



# It's Just Not Cricket!

December 2005

*The power of accurate observation is frequently called cynicism by those who don't have it.*

*~George Bernard Shaw*

## Prayer

*(Centering prayer from the Tik Nok Han)*

I have arrived.  
I am home.  
I am here.  
Now.

## A Bit of English Culture

### Vocab (US word = UK word):

- Cell (phone) = mobile
- VCR/DVD players = video
- Ladybug = ladybird

Bumps in the road are not so much a metaphor as they are reality. Nearly every road has wide speed bump-like hills. In London you speed up to them, hit the brakes to go over and then speed up until the next one, approximately 3 meters away.

### Travel Read:

Many of you have probably already joined the millions of movie goers reading this book, but I'm going to recommend it just the same. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is a favorite children's book about four kids during WWII sent out of London to the country. During this time they happen into another world. They battle evil and learn about redemption. C.S. Lewis wrote a series of seven books set in Narnia. I've just finished the fifth book- *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. *Wardrobe* is still the best, but the others are worth reading as well.

## Hostile and Participating

Happy Christmas and Merry New Year!

My fourth month in London is soon coming to a close and this means I'm about a third of the way through this year of service. With more ahead of me than behind, I've entered the 'hostility' phase. This is the point we told about during orientation where the newness of our new culture wears off, the realities of daily life really sets in and we begin to express more freely our dislikes of the country. For example:

The British drive on the wrong side of the road and seem to have no concept of driving laws- U-turns, speeding, backing up down the road!

Why do they call ladybugs ladybirds? They are clearly of the insect variety of bugs. Saying that they're called birds because they fly is a weak argument- penguins are birds and they don't fly!

There is absolutely nothing free here. When you buy a TV, you have to sign up for a TV license. This is an extra £120 or so you pay every year to have Television. (Ok, I realize this pays for their programming because the BBC is publicly funded and only shows commercials between shows, but you only get two BBC channels without cable, satellite or digital). You also have to pay a council tax on your flat or house. You could pay per year in council tax almost as much as you paid for the property!

What's with the buses not coming on time? Or not doing the entire route? Or driving past the people at a stop waving it down without an 'Out of service' sign or being filled to capacity? Or the driver that looks right at you after you've knocked on the door having run to catch the bus, getting there just as the doors were closing and driving off?

At the same hostility is coming into play, 'increased participation' is also happening. I mentioned in my last newsletter that I had been attending the Lutheran church in London. I'm still doing that and even went to the Swahili service the other week. I sang Silent Night in Swahili! At least I think that's what the song was. There's a young adult group that meets every other week for food and discussion; it's multi-cultural with English, Latvians, Germans, and US Americans, and a lot of fun!

With the holidays, there's been more to do at work- going to the company Christmas party, the house dinner out, finding things to do with the service users (coloring and putting up the Christmas tree) when the colleges and day centers are recessed.

Thank you all for making 2005 great! Blessings to you as this calendar comes to a close and you open a new one on the wall or your desk.

PS: If you're interested in how I spent/am spending the holidays here, details and pictures will shortly be available online.

## Meet St. Nicholas!



Vintage Holy Card, Switzerland  
St Nicholas Center Collection

Nicholas was born in during the third century AD between the 260 and 280, in Patara- a village in what is now Turkey. He was born to wealthy parents who raised him to be a devout Christian before succumbing to an epidemic. He gave his entire inheritance to the assistance of the suffering, needy and sick. As a bishop he was known worldwide for his generosity to those in need, love of children, and concern for sailors and ships.

Under Roman rule, he served in prison with several other bishops, priests and deacons. He was released in 325 and died December 6, 343.

St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children, bankers, sailors, unmarried women, travelers, fishermen, dockworkers, poets, and prisoners. He's also the patron saint of Russia, Greece and Sicily.

You can look up his record of good deeds, miracles and the debate of his existence online. <http://stnicholascenter.org>

*My addiction for cook books continues. St. Anne's recently put out a cook book of recipes contributed by members of their various congregations (they hold worship services in five languages) and of course I bought it. The recipe below comes from Madagascar. It was served after this past Sunday's Swahili service and is quite good.*

### Red Beans with Coconut

840g tinned red beans (or 250g dried red beans, soaked and boiled with garlic until soft the day before)  
2 cans of coconut milk  
garlic  
1 large onion  
vegetable oil [I prefer olive oil]  
salt and pepper

Heat some oil in a large pan. Finely chop the onion and gently fry. Mix in some salt and pepper; add the beans. Pour in the coconut milk and cook on low heat for 15-20 minutes.

Serve on hot rice. If you can find it in, serve fried plantae on the side.



### **Clacton on the Sea**

The first weekend in November we took some of the service users out for a day trip to the sea side.

### The US of A in England

21 December 2005, it was announced that England is looking into adapting a US style policy on murder- defining it by degrees. Current British law defines only murder and manslaughter. Life in prison is the automatic sentence for murder. Naturally there are people in favor of and opposed to the proposed changes. This will be interesting to follow.



### **London Wall**

This is part of what survives of the original London Wall built by the Romans after founding Londinium. Viewable from the Museum of London.

Kate Drefke  
13 Dr Spurstowes Almhouses  
36-38 Navarino Road  
London  
E8 1AF  
United Kingdom  
[k.e.drefke@gmail.com](mailto:k.e.drefke@gmail.com)  
<http://drefkeonamission.blogspot.com>  
<http://kdrefke.tripod.com>

The Young Adults in Global Mission is a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which provides adults between the ages of 19 and 30 a year of volunteer service. The program offers leadership development, spiritual growth, global awareness and understanding. To find out more about outreach of the church, please visit <http://www.elca.org/globalserve/youngadults/>