



empowered *for excellence*



IN THIS ISSUE

INTRODUCING THE OXFORD POWER CONFERENCE	2
ALL YOU NEED TO BEAT THE CREDIT CRUNCH	3
EMPOWERMENT AND ASSIMILATION	4
PRAYING IN EXPECTATION	5
GOD IS A GOOD GOD	8
EMPOWERMENT FOR GOOD HEALTH	11
<i>Jokes, Poems and much more</i>	



INTRODUCING THE OXFORD POWER CONFERENCE

In the Days of His Power, are we willing?

The Lord gave me a message for the first anniversary celebration of the inauguration of Christ's Love Assembly (CLA): "This would be the last celebration of our anniversary as a church." I am sure a lot of people must have wondered - as I did - what those words meant. I gave voice to God's spirit but did not understand His meaning.

We left the matter until we heard the Lord speak again. He then commissioned us to run a special programme called the "Oxford Power Conference". So we surrendered ourselves to the Lord, saying "Your will be done." On behalf of CLA, I must express how humble we feel to be the ones the Lord is asking to carry out this work. The willingness of the Christian community to embrace the event is confirmation for us that it was commissioned by the Lord. Many of the Ministers of God we contacted have expressed enthusiasm to speak at the conference.

The Lord gave His word very clearly that the theme for 2009 would be: "In the Days of His Power". Psalm 110 verse 3 says: "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth." God is doing a new thing in Oxford. He is releasing His Power in order that all the churches should work together in unity, love and Christian brotherhood. I believe we are returning to the days when God's people were one. The Lord is calling us to build His Kingdom now, and that Kingdom must be without denominational barriers.

The Lord commanded the Prophet Haggai to preach a similar message to Zerubbabel (son of Shealtiel, Governor of Judah) and to Joshua (son of Josedech the priest). At that time the people were saying it was not yet time to build the house of the Lord. But the Lord rebuked them for building houses for themselves while the house of the Lord was in ruins. There was famine in the land and things were not happening the way they were meant

to happen. This is exactly what we are experiencing today in our churches and communities.

The message to each and every one of us in Oxford, pastors and congregations alike, is simple and clear. Let us stop building our own little houses or empires. Let us stop the division and build the kingdom of God in Oxford.

The leaders who heard the word of the Lord from the Prophet Haggai responded and amended their ways. In verse 14 "... the Lord stirred up the Spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did the work in the house of the LORD of host, their God". This message was for everyone, governor, priest and people. We must all repent of our ways and put the kingdom of God first. That old time revival (as I would call it) happened because the Lord stirred up the spirit of the people. The release of the power of God worked in them, so that they were willing to obey His voice.

God is releasing the same power in Oxford (and in any place where we are willing) for the governors, the priests and the people to do his will. His will at this time is to spread the good news of the Gospel; to comfort those who are afflicted; and to tell those who are hopeless that the Lord reigns. Remember, in the days of His power, His people shall be willing!

Pastor Patrick Tolani



EVERY

Sundays (Church Service):

10.30am – 12.30pm

Thursdays (Mid-week Service):

7.30pm – 9.00pm

1st Friday of every month

(Holy Ghost Service): 10pm – 2am

VENUES

Sundays and Thursdays:

Barton Neighborhood Centre,
Underhill Circus, OX3 9LS, Barton, Oxford

1st Fridays:

Headington Baptist Church,
78 Old High Street, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9HW

CLA Regular Programmes

*French, Spanish and
Polish interpretations
are available for our
services on request.*

Upcoming Programs

Youth Summer Splash – August 2009

Praise Gate – October 2009

Christmas Celebrations – December 2009

For more information about the Church or upcoming programmes see website www.oxrccg.org.uk or contact 07813709676 or write pastor@oxrccg.org.uk

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ALL YOU NEED TO BEAT THE CREDIT CRUNCH

Keys to Prosperity and Wealth

Pastor Enoch Adeboye

General Overseer, Redeemed Christian Church of God

The General Overseer, Pastor Enoch Adejare Adeboye often laces his sermons with short, sharp and vigorously expressive sayings. They linger in the mind long after the sermon has ended. They remain with you and return again and again to remind you of the sweetness they brought you the first time you heard them. Indeed they are like your favourite chocolates - you relish them so much that long after you have eaten them you still quietly, secretly run your tongue over your lips every now and again to catch just one more taste of the dainty stuff.

Pastor Adeboye has a gift for creating such memory-friendly words. Some of his sermons on prosperity and wealth have been combed to bring you a serving of rich treats in this edition. What's more - they are grouped into seven, though unequal, sections. So you can take one section a day, complete the run in a week. And repeat it weekly. And as he says in the 50th treat, "You can go from the minimum to the maximum." Now, one more secret: Each is a prayer point! Nothing could be brighter in such a time of global economic gloom. Nor more profitable.

God Speaks Today

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (2 Peter 1:21)

1. To have a spectacular encounter with God, you have to dream big, plan big, work big, give big and pray big.
2. God knows where your blessings are. He knows all things. He knows the beginning from the end and the end from the beginning.
3. God is more than enough. His ability will always exceed your biggest dreams.
4. What God has done for others He will do for you, no matter how many times you have failed in the past.
5. God wants you to move away from shallow waters and launch out into the deep. Tiny fishes reside in shallow waters.
6. It does not matter what you see now, you have not started. The best is yet to come.
7. God is greater than the greatest and He is richer than the richest.
8. Nobody wants you to prosper; the onus of being prosperous lies on you.
9. The Sovereign God has decided that you are not going to die in poverty. Refuse to remain poor.
10. God is the bona fide owner of all the wealth in the universe.
11. Although the poor will always be in

the land, I have deliberately decided not to be numbered among the poor.

12. Whoever tells you that you will only eat after he is fully satisfied is not your friend.

13. If you can decide to give extra-ordinarily, by the time God finishes with you, your neighbours and relatives will be amazed at the rate of your jump into wealth and prosperity.

14. If you ever find somebody in the company of kings who himself is not a king, you can be very

sure that such a person is loaded with money, having distinguished himself with hard work.



Word of Hope

And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt (Hosea 2:15).

15. The greatest problem today can be traced to the inability of men, women and children to take actions that will lead to the release of their miracles.
16. Your prosperity begins the moment you discover your divinely-ordained vocation or profession.
17. After discovery, you need to concentrate the totality of your strength and skill towards working out what you have been ordained and gifted to do.
18. Do you know that there is a fish somewhere with your money in its mouth? All you need is to be divinely directed.
19. There is a soul out there whom God has destined to act as a pointer to your financial breakthrough, catch him and you will never be the same again.
20. Do you know that there are certain things in your house, office or business premises that God can bring to the surface and use as a point of contact between you and your prosperity?
21. God is an expert at locating beneficiaries of His miracles.
22. When God gives an order concerning your prosperity, nobody can disobey Him.

23. If you can pray God can pick you from the lowest rung of the ladder and put you on the highest level.

24. When you have achieved what you previously envisioned, move forward and go for a higher vision.

25. Do you know that you have a choice to either remain poor or get out of the undesirable state and become rich?

At Thy Word

And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net (Luke 5:5).

26. Dream big. Don't occupy your mind with small dreams.

27. If your dreams are small, your achievements will be small.

Continued on 8 >>

EMPOWERMENT and ASSIMILATION

Pastor Andrew Adeleke

Biblical Empowerment

Years of experience in visitor assimilation involving thousands of churches have revealed that a surprising number of churches attempt to do visitor assimilation with one volunteer caller or as a solo activity of a pastor. This strategy limits both the development of the Body of Christ and church growth. Ephesians 4:11-12 states that Jesus, "gave some to be ...pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built.."

Church growth is no mystery. The Bible is very explicit about what causes church growth in verse 16 of the same chapter, "according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." Who possesses the unique job in the Body of Christ to get the other parts working? The Pastor!

For a church to grow and become healthy, a high percentage of church adherents need to be active in ministry. Every new ministry that is developed creates new opportunities for congregants with different mixes of gifts, temperament and passions to become involved in meaningful Kingdom service. A key task of pastoral ministry is to empower laypersons to become involved in ministry through constantly developing new opportunities of service, promoting those opportunities and training people to succeed in ministry. A well designed assimilation ministry provides many exciting and rewarding opportunities for service.

Practical Empowerment

Volunteers are the key to an effective assimilation ministry. The research shows that, even in a small church, lay people are far more effective at outreach than pastors. Part of this comes from the perception, in the mind of some visitors, that the pastor may have ulterior motives. Others are simply intimidated by a direct call from a pastor. When a pastor makes the first call to a visitor they will often have to overcome some level of defensiveness, reserve or cynicism in the mind of the visitor. When an ordinary church member calls it has a much higher chance of conveying the message that the church is a caring place.

Empower your volunteers to be in control, as much as possible, of their ministry involvement. Flexibility is often a key to empowering volunteers who live busy and hectic lives with the pace of modern living. ConnectionPower™ PowerVisitor™ solution empowers volunteers to meaningfully participate in visitor assimilation from the comfort of their own homes. It also fits the lifestyle of people who have a heart to be involved but are afraid that they are going to be trapped in a ministry with no exit strategy or ability to take a temporary time-out. PowerVisitor™ allows volunteers to reject calls "guilt-free," set the number of calls they are willing to make, and log off the system for seasons of travel or periods of busyness. Pastors increasingly need to find ways to provide volunteer empowered opportunities of service.

Recruitment

Visitor retention is the one ministry behind every other ministry of the church. It is possible to have great sermons and many effective

ministries and still not be effective at visitor retention. Visitor assimilation is the one ministry whose sole mission is to connect your visitors into all the other ministries of your church. It is central to church growth.

Every seasoned pastor knows from experience that one of their greatest challenges and one of the keys to their church's growth is recruiting and retaining volunteers. Some areas of volunteerism are easier to recruit for than others. For example it is relatively easy to recruit greeters and ushers. They are already at church, it requires a minimal additional commitment and therefore little passion, and it fits a wide variety of gifts, temperaments and spiritual maturity levels. Recruiting for the church nursery however, is another matter! It can be a daunting enterprise. This is why early on in most church's lifecycle the nursery worker becomes a paid position.

A great deal of research and writing has been done in the area of spiritual gifts and helping Christians to find the right category of service that matches their gifts, temperament and passion. Willow Creek Church's "Networking" materials were the earliest example of a comprehensive approach to these issues. Finding volunteers who will be faithful and flourish in visitor assimilation is no exception. It requires finding people with the right gifts, temperament, passion and spiritual maturity.

It is amazing how many different kinds of people with a wide range of gift mixes can flourish in this area of ministry. There are obvious exclusions. Introverted non-verbal individuals are generally ill-suited for outreach ministries. But, if they have passion to touch people's lives, have a good measure of compassion and are highly flexible, even these individuals can learn to become effective assimilation partners. Be sure to recruit volunteers who are representative of different ages and ministries of the church.

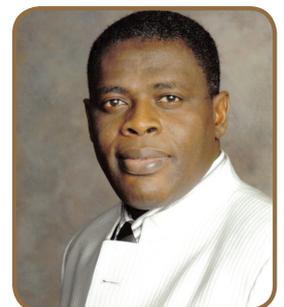
Leaders unnecessarily limit their pool of assimilation volunteers if they leave this area to those with the gift of evangelism. The surprising truth is that evangelists are often poor candidates for visitor assimilation. The core characteristic of a great assimilation team member is compassion. Many individuals with the gift of evangelism can be too direct or confronting, or lack the patience required for this nurturing ministry.

When you are advertising for assimilation team members, target your message around touching lives and caring for those whom God has brought to the very front doors of your church. Talk about how people need to be touched by the love of God in our unloving world and how your assimilation team members may be the only expression of love that a visitor will experience. You will find that this approach pre-qualifies recruits and gets you a higher percentage of the kind of individuals that you need.

Maturation

Finally, the ministry of Visitor Assimilation, like all areas of ministry, is an ongoing process. Team members will mature and grow in their sensitivity and effectiveness over time. Today's assimilation team members will create a buzz in your congregation which will aid in your recruitment efforts with others. With time, training, hard work and patience you will see a ministry emerge staffed with dedicated and skilled volunteers that has a powerful impact on church growth.

Pastor Andrew Adeleke is an author and is well known as an International public speaker in conferences, seminars and leadership trainings. He is the author of the bestsellers 'Prosperity Capsules', 'Hope Capsule' and '7 Profitable Psalms'. Through his prophetic declarations, lives have been challenged and transformed by the power of God. The Lord has also used him and his wife in planting about 15 churches in the UK and Canada.



Praying IN EXPECTATION

Rachel Hickson – Heartcry Ministries UK



“Mum it worked!” The excited cry filled the house. Nicola had been asking God to help her return to Kenya, and had just been offered a ticket to Nakuru. Prayer works! But how many of us find it hard to keep waiting for an answer? I would encourage you with this phrase: “NOW is not a good time to give up!” We need to believe that waiting time is never wasted time. Every time we pray, we move the hand of God and changes take place in the unseen realm.

In 1984 I was in a traffic accident in Zimbabwe that nearly cost me my life. As I lay in a deep coma, the church began to pray, and when medicine had no effect, prayer was working. After five days of no progress, I suddenly woke up – apparently back to normal! The doctors had given me a five percent chance of survival. Even if I lived, they predicted extensive brain damage. I had experienced a miracle! However, both my legs had been smashed in several places and I was in a wheelchair. After twelve months I still needed walking sticks to stand, and constant help to care for my child and home. But from my own experience, I knew that God healed.

At this time I began to learn about the season of harvest in prayer. Prayer has a sowing time, a growing time, and a harvest time. You can plant an acorn and wait years for the oak tree, or you can plant bean sprouts and be eating them in a few weeks! In the same way, the answer to our prayers will come at the appointed harvest time.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Gal 6:9 NIV). I believe this scripture is vital in understanding praying in expectation. Every time we bring our requests to God, we are doing good, even when everything screams at us that our prayer is useless and not anointed. Effective prayer has more to do with attitude than with language. You must believe you are “doing good”. Pray with the expectation that your voice is heard in Heaven. God loves to hear your voice and delights to be your Father. So do not give up!

... “for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” We often attach an urgent sticker to our prayers; we want the answer by express return delivery. Unfortunately, we find ourselves being challenged instead by delay, difficulty and even disappointment. What is the purpose of this delay? How do we keep a right attitude of expectation during this period of waiting? We must understand that much of our life in Christ is about the process, not just the end product. God will answer us, but He wants to develop our character along the way.

After a few more months, my legs were still not healed and I realized it was going to be a tougher journey than I had anticipated. God told me He wanted to heal the cripple on the inside, then the cripple on the outside. He needed

to change some attitudes and realign my life before showing me the harvest of healing in my legs. If nothing appears to be happening, God is often doing His invisible work on the heart, then suddenly we see the breakthrough of the full physical answer. During this trial of faith, God healed my heart and then in the “proper time” He healed my legs.

The challenge is this: Will we give up? Will we keep our prayer and faith connected? We need to realize afresh that our time laboring in prayer will certainly bring a harvest. Sometimes God chooses the hypersonic jet for His delivery service; other times the package comes on the back of the slowest tortoise, but the answer is coming so do not give up. It is time to hold on and press through to your answer. Without faith it is impossible to please God. We must not allow disappointment to disconnect our prayer and expectation.

So what happened to my legs? One day Gordon (my husband) asked me to go with him to a meeting. I was tired and did not go with great expectation. As I sat in the room, the speaker approached me and asked if I had an injury as the result of a traffic accident. When I replied that my legs had been injured in such a way, he immediately prayed for them. I felt nothing but he asked me to test them out. I found that I could walk as normal - without pain! At last I could touch and see the answer to my prayers and tears. Prayer had worked again! Remember – NOW is not a good time to give up!

“The challenge is this: Will we give up? Will we keep our prayer and faith connected? We need to realize afresh that our time laboring in prayer will certainly bring a harvest. Sometimes God chooses the hypersonic jet for His delivery service; other times the package comes on the back of the slowest tortoise, but the answer is coming so do not give up. It is time to hold on and press through to your answer. Without faith it is impossible to please God. We must not allow disappointment to disconnect our prayer and expectation.”



Rachel has been married to Gordon for 28 years, and they have 2 children, and one granddaughter, Leila. Rachel is a daughter of missionary parents and lived in India as a child. However, once married Gordon and Rachel worked with Reinhard Bonnke in Africa and the Far East. In 1990 they returned to the UK and as God began to open doors into Europe and the world, and they founded their ministry called ‘HEARTCRY’. Gordon and Rachel have a passion to see cities transformed through the power of prayer and evangelism. In 1984 Rachel nearly died in a serious road traffic accident in Zimbabwe but was saved by prayer. So she knows the reality of breakthrough prayer. Rachel is an author of 3 books, *Supernatural Communication*, *Supernatural Breakthrough* and *Stepping Stones to Freedom*. For more information please look at our web sites: www.Londonprayer.net, www.Heartcry.co.uk

CLA is 2!

... Building a people of faith, nurtured by grace, empowered for excellence.

Amazing God

It's about two years now that CLA started, as a church in Barton, Oxford and it's been so wonderful. This can only be through the hands of our amazing God who answers prayers and keeps His promises.

We've enjoyed victory and blessings in all ramifications, abundant testimonies, many new births (spiritual and physical),

baptism, healings, jobs, cars, promotions, and many other things that money can and cannot buy.

God is really amazing and we acknowledge His sovereignty and return all the glory, honour and praise to Him. May you also be perpetual partakers of God's amazing acts and deeds in Jesus name.

testimonies

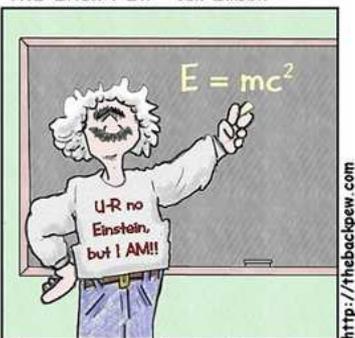
During my final exams, the pastor sent text messages to student to assure them of good success and he prophesied that we shall come out with distinctions in Jesus name. I held onto this and when my result came out, I had grade A in all my papers except one and because I knew I had the word of prophesy from the man of God that I will have all round distinctions, I went back to the lecturer who gave me a B grade to remark my paper and few days latter he called me to say that he made a mistake and I actually have grade A. I give God all the glory for having distinction in all my courses.
-Bro Francis

Early 2009, there was a word of knowledge by the pastor that whoever has pending applications should revisit it and the Lord will grant victory. I keyed into this and a pending grant was miraculously granted after about a year. All thanks to God.
- Bro Charles

In our month of Divine Victory, May 2009, we were told to bring to church all applications we believed God for and I brought mine, which was already rejected, by one of the organizations I applied to. I believed God for His divine intervention and I was prayed for. That same week, the second organization, which was better than the first, offered me a placement and I was one out of the few applicants that was successful. My God is really good.
-Sis Afua

For sometime the church and I have been praying that my husband's visa be granted and glory to God this miraculously happened even before the court hearing, however, the devil wanted to take away our joy and that very morning I heard the good news, the roof of my bedroom collapsed on me and my son. To God be the glory we were unhurt and celebrated the victory of reunion with my husband.
-Sis Margarita

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



Genius v Omniscience
It's a relative thing! ←-Einstein pun
No one doubts the genius of Albert Einstein, but then why question the wisdom of God? **Isaiah 55:8-9**



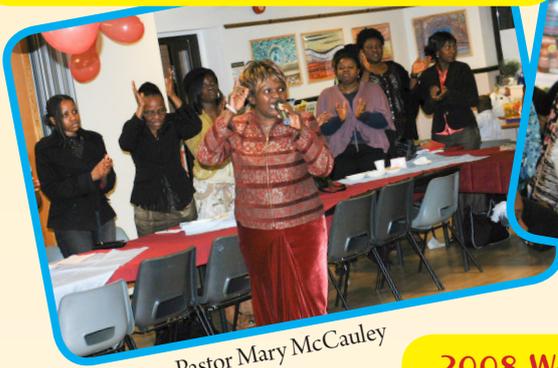
Midnight Crew and
CLA Choir
in a Live Concert

For details: www.oxrccg.org.uk



faces & events 2008 - 2009

Family Night and Women's Day 2009



Pastor Mary McCauley

2008 Watch Night Service



International Mother Language Day 2009



Lord Mayor of Oxford - Susana Pressel visits CLA



Asian Evangelical Church at IMLD

2008 Christmas Service with Open Meal



2008 Students' Welcome Party



CLA Choir

CLA 1st Anniversary Celebrations



Pastor Deola Mensah, Sis Abby, Pastor Alaka & wife, Pastor Ajibola



Muyiwa of RiverSongz ministering at CLA



Paul & Jenny Sweeney from Southern Road Evangelical Church

CREDIT CRUNCH

- Keys to Prosperity

<< Continued from 3

28. If your eyes are set on higher things, you will always dream big.
29. When you dream big you will make big plans.
30. As soon as you begin to make big plans, get ready to work hard.
31. If you want to achieve big plans you need a great deal of hard work.
32. Real prosperity requires supernatural intervention.
33. Don't be a Lilliputian. Be a giant.
34. You must pray big until you move the hand of God.
35. If you are going to give God money, never give Him notes that are torn or worn-out.

Divine Riches

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

36. You must sow specifically in order to reap specifically.
37. What you sow is what you reap.
38. If you sow into the wind you will reap a whirlwind.
39. All kinds of grounds abound but a good ground is not easy to come by.
40. You can not lie down on a bed of ease and expect money to drop from the roof.
41. God has decided to give you the hidden riches of the Gentiles.
42. Ask God to show you the sources of your prosperity.

All Things Are Possible

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).

42. If you want to be rich you will begin to fight until the devil releases your prosperity.
43. Command your blessing to come from the North, the South, the East and the West.
44. Anyone who wants to experience real supernatural prosperity must be ready to pray.

45. God is able to turn your situation around. He will re-write your history.

Faith for Wealth

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith (Romans 1:17).

46. If you ever want to have a divine encounter with God you must be prepared to take certain steps.
47. If you study the Scriptures carefully you will discover that those who have outstanding miracles in the Bible had scriptural catalysts for their miracles.
48. If God plays His part but you refuse to play yours, you may never receive your miracle.
49. All you need is to be divinely directed.
50. You can go from the minimum to the maximum.

God Can Do It Again

Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

50. God has declared: your tomorrow will be alright.
51. If you are a student of Biblical and Christian history you would have discovered that God specialises in turning hopeless situations around.
52. One of the most challenging facts of human history is that there is nothing that God cannot do.
53. If you fail to ask God to enlarge your coast you may limit the amount of blessings which you are going to receive from him.
54. Don't ever forget to ask God to give you the wisdom with which you will handle your wealth.
55. Enlarge your capacity for blessing.
56. Ask God to bless you with money so that you can support the gospel

“Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.” (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

- Culled and adapted from Sunrise Magazine

POEMS

A New Day

*A new day is a new opportunity
to do what we didn't do yesterday
to say what we were afraid to say
to go where our legs trembled to walk
to be God's disciples on earth and His
representatives.*

*I have come to know that life
is not a right, it's a gift
So are faith and love
Ask the father for these
and your life will become a light
in a dark and gloomy world*

Poems by Mosope Adekola

Love

*Never underestimate the force of love,
its strength and its power.
True love they say, is hard to find
I say, true love is in the Father
who first loved us and sent His Son
to live a human's life in a world of sin*

*If you love God, it is because He first loved you
If you don't love God, it is because
you haven't accepted His gift of love.
Take it, the price has been paid
by His spotless life
on a rugged cross
Love explained through death
Life lived remembering His return*

God

is a good God

Dr Foyeke Christiana Tolani



“O taste and see that the Lord [our God] is good! Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who trusts and takes refuge in Him”

Personally, I am more than convinced that God is a good God. However in the course of talking to people about God, I've had comments like "I don't believe in God", "If God is good and He exists, why do bad things happen to good people?", "I used to believe in God but not anymore because I see a lot of bad things happening to people, why can't God stop bad things from happening?" and the list of questions and comments goes on.

Alas! One thing for sure is that in the midst of evil, turmoil, suffering, danger, inequity, inequality, recession, diseases, plagues, abundance, prosperity, poverty and so on, God is still God and He is good. Examples in the Bible show us His goodness from generation to generation, and King David in the book of Psalms said with great assurance – "O taste and see that the Lord [our God] is good! Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who trusts and takes refuge in Him". Likewise in chapter 84 verse 11 of the same book, he said: "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly". Jesus also said in three books of the Bible that "there is none good but one, that is, God".

God knows the beginning from the end, He is all knowing, all powerful and almighty. The Bible tells us that all good and perfect gifts come from God in whom there is no variation, nor shadow of turning. He created the universe and He gave it to mankind; however mankind does as he or she pleases with the universe and as a result we all reap the reward of disturbing and sometimes perverting nature. So what God originally created as good now sometimes produces natural/physical disasters; thus all the stuff around climate change and all the repercussions that go with it.

God also gave man the commandment to obey certain laws that could help us have a good life for our own benefit, but we may also choose to disobey and just like any fair judge – God says the wages of sin is death. So many times we disobey and reap the reward of our disobedience, but still blame God. If we as humans expect fair judgment from earthly authorities for an offender taken to court, why should we not want fair judgment from God the supreme authority?.

Furthermore, the Bible tells us that the devil comes to kill, to steal and to destroy but Jesus came that we may have life and have it abundantly. So we have many situations whereby the devil brings bad things to "seeming good (good in our own

perspective) people" not being mindful of the fact that if they trust in God, He works it out for their good. For instance, the first time I experienced failure despite lots of hard work was when I finished my high school; I performed poorly and could not go to the university of my first choice. Looking back, I can thank God for this failure because God worked it out for my good. I had to change my course, went to another university, met my husband there and I am doing what I love doing at the moment. God does not want anybody to perish but to come to the knowledge of the truth and live in it.

So let's be assured that God's promises are "sure". He said I will never leave you nor forsake you; His thoughts towards you are thoughts of good and not of evil to bring you to an expected end. He will not allow you to go through any temptation beyond what you can cope with. So believe that He is good for He is truly good. If you have not accepted Him as your God and Jesus as your savior, today is the day of salvation, come to Him for He is waiting to show you more love than you can imagine. The Bible says the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life. Ask God to forgive you for any disobedience, help you to trust and obey Him, grant you the grace to sin no more, and be completely obedient to His advice and instructions.

If you are a Christian be assured that God is good and whatever comes your way, He is a stronghold in the day of trouble. Call on Him, remind Him of His promises, and it shall be well with you. God is good all the time and all the time God is good. Don't doubt it! A quote from Sper (Daily Bread) says:

*When you are tempted to deny
God's goodness, love, and grace,
Look to the cross of Calvary,
Where Jesus took your place*

For all of us let us preserve the gifts and good things (our bodies, land, sea, forest, animals etc) that God made so well and gave us, and let us protect our world from sin, greed and other things that are causing havoc here and there.

Be richly blessed in Jesus' name.

Make me a WONDER

Make me a wonder and not a disappointment
Make me a delight and not a source of sorrow
Make me an eternal excellence, a Joy of many nations
Make me the head and not the tail
Make me a success and not a failure
Make me a victor and not a loser
Make me an overcomer and more than a conqueror
Make me a blessing and not a curse
Make me a virtuous person, sympathetic and full
of good works
Make me an encourager and not a discourager
Make me an enabler and not a disabler
Make me Oh Lord what you created me to be
Make me a true resemblance of my Lord and
saviour in Jesus name I pray

Foyeke Christiana Tolani



jokes!!!

Praying Grace

A four year old boy was asked to give thanks before Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles.

Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the cool whip. Then he paused, and everyone waited and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked...

"If I thank God for the broccoli, won't He know that I'm lying?"

<http://www.byfaith.co.uk/pauljokes3.htm>

The E-mail Error

A man was on a business trip to the south of France and his wife had planned to meet him there the next day. When he reached his destination, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. He tried his best to type it in from memory. Unfortunately, he missed one letter and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a dead faint. Hearing the scream, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen: "Dearest Wife, missing you already, just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow. P.S. Sure is hot down here!"

<http://www.byfaith.co.uk/paulbiblejokes.htm>

Bible Lesson

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

http://cotn.co.uk/clean_christian_corny_church_jokes.aspx

are YOU saved?

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Are you living in sin? You can't perpetually continue to displease your God and head towards eternal damnation. Dear friend today is the day of salvation, if you delay, tomorrow maybe too late. Jesus came to save you. The Bible says "that if you confess with your mouth, the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

Please say this prayer: Lord Jesus, I believe you died for me and that God Almighty raised you from the dead. Please forgive all my sins. I choose to turn away from them right now and I ask you to come into my heart and life as my Lord and Saviour and please give me the power to sin no more. Amen.

- Need some guidance? Please call

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PRAYER C O R N E R

Empower Me Oh Lord

Empower me with life and make me whole

Empower me with skills and make me productive

Empower me with good success and may I be on top
and not beneath

Empower me from on High and let your mighty hands rest
upon me for exploits

Empower me with wisdom and let me be wise and not foolish

Empower me with knowledge and revelation and let my
vision not be blurred

Empower me with your spirit and anointing and let me
manifest your glory and power

Empower me with your spirit and let Him control my life

Empower me Oh Lord for signs and wonder and let me do
greater works in deed

Empower me with faith that moves mountains, heal the sick
and set the captives free

Empower me with the spirit of excellence and let all I do be
done excellently well

Empower me to change and deliver me from procrastination

Empower me Oh Lord in Jesus name I pray.

- Foyeke Christiana Tolani

EMPOWERMENT FOR GOOD HEALTH

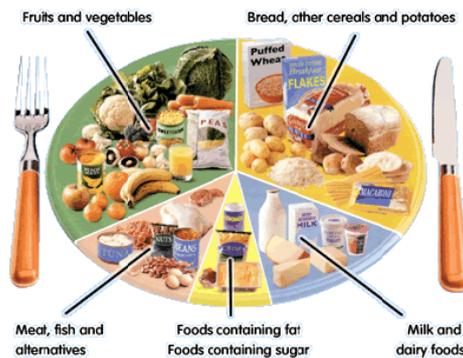
Dr Foyeke Christiana Tolani

Empowerment for good health is in two dimensions: physical (this includes mental) and spiritual, however the fundamental truth is that you have a big role to play in staying healthy. Try this key physical and spiritual Healthy lifestyle Check up below and see how you are doing with fulfilling your own part of the deal.

Physical Healthy Lifestyle Check Up

Do you engage in at least 30 minutes of exercise or activity each day?
Do you eat at least 5 fruits and vegetables each day?
Do you sleep for about six to eight hours per night and do you go to sleep easily?
Do you see a dentist and GP regularly if you feel something is wrong?
Do you drink lots of water in a day (at least 1-2 liters)?
Do you stay away from cigarettes, other tobacco products, alcohol and drugs?
Do you check that you regularly eat balanced diet?
Do you limit the amount of sugar and salt in your diet?
Do you brush and floss your teeth at least twice a day?
Do you usually feel that you can manage all of the tasks required of you in a given day?

Empowerment for excellence in health means that you should score "YES" in all. If you fall short of scoring 100%, identify the areas where you need to improve and change. For remember your body is the temple



of God and you should keep it as much as you can and then pray that God helps you and keeps you from all forms of devourer, accidents and diseases so that you can enjoy divine health.

Spiritual Health Check up

Do you read your Bible and meditate on it at least twice a day?
Do you have the habit of praying always especially at critical times throughout the day (morning, before meals, at work, evenings etc)?
Do you fast and pray at least once a week (for yourself, family, friends, nation, church including your pastor and church leaders)?
Do you avoid reading books/novels or watch movies that instill fear or horror or do not edify?
Do you fellowship with a church at least once a week and you are using your gifts to serve God and others?
Do you actively look for opportunities to do good things to others?
Do you give cheerfully to God and are you a tither?
Do you always think good and not evil about other people?
Do you share your faith with others regularly?
Do you uphold the truth, keep away from telling lies or engaging in any form of disobedience to God's instructions and advice?

God's advice through Apostle Paul in the Bible is that we should take heed to ourselves, so that we do not fall into sin and give room for the enemy to inflict our soul which should prosper along with our physical well being. God wants us to enjoy perfect health and now is the time to key into his divine provision by fulfilling our part. Have we being procrastinating? Now! Is the time to change, trust God to help us and pray for His enabling grace to imbibe His instructions. Turn a new leaf right now in Jesus name.

Like Apostle Paul, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers (3 John 1:2 AMP).

Dr. Foyeke Tolani holds a Masters in Public Health and also a doctorate in Medical Microbiology. For more prayers please write prayer@oxrccg.org.uk or Christiana@oxrccg.org.uk

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