



Thanks to Emma DeRosia

03-23-2009

ADAM PREPARES FOR THE HUMAN RACE

Weekly Meetings

Sunday

10.30 Communion Service

18.30 Gospel Service

Monday

19.00 Prayer Meeting

(Last Monday of each month is a mission prayer meeting.)

Wednesday

19:30 Bible Study

(Last Wednesday of every month is a Fellowship Meeting)

Saturday

18.30 Worship Practice

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CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009



ASSEMBLY OF GOD

KING'S CHRISTIAN CENTRE

26a KING WILLIAM STREET

OLD TOWN

SWINDON

SN1 3LB

"A Church - in the Heart of Swindon

with a Heart for Swindon"

The Real Prosperity Gospel

God's ways may be hidden, but his purpose for us is not.

Has the so-called prosperity gospel turned its followers into some of the most willing participants—and hence, victims—of the current financial crisis?

David Van Biema,

"Maybe We Should Blame God for the Subprime Mess," *Time* magazine, October 3, 2008

It is not just those enamoured with the prosperity gospel who have pursued health, wealth, and happiness as if they were divine rights and signs of God's blessing. Or who have avoided adversity and poverty as if they were curses. But God's ways are more mysterious than we perceive.

God so governs the universe by his secret providence that while nothing happens apart from God's decree, his hand remains largely hidden from us. What could be more natural than the changing seasons? Yet there remains such unevenness and diversity that every year, month, and day is seen to be governed by a new providence of God.

Church father Basil the Great said that *fortune* and *chance* are pagan terms, and ones the godly should not use. But even though all things are ordained by God's plan, for us they seem fortuitous—their order, reason, end, and necessity seem accidental. Yet in our hearts it nonetheless should remain fixed that nothing will take place that the Lord has not previously foreseen.

Nothing will more effectively preserve us in a straight and undeviating course in this economy than a firm persuasion that all events are in the hand of God, and that he is as merciful as he is mighty. This should lead us to gratitude in prosperity, patience in adversity, and a wonderful security respecting the future.

Prone to blame God in adversity and praise ourselves in prosperity, we murmur against God if he does not grant us quiet nests. We imagine that adversity can only come from Satan—as if he were a second god—and thereby fail to recognize that nothing that happens, even when intended by Satan for evil, isn't turned by God to the wider purpose of our salvation. Nothing can thwart God's gracious purposes toward us in Christ. Paul does not say that all things are good, but he does say that God works all things together for good for his people (Rom. 8:28).

Therefore, it is wrong to infer from prosperity that God is favourable toward us, and from suffering that God is angry. For God does not consider in chastening the faithful what they deserve but rather what will be useful to them in the future. He fulfils the office of a physician rather than of a judge. Suffering often brings us to the end of our rope, so we will look to God in Christ for our safety.

We must never forget that there is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as is the cross on which Christ has subdued death and the Devil. His whole life was nothing but a kind of perpetual cross. The

Invited Ministry and Meetings in July

Friday 10th	3.00pm	Kingsmead Home
Sunday 19th	10.30am	Pastor Henry Bwanika
Friday 24th	3.00pm	Kingsmead Home
Sunday 26th	10.30am	Dr. Keith Hooper

Further details of meetings will be announced during the month.

Chorus Leading in July

Wednesday 1st	Bible Study	Andrzej Spila
Sunday 5th	Morning / Evening	Jorge / Elroy
Wednesday 8th	Bible Study	Andrzej
Sunday 12th	Morning / Evening	Ben / Steve C.
Wednesday 15th	Bible Study	Ben
Sunday 19th	Morning / Evening	Ben / Andrzej
Wednesday 22nd	Bible Study	Alain
Sunday 26th	Morning / Evening	Jorge / Vince
Wednesday 29th	Fellowship	Ben
Sunday 2nd August	Morning / Evening	Jorge / Steve
Wednesday 5th Aug.	Bible Study	Elroy

Happy Birthday in July

Friday 10th	John Fernandes
Wednesday 6th	Jenssi Rani
Sunday 19th	Tiffany Pomagalski
Tuesday 21st	Steve Clarke
Tuesday 28th	Mirelle Tchoya

If you have any birthdays, anniversaries etc. to put into future newsletters, please contact Malcolm



Sunday School in July

Sunday school takes place on Sunday mornings (during the time of ministry).

Sunday	5th	Daisy Rodrigues
Sunday	12th	Mirelle Tchoyo
Sunday	19th	Marion Macqueen
Sunday	26th	Daisy Rodrigues
Sunday	Aug 2nd	Mirelle Tchoyo

Assembly Happenings

Welcome Back Joanne.

It was so good to see our sister Joanne Thomason-Hyde back in church after her recent open-heart surgery. It is encouraging to know that you are progressing and regaining your strength and you will soon be completely recovered. Joanne would welcome a visit at any time.

Back from USA.

Welcome back also to Tom & Elizabeth Hogg, who attend our Sunday evening meetings from time to time. They were away recently visiting relatives in various parts of America. It was their first visit to the USA and they both had a wonderful time. Good to see you both again.

In hospital.

Our sister Sandra Clarke underwent an operation on her foot on Monday 21st June. The operation was complex and she has got various pins inserted in the foot, which will be removed in due course. Sandra is at home recuperating, with her foot up !! Don't overdo it Sandra and let Steve walk the dog for you both morning & evening !! Sandra would also welcome a visit at any time.

Arriving from Goa.

There was a wonderful family reunion on Saturday 27th June, when Elroy & Daisy met Sophie & Dasha at London airport. Sophie, Daisy's mum, brought Dasha back to the UK after her stay with the family in Goa. Daisy's dad & sisters also hope to visit in the course of the next few months. We do wish Sophie a pleasant stay here in Swindon, its wonderful to see you again and hope that you won't miss Goa too much !!

Arriving & leaving for Poland

First of all, our brother Andzrej Spila is looking forward to his wife Gosha & son Philip arriving from Poland on Tuesday 7th to spend some weeks here in Swindon. We do hope that you will have a wonderful time together. On the 20th July Peter Cukrowski, Andzrej's nephew, will be returning to live in Poland after having spent a couple of years living in the UK. We do wish you every blessing Peter and will pray that the Lord will guide and provide for your every need as you return home. Remember, "that he who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

Visiting Ministries

As you will see from the next page, we do look forward to having Pastor Henry Bwanika & his wife Claudia with us on Sunday 19th at our morning service. Then on Sunday 26th we look forward to having Dr Keith Hooper with us. Please pray and support all the meetings.

cross of Christ always contains in itself the victory. But like the disciples at Golgotha, we flee the cross—both Christ's and our own. We imagine that somehow we deserve prosperity.

But prosperity often inebriates people, so that they take delight in their own vanities. Instead of leading to gratitude, God's indulgent liberality is abused; prosperity easily becomes its own kind of prison that deprives us of God's greatest gifts.

God's sovereign rule cannot be separated from his saving purpose. The providence of God watches for our salvation, even when it most seems to sleep. Just as we find God in the "low places" of this world—a dirty feeding trough in Bethlehem, weary on the road to Jerusalem, and crying out in dereliction on the cross—we trust that he is most present in our lives precisely where he seems most hidden. It makes a tremendous difference in our lives when we trust that the same God who wounds also heals.

Following our Saviour, we endure the cross in this life in order to reign with Christ in glory. God does not call his people to triumph before he has exercised them in the warfare of suffering.

Our salvation and reconciliation to God in Christ is more important than any present happiness. It is far better for the children of God to be blessed, though mutilated and half-destroyed, than to desire that peace in which they shall fall asleep. Our ultimate security and prosperity is found only in Christ and will be fully realized only in glory.

John Calvin is the author of The Institutes of the Christian Religion and commentaries on most books of the Bible, both of which were sources of this column, adapted and paraphrased by a member of the Calvinist family of faith.

John Calvin with Knox Bucer-Beza *Christianity Today*, April 2009

What does the Bible say about finding Encouragement from God

Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. - [Philippians 3:13-14](#)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. - [Philippians 4:6](#)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." - [John 14:1-4](#)

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. - [Galatians 6:9](#)

Praying 'For Thine Is the Kingdom'

Quotations to stir heart and mind

YOURS, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.

1 Chronicles 29:11, NRSV

THE LORD'S PRAYER begins with praise and worship, "hallowed be thy name." It ends with praise as well, "for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever." We have come full circle. The entire prayer is framed by praise.

Arthur Paul Boers, Lord, Teach Us to Pray

PRAISING GOD isn't something we do, an activity we engage in among other activities. It is a fundamental way of being toward God. ... Praise links us to God in love.

The praise of the psalmist is an expression of delight, and so is our own praise. Of course God wants it. It is the recognition, both conscious and unconscious, that God's name is hallowed in all things.

Roberta C. Bondi, A Place to Pray

THEN the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign forever and ever."

Revelation 11:15, NRSV

THE DIFFERENCE with this prayer is that its ending tells us more about God than it does about us. It's a conclusion that voices confidence in the present and the future because it understands who is in charge and in whose presence we live all our lives.

William J. Carl III, The Lord's Prayer for Today

AMEN, AMEN means "Yes, yes, it is going to come about just like this."

Martin Luther, The Small Catechism

TRUST IN GOD'S POWER and grace can never be overdone, since no situation is too complex, too complicated or too convoluted for God. It is never too late for a miracle, because divine power can write straight with crooked lines.

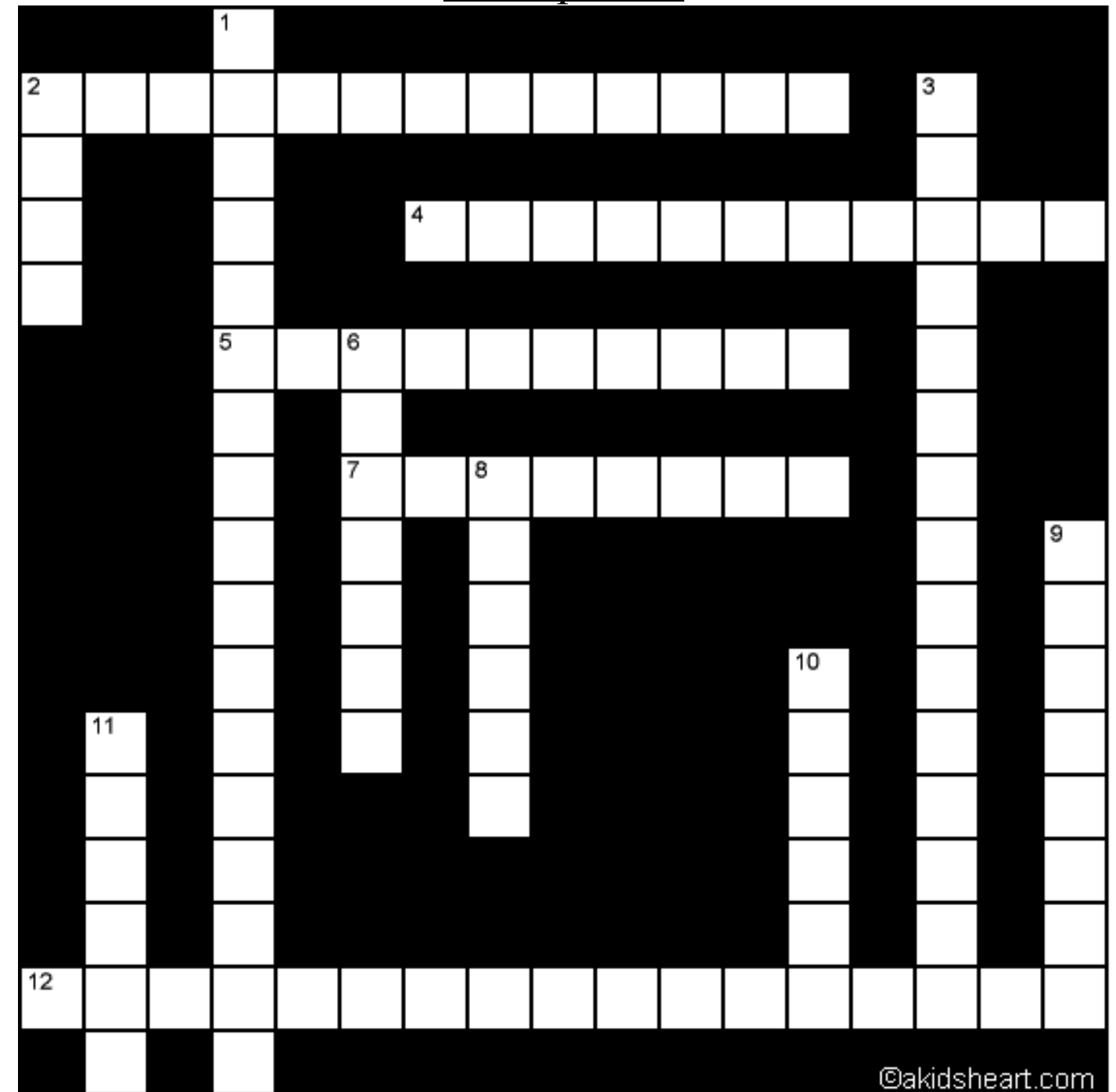
Albert Haase, Living the Lord's Prayer

WE STEP BACK and trust God to do with our prayers whatever, however, and whenever he chooses. ... All now is in our Father's hands.

Eugene H. Peterson, Tell It Slant

Compiled by Richard A. Kauffman *Christianity Today*, June 2009

The Apostles



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Across

- 2. Betrayed Jesus
- 4. Nathanael
- 5. Jesus told him to feed His sheep
- 7. Surname of Lebbeus
- 12. Known as the less

Down

- 1. Herod had him killed with the sword
- 2. He was exiled on the isle of Patmos
- 3. The Zelotes
- 6. Use to be a tax collector
- 8. Peter's brother; He told Jesus about the lad with the fish and bread
- 9. He took Judas' place
- 10. He brought Nathanael to Christ
- 11. The doubting one

Answers will be provided in next month's (August) Newsletter