

Bang! Ouch!

"I can't move."

It slowly dawned on me that this was more than just a bruise.

I'd taken the bend too fast. I'd skidded on some gravel. Now here I was – lying helpless by the roadside, just hoping that some passing motorist would stop.

Don't you find that things don't always turn out as you planned?



When I left home at quarter to eight on the morning of June 17th, I certainly hadn't planned to spend the next four days in the Friarage, the following three weeks on crutches, and another month hobbling around with a stick.

But nothing takes God by surprise. Even that fateful morning he'd got it all planned. The first person to stop was a doctor. She told me I'd fractured my hip, gave me a painkiller, and organised an ambulance.



When I got to hospital the surgeon asked me when I'd last eaten. The answer was eleven o'clock last night – which meant I could have an operation within a few hours. And my friends told me they'd thought for a while that I looked as if I needed a rest.

It says in the Bible:

We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.

Yes, I can see how God, my heavenly Father who cares for me, was working it all out for good, even when I had my accident.

Jonathan Bayes

Whatever was it?!

Have you ever gone shopping, only to find you've left the shopping list at home?

You wander round trying to remember what was on the list, and your mind goes a complete blank!



Of course, you soon remember a few things. You start feeling pleased as the trolley fills up. But always at the back of your mind ...

... you've got a nagging feeling.

Haven't I forgotten something – something really important?

You get home. You look at the list. Sure enough, there it is – the one thing you really needed. The thing that made you go shopping in the first place! And it had gone clean out of your mind.

... SOMETHING MISSING?

Life can be a bit like a shopping trip. You collect all sorts of things as you go, but deep down there's this nagging feeling, "I'm sure there's something really important missing. I feel as if I'm wandering aimlessly through the world."

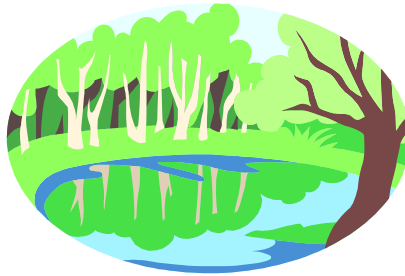
Quite right. If you haven't got the Lord Jesus Christ in your life you're missing life's most vital ingredient. And no amount of possessions and success can make up for it.



Some words from the Bible

Jesus gave this invitation:

Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.¹



Here is God's assessment of things:

The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'.²

Every Christian has to admit:

We ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived. But when the kindness and love of God appeared, not by works which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us.³

¹ Matthew 11:28.

² Psalm 14:1.

³ part of Titus 3:3-5.