



INSPIRE



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
10 - 16 MAY 2009



MANNOFIELD CHURCH

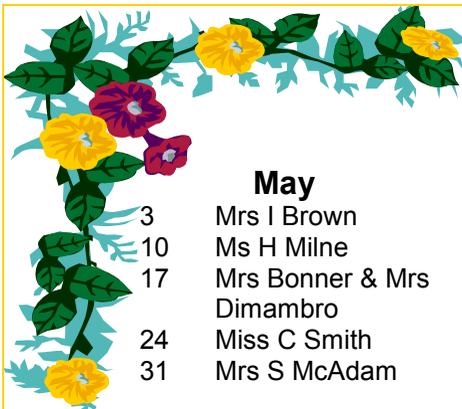
Scottish registered charity SCO 01680

CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY

Sun 3	10 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship followed by Sacrament of Communion
Wed 5	10.30 am	Midweek Service
Sun 10	10 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Wed 13	10.30 am	Midweek Service
Sun 17	10 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Wed 20	10.30 am	Midweek Service
Sun 24	10 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Tues 26	7.30 pm	Congregational Board
Wed 27	10.30 am	Midweek Service
Sun 31	10.am	Morning Worship
	3.15 pm	Craigielea
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship

Flower Calendar



May

3	Mrs I Brown
10	Ms H Milne
17	Mrs Bonner & Mrs Dimambro
24	Miss C Smith
31	Mrs S McAdam

Blessing

Just as I am, though tossed about
 With many a conflict,
 many a doubt,
 Fightings and fears within,
 without,
 O Lamb of God, I come.



PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for the next issue of *InSpire* is

THURSDAY 21 MAY

Material for *InSpire* should be deposited in the Church Office or emailed to:

roddy@mccollassociates.com
office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Dear Friends

John's Gospel contains many passages that begin with the words, 'I am'. These verses are metaphors to help us understand the person and work of Jesus Christ. One of my favourites is when Jesus says of himself, 'I am the true vine'. (John chapter 15)

The vine is a familiar image in Hebrew scripture. Vineyards were important to the agricultural life of the area. Extensive work was needed to prepare the ground and the vines were protected from thieves and animal predators. The prophets of the Old Testament often associated a successful harvest as a sign of God's pleasure; therefore we can assume that this indeed is how the humble vineyard owner of the time assessed his standing before God.

Jesus called himself the 'true vine', identifying his followers, then and now, as the branches. The branches are only strong when connected to the vine; the branches bear fruit when remaining in contact with the vine.

The metaphor of the vine is a very simple one. I guess that each one of us has a clear understanding of what it is trying to say.

Jesus calls on us to remain in him. Without Jesus Christ we can do nothing.

I am certain you won't hear any arguments from a Christian about the truth and value of this statement. But I often query the exclusiveness of such an interpretation. Are we saying that without Christ we are nothing? What of people who have no religious view - who have no attachment in their own mind to Christ? What of people of other faiths where Jesus is not recognised as overly special in the context of their standing with God?

For me it's quite simple. When Jesus died and was raised to life He was rightfully proclaimed 'Lord of all'. Easter was not in any way exclusive. It was not for some; it was not designated only for a few. Easter was for the whole world and for all eternity; for every person and every generation.

For the Christian, Jesus is Lord of life. He is the vine that sustains us and nourishes us. We are lucky – for we know this to be true and we meet Jesus half way in our relationship with Him.

For those who count themselves non Christian – we Christians must surely believe for them that Jesus is still their Lord – even if they themselves don't make that connection.

In Jesus God has showed his hand – and it is a hand of love. God's love reaches out to everyone and for those who don't or can't meet him half way surely God stretches out his hand of love and seeks to draw them into His embrace none-the-less.

In my book, each person in the world is loved by God and Jesus came and died that all might have life – that all might feed from God's Love and be fruitful in right living.

Jesus did this for those who believe, and also for those who struggle to believe in Him. For me when He says He is the true vine – He is making a statement of fact that is less exclusive than it is inclusive. Jesus is Lord of all!

Keith

Alisa's letterEco Congregation

Dear Friends,

There is a rhythm and pattern to the creation story in Genesis. As the creation unfolds, God declares that each new aspect of creation is good. The word occurs like a refrain throughout the story. On the sixth day, God declares everything that is made very good. Not only is each element of creation good, but the inner harmony of the whole earth with its times of light and dark, its seasons of growth and rest and its animals, plants and minerals is very good. The creation is a beautiful gift of God that manifests both resilience and fragility.



At times the earth seems to have the capacity to repair itself as forests are reborn and the spent soil becomes fertile again; at other times the earth is despoiled by the excessive demands we humans make on its resources. Species become extinct; once fertile land becomes a desert; the ice caps melt and the sea rises and pollution threatens the capacity of the planet to sustain life as we know it.

We are called to be stewards of the earth – to care for the land, the seas and the sky. We hold the earth in trust for God and for future generations. It has been said that the care of the earth may well be the most important theological issue of the 21st century. It is essential that we learn to live in harmony with the creation by protecting its rich diversity, conserving its resources and sharing its abundance with our neighbours in a just and wise way.

Here at Mannofield we have a newly formed Eco-Congregation Committee to help us as individuals and as a congregation be more faithful stewards of the earth. This team has already begun the first steps of a self-assessment to determine how we use our resources as a congregation. Our goal is to work as a team with all the other teams of our church to find ways to conserve energy, recycle materials and reduce waste, and ultimately reach the status of an Eco-Congregation. If you are interested in learning more about how we can work and live together to consume less, conserve more and create a more sustainable lifestyle, check out the Eco-Congregation website at:

www.ecocongregation.org/scotland/

I am filled with hope as our congregation takes the steps needed to achieve Eco-Congregation status and as we become more faithful stewards of this beautiful earth our home.

Grace and Peace,

Alisa Ferlicca

What our Minister Does?

Day two in the Life of our Minister

9am I find myself at my desk at the beginning of a working week. My usual pattern is to turn my thoughts to Sunday. I find a theme for the Sunday Service I am preparing. Sometimes this is based on the Lectionary Readings for the Week or I choose a theme first then search for Readings from the Bible that will give me access to the Bible's 'Word' in that theme or issue. Having found my theme I prepare the Order of Service - choosing Hymns to match the theme. Having done this early in the week it allows the theme to work away in my mind as I carry out my other tasks before further planning for the service and the preparation of the material itself later in the week.



10.am I also take time to think ahead to the various Easter services and plan out some service content.

10.20 am I prepare a Tribute for a Memorial Service later in the day.

11.00 am I visit the Dentist for a check-up.

11.45 am I complete my prayers for the Memorial service.

12.00 -12.30 Lunch

12.45 pm I leave the house and call in via the Church to pick up the hospital lists for the week. The last few weeks have been decidedly odd in that there have been very few names on the list. In my time in Mannofield it has been common to have four or five names on the ARI list and the same number on the Woodend list. In the last month we have had one name on these lists in total and one other lady I know of in Roxburghe House. While this is good news I am slightly concerned because there is a chance that others from Mannofield have been in and out of hospital, yet their names are not being recorded on the lists in the hospital. Patients or their families need to let the hospital know that they wish to be recorded on the Admissions Form as being a member of Mannofield Church – otherwise they will not appear on these lists that Ministers use to make the appropriate visits.

1.30-2.10pm I conduct a Memorial Service at Aberdeen Crematorium.

2.30–4.00pm After this I visit Woodend hospital for a single visit to the person named on my hospital list and then I head out to make calls at two Nursing Homes where a total of seven people are resident. I also manage a house call to someone bearing an illness at present but I don't stay long as a visitor from a distance away has arrived at the house at the same time.

6.45pm In the evening I first head off with my Presbytery hat on to attend a meeting of a Nominating Committee shortly to embark on the hunt for a new minister. My role along with two others is to advise the group on how to go about this important task.

8.15pm I manage to drop in for the last part of a meeting of our own Mission and Outreach Committee that was re-formed recently and is preparing for some work in the coming months.

9.00pm Home

All in all quite a productive day and as is mostly the case I am satisfied with what I have achieved.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid's history



For more than 60 years, Christian Aid has fought poverty, strengthened the poor, and turned hope into action.

1940s

In the aftermath of World War II, British and Irish church leaders met, determined to do everything possible to help European refugees who had lost everything.

The name they gave themselves was *Christian Reconstruction in Europe*. Their purpose was not to evangelise, but to alleviate suffering for ordinary people, no matter what their faith. Christian Reconstruction in Europe became a department of the British Council of Churches, and was eventually renamed the Department of Interchurch Aid and Refugee Service. In a decade, it raised £29,000.

1950s

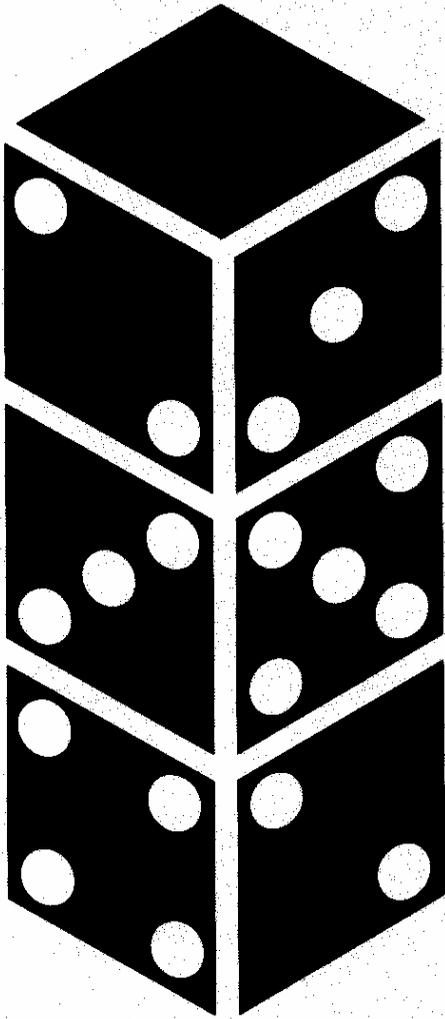
Janet Lacey became president in 1952. Christian Aid began to look beyond Europe and expanded its remit to support development work in newly independent nations in Africa and Asia, and respond to emergencies worldwide. It was involved in the creation of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) - an organisation dedicated to sending skilled volunteers to work in the developing world - and providing grants for Palestinian, Chinese and Korean refugees.

It made sure that the public was aware of continuing problems in the world by organising the first Christian Aid Week in 1957, and by famously building a replica of a refugee camp in the church of St Martin in the Fields in London. Since that first Christian Aid Week five decades ago, the little red envelope has dropped through literally tens of millions of letterboxes.

2000s

The 21st century has brought new challenges to Christian Aid. The so-called war on terror, climate change and the increasing number of natural disasters, and the fact that almost half the world's population live on less than \$2 a day, means its work is needed more than ever. In 2007 its annual income was £86.5 million and it now works with more than 650 overseas partners in around 50 countries.... putting into practice its aim of turning hope into action. But 60 years on from its founding, the fact that its still here isn't a victory. The world isn't getting any fairer.

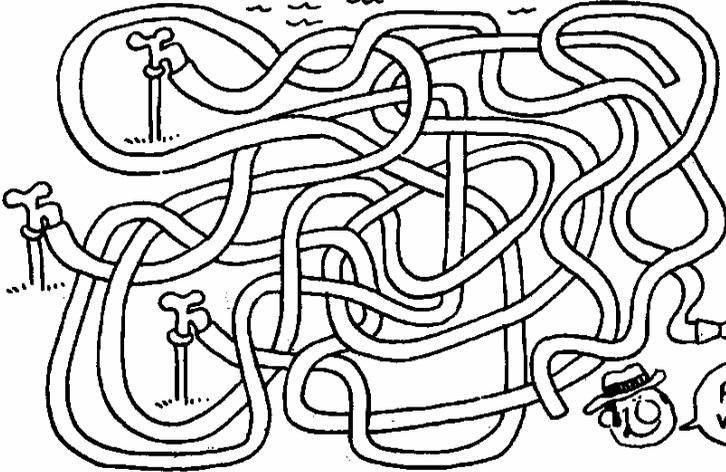
Children in Gaza are going to schools pockmarked with bullet holes. Parents are selling their daughters in marriage to earn the money so the family can survive a drought in Afghanistan. Life expectancy for women in Zimbabwe is now 34 years - it was 65 just a decade ago. The income of some multinational companies exceeds that of entire countries. So Christian Aid won't stop now. It will carry on tackling the causes of poverty. It will continue to support local organisations to deliver real, practical change. It will work so that everyone can fulfill their right to a decent life.



Looking at the stack of dice on the left, can you work out which numbers are on the top and the bottom?



WATER of LIFE



THE FARMER HAS LEFT ONE HOSE ON. CAN YOU HELP HIM FIND WHICH TAP TO TURN OFF?

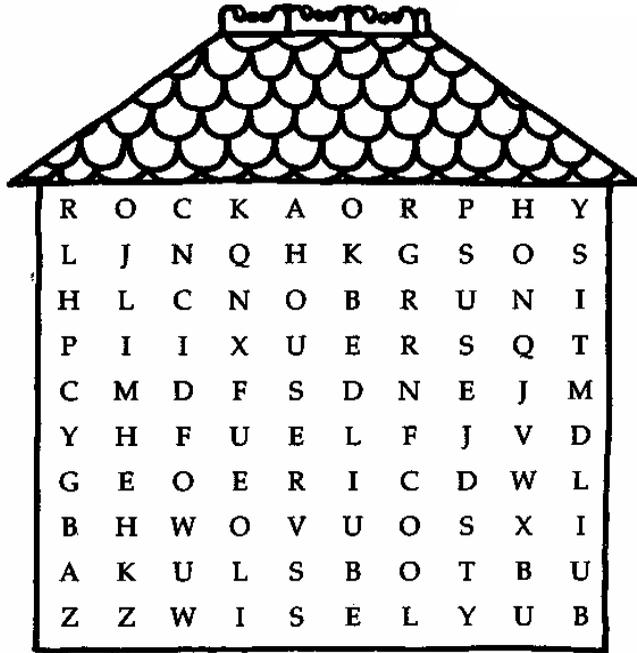
Read Job 36, verses 27-28!

RAIN

WHICH TWO UMBRELLAS ARE EXACTLY THE SAME?



Thank you, Father, for the rain!



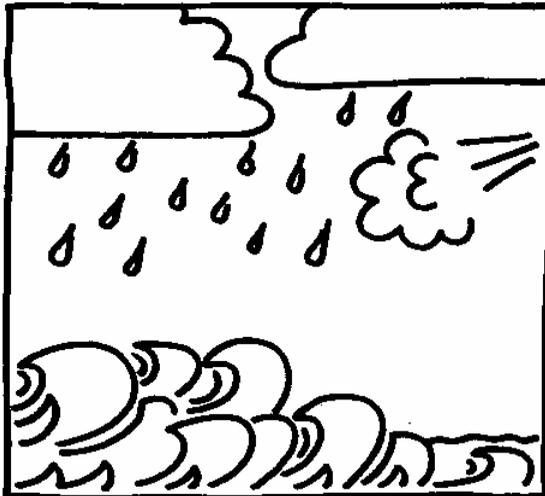
FIND THE WORDS
BELOW IN
THE HOUSE

CHOOSE WISELY

BUILD YOUR
HOUSE ON ROCK

BUILD YOUR LIFE
ON JESUS

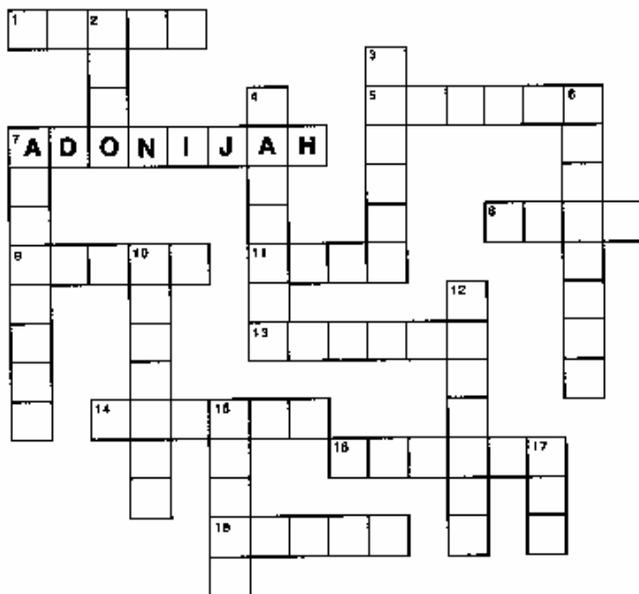
What happens to a
house built on sand?



Draw it here.

CHARACTER CROSSWORD

All the clues are Bible characters. Try to find the correct name and insert it in the crossword grid. You are given the answer to a difficult clue to start you off.



Across

- 1 His sailor friends threw him overboard
- 5 A well known prophet
- 7 Fourth son of David
- 8 Noah's second son
- 9 Ruth's mother-in-law
- 11 Son of Shem
- 13 The mother of Timothy
- 14 The evangelist
- 16 The husband of Priscilla
- 18 The brother of Moses

Down

- 2 The fifth Roman emperor
- 3 Sister of Moses
- 4 Queen of Ethiopia
- 6 King of Judah
- 7 A Levite
- 10 Tax collector who became a disciple of Jesus
- 12 The wicked daughter of Herod Agrippa
- 15 Abraham's nephew
- 17 A king outstanding for godliness

April's solution: There is no way of knowing if it will be raining or not, apologies for an incorrect question! If you are still intrigued the question should have been, how probable is it that it will be sunny in 72 hours time? - real answer next month!

ASPIRE

(AS-PIRE) N. 1. TO HAVE A GREAT AMBITION; DESIRE STRONGLY,
2. TO STRIVE TOWARD AN END; AIM AT, 3. TO SOAR.

What is Aspire?

Aspire is a new programme at Mannofield which includes many new exciting events for all those interested. It is for young adults and those who feel young at heart. It is for those in whom these events spark an interest and for those who are interested in trying new things and meeting new people.

ASPIRE is for you!

CALENDAR

- Book Club** 1st & 3rd Wed. of Month 7:45-9:00 in CH
Reading: Silence by Shusaku Endo (Chapters 1-5)
- ALMA:
Ageless
Ladies of
Mannofield** 2nd Wednesday of Month 7:45-9:30 in CH
*A social and spiritual group for the women of Mannofield Church.
UPCOMING EVENTS: May- Wine Tasting;
June- Walk and Meal out*
- Massage and
Meditation** 4th Wednesday of Month 7:45-9:00 in CH
An event for woman of all ages to come together and learn Christian meditative practices for the body and the soul.
- Theology on
Tap** 4th Friday of the Month 8:
*Come together for a social gathering at a local pub, grab a pint, some food, and spend the evening musing over theology and getting to know people.
APRIL @ The Dutch Mill 7 Queens Road*

For more information please contact

The Church Office at office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk or 310087
Alisa Ferlicca at alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com or 07838835778

Or Check out our NEW BLOG at
<http://aspiremannotfield.wordpress.com/>



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

Your Ref. AOD/CW
Our Ref.
Contact Agnes O'Donnell
Email
Direct Dial 01224 692428
Direct Fax 01224 696241

6th April 2009

Reverend Keith Blackwood
C/c Mannofield Church
Great Western Road
Aberdeen

Neighbourhood Services North
Williamson Family Centre
Mastrick Close
Aberdeen AB16 6XZ

Tel 01224 692428

Dear Reverend Blackwood,

I would be grateful if you would convey my thanks to the Church Congregation, for the Easter Eggs they so kindly donated to the Family Centre.

Any help we receive at the Family Centre is greatly appreciated by all.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Agnes O'Donnell
Senior Support Worker



Heritage 100% Recycled



John Tomlinson, Corporate Director (Health & Care) supports all the above





Photos taken from the first ALMA Rock Climbing expedition. A fun time was had by all as they put their bodies and minds to the test of scaling the walls!

Easter at Mannofield



NOTES & NEWS

CHURCH OUTING



Following last year's successful outing, there will be another trip this year, this time to Glen Tanar on Saturday 9th May.

It is planned to travel in private cars, arrive at the car park around noon (£2 charge), have a picnic and then go for one of the many walks available on the estate.

There are walks to suit people of all ages and levels of fitness. Children could take bicycles to Glen Tanar.

If you intend to come please inform Peter Stewart (313721) p.stewart1@btinternet.com.

Retiring Collections June Communion

The Retiring Collection at both services of the June Communion will be for the **ARCHIE** Foundation.

[The ARCHIE Foundation](#) is the official charity of The Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital and Community Based Child Health throughout Grampian and the Northern Isles.

'Making the Difference' for thousands of children and their families every year. It provides the extras such as new medical equipment, toys, specialist training for staff and support for families when their children are in hospital.



Young Church has recently donated £100 to ARCHIE in its *Pennies into Pounds* weekly collection.

Mannofield Guild

- 7 May Coffee Morning 10 -11.30. Home baking and books
- 24 May Guild Walk. Meet at 2pm at Ferryhill Church
- 6 June Plant and Book Sale. Teas and Coffees
- 13 June Summer Outing to Happy Plant Centre, Mintlaw. £12 (bus) - pay by 6 June to Church office – money in named envelope please



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10th -16th MAY 2009

Each year around 50 volunteers are required to help with the door to door collection in the parish during Christian Aid Week.

We raise between £3000 and £4000 each year and the work we do is a great help to Christian Aid and is much appreciated.

Please help make a difference this year by giving an hour of your time to help with our door to door collection . To volunteer please enter your name and contact details on the poster at the Countesswells door Noticeboard, or contact Bill Manson Tel 734606.



CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

22 March Daniel William McColl
5 April James Alexander Aberdein
5 April Leander Richard Dennis Baxter
12 April Innes Alexander Angus

Disjunctions

Mr Alistair Thomson
Mr Gordon & Mrs Christine Bayles

Deaths

22 March Mrs Nan Christie
5 April Mrs Jeannie Duff
8 April Mr A Pat Wilson



KIDS IN CHURCH

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.

His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

+++++

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait!'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said ' Ryan, you be Jesus !'

Mannofield Guild



Plant and Book Sale

Home Baking Stall

6 June 10am -12noon

Teas, Coffees and Rowies £1.50

Donations of plants, books and home baking may be handed in to the Church Hall on Friday evening 5 June from 6-8pm.

CHURCH GOLF OUTING at Craibstone



on 28 August 2009

Soup & sandwiches before and then a high tea afterwards.

Cost £40 all inclusive

If interested contact

Alastair D. Hunter
H 01224 810412
M 07831 33 22 28
golf@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748
Associate Minister	Rev Alisa Ferlicca	alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com	M 07838 835778
Youth Worker	Stiubhart MacChoille	stiubhart@fsmail.net	481359
Secretary	Mrs Gill Terry	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nicholas.youngson@which.net	322239 M 07850 733402
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	743484
Website	www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk		

The Devil's Beatitudes

Blessed are those who are too tired, busy or disorganised to meet with fellow Christians on Sundays each week. They are my best workers.

Blessed are those who enjoy noticing the mannerisms of clergy and choir. Their hearts are not in it.

Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked. I can use them.

Blessed are the touchy. With a bit of luck they may even stop going to church. They are my missionaries.

Blessed are those who claim to love God at the same time as hating other people. They are mine for ever.

Blessed are the troublemakers. They shall be called my children.

Blessed are those who have not time to pray. They are easy prey for me.

Blessed are you when you read this and think it is about other people and not about yourself. I've got you.

John Stowell