

*Flourishing  
Congregations*

*Welcome!*

# *Opening Worship*

**Praise to the Lord, the almighty,  
the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him,  
for he is thy health and salvation:  
All ye who hear,  
Now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things  
so wondrously reigneth,  
Shieldeth thee gently from harm,  
or when fainting sustaineth:  
Hast thou not seen  
How thy heart's wishes have been  
Granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper  
thy work and defend thee;  
Surely his goodness and mercy  
shall daily attend thee:  
Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do,  
If to the end he befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in  
me adore him!**

**All that hath life and breath, come  
now with praises before him!**

**Let the Amen**

**Sound from his people again:  
Gladly for ay we adore him.**

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Col 3.12-17



Prayers

i thank You God for most this amazing  
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,  
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth  
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth)



how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any—lifted from the no  
of all nothing—human merely being  
doubt unimaginable You?  
(now the ears of my ears awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

e.e. cummings  
1894-1962



# Creating a Church Community

- 1. Establishing a family culture/atmosphere*
- 2. Creating a good welcoming/entry experience*
- 3. Finding the right sort of small group pattern*
- 4. Maintaining effective pastoral care, primarily of church members*
- 5. Caring for children and teenagers*

*(Leading Your Church into Growth)*

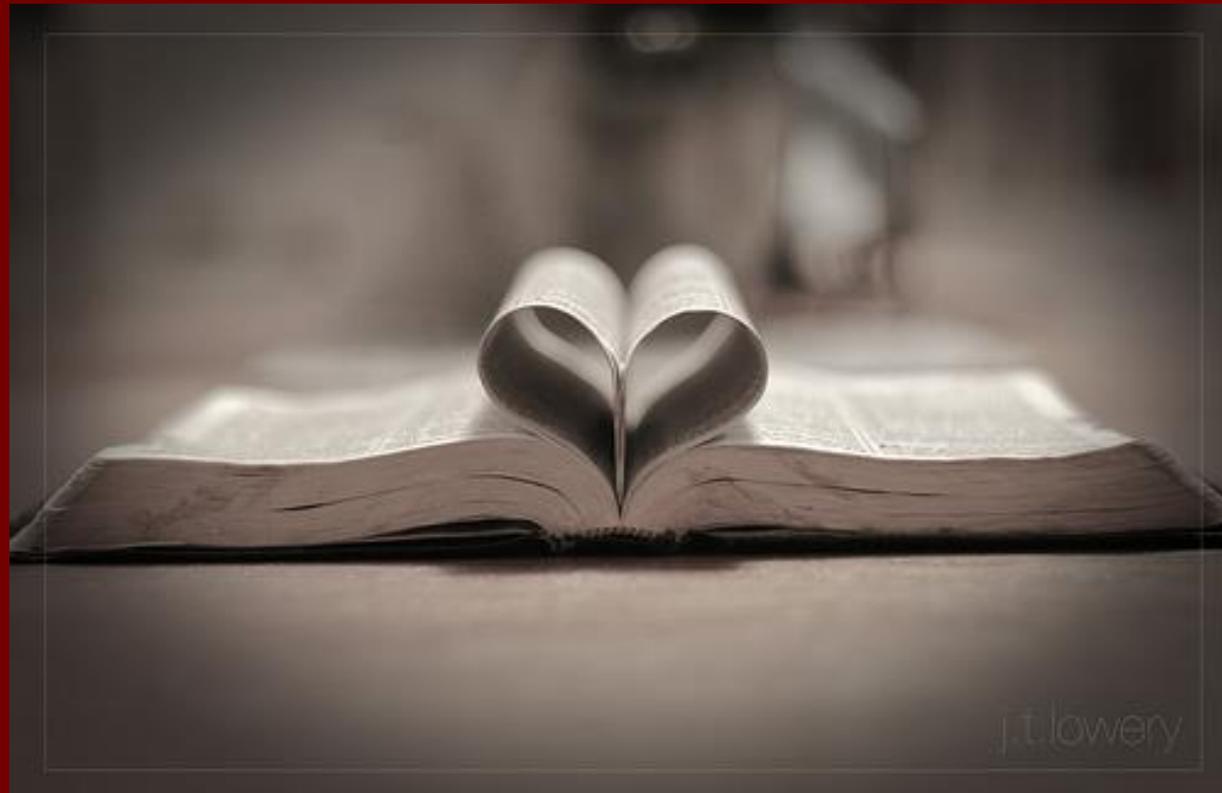
“innumerable times a whole Christian community has been broken down because it has sprung from a wish-dream...but God’s grace speedily shatters such dreams. Just as surely as God desires to lead us to a knowledge of genuine Christian fellowship, so surely we must be overwhelmed by a great disillusionment with others, with Christians in general, and if we are fortunate, with ourselves”



“the very hour of disillusionment with my brother or sister becomes incomparably salutary, because it so thoroughly teaches me that neither of us can live by our own words and deeds, but only by that one Word and Deed which really binds us together...When the morning mists of dreams vanish, then dawns the bright day of Christian fellowship”



“Let us consider how  
to provoke one another  
to love and good deeds,  
not neglecting to meet together,  
as is the habit of some,  
but encouraging one another” Heb 10.24-25



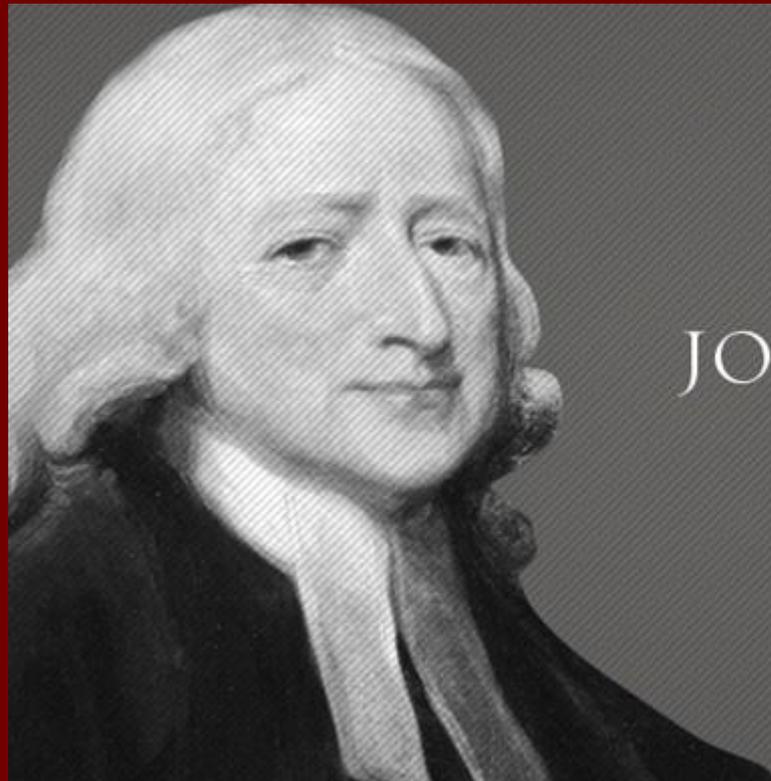
# The Road to Emmaus



# Flourishing congregations

1. Jesus and His teaching at the centre

1. Treat them as companions
2. Do not think or speak evil of them
3. Pray for them
4. Encourage them to do good
5. Collaborate with them in ministry



JOHN WESLEY  
1703–1791

# Flourishing congregations

1. Jesus and His teaching at the centre
2. A culture of care

# Christians as % of world population

Year	No. Christians	% of popn
40	1,000	0.0017
100	7,530	0.0126
200	217,195	0.36
250	1,171,356	1.9
300	6,299,832	10.5
350	33,882,008	56.5



# Flourishing congregations

1. Jesus and His teaching at the centre
2. A culture of care
3. Outward-focused

UNION CHURCH

# CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

PARISH CHURCH OF ST GABRIEL THE  
ARCHANGEL, WALSALL  
Church of England – Forward in Faith

**CORPUS**  
**CHRISTI**

Thanksgiving

Thurs  
7.30pm  
with  
sac.





**St. Mary's Church**

ROYAL  
SOCIETY OF LICHFIELD

FUTURE EVENTS



FB



**WARNING**  
This sign is a warning of a potential hazard.  
It is intended to alert you to a possible danger.  
If you see this sign, you should take appropriate  
precautions to avoid injury or damage.  
If you have any questions, please contact  
the appropriate authority.

**POLICE AWARE  
DON'T RISK IT**

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PARISH PRIEST

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TUNSTALL METHODIST CHURCH & CENTRE

WEDNESDAY SERVICES  
11am & 6pm



# Winnipeg Cathedral

**The Anglican Church Welcomes You**

**The Premises are protected by guard dogs**



# THE UPPER CREEK GROUP OF PARISHES

Our services are as follows:

St Without's 9.30am alternate Sundays

St Paddle's 11am Family Service 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sundays, otherwise eucharist

Little Snoring 8am Holy Communion (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  
6.30(2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

Great Creek 9am (summertime) 11am (wintertime)  
– see church notice board for local variations

Joint Services 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays and other feast days –  
location varies

**Come and join us!**



# Flourishing congregations

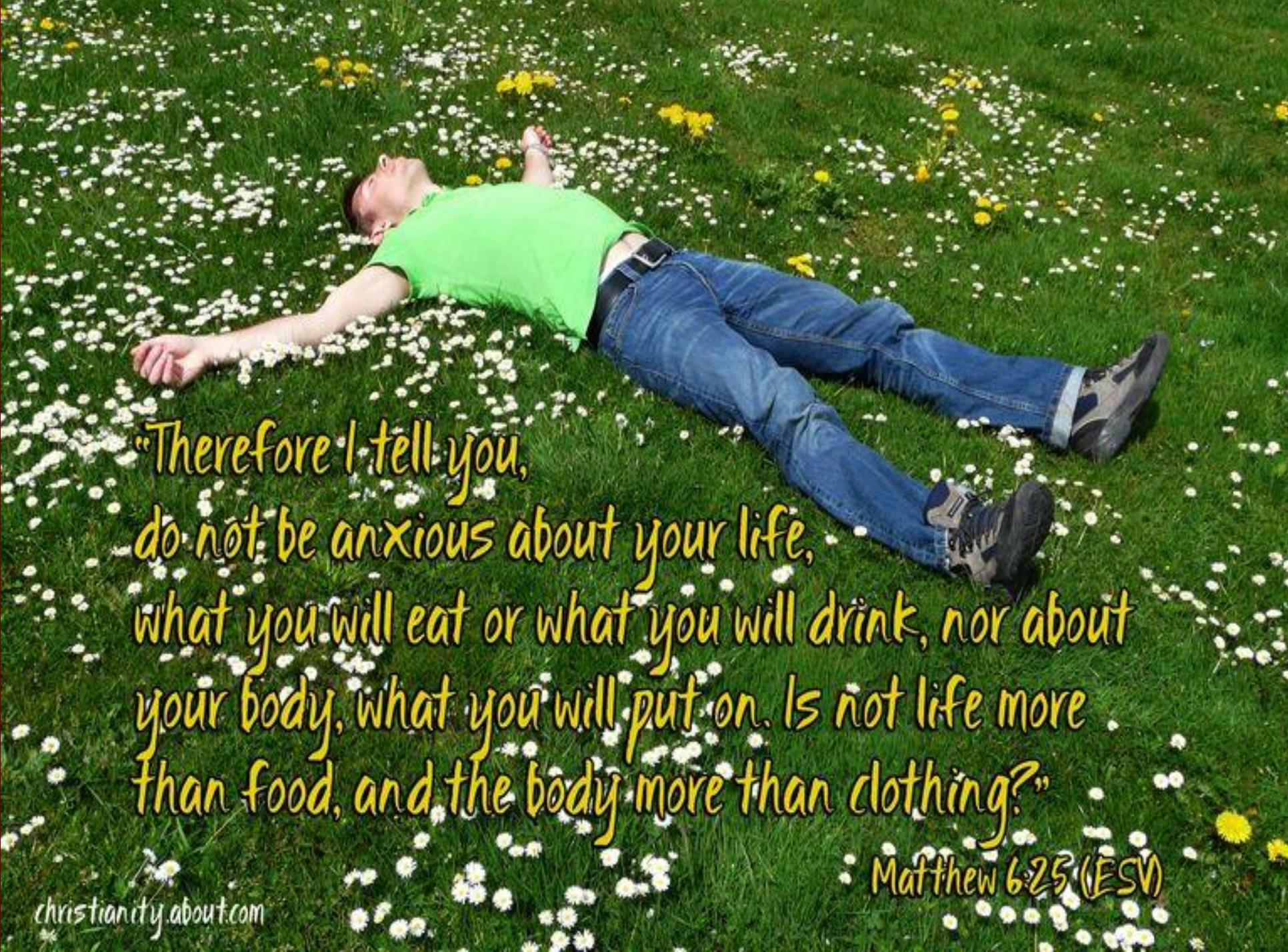
1. Jesus and His teaching at the centre
2. A culture of care
3. Outward-focused
4. An attitude of gratitude

# Gratitude

*"Piglet noticed  
that even though  
he had a  
Very Small Heart,  
it could hold  
a rather large amount  
of Gratitude."*



— A.A. Milne

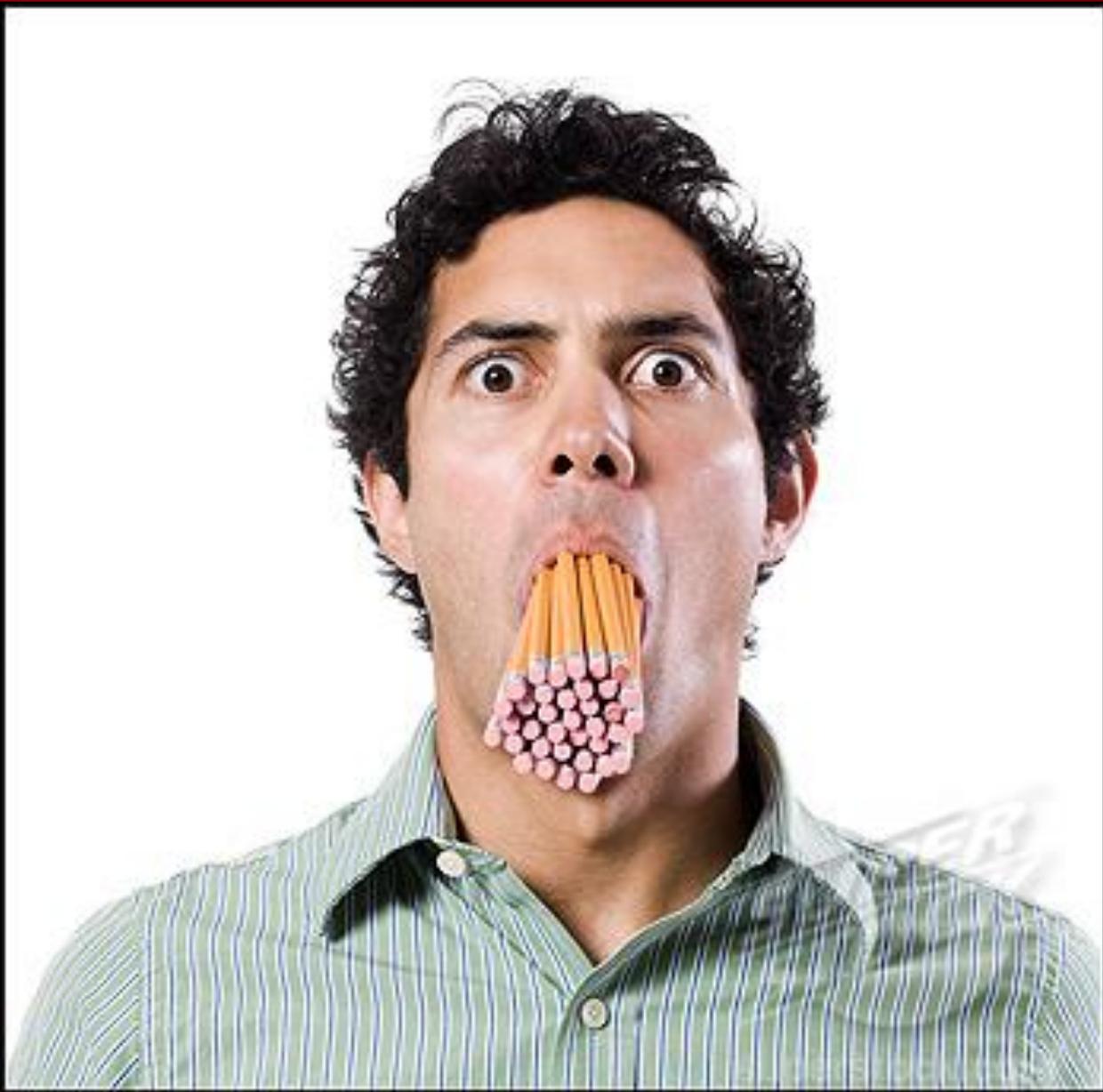


"Therefore I tell you,  
do not be anxious about your life,  
what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about  
your body, what you will put on. Is not life more  
than food, and the body more than clothing?"

Matthew 6:25 (ESV)

# Flourishing congregations

1. Jesus and His teaching at the centre
2. A culture of care
3. Outward-focused
4. An attitude of gratitude
5. Joy and laughter



# Celebration



# Flourishing congregations

1. Jesus and His teaching at the centre
2. Outward-focused
3. A culture of care
4. An attitude of gratitude
5. Joy and laughter

It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

C.S.Lewis

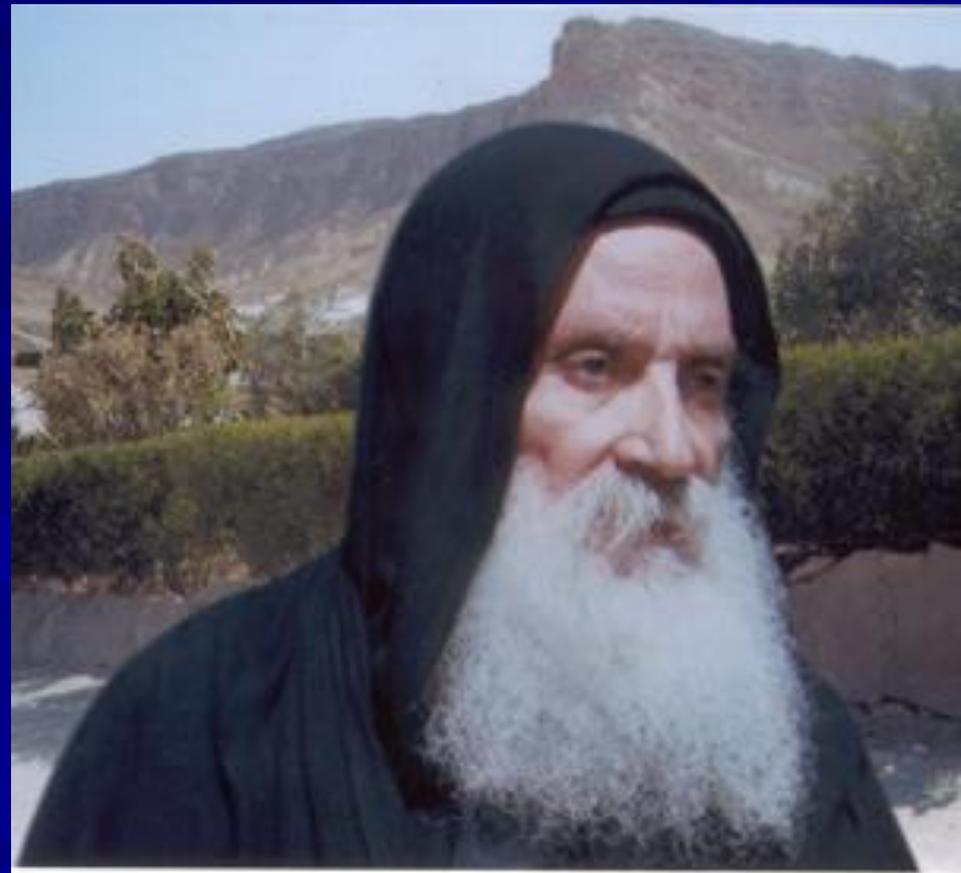


# Attentive Engagement

“The renewal of both the Church and Society will come through the re-emerging of forms of Christian community that are homes of generous hospitality, places of challenging reconciliation and centres of attentiveness to God”



We always treat guests as angels,  
just in case.....



# 9 – Creating a Church Community

## I. Establishing a family culture

- *A Church which caters for all and all can find a place*
- *Teaching and practicing*
  - *Hospitality*
  - *The warm human touch*
  - *Vulnerability*
  - *Encouraging others*
  - *Social events*



# 9 – Creating a Church Community

## 2. Creating a Welcoming Experience

- *First impressions leave lasting impressions*
- *Church of complete acceptance with “fuzzy edges”*
- *Welcome experience*
  - *Met by someone at the door*
  - *Experience good “apt” worship*
  - *Coffee and introduced to church community*
  - *Welcome pack and a visit*
  - *Welcome evening*
  - *Info about groups*

# 9 – Creating a Church Community

## 3. Small Groups

<i>Small groups</i>	<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Celebration</i>
<i>Family/Friendship</i>	<i>Synagogue</i>	<i>Temple</i>

- *Most begin with the congregation then develop*
- *Often then they divide*
- *Conventional house group system works well*
- *Importance of sustainability rather than giving up after the first few (especially Nurture groups)*

# 9 – Creating a Church Community

## 4. Maintaining Effective Pastoral Care

- *A shepherd/sheep relationship (Acts 20:28)*
  - *Knowing them by name*
  - *Guiding the sheep*
  - *Caring for the lost*
  - *Providing for their needs*
  - *This is a shared responsibility across the church*

# 9 – Creating a Church Community

## 5. Children and Teenagers

- *A family church will have a particular concern for its children and teenagers*
- *Shaped around their needs*
- *They need their own*
  - *Space and time*
  - *Worship and Nurture and Activities*
  - *Path between child and young person activities*