

BOUNDARIES

Dear Friends,

It's amazing how God can break through the boundaries we create around and between us. We all have them... boundaries, that is. It seems to me that they are a kind of rehearsed mental pattern of thinking that becomes ingrained within our view of the world to the extent that we perceive them as real. But the truth is, they are our internal creation and only become real as we live as though they are.

OURS AND THEIRS

Take national boundaries for example. The result of hard fought wars and centuries of conflict between ideas of what is "ours" and what is "theirs". Lines on a map. But they are only there because our ideas put them there. It is one of the truly amazing aspects of that first Pentecost that language which is so powerful in shaping how we think was used to demonstrate that the truth is that there are no boundaries for God. The Holy Spirit overcame them through the disciples in a miraculous and massively symbolic way.



Take the boundaries we create about human "status" in the world. Laws create and define a central aspect of "who we are" by declaring us as one status or another. Citizen, resident, refugee - legal, illegal - Greek, Jewish, Palestinian(?) - all words and ideas which we have created to maintain our boundaries. The Holy Spirit's work in the early church broke through these revealing that there is no "status" with God. All are equal before God. All are His children.

Take the boundaries we create around the roles we fulfil in life. Parent, child, husband, wife, employer, employee; all these words have within them a certain expectation of relationship. Traditionally, one is misunderstood as "above" another - one worthy of respect, the other to offer that respect. The Holy Spirit puts love and service at the heart of every role we find ourselves fulfilling. The boundaries melt as the generous and serving heart of Jesus shapes a deeper connection in the relationships and roles we have.

But boundaries are not easily broken. The boundaries we create are a source of power "over" and not necessarily "for" others. Human history is a history of how these boundary-ideas have been used to exploit and channel power "over" others; to justify violent action and reaction, accumulation of wealth and power. The latest and most dangerous may be "share-holder" and "consumer"! A division, in law, that has each of us playing a role within set boundaries we are hardly aware of... and the power, wealth and influence, "over" not "for", flows with it.

FACTIONS, DIVISION & INEQUALITY

We human beings seem to love these boundaries - they create structure and models that help us make decisions within them... again, to justify our actions. But they fail us. They create factions, division, inequality... us and them.

It takes something radical and powerful to break through these. It takes the work and power of the Holy Spirit, God within us, to break us out of old ways of thinking. It takes the fire of the Spirit to burn away the old, cleanse us of our baser cravings for power and status; it takes the wind of the Spirit to blow new life and breathe into old bones and create life-giving love and generosity of heart.

Yet because the grace and love of God has no boundaries and only seeks to empower and release, there remains one boundary left that needs to be dealt with. The boundary that we place between ourselves and God. The boundary we reinforce with our egos, or our guilt, or a thousand

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other thoughts and doubts that cause us to withdraw into ourselves. For us to trust that we can let down *this* boundary requires something dramatic; unavoidable. It requires a demonstration that what lies behind *that* boundary is safer than what lies within; worth the risk of lowering it. It requires a demonstration of love, acceptance and hope that cannot be ignored. It requires our Lord Jesus Christ, God among us, to offer Himself without reservation to us, to show that mercy triumphs over judgment and grace is indeed the heart of God. Such an offer is without boundaries, without limit. This is the offer He has made to us.

Pentecost - that amazing day - started a movement that has been flowing out from Jerusalem, across nations and time ever since. The Holy Spirit is the source of life and truth for every human being and is offered without reservation on the part of God. Imagine trusting ourselves over God - trusting our own boundary-creations over the heart of the Creator Himself. Who would do that!?

With prayer for the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit to be welcome and embraced by us all.

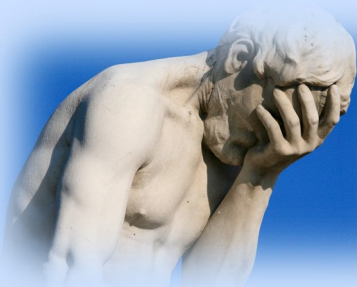
With every blessing,

Jules.

cartoon **WORST JOKE OF THE MONTH**

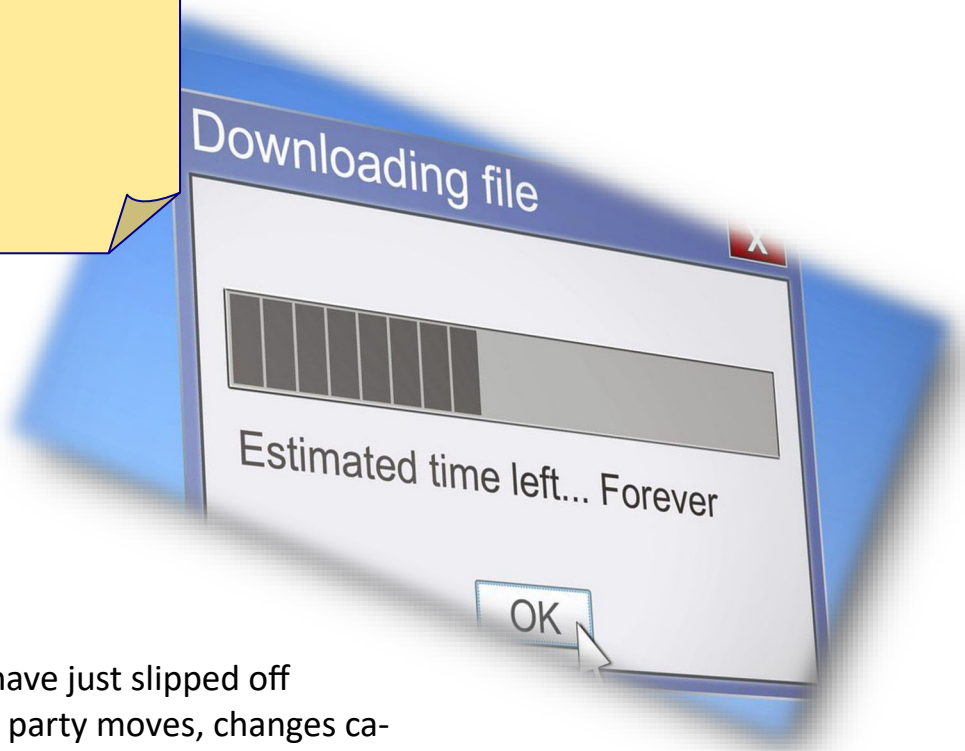


The award goes to
Jackie Dallos ...again



A Letter from Lefkada

The frustration and uncertainty of unstable internet connection leads me to think about our connections with people in general and with God specifically.



We all have friends who have just slipped off into the past when either party moves, changes careers or even has a fall out. We also have friends who we don't see for years and then when we do hook up it's like we were never apart. We also have friends that are constantly there for us, are stabilizing influences, who reassure us when things go wrong and will be right there to celebrate with when things are right. Sometimes we forget to 'take care' of our friends and they are pushed aside for a time while we are busy doing other things.

Where is God in all this, We all know the song "what a friend we have in Jesus". Well each time we connect with Jesus we also are connecting with God. If for any reason our communication with Jesus is ever put on hold it would be like losing a friend. Not just any friend but one who knew exactly what we need and how to encourage us in all we do. Who lifts us up when we are down and can show us what we need to do when things go wrong. He also comforts us by His gift of the Holy Spirit who helps us to understand who we are and what we need to change to be an equally good friend to Jesus. Praising him and telling everyone how wonderful he is.

But how do we feel when our communications are cut. Frustrated, angry, fearful they won't be restored ?

Over the past two weeks I've been at the mercy of my service provider whom I assume is having work done because my connection has been tentative and just today, lost

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altogether. I was sad, angry, disappointed and the worse thing is helpless to do anything to guarantee connection. With a relationship though we can and should do everything in our power to support and maintain it to our mutual benefit.

God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are always there for us and they too can be frustrated in lapses of communication but the good news is, once you've made a friend of any or all of them they remain with you always. You may have patches of time where you don't talk as much as you could, or you may allow yourself to be so busy you have no time for them. Thankfully, they will always be there, always waiting to hear your voice and filled with love when they do.

Celebrate your connection with Christ, tell others and widen your circle of friends too. Let God see that by the power of the Holy Spirit you can become the friend he wants you to be.

Together, you can make it happen because God is constant, never changing and loves us so much that He gave his only Son for us. He is totally committed to us and our lives. An amazing friend who will never let us down. Can we be the same for Him?

Jackie Dallos

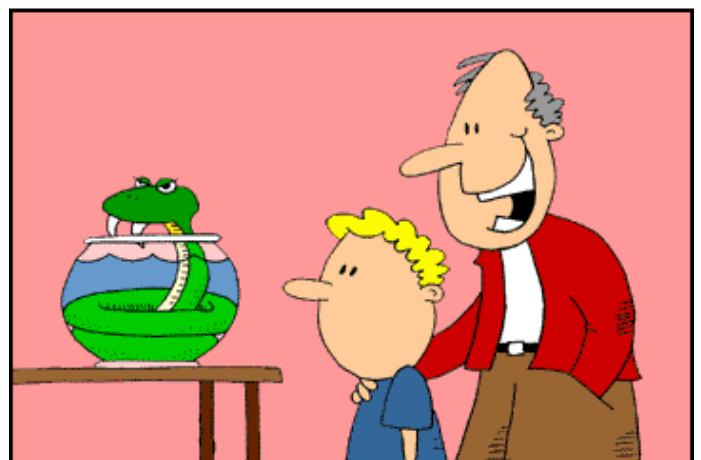


Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



HEY PASTOR, LAST WEEK'S 'MORE LIKE JESUS' SERMON REALLY INSPIRED ME

07-30-1999



Thanks to Michael Foster (See Luke 11:11) 07-13-1999

YOU WANTED A FISH, I WANTED A SNAKE ... I GOT BOTH AND GUESS WHICH SURVIVED?

Orthodox Service in Commemoration of the life of HRH Prince Philip

The Orthodox Metropolitan, Archbishop Nectarios sent an invitation to Jules to attend a commemorative mass in memory for Prince Philip to be held on Saturday 17th April at 1700 hours, the same time that the funeral service for Prince Philip was taking place in Saint George's Chapel, Windsor.

On arriving at St Spiridon's Church, outside were reporters from national television ERT, Star, and from the local channels Corfu and Start with their camera crews.



The church had been prepared for a funeral service, pall-bearers in dark suits and white gloves, there were two wreaths of white roses, symbolic to Corfu, one was from the Municipality of Corfu. The invited guests slowly arrived; The Mayor of Central Corfu, Mrs. Hydriou; Deputy Mayor, Mr. Matellanos, and The Governor of the Seven Ionian Islands Mrs. Kratsa; the Catholic Archbishop George and Rev. J. Wilson. Archbishop Nectarios waiting in silence.



From the main door of the church the pall-bearers could be seen carrying a portrait of Prince Philip, solemnly parading it through the square, on entering the church the portrait was placed on a stand.

The Archbishop commenced the service; the choir in the gallery sang some beautiful anthems. In his address the archbishop stated that he felt the life of Prince Philip should be commemorated as he was born on the island, a Greek and was baptized in the Orthodox Church of St George in the Old

Fortress, (the former Anglican Church, built by British Engineers in 1823.) He commented that Prince Philip visited the Monastery on Mount Athos, Agion Oros many time during his life time keeping in touch with his Greek and Orthodox roots. The

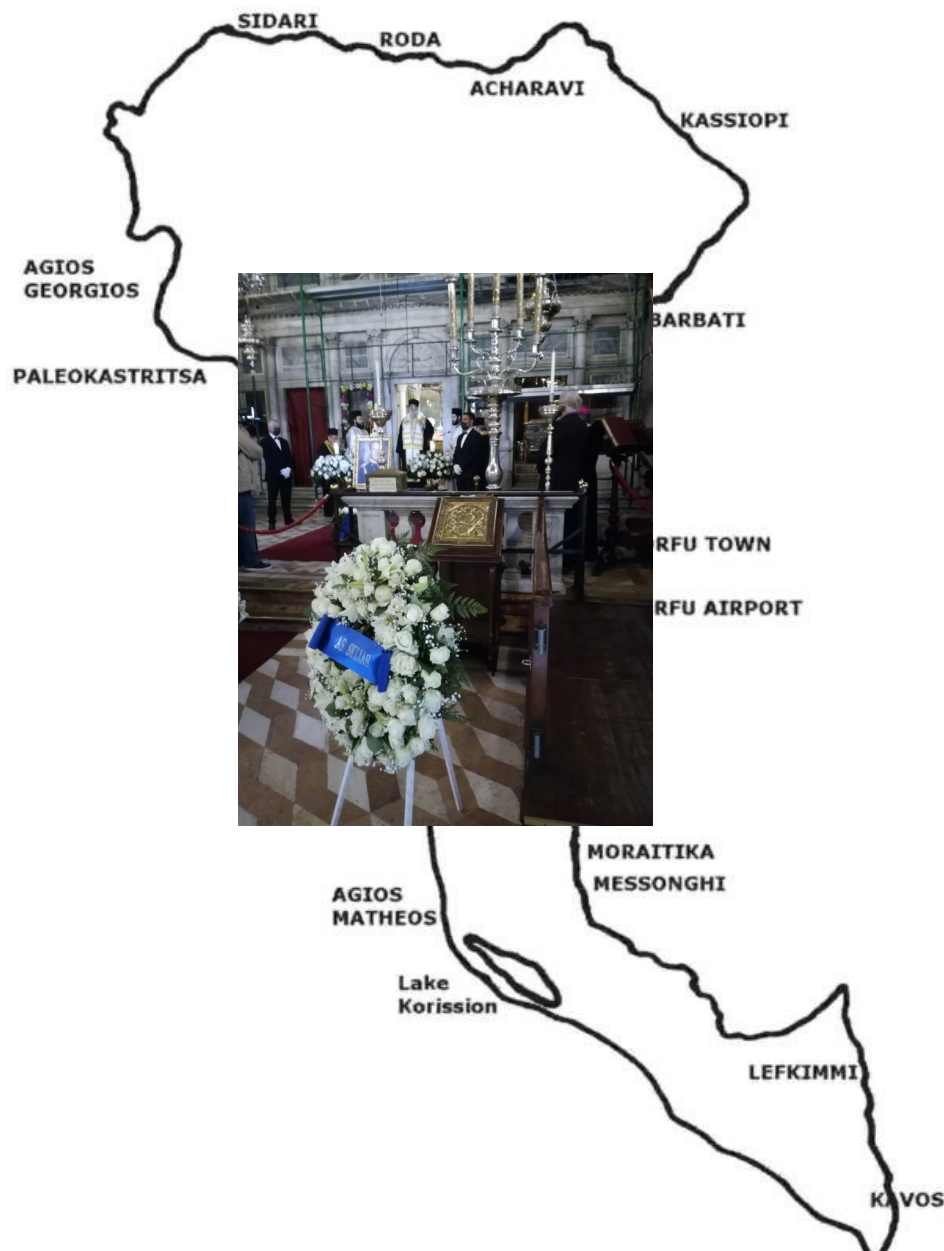
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Archbishop ended the service by greeting his guests having a personal word with them. His brothers in Christ, Archbishop George and Jules were greeted with a brotherly embrace.

The Baptismal Certificate of Prince Philip states that his godparents were the Community of Corfu. Prince Philip was connected to the Royal Houses of Denmark and Russia. His grandfather King George 1 of Greece was originally a Danish prince who was elected king by the Greek National Assembly. King George married Grand Duchess Olga Constantinova of Russia. His mother, a German Princess of Hesse, Alice of Battenberg.

Pauline Argyrou-Aspioti



PULSE PRAYERS



“For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid, instead his Spirit fills us with power, love and self-control.”

2 Timothy 2:7

Lord we come to you in adoration and thanksgiving for your salvation and Holy Spirit. As the disciples waited expectedly for your gift, build in us an excited expectancy of fresh anointing of your Holy Spirit and vision for Your Kingdom come. To your Praise and Glory Amen!

We give you thanks and Praise for the togetherness we have as HTC family far and wide and the help that has been given in amazing ways. For the worship team and Jackie in Lefkada. The dedication of the Wardens, Church Council, techno teams, administration, finances, publications, the faithfulness of the congregation, those growing veg and the work of those unseen.

“There is no prayer without action; No action without prayer.”
Mother Teresa

We pray for the refurbishment and the café Logos approval to move forward. As we wait Lord, keep us in your will and vision. Inspire us in ways to bring in your kingdom. We pray for a new generation of people for you.

We give thanks for our families and ask you bless and protect them, bring provision and most of all the reassurance of you Jesus as their Lord and Savior, strength and shield. For those who don't have families to find the love of your family.

Thank you for generous hearts and financial provision. We pray that the retreat flat will be occupied in the summer bringing two way blessing and provision. We pray to seek your kingdom that all will be provided as we trust.

“The greater our Joy in Jesus, the greater our compassion for others.” “Compassion = to suffer with.”
John Hyde known as ‘The apostle of Prayer’

We pray for all clergy and lay, doubly leading us in focus and encouragement spiritually, and dealing with the techno stuff at the same time. By your Spirit empower and bless Jules and others with time of rest and refreshing, protect and strengthen them and keep them in good health.

We pray for doors to open for ICS Summer mission starting on 21st June. Lord bless Francis Houghton and Angela Cattell in opportunities for outreach, and fellowship with us on the island.

For all those who are sick or undergoing cancer therapy, sustain them Lord and comfort them with your presence. Those who have lost loved ones to be comforted and find support. For the elderly and lonely. Parents, carers, young people and children. Lord show them that while life is uncertain, you remain faithful and trustworthy

“Prayer is an act of love.”
Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

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For the homeless the ones without work, we pray for help and provision. All living in fear and anxiety to know your hope and peace. Those in countries of conflict. Please bring repentant hearts and change them to seek your loving wisdom and compassion for their neighbours.

We pray protection on the families of those in our congregation living in South Africa and Nigeria facing attacks. Soften the hearts of hatred and revenge to your ways Oh Lord. All people are equal and loved in your eyes.

"There is no worship without service; No service without worship."

Selwyn Hughes, writer of 'Every Day with Jesus'.

We pray for Sabina and team in Yemen, that provision will continue; for Irise that the needed funds to aid the future of young women in the UK and Africa. We seek the peace of Jerusalem and the Holy land. Lord things are still uncertain. We pray for Your Wisdom and compassion in all parts of the world, that the vaccine be distributed fairly without seeking profit .

We give thanks for the beauty of our islands and pray for the locals so dependent on tourism, hopeful and enthusiastic to welcome visitors. Lord protect us from the spread so that there will be provision to those in need and refreshment for our visitors.

Lord may the Pentecost flames of fire release us, light us up in your Holy Spirit and fan into flame the gifts you have already given us so that as our joy increases so our compassion increases into love and action, to come alongside people in need and to see Your Kingdom come.

To Your Praise and Glory Amen!



'TOGETHER and APART'

We will continue to provide online 'Together and Apart' services, as well as the live Sunday service. There are also prayer meetings on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please contact us, if you would like details of how to join us.

<https://sites.google.com/view/holytrinitycorfuonline/home>

WHAT'S ON at HTC

Keep up to date with what's on at Holy Trinity Corfu by visiting our website calendar.

<http://holytrinitycorfu.bravesites.com/whats-on>

OR



Links



<https://europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary>



<https://www.ics-uk.org/Pages/Category/prayer-diary>

The Agiot

<http://www.theagiot.com/>



<https://enimerosi.com/en>



https://www.facebook.com/groups/CorfuForum/?ref=group_header

We always welcome contributions to our publications; however, we will not publish any material which infringes copyright. When sending in items for inclusion please state your source and the name of the author.

We are happy to accept prayer requests for inclusion in Pulse or in the morning service. If you are requesting prayer for someone other than yourself please make sure you have their permission to be mentioned publicly.

*Please remember the submission **deadline for PULSE is 25th of each month**. Articles, news, information etc. received after this time may not be included and will be carried over to the next edition if appropriate. Thank you.*

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