all of us, "Quit making excuses. Rise, pick up your mat, and walk. Become what God created you to be: a whole person, wholly committed to God."

### RENEWAL WILL COME

If all the sleeping folks will wake up, And all the lukewarm folks will fire up, And all the dishonest folks will sweeten up, And all the discouraged folks will cheer up, And all the depressed folks will look up, And all the estranged folks will make up, And all the gossipers will shut up, And all the dry bones will shake up, And all the true believers in Christ will stand up, And all the church members will pray up, And the Saviour for all is lifted up- Then you can have the world's greatest renewal! God grant.

Collected Words, Donald B. Strobe

## GOD LOVES THE PASTOR TOO!



"Come in, Mr. Fenster. Tell me about your problems."

### STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

Thank you to all members of the congregation who are members of the Stewardship Scheme, and who faithfully contribute to this each week. Stewardship envelopes will be available for collection from Sunday 19th March 2011.

Christ church operates a Stewardship Scheme, and members make a commitment to give regularly to the church. Your contribution enables us to meet our obligations to charities which we support, Missions, youth work, Christian Worship, repairs to the church, and Diocesan Common Fund (for payment of clergy salaries, pensions, support for church schools and the wider church).

Joining the Stewardship Scheme is easy, it involves giving your name and address to the Stewardship officer (V. Freeburne) and you will be issued with a box containing envelopes with your number. You put in your money or cheque in the envelope and put it on the collection plate when you are in church. If you prefer to pay by Banker's order, please see me.

**Gift Aid.** Members of the congregation who pay tax can make their contribution larger without additional cost to themselves by simply signing the Gift Aid form or putting their names and addresses on the blank church envelope. Please ask the sidesperson on duty for these. For every pound you give the Inland Revenue will give the church 28p, thus making your gift £1.28p. Should you no longer pay tax please let me know and I will inform the treasurer.

Vera Freeburne (Stewardship Officer)

## **OUR THINKING vs. GOD'S PROMISES"**

**YOU SAY: "It's impossible"**

**GOD SAYS: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)**

**YOU SAY: "I'm too tired"**

**GOD SAYS: I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28-30)**

**YOU SAY: "Nobody really loves me"**

**GOD SAYS: I love you (John 2: 16 & John 13:34)**

**YOU SAY: "I can't go on"**

**GOD SAYS: My Grace is sufficient (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)**

**YOU SAY: "I can't figure things out"**

**GOD SAYS: I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3: 5-6)**

**YOU SAY: "I can't do it"**

**GOD SAYS: You can do all things (Philippians 4:13)**

**YOU SAY: "It's not worth it"**

**GOD SAYS: It will be worth it (Romans 8:28)**

**YOU SAY: "I can't forgive myself"**

**GOD SAYS: I forgive you (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)**

**YOU SAY: "I can't manage"**

**GOD SAYS: I will supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19)**

**YOU SAY: "I'm afraid"**

**GOD SAYS: I have not given you a spirit of fear (II Timothy 1:7)**

**YOU SAY: "I'm always worried and frustrated"**

**GOD SAYS: Cast all your cares on me (I Peter 5:7)**

**YOU SAY: "I don't have enough faith"**

**GOD SAYS: I've given everyone a measure of faith (Romans 12:3)**

**YOU SAY: "I'm not smart enough"**

**GOD: I give you wisdom (I Corinthians 1:30)**

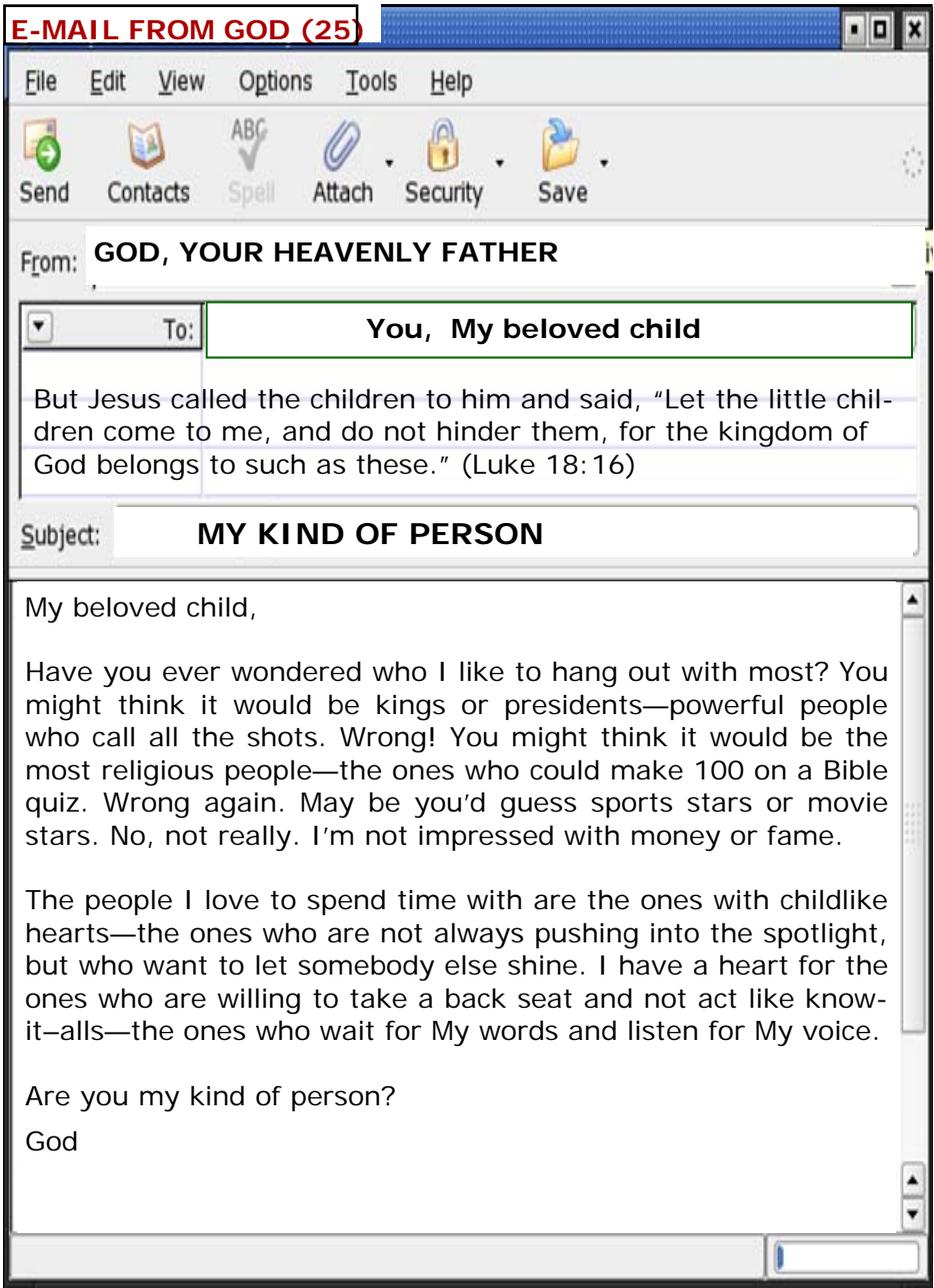
**YOU SAY: "I feel all alone"**

**God: I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)**

### **God says**

" Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." (Jeremiah 29:12); "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." (Isaiah 65:24); "This is the assurance we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." 1 John 5: 14

# 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**)  
Saturday - Cell Prayer Time in Church (7pm-8pm)

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

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**Organist:** Pavla Bockova

**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

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