



The Road to Bethlehem by Joseph Brickley 2000

http://www.wordexplain.com/Road_to_Bethlehem.html

The Encounter

December 2012

The Parish of Victor Harbor
St Augustine's Church, Victor Harbor
St Christopher's Church, Mt. Compass

"Emmanuel" - God with us.

As this is the Christmas edition of "The Encounter" I wish to direct our thoughts to its meaning. We live in times when I wonder if many have the "trimmings" but not the heart or substance of Christmas.

The heart of Christmas is a heart! A heart of love - God's heart of love. Love, true love, is essentially self-giving. And God gave his own Son - gave him firstly to be born as a human baby boy. *"All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us.)*

God with us - no less than God! - in his Son. And so God didn't stay aloof from the mess humanity had got itself into! He entered into his world as one of us! That's real identification isn't it?

Why did He come? Why was Jesus born? Three reasons at least: *to reveal, to redeem, to reconcile.*

To reveal - whom? The Father, his Father.

We can now know *what kind of God, God is.* "He who has seen me has seen the Father," said Jesus. No wonder John wrote in one of his letters *"This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols."* Where are you getting your picture, view of God?

Redeem - to buy our freedom - freedom *from* sin. To do this necessitated his death as a sacrifice for sins. And so God *gave* his Son up to die for our sins. You and I need forgiveness for we have all broken laws of God, and become guilty before a Holy Father. God's justice has been satisfied at the cross when Christ died for our sins. So God forgives people who repent and trust in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. This is real cleansing! Do you know this for yourself?

Reconcile. Why forgiveness from God? So that we can be *reconciled* to him. He created and redeemed us for relationships - with Him and each other. Right, loving relationships. Relationship with God who is transforming us into his likeness by his Son and Spirit, both for this life and for ever - That's what he wants. Are you enjoying this?

Have a holy and happy Christmas as you celebrate Emmanuel - God with us.

Alex Bainton

Look Up

I look not back - God knows the fruitless efforts,
The wasted hours, the sinning and regrets;
I leave them all with Him who blots the record,
And graciously forgives, and then forgets.

I look not forward - God sees the future,
The road that, short or long, will lead me home;
And He will face with me its every trial,
And bear for me the burden that may come.

I look not round me - then would fears assail me,
So wild the tumult of life's restless seas;
So dark the world, so filled with war and evil,
So vain the hope of comfort and of ease.

I look not inward - that would make me wretched,
For I have naught on which to stay my trust;
Nothing I see but failures and shortcomings,
And weak endeavours crumbling into dust.

But I look up - into the face of Jesus!
For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled,
And there is joy, and love, and light for darkness,
And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.

Anonymous

Tuesday Morning Cards, Mah-jong and Social Group

Every Tuesday morning at 9am up to twenty of us get together in the St Augustine's hall to enjoy a game of cards, mainly "hand and foot" [a variety of canasta] and Mah-jong. Not all of our members are parishioners.

At approx. 10.30am we take a break to enjoy a chat over a cuppa and biscuits.

This group was started up about 15 years ago, give or take a couple of years, by Reg and Lorna Walters and Margaret and Ted Wilson. It was anticipated that it might last 6 months - perhaps a year or so at the most!!

Although the group is primarily a social and outreach group, we have managed to do some fundraising as well.

We put in a dollar each week to cover costs. However the excess funds soon mount up; so much so that we have been able to donate many hundreds of dollars to such worthy causes as South Coast Christian Community Care, the "Baked Beans" project, the hospital and the Cancer Foundation. We have also contributed from time to time to hall carpet cleaning and electricity, garden maintenance, new portable heaters and a new refrigerator.

Anyone interested in joining the group is invited to speak to Heather or Andrew Jeffery who will be only too willing to 'point you in the right direction'.

Andrew and Heather Jeffery

Christmas 1963

My wife and I were in Kenya in November 1963 which was the year that they got their independence. The East African British Forces decided to have a final big children's Christmas party before all British Forces had to leave the country in early 1964.

A meeting was called at which I attended, and a Grand Children's Christmas party was planned. This was to include all the children of the British Forces and also some African children from a Nairobi school. Who was to be Santa Claus?. We all looked at one another and as I was about the biggest the eyes stopped on me!. The Commanding Officer asked me if I would play the part of Santa. I explained that this would be my first time but the decision was overwhelming. Santa was me.

First of all I paid a visit to an African tailor who was employed in the Headquarters to work on our uniforms. The whole red suit and white beard was produced in less than a day. It was a perfect fit too.

A committee was formed to organise the party and the first thing was to get the number of children and to decide on an age limit. This was worked out at twelve. After enquiries within the British units a total of 189 children were selected. We then approached the school and a further 61 African children were invited making a total of 250 children. What a lot of Christmas parcels.

A toy Company in Nairobi was approached and arrangements were made to purchase all the toys, and the firm offered to parcel them up for us. I think this was due to our invitation to the African children.

The next part of the plan was where to hold the party? The Headquarters had a large sports field with soccer, hockey, rugby and cricket pitch so this was the obvious place. Now how is Santa going to get there, unfortunately there is no snow in Kenya apart from on top of Mt. Kenya, and we did not want to use a truck. It was then decided that Santa would come in by helicopter. The RAF was approached and permission granted. This was probably due to the large number of RAF children in the group. The party was then organised for the 24th December. In the middle of the month all the parcels were delivered, neatly parcelled, and age and sex noted on each one. This saved us an awful lot of work. Time of Santa's arrival was timed for 2.30pm. Two elves were assigned to assist.

Big day arrived and the children began to get together about mid morning. Games had been organised and a band played music for most of the time. All

the presents were put in about ten red sacks which had been made by the tailor and labelled with age and sex. The chopper was loaded up at about 2pm and Santa was delivered at 2.15pm. We also had a lot of coloured ribbon on board. We took off at about 2.20pm and flew around the field dropping ribbons and Santa (strapped in of course) waving to all the children. We could see that the children were congregated into a corner of the field and at 2.30pm we came in to land. A small truck was standing by to take Santa to where the children were waiting. There were certainly lots of happy faces and cheers. A small tent had been set up and Santa made his way into it with the elves, and all the bags put around him.

One of the committee had got a list of names and then each child was called. A duplicate copy was held by the elves and as each child came forward the elves took a Christmas present out of the appropriate bag, gave it to Santa who, after the child had a quick sit down on his lap, gave the child its present. I will never forget the happy faces of the African children who had probably never seen Santa or had a Christmas present.

When all the presents had been given which took about two hours, Santa then called all the children around him and got them all to sing "silent night" with the words up on a blackboard. They all sang with great gusto!! The whole party lasted about three hours and then Santa said goodbye to the children and went back to the chopper amid loud cheers.

That was the end of my first performance of being Santa which I thoroughly enjoyed. I did the part of Santa quite often after that in various places the last ones were at the Seaford Ecumenical Mission where I was Santa from 1996 - 2003. Anne had made me a suit and it fitted perfectly. Each time at Seaford Santa arrived in a fire engine which the children all enjoyed.

Jim Chiverton

Recent Entries from the Parish Register

Funeral Services:	Joseph Craig Shierlaw	24 th October, 2012
	Robin Lindsay Stevens	13 th November, 2012
	Patricia June Britton Jones	15 th November, 2012
	Neil Raymond Finlay	16 th November, 2012



A Welcome and Thanksgiving service
for Tahlia Jade Millard on Sunday 2nd December 2012 at Mt. Compass.

Light in our Darkness

Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, Psalm 112:4a NIV

He called us his friends as we cried at his bedside in hospital, before he went to be with the Lord.

Jesus called us His friends.

¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other. John 15:14-17 NIV

When Israel was in the wilderness "He led them with the cloud by day, and all the night with a light of fire." Psalm 78:14 NASB

Driving back from Sunraysia, "Bible in the Bush" weekend, the outside temperature was 38°. We prayed for a little cooling as the sun burnt through the car windows. I prayed for clouds to cover us and a little rain for cooling, as all the sky was blue and no rain was forecast. Then to our amazement four clouds like splashes of paint appeared in the sky, I laughed and said "Oh look: one, two, three, four! They're coming nearer and nearer!" A little later there were clouds on the horizon. Suddenly there was a large dark cloud right over the top of us and fine rain began to fall. Clouds covered us most of the way home. We laughed and thanked our Father God.

The light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light because their actions were evil. John 3:19b NIV

They followed His star!

Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:1b-2 NIV

At Pentecost the disciples were waiting in their darkness and the fire alighted on their heads and they began to tell of the wonderful works of God:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4 NIV

Paul saw the light on the road to Damascus:

³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Acts 9:3-6 NIV

November 14th 2012 from Cairns North Queensland the sun could be seen eclipsed by the moon. Darkness covered its surface. The shadow caused the earth in that area to become dark for about two minutes, so that everything became quiet. The birds began to sing night songs and settle again for sleep. The moon moved on and the sun shone again.

In Jerusalem darkness covered the land for three hours as Jesus died on the Cross. He faced the darkness for us as the Father turned his face away.

³³At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). Mark 15:33-34. NIV

Ah, strong, strong love that binds my heart

3. When sin's morass brings horror dark,
When heart's engulfed in vision stark,
When soul's a-pant for sight of Thee,
Thou sendest pain of Calvary;
Ah, strong strong love that stoops from high
And bids me to Thy bosom fly.
4. When all around is sin and pain,
And death is near and life is vain,
Thy glory breaks from out the tomb
As new life issues from its womb,
And I am caught to You on high,
Where strong strong love can never die.

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Where can we find the love

1. Where can we find the love
That fills every longing?
Where can we find the love
That binds us in one?
Is it from high above?
Does it dwell here below?
Where can we find that love—
Do you know?
2. I heard a Man once say
'Believe in the Father!
I will show you the way—
Believe in the Son!

Come now to Me and drink,
Live in the Spirit's flow,
There you will find that love—
You will know!

3. See why the Father loves
The Son so completely!
See how the Father's loved
So much by the Son!
Jesus gives up His life,
Our Father's will is done—
Action of love for us—
They are One.

4. See now the Spirit brings
God's life to His children,
Cleanses and fills all things
With light and with love,
Here now the Family sings
Praises below, above,
Praise to the Trinity—
God of love!

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When diamonds look their best

The text I have chosen for today, (The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms. Deuteronomy 37:27) is one that had always been a great favourite of mine, but now, since I have passed through the darkness of bereavement, it has taken on a dimension that is almost impossible for me to describe. Just as a precious diamond is best seen against a dark velvet background, so does the truth of God shine more beautifully when set against those black moments of life such as death and bereavement. The truth of God shines most beautifully at any time but, believe me, never more illustriously than when set against the darkness of a bitter and heart-rending experience.

Father, I see that grief and sadness can be the backdrop and setting against which Your truth and comfort shine more beautifully than ever. Help me, whenever I am engulfed by such feelings, to expect and await a new discovery of You. Amen.

(Every Day with Jesus devotions by Selwyn Hughes, November 15 2012)

¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:10 NIV

Christine McLean

Miracles still happen!

In the 1950's - 60's my mother lived in Plymouth, Devon, in an old Victorian Rectory. It was the "top flat" with Roy Harris and his wife Mary, and children living on the two lower levels.

Roy of course was an ordained Church of England Minister but during the war had been taken prisoner (he was a Marine Commando) by the Germans and was released home at the end of the war.

Towards the end of the war Roy's father (who was also a Minister) and his mother woke up suddenly in the middle of the night with a sense of fear and foreboding. They sensed inwardly that Roy although a prisoner, (they knew this) was in grave danger.

They got out of bed, dressed quickly and went into their church next door and prayed fervently for some time for his safety in Germany. This was the middle of the night English time.

Several years later in conversation with his father, Roy mentioned that he had been very fortunate in being repatriated.

An order had come through (Germany was losing the war) from high command late in the war that the high ranking officers (Roy was one) were to be taken outside and shot that morning.

Yes, you've guessed - it was the exact time that Roy's parents felt he was in great danger, although he was a prisoner. It was exactly the same date. At the last moment further orders came through and the execution was cancelled, probably because of fear of repercussion.

This is a true story.

God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform!

Meg Skuce

Sin

The most perfect definition of sin that I know of is given by Isaiah in 53:6: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way." Turning to our own way is the essence of sin. We think our way is wiser than God's way....This is the crux of our life. This is the difference between revival and a dead church. This is the difference between a Spirit-filled life and a self-filled life. Who's running it? Who's the boss? Whose wisdom is prevailing -the wisdom of God or the wisdom of man?

The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia Daily Prayer Notes

27th November 2012

How to wreck a church

It has been tried across the centuries - in public arenas, through mob violence and by official banning. In the first three centuries of the New Testament church, ten massive persecutions took place, and the Roman emperor Diocletian even had a medal struck - inscribed with the boast, 'The Christian religion is destroyed, and the worship of the gods is restored.' But - as Bishop William Greer of Manchester once told his critic during a Television interview - "The church will stand at the grave of the BBC, the Independent Television Authority and all other institutions knocking around the world today." Those might sound like brave words only, were it not for the assurance of Jesus Christ that the gates of hell itself will not prevail against the Church.

We Christians today are astonished, not so much at the ever-continuing advance in the 2.3 billion-strong family of Jesus Christ worldwide, but rather at the amazing failure of our critics to learn from history. Naturally we weep when a Janani Luwum, or a Mehdi Dibaj is martyred. Such martyrs are numbered by the thousand today, as they were twenty centuries ago. But the sweep of civilization indicates that the greater the pressure on the church from its outside persecutors, the stronger tends to be its growth.

The atheist Philip Pulman has declared, 'Without a doubt Christianity will cease to exist in a few years.' He might have done better to heed the historian, T.R. Glover, 'The final disappearance of Christianity has been prophesied so often as to be no longer interesting.'

And yet a church CAN be wrecked. To read the letters of the New Testament is to understand that although persecution from outside was bitter and powerful, the real dangers arose from men within the church's boundaries, who - like others of 'broad' outlook who were to follow them - 'creep into the ministry, but they are generally cunning enough to conceal the breadth of their minds beneath Christian phraseology' (C.H. Spurgeon, college address, 1874).

A prime example of the New Testament warnings occurs in Paul's letter to Titus, appointed to lead the church in Crete. Writing of such false teachers, the apostle declares, 'They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good' (Titus 1:16).

'Detestable...!' Paul is not writing of the Roman empire (of which Crete became a part in 67 AD). Nor was he fearful of other religions. Zeus was supposedly born in Crete, and Bacchus was also worshipped there - but Zeus and Bacchus, together with Osiris, Jupiter, Artemis and a host of other deities would all have to move aside with the preaching of Jesus. The real enemy was from within. The false teachers within the Church were plausible in their appearance - 'claiming to know God'; they were human in their authority - presenting 'the

commands of men who reject the truth' (the correct reading of v.14); they were rebellious in their attitudes - 'rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers.'

What is it about false teaching? First it dazzles, finding its ways into magazines and onto television news programmes and book displays. It also deceives - drawing the unwary half a degree off course. It then distorts, for the principle of the ever-widening angle will eventually see church members ten years down the line embracing teachings that are far removed from Scripture. And, finally, it destroys. Congregations slowly die. And the brilliant shooting star that had once drawn gasps from admirers drops into the darkness and is forgotten. The books end up in Oxfam shops, but the damage has been done.

The identikit of Crete's false teachers is not uncommon throughout the story of the Church. The teachings may vary across a wide range, spanning between the blatancy of a Bishop Spong ("We wrote the Bible; we can re-write the Bible") to the extremism of semi-sectarianism that asserts, "Yes, the Cross is important - but we've moved on further now." How do false teachers come across?

Titus was urged to recognize them as the big talkers (1:10); also as the peace-breakers, upsetting and dividing whole households and fellowships. They were to be recognised as the truth-warpers, with their twisting of a single issue into a major mandatory tenet. Such has always been the case. Ultimately they were the death-brokers, for just as all things that the pure ever touch tend to result in purity, so all that the 'corrupted' deal with will end in corruption (1:15).

That, very largely, is how a church becomes wrecked. It happens from within.

The question always lies before Bible people and Gospel people; how are false leaders in the Church to be resisted? The answer is the same as that given to Titus. First - we are to silence them by our teaching (v.11), and never to give in - but rather to out-preach them. We are also to correct them by our firmness (v.13) - with the aim of winning them around. This may have to include 'fencing' the pulpit, monitoring the bookstall and guarding church leadership appointments (v.5-9). Further, we are to expose them by our very lifestyle (v.16). As often as not, false teaching will finally betray its nature in its boasting, lying, sexual deviation, cheating and avarice (v.12).

Self-control and self-vigilance on our own part are vital, 'so that in every way we may make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive' (2:10). The alternative is.... Detestable.

Richard Bewes OBE is former Rector of All Souls Church, Langham Place, and Prebendary Emeritus of St Paul's Cathedral. He is a member of Anglican Mainstream's Steering Committee. (Website: www.richardbewes.com)

The Most Precious Possession

"Get away!" the elderly man screams.

"Get away, you can't have this! It's the only thing I've got! Get away!" He tries frantically to get Vijay away from his Proclaimer as he yells, "This is the only thing I kept when I escaped!"

He thinks this younger man is there to steal it.



Vijay's words rush together as he tries to explain who he is. "I'm not here to take your Proclaimer. I am a team leader for Faith Comes By Hearing. I work for the place that makes these Proclaimers."

"Where did you get this?"

As the man calms down, he explains that he had been part of a listening group. When hundreds of extremists attacked the village, killing Christians, he fled for his life, taking nothing but the Proclaimer with him. It was the only thing he saved.

Vijay explains that he and his family, too, fled from the mob. He was walking through the refugee camp when he heard the audio Word of God coming from somewhere. He followed this—the sweetest of all sounds—to the little makeshift lean-to where he found the elderly man sitting, listening to God's Word.

For four days before fleeing for his life, Vijay received phone calls telling him that if he did not renounce Christianity, he would die. Then, hundreds of extremists flooded the village, beating and murdering people. One man was hacked to pieces, thrown into a church, and the church set on fire.

Now, as Vijay walks among the almost 5,000 people living in the refugee camp, the confusion, pain, fear, and loss are palpable around him—a woman staring blankly into space, a terrified child clutching a toy, an old man stumbling, crying for help, babies



screaming incessantly. Then he hears God's Word in his heart language being spoken—and follows this, the most beautiful and comforting of all sounds.

Life in the midst of death; light in the midst of darkness. God's Word, the

most precious, valuable thing to possess.

Vijay broke down as he shared this story with us.

Vijay is currently working to start Faith Comes By Hearing listening groups in the six refugee camps. Pray for his safety as he does so, and for all of our brothers and sisters enduring persecution.

<http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/church-partner-report/2008/12/most-precious-possession>

The Proclaimer

A Ministry Tool like No Other

We consider the Proclaimer to be a gift from God. Why? Because the inspiration for it came during three days of fasting and prayer by the entire staff of Faith Comes By Hearing. The Proclaimer is a digital player dedicated to playing God's Word in the local heart language.



How does the Proclaimer work?

An installed microchip contains Scriptures in the heart language; the chip will not erase or wear out from frequent playing.

The battery will play for 15 hours and can be recharged enough times to play the entire New Testament more than 1,000 times.

The Proclaimer has a built-in generator and solar panel to charge the battery.

The solar panel, in addition to charging the battery, will run the Proclaimer even without battery power as long as there is sunlight.

The sound is digital quality and loud enough to be heard clearly by groups as large as 300.

The Proclaimer was developed primarily as a playback device for poor and illiterate people who may not have any other source to hear God's Word. Our goal is to use the Proclaimer in the majority of our Faith Comes By Hearing programs worldwide.

<http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/proclaimer>

Treasure worth having

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

The story is told of a wealthy man who loved to collect rare works of art. He had everything in his collection, from Picasso to Raphael. Vietnam War broke out, his son died in battle while rescuing a soldier and his father grieved deeply.

One day a young man came to his home with a large package. "I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life," he said. "I'm not much of an artist; but I think you will want to have this picture". It was a portrait of his son and tears filled his eyes at the way his boy's personality had been captured in the painting. "It is a gift," said the young man. That painting became most prized possession.

A few months later, the wealthy man died. Many influential people gathered at the auction of his famous collection of paintings. "We will start the bidding with this picture," said the auctioneer, holding up the portrait of the son. "Who will bid for this picture?" There was silence and angry muttering as they waited for the valuable paintings to be auctioned. Finally, a voice came from the back of the room. It was the family gardener. "I will give \$10 for the painting It's all I can afford."

"Give it to him for \$10," shouted the crowd. "Let's get on with the auction." The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, going twice, sold for \$10." Then he stood up. "The auction is over," he announced. "The will stipulates that whoever buys the painting of the son inherits the entire estate. The man who takes the son gets everything!"

God gave his Son, Jesus Christ, two thousand years ago to die on a cruel cross. His message today is the same. Whoever takes the Son gets everything.

From "A Farmer's Year" by Angus Buchan

In the eleventh century King Henry III of Bavaria grew tired of court life and the pressures of being a monarch. He made an application to Prior Richard at the local monastery, asking to be accepted as a Contemplative and spend the rest of his life in the monastery. "Your Majesty", said Prior Richard, "do you understand that the pledge here is one of obedience? That will be hard because you are a King." "I understand", said King Henry. "The rest of my life I will be obedient to you, as Christ leads you." "Then I will tell you what to do," said Prior Richard. "Go back to your throne, and serve faithfully in the place where God has put you." When King Henry died, a statement was written: The King learned to rule by obedience. When we tire of our responsibilities, it helps to remember that God has planted us in a certain place and told us to be a good accountant, or teacher or father or mother or anything else.

Men ought always to pray.

"One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up." Luke 18:1 NLT

If men ought always to pray and not to faint, much more Christian men. Jesus has sent His church into the world on the same errand upon which He Himself came, and this mission includes intercession. What if I say that the church is the world's priest? Creation is dumb, but the church is to find a mouth for it. It is the church's high privilege to pray with acceptance. The door of grace is always open for her petitions, and they never return empty-handed. The veil was rent for her, the blood was sprinkled upon the altar for her, God constantly invites her to ask what she wills. Will she refuse the privilege which angels might envy her? Is she not the bride of Christ? May she not go in unto her King at every hour? Shall she allow the precious privilege to be unused? The church always has need for prayer. There are always some in her midst who are declining, or falling into open sin. There are lambs to be prayed for, that they may be carried in Christ's bosom? the strong, lest they grow presumptuous; and the weak, lest they become despairing. If we kept up prayer-meetings four-and-twenty hours in the day, all the days in the year, we might never be without a special subject for supplication. Are we ever without the sick and the poor, the afflicted and the wavering? Are we ever without those who seek the conversion of relatives, the reclaiming of back-sliders, or the salvation of the depraved? Nay, with congregations constantly gathering, with ministers always preaching, with millions of sinners lying dead in trespasses and sins; in a country over which the darkness of Romanism is certainly descending; in a world full of idols, cruelties, devilries, if the church doth not pray, how shall she excuse her base neglect of the commission of her loving Lord? Let the church be constant in supplication, let every private believer cast his mite of prayer into the treasury.

<http://www.ewordtoday.com/spurgeon/1113pm.htm>



<http://www.agnusday.org/comics/228/luke-18-01-08-2007>

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Editor's Note.

Thank you to all who contribute. It is you that make this Edition what it is. I just arrange the pieces. I would encourage writers to continue to submit articles that would provide information about life in our parish and would spur one another on toward love and good deeds and encourage one another. These articles could be left at the church office, or email to brentonmclean1@gmail.com

Brenton McLean, Editor