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**NTCG Chesterfield’ Online**

Volume Number 1 1st Quarter Date January 2012

***Welcome...***

***We’ve been absent for a while, but we’re back!***

***Re-titled and ready for new beginnings. We’ve changed from being published monthly, to quarterly. I hope you’ll enjoy our new home here on*** [www.NTCGChesterfieldOnline.weebly.com](http://www.NTCGChesterfieldOnline.weebly.com)

***You can print these pages if you wish to but it must be for your personal use only. Permission has been given to us to use the items and fun things on the pages inside.***

***So go on, have some fun! Just don’t sell it as your own!***

***To have your Pictures, Poems, Encouragements, Testimonies, Announcements, Prayer Requests, Greetings, Puzzles, Recipes, Tips etc. in the next*** *publication* ***please email me at***[***ntcgchesterfield@hotmail.com***](ntcgchesterfield@hotmail.com) ***Please add “Submissions” in the subject line.***

***Last date for entries to be include*d in our next publication will be Sunday March 26th**

**From your Editor...** 

Hello!

It’s been a while, I know and there are lots to catch up on. Do you have little ones that you read stories to? Well, can I introduce you to our daily bible stories? You can find it here come back each day for a new one. There’s also a children’s publication called “children Worship too!” which is here. I hope you and your little one find lots of pleasure in these publications. Why not let me know how you get on? I’d love to hear from you!

Remember, if you have a story, poem, recipe or anything else that you’d like to see in the next edition, send it to me by email, the address is on the front page.

**Dates, Events Notifications for Your Diary**

**Valentine’s Day**

**Feb 14th**

**Ash Wednesday - the beginning of Lent**

**Feb 22nd**

**Mother’s Day**

**March 18th**

**“Yesterday has passed and gone**

**Tomorrow is a mystery**

**But today is a gift, that’s why it’s call the present”**

**God’s Word Today**

Psalm 2:2  
The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed.

**THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

Just reading a newspaper or watching a newscast can be a terrifying experience these days. The horrors of our modern world are mind-boggling. We search for some shred of sanity, and we find almost none. World leaders appear to be bent on destruction, and our voices simply aren't heard. It has ever been thus. In the time of King David, in the time of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in many times since, the rulers of the world have given little heed to the teachings of God or the concerns of His people. For this reason, we, as children of God, need to hold fast to our faith and spread God'[s Word wherever and whenever we can. The only true stabilizing force we have in this life is the Word of God. God's Word will be our shield and our strength in the most troubled of times. Turn to it daily, and you will be renewed.

**MY PRAYER...**

Heavenly Father, calm my soul, place Your peace within my heart, and be a source of sanity in my life. When things look most dismal, shine Your light upon me.

Amen.

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**Winter days**

**By Anushka, on 15th January 2012**

At this time of year it’s easy to feel down. The daylight hours are short, and it’s probably still dark when you get up and go to work, and when you leave work to come home as well. In the UK this year it’s been a wet and windy winter so far. Whenever you try and go for a walk outside often the weather sends you back indoors only a few minutes later.

The holiday season is over, and many people will be facing the Christmas bills coming through the door, and the winter utility bills. Most people feel a bit short of cash, and it can feel like winter is going to drag on for ages still because we have the rest of January and February to go.

If you have problems in general in life it may be easier to feel overwhelmed at this time of year, and the lack of sunlight can be shown to have a negative effect on those who suffer from depression and seasonal affective disorder.

So how can we cheer ourselves up? First, a few practical things:

* Spend some time with people you love
* Indulge in humour – watch a funny TV program, or read a cartoon book, or find some jokes on the internet
* Cook yourself some warming stews and casseroles, a bit of comfort food
* Make the most of rainy or cold afternoons by curling up with a good book or film

Next, a few spiritual things:

* Don’t forget to say your prayers and remember that you have a Father in heaven who is always there to listen
* Count your blessings – try and focus on all the good things you have in life – food to eat, shelter from the weather, clothes to keep warm, and central heating if you are lucky enough to have it
* Try and do something nice for someone else – it may make you forget about yourself for a while
* Remember that all things come from God – even the rain and the wind have a purpose, and before too long spring will be on the way
* Find some comforting Bible passages and try and read them every day to remind you of the comfort you have in your faith

*“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11: 28-30)*

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NEED WASHING??

A little girl had been shopping with her Mom in Target. She must have been 6 years old, this beautiful red haired, freckle faced image of innocence. It was pouring outside. The kind of rain that gushes over the top of rain gutters, so much in a hurry to hit the earth it has no time to flow down the spout. We all stood there under the awning and just inside the door of the Target.  
  
We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day. I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the world. Memories of running, splashing so carefree as a child came pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day.  
  
The little voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trance we were all caught in 'Mom let's run through the rain,' she said.  
'What?' Mom asked.  
  
'Let's run through the rain!' She repeated

'No, honey. We'll wait until it slows down a bit,' Mom replied.  
  
This young child waited about another minute and repeated: 'Mom, let's run through the rain,'  
  
'We'll get soaked if we do,' Mom said...  
  
'No, we won't, Mom... That's not what you said this morning,' the young girl said as she tugged at her Mom's arm.  
  
‘This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?’  
  
'Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said, 'If God can get us through this, he can get us through anything!'  
  
The entire crowd stopped dead silent. I swear you couldn't hear anything but the rain.. We all stood silently. No one came or left in the next few minutes.  
Mom paused and thought for a moment about what she would say. Now some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said. But this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith.  
  
'Honey, you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If GOD lets us get wet, well maybe we just needed washing,' Mom said.  
  
Then off they ran. We all stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles. They held their shopping bags over their heads just in case. They got soaked. But they were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars.  
  
And yes, I did. I ran. I got wet. I needed washing.  
  
Circumstances or people can take away your material possessions, they can take away your money, and they can take away your health. But no one can ever take away your precious memories...So, don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories every day. To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.

I HOPE YOU STILL TAKE THE TIME TO RUN THROUGH THE RAIN.  
  
They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

Thanks to Lillian for submitting this.

Today's Stress Tip

### Smile at people.

Note how you feel next time someone smiles at you. Probably welcome, cheered, confident, warm, appreciated. That's the power you have to make others feel, simply by smiling at them. A smile can instantly disarm a bad mood, ease a tense relation-ship, persuade another to cooperate, initiate a friendship. And you always have this potent tool at your disposal. When you smile, studies have shown, good things happen to you, too. You become more relaxed and cheerful. Not to mention the good vibes you'll get from reciprocated smiles. Much too serious and grim-faced? Wear an occasional smile.

Brought to you by courtesy of Third Way Media.

*To receive a smile, give one away.*

*The shortest distance between two people is a smile.*

*"Mommy, you know why I was looking up with my eyes opened while I was praying? Because, I was looking up at God and smiling."*

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**Prayer:**

Father in heaven

You are an awesome God. You deserve all glory, honour and praise. Thank You for all that I am able to do, see, hear, and feel in Jesus’ name.

Amen

***Requests***

*In your prayers please remember:*

*Our bereaved families*

*Our communities*

*The elderly & infirm*

*Our families, neighbours & friends*

**Visit us online for more inspiration.** <http://ntcgchesterfield.org/videos.aspx>

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[**Click here for your Praise time!**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ_b4-W1dSc&feature=related)

To those celebrating this month

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**11 Tips for Studying the Bible at the Dinner Table**

***Pastor Mark Driscoll***

Because parents love their children the deepest, know them the best, and are with them the most, they are best suited to be a child's primary pastor who evangelizes them, teaches them, loves them, prays for and with them, and reads Scripture to them.

Deuteronomy 4:9 says, *"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children" (ESV).* Likewise, Prov. 1:8 says, *"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching" (ESV).* Also, Eph. 6:1-4 says, *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honour your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.' Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (ESV).*

Both mothers and fathers are exhorted to make it their responsibility to pastor their children. This does not mean that such things as church activities or Christian school education are forbidden, but rather that they are supplements to the loving biblical instruction of Christian parents.

Because parents are with their children at the most opportune times, they are wise to integrate their biblical instruction as God providentially provides teachable moments. It is wise for families to have regular and planned times for such things as Bible reading, prayer and worshipful singing. Nevertheless, there are moments throughout the course of a child's day when his or her heart is open for strategic instruction. A Spirit-led, prayerful parent will capture sacred moments to instruct and/or correct their child as needed.

Perhaps the clearest command for integrated parenting is Deut. 6:4-9 ESV:

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."*

While it is likely that every Christian parent would agree with these principles of pastoral parenting, most would likely also admit they struggle to know how to make this happen practically. So, as a pastor and daddy, I took some experiences with my wife Grace and our five children, ages three to eleven, and began sharing them with our church.

Some months ago we started a new tradition at the Driscoll dining table that has been a blessing. Whoever is taking their turn setting the table ensures that our "dinner Bible," as the kids call it, is sitting in front of "Poppa Daddy," as the kids call me.

Throughout the course of our dinner together, we chat about how the day went, how everyone is doing, and whom we can pray for, as well as discuss a section of Scripture. Over the years we have always made it a point to read Scripture to the children when they were little (especially at bed time), and help them develop personal daily Bible reading habits once they learned to read for themselves. However, we struggled to find a way to do regular family devotions with five children of different ages (3-11) and attention spans.

Still, the dinner Bible discussions led by Grace and me have been a huge hit. Every time we sit down for dinner, the dinner Bible is in its place on the table, opened to the section of Scripture we will discuss that evening by one of the enthusiastic kids. We often have some really insightful conversations around the dinner Bible as the younger kids, especially the boys, seem to be able to handle longer and more reflective discussions when their hands are busy as they eat. Also, with the casual conversation over dinner I have noticed that everyone gets an opportunity to speak as we take turns chewing our food, and our dinners last longer than they had before because everyone is engaged.

To help parents learn the Bible and teach it to their own children, we have built upon the preaching of the Word at our Sunday services. For example, we are currently in the middle of a seven month study of 1-2 Peter called *Trial: 8 Witnesses from 1-2 Peter* *(Trial)*. As part of this study, we have created a *Dinner Bible Booklet* for parents to do with their children over the dinner table, and a *Community Group Study Booklet*, for our adult discussion groups.

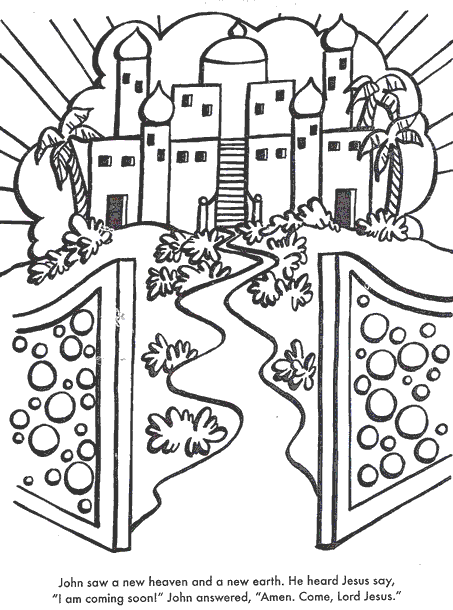
**11 TIPS**

The following suggestions are offered based upon my experience with our children over dinner, while using the *Dinner Bible Booklet*, and what we teach the parents at our church to do. These steps are intended to help nurture Bible study with parents and their children:

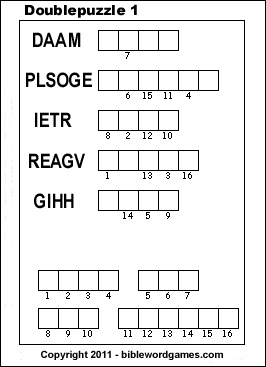
1. Try and eat dinner with your entire family regularly.
2. It may be helpful for Mom and Dad to sit next to one another to lead the family discussion.
3. Open the meal by asking if there is anyone or anything to pray for.
4. A different family member opens in prayer each night, covering any requests. This way each family member learns to pray aloud.
5. Discuss how everyone's day went throughout the meal.
6. Have a Bible in front of the parents in a translation that is age appropriate for the kids' reading level. Have someone (parent or child) open the Bible to the assigned text in the Dinner Bible Booklet and read it aloud while everyone is eating and listening.
7. A parent then reads the word for the day from the Dinner Bible Booklet, and gives the corresponding definition provided in the booklet and/or paraphrases the word's definition at an age-appropriate level.
8. Ask the discussion questions in the Dinner Bible Booklet, and if your kids are older (in other words, junior high and up) then you may also consider using the Community Group discussion questions.
9. Let the conversation happen naturally. Carefully listen to the kids and let them answer the questions. Fill in whatever they miss, or lovingly and gently correct whatever they get wrong so as to help them.
10. If the Scriptures convict you of sin, repent as you need to your family, and share appropriately honest parts of your life story so the kids can see Jesus' work in your life and your need for Him too. (This demonstrates gospel humility.)
11. At the end of dinner, ask the kids if they have any questions for you.

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It’s Your Colouring Page to Print – Time to Relax



**Print to use**



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| **2 CHARS** AM AN LO MY TR  **3 CHARS** ATE EAR ERI ERR EWE FIR HOD HOR IRA LAP | NAY PUT RAW SHE TAR TRY URI YET  **4 CHARS** ALAS EAST EDGE FIVE GAVE HAIR PLOW RIDE | SITS WORE  **5 CHARS** ADLAI ANIAM DRIVE EAGLE OLIVE PEARL  **6 CHARS** HIDING SHIMRI | Fill-In Crossword Puzzle |

**LAUGHTER IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL**

LAUGH DOWN YOUR STRESSES

You have to laugh together, and sometimes laugh hard, at yourself, at a situation, at yourselves. Laugh with, but never at, each other...

Prov. 15:13 - A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance...

Prov. 17:22 - A merry heart doeth good like a medicine

## Church Bulletin Bloopers:

* At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early, and listen to our choir practice.
* Don't let worry kill you — let the church help.
* Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High."
* Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary.
* Please join us as we show our support for Amy and Alan in preparing for the girth of their first child.
* Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
* The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."

**Got any “funnies” to share?? Email them to me for the next edition.**



**Honestly**Lysa TerKeurst

**"Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress." I Timothy 4:15 (NIV)**

**Devotion:**

I think we all get to a place sometimes in our life where we have to honestly assess, "How I am doing?"   
  
It's not really a conversation I have with a friend or family member. It's one of those middle of the night contemplations where there's no one to fool. There's no glossing over the realities staring me in the face.   
  
I know certain things about myself need to change, but it's easier to make excuses than tackle them head on. Rationalizations are so appealing:   
  
I'm good in every other area.   
I make so many sacrifices already.  
I need this comfort in this season of life - I'll deal with it later.   
I just can't give this up.   
The Bible doesn't specifically say this is wrong.   
It's not really a problem; if I wanted to make a change, I could - I just don't want to right now.   
Oh for heaven's sake, everyone has issues, so what if this is mine?   
  
And on and on and on.   
  
Excuses always get me nowhere fast. That's why a few years ago I had to get honest in the area of healthy eating. Even if that's not your issue, I suspect these same scripts of rationalization have played out in your mind over other things.   
  
So, the cycle continues day after day, week after week, year after year.   
  
A whole lifetime can be spent making excuses, giving in, feeling guilty, resolving to do better, mentally beating ourselves up for not keeping our resolve, feeling like a failure, and then resigning that things can't change.   
  
One day, I finally decided I didn't want to spend a lifetime in this cycle.   
  
Nothing changed until I made the choice to change. I had to want it, spiritually, physically and mentally. The battle really is in all three areas.   
  
**Spiritually:** In Colossians 3:1-5 we are told to set our minds and our hearts on things above. In order to do this, I have to put to death whatever belongs to my earthly nature which sets itself up as an idol in my life.   
  
Idolatry is trying to get my needs met outside the will of God. I couldn't deny it. This described food for me at times.

For the sake of my spiritual health, it was time to get honest.

More times than I cared to admit, I turned to food when I should have turned to God. I relied on the temporary high of food to try and quiet the cries of my spiritually hungry soul. And no matter how I tried to excuse away my struggles with my weight, I wasn't at peace.

**Physically:** I couldn't keep my weight stable in a medically healthy range for any period of time. I would loose weight, but then I would always gain it back. And then to top it all off, when a doctor did some tests to determine my body mass index, my percentage of body fat had crept up to the "danger" category.

What?! I knew I was feeling sluggish and frustrated by the extra weight, but no one would have looked at me and thought I was at risk. Except now a doctor was telling me that if I didn't make some changes, I could be in trouble. The tests told me things the naked eye couldn't.

For the sake of my physical health, it was time to get honest.

I needed a healthy eating plan - not a fad diet. I needed a plan that would help me make realistic changes to improve my overall health and help me shed the excess weight the right way.

I couldn't deny it. It does matter what I eat. My weight is a reflection of what I consume.   
  
**Mentally:** Don't settle. Don't compromise. What happens when you cut the "com" off of the word compromise? You're left with a "promise."   
  
We were made for more than compromise. We were made for God's promises in all areas of our life. I am made for more than a vicious cycle of eating, gaining, stressing - eating, gaining, stressing...

For the sake of my emotional health, it was time to be honest with myself.

I was made to consume food. But, food was never supposed to consume me.

Sweet friend, getting honest with myself- spiritually, physically, and mentally- in my struggles with my weight was a crucial first step to finding victory. Is there an honest admission you need to make today?

I'd love to walk with you through the process of change. It's why I wrote my new book, "Made to Crave: Satisfying Your Deepest Desires with God, Not Food." And it's why I'm sharing realistic, researched-based eating plans I now use [on my blog today.](http://www.crosswalkmail.com/aystksmptbtnmlpwnyzgvnrvmsnldzzlbhmvkkwmsdpmtkb_vkvkypvjpkgk.html)

Remember, as a Jesus girl, it is possible to rise up, do battle with our issues, and using the Lord's strength in us, defeat them - spiritually, physically, and mentally - to the glory of God.

Dear Lord,

Help me be courageous enough to speak honestly to You and to myself in those areas I'm giving in to compromise. Show me how to rely on Your strength for more self-discipline in my life - not for my glory but for Yours. In Jesus' Name,

Amen

**All You Really Need**

***The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. DEUTERONOMY 33:27***

I want you to think for a moment of what you'd say to your spouse if you knew you were going to die. What words of comfort would you bring? Where would you point him or her for hope? What counsel would you give that would most certainly be true and not disappoint?

Think. What would you say? How would you pray?

Over 300 years ago, Obadiah Holmes must have grappled with questions like those. Evidently, Obadiah Holmes built his house upon the rock of Jesus Christ. And in a love letter he wrote to his wife before he died, it was only nat-ural to gently remind her to trust Him:

When I am removed, consider the Lord as your husband, as your father, as your Lord and Saviour, who has said that whom He loves, He loves to the end. And He will not leave you nor forsake you, but will carry you through all until He brings you to glory. Therefore, lift up your head and be not discouraged. Say to your soul, "Why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God and trust in His name," and you shall not be disappointed.

And now, my dear wife, whom I love as my own soul, I commit you to the Lord, who has been a gracious, merciful God to us all our days, not   
once doubting that He will be gracious to you in life—or death. He will carry you through the valley of tears with His own supporting hand. To   
Him I commit you for counsel, wisdom, and strength, and to keep you blameless till the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be all glory,   
honour, and praise.

What would you say to your spouse if you knew your time was up?

**Something to DISCUSS…**

Talk about this love letter and what it means to you. How is this husband providing for his wife even in his death?

**PRAY**

Throw your trust on Him today, the same way you've been doing your whole life long.

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**Are you Seeking God? Or would you like to know more?**

**The Pastor/Minister of the church that you attend can assist.**

**Or if you wish to you can contact our Pastor - Reverend Stan Notice on 01246 551906.**

**Leave your contact details and someone from his office will get back to you as soon as possible.**

***At the New Testament Church of God in Chesterfield we worship each Sunday at 10:15am for Sunday school, 11:30 for Morning Worship and6:30pm for Evening Worship and on Tuesday evenings we meet for Prayer and Bible Study from 7.30pm.***

***We want to invite you to come visit us at our church. Our address is 7 Compton Street in Chesterfield near the old football ground.***

***Find us*** [***here***](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=S40+4TA&ie=UTF8&t=h&ll=53.239001,-1.436613&spn=0.001541,0.003433&z=18&source=embed)

**Thank you**

**&**

**May God bless you**