

# Gospel

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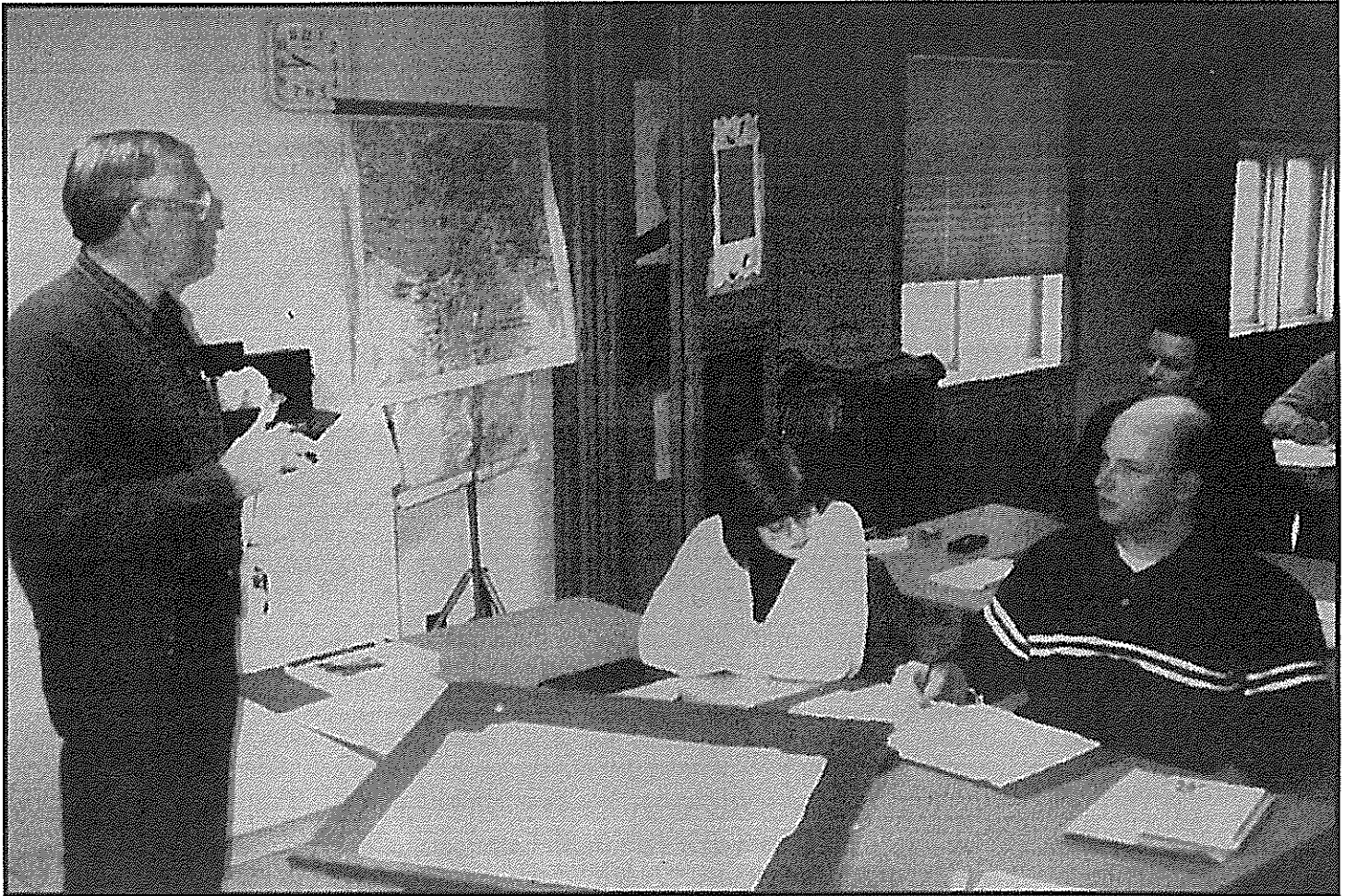
# Herald

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BEAMSVILLE, ONTARIO

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Walter Hart is pictured with his class at Great Lakes Bible College which operates in the church building at 62 Hickory Street West in Waterloo, Ontario. The college has a full degree program and is also introducing a special "Gateway Year", a valuable experience for High School Graduates and others who can take a year for spiritual development or occupational exploration.

Grade 10 to OAC students are invited to a rally on January 7 at which the topic "Choosing a Post

Secondary School will be discussed.

A short course by Dr. Gary Bailey entitled "Communicating Christ" is being offered, January 10-21.

*ecp*

# “Worship God”

Roy D. Merritt



Nearly two thousand years ago, two great personalities faced each other on a very high mountain somewhere in Palestine. Two previous confrontations had resulted in failed attempts by the devil to tempt Jesus of Nazareth into abusing His miraculous power. The suggested miracles were showy but useless. Furthermore, they would have represented compromise with an enemy for personal glory. Now the Tempter offered Jesus sudden, supreme power over the whole world. One simple act of worship and all the kingdoms of the world with their glory would be His.

Satan said, “If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all this.” by human standards the appeal was powerful. Had not a long succession of conquerors attempted this goal? The refusal was quick and final. “Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.” (Matt. 4:10). Every pious Jew would recognize this quotation as the substance of a command given repeatedly by God to his people through Moses many centuries before. Jehovah God had made it clear that one was not to worship things or persons. God alone was to be worshiped. (Ex. 20:5; 34:14; Deut. 5:8,9)

The verb for worship *proskuneo* is used often in the New Testament. The earliest reference is to the action of the magi, “wise men” from the east, possibly Arabia. They endured a long journey to worship an infant king. This worship of the infant Jesus was but the first of many such efforts to honour God’s Son. Obviously, Jesus was too young to refuse worship on this first recorded occasion. What was His response to such worship when He received it during His mature years? One scholar points out that Jesus received the obeisance from a variety of people and appeared to approve of their actions. He counts nine different occasions when our Lord received prostrations from men and women and did not rebuke them. Was Jesus inconsistent and hypocritical or God incarnate? The third of these alternatives is shown by His life, teaching, triumphant death and glorious resurrection.

These worshipful approaches to Jesus were usually preceded by some display of His divine power. Shortly after His momentous Sermon on the Mount, a pitiful leper knelt down before Him to plead for cleans-

ing. This supplicant received his request and was sent to make the thank offering prescribed by the Law of Moses (Mt. 8:2)

The next instance of some one worshipping Jesus concerns a man from the other level of the social scale - a ruler of the Jews. This official was greatly distressed by the death of his daughter. Despite the derision of a noisy crowd of mourners, Jesus took the girl by the hand and she arose at His touch. (Mt. 14:31-33)

The next recorded worshiper is revealed in the person of a foreign woman whose daughter was demon-possessed. Upon this woman’s faithful persistence, Jesus healed her daughter and praised her faith. (Mt. 15:25-28).

An ambitious mother came to worship our Lord as she appealed for the exaltation of her two sons. Her request was sternly rejected by Jesus but there is no hint of rebuke for her worship (Mt. 20:20-23).

Another occasion of worship is recorded of two Marys who suddenly find the risen Christ as they hurry to proclaim the angel’s explanation of the empty tomb. Their amazed impulse was to clasp His feet as they knelt in joyful worship (Mt.28:9,17).

Most of the occurrences of the Greek word for worship as it is directed to Christ are found in Matthew’s gospel. Mark has one definite use of the word as he recounts the approach to Jesus by a demoniac. The man acknowledged that Jesus was the “Son of the Most High” as he fell on his knees to worship. Jesus did not rebuke the worship from this troubled man, but did give him healing (Mark 5:6).

John records one instance of the use of the major Greek word for worship in the actions of a man who had been healed of his

affliction. This worshiper with a triumphant faith affirms his conviction that the one who healed him is the Messiah (John 9:38).

Other instances of men worshipping Jesus without refusal or rebuke can be found without the actual use of this great word. Space will not allow us to examine these circumstances, but enough has been shown to reveal our conviction that Jesus happily received the worship of men in the knowledge that He was and is indeed the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. When we worship Him in humble adoration, we are obeying the command “Worship God!”

St. Catharines, ON

Mission News:

## Dominican Republic

Eleven Canadians, one young man from the Bramalea congregation, two students from Great Lakes Bible College, Geoff Ellis and two families of Spanish brethren and Mile Gosselin of Hamilton made a mission trip to the Dominican Republic in October. During the day time there were lectures in Spanish. During a visit to an English school, the three young men, Mike, Jamie and Derek talked with the students asking and answering questions. Five of the students left their English class and came to the Wednesday night lesson in English. These meetings continued through Friday with an average of 25 attending. Twenty four people signed up for correspondence courses and four or five more afterwards.

There were about 80 at the Spanish lectures and about 250 at night in the Spanish campaign.

This trip was a field trip for the GLBC students.

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# The Church's Business Plan

Dennis "Skip" Francis



Successful companies in the business world use strategic management to plan for success. The church should also plan for success by using God's "business plan".

From a managerial view, businesses develop a business plan containing the following elements: a mission statement, an assessment of the outside environment, a company profile, goals and objectives, and a five year plan to implement those goals. The church need not create such a plan because this plan has already been developed by the Chairman of the Board, God.

The church's mission statement can be found in Ephesians 3:10, "To the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places." The church's primary responsibility is the preaching of the gospel and the doing of good works. It says in Ephesians 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

God has assessed the outside environment for us. Ephesians 2:12 reads, "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world". The preaching of the gospel is, by design, that which gives hope, and places one in a right relationship with God.

A true company profile of the church can be obtained by a study of the New Testament church. We need only compare the church of the New Testament with the one where we are to assess its strengths and weaknesses. One of the more important strengths that must be developed in order for the church to perform its mission is that of the knowledge of God's "manifold wisdom". That is why God also established an "organizational chart" for the church. Ephesians 4: 11 tells us, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;" then tells us why in verse

13, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:". These men are the earthen vessels that will "equip the saints" for the fulfillment of the church's mission. The apostles and prophets were temporary (1 Corinthians 13:9-10), but we have their authority with us in the written word. Evangelists, pastors, and teachers continue this work today.

The church's goals and objectives, as given in scripture, are threefold: the work of ministry, the edification of the body, and growth of the body.

The work of ministry can best be described in the words of Paul to the Corinthian church: "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints." (2 Corinthians 8:1-4). This benevolence is described as a good work (Galatians 6:10), a fellowship when done to the saints (2 Cor 8:4), and spiritual sowing and reaping (2 Cor 9:6).

Edification of the body occurs when brethren: attend the assembly (Hebrews 10:24-25), bear one another's burdens (Romans 15:1-2), and teach sound doctrine (1 Cor 14:5-6). The edification of the body is similar to the sales meeting in the business world: it is designed to motivate brethren to do good works.

Growth of the body is a result of evangelism, the spreading of the good news of the gospel, which is the essence of making known the "manifold wisdom of God". For growth to occur, the church must plan for it, pray for it, and take steps to make it happen. These steps are simple: Go and Preach (Mark 16:15). God has made us a promise concerning this preaching. He told us that preaching saves (1 Corinthians 1:21), that the gospel contains His power (Romans 1:16), and that His word will not return to Him void (Isaiah 55:11). We must simply

exercise His word by preaching it to every creature we come into contact with. Growth results when every part of the church does its share in this work. (Ephesians 4:16) The last part of the business plan we will discuss is the Five Year Plan. Though this may have some bearing on the church, at least as far as the local church must reassess from time to time, our plan goes well beyond five years. In Revelation 2:10, we read how we must be faithful "until death" to receive the crown of life. The work of the church is not for five years, but until the end of the age. It is good to have a plan and the church must indeed plan in order to do God's will. We need to plan to evangelize, plan to do good works, plan to edify the flock, plan to assemble, plan to give, and most importantly, plan to go to heaven. 1 John 5:13 says, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Jesus said, at the age of twelve, "Do you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). We must all be about our Father's business.

Sarnia, Ontario

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# EDITORIAL

## One Step Forward And...

Wayne Turner



We are standing in the doorway of an event that has only occurred once since our Savior walked on this earth. It is December of the year 1999. In less than a month from the day this issue of the Gospel Herald is put in the mail, the millennium number of the year will change from 1 to 2. Although the second millennium and twenty-first century A.D. will not actually end until midnight, December 21, 2000, the transition from 1999 to 2000 has become, for much of the world, the symbol of the transitions. As such, it is an appropriate time for some retrospection on both the passing of the millennium and the 20th century.

Much has happened in the last 1,000 years! A thousand years ago the world was still in its medieval stage. Near the beginning of the second millennium, the Holy Roman Empire was formed on the empire that Charlemagne had established. The schism that divided the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches was finalized in 1054. In 1066, William the Conqueror became king of England after his Norman army invaded the country and won the battle of Hastings. At the end of the tenth century, many of the nations, leaders, inventors, scientists, artists, musicians with whom we are now so familiar were yet to come into the world. It is hard for us today to imagine a world where Michaelangelo, da Vinci, Galileo, Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, Luther, Calvin, Edison, Einstein or any of the countless thousands of other notables had not lived. In the past thousand years, the world has gone from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance to the Modern (or, as some would note, Post-Modern) Age.

In religion, the first half of the second millennium was dominated by the Catholic church and witnessed such events as the coming of the Inquisition, scholasticism, and the Great Schism. In 1517, Martin Luther invited discussion of his Ninety-Five Theses to begin a "reforming" of the Roman Catholic Church. Opposition and persecution by church authorities fueled the fires of Reformation that has led to the establishment of literally thousands of different denominations. Through the courage of human conscience enlightened by the power of God's word, other non-Catholic believers, often included under the terms the "Radical Reformation" and "anabaptists," predated Luther. (cf. History of the Churches of Christ in Central Europe by Hans Grimm, Firm Foundation). The myriad religious organizations, doctrines and traditions led to numerous attempts to go beyond simply a simple reformation of the existing church and to restoration, a return to the unity, simplicity, teaching and practice of the church as it existed under Apostolic leadership in the first century. (Grimm has noted a number of these throughout history. Also cf. Restoration Movements Around the World by Ed Wharton). The branch of the Restoration Movement with which we are most familiar and which many of us have as our heritage is known as the American Restoration Movement. We are most familiar with the names of Thomas Campbell and his son, Alexander, and Barton W. Stone. However, even their work had roots. Before coming to North America, Alexander had been influenced by the Haldanes. In the New World, men like Abner Jones

and Elias Smith had laid foundations for restoration in New England. The idea of Restoration has never been exclusive to or a monopoly for the Campbells, Stone or their followers.

At the heart of the Restoration Movement there was a distaste for religious division and the organizations, names, traditions, doctrines and attitudes that perpetuated such schism. Agreeing with their Protestant neighbours and roots, Restoration leaders saw the need to hold up the scriptures as the only source of authority and felt that the scriptures were to be seen through the light of conscience rather than tradition. At the same time, they agreed with their Catholic neighbours that, Biblically, there was only one universal, truly apostolic church. Where they obviously differed was in their belief that the apostolicity of the church lay in the inspired apostolic writings of the New Testament, rather than a present day organization which claimed succession, and therefore authority, from the apostles.

The ideal of restoration rapidly captured the imagination of many people, especially those on the frontier of the United States. The concept of reading and studying the Bible for one's self had great appeal. Until the time of the American Civil War, the Restoration Movement enjoyed rapid growth. From its early days, however, cracks in unity emerged. Differences of view in how scriptural authority should actually be applied and which first century practices should be followed caused several problems. One of the earliest defections occurred when Sidney Rigdon, an associate of Alexander Campbell seeking a Christian communal lifestyle, joined with Joseph Smith and played a significant role in the formation of Mormonism. Another defection occurred when John Thomas left over issues related to the understanding of prophecy and eschatology and founded the Christadelphians. Later, in the years leading up to the Civil War, other differences surfaced. Time will not permit looking into the causes and consequences of these. However, at their roots lay the fundamental question of whether the silence of scripture authorizes or prohibits actions. During the 19th century, this question came to a head in the issues of mission societies and instrumental music. The Restoration Movement came out of that

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century badly divided. In 1906, for the first time, the Religious Census in the United States recognized that the Restoration Movement had become two separate fellowships: the Churches of Christ and the Church of Christ (Disciples) or Christian Church. Later, three separate fellowships would be identified: the Churches of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples) and the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ (also referred to as the Conservative or Independents).

In the middle of the 20th century, the Churches of Christ was identified as the "fastest growing" religious body in North America. At the same time, fellowship was fracturing along a number of issues. Differences of understanding and conscience about how to apply Biblical authority and understand the nature and role of Biblical patterns created broken fellowship throughout North America. Most predominant were issues related to congregational co-operation (missions support, programs like Herald of Truth) and support of organizations (orphans homes, schools, etc.). Other issues included having one cup at the Lord's supper, fermented or unfermented fruit of the vine, leavened or unleavened bread, church buildings, located preachers, veiling of women, and others. (Mac Lynn's Directory of Churches in the United States attempts to identify these different characteristics). At the same time, other congregations were split by personality or differences of opinion. In many places, Churches of Christ became known in their communities more for their divisiveness and harsh judgmentalism than for their love, evangelism, good works and Christ-likeness.

As the middle of the century passed, some members began to feel their spiritual lives were cold and barren. In the denominational world, the excitement of the charismatic movement was sweeping across denominational lines. Some within our fellowship also became caught up in this movement, including the well-known entertainer, Pat Boone. While relatively few seemed to actually head off into the charismatic movement, there appear to have been some lasting effects. Some preachers observed that many Christians were more afraid of the Holy Spirit than the devil.

At about the same time, overall growth seems also to have slowed. Evangelistic campaigns and gospel meetings were losing their effectiveness. Although a few congregations grew dramatically, many others were barely able to "hold their own." Various efforts, such as bus ministries, attempted to rekindle evangelism. Whenever a congregation developed what appeared to be an effective method for growth, it was soon featured in workshops and reproduced elsewhere.

While many members believed that the Restoration Movement was a finished task, others realized that restoration was an ongoing task and far from finished. Several prominent brotherhood leaders contributed their efforts in a book that asked, "What Lack We Yet?" which identified several concerns needing more attention and effort.

During the 1970's the dynamic growth of the Crossroads congregation in Gainesville, Florida gained brotherhood attention. Graduates of the program were imported into other congregations who also, initially, experienced rapid growth. However, internal problems and divisions subsequently occurred in many of these congregations, and many either discontinued their programs or experienced splits. A group of Crossroads-trained workers gathered in Boston in the late 1970's and transformed the Lexington

congregation into an evangelistic dynamo which in a few short years grew so large that it met in Boston Gardens. Many Christians believed that they saw the real New Testament church and its explosive growth in the Boston church. Many young people, disillusioned by the lack of spiritual energy in their home congregations, either moved to Boston or joined one of its plantings or reorganizations. But as time passed, mainstream congregations became increasingly uncomfortable with several aspects of the Boston approach, most especially the inordinate control exercised over the individual. Local and national news media portrayed the Boston (or Discipling or Multiplying) Ministry as a mind-controlling cult. Boston maintained a path that pulled itself further from fellowship with the mainstream congregations (often for its own reasons). Eventually styling itself as the International Church of Christ, this organization's only current contact with its mainstream heritage is through the family connections of its members. Even the original Crossroads congregation has disassociated itself from the ICOC.

The 1990's have been the decade of "change." Perhaps this was partly the result of the embarrassment that a movement, whose goal was unity based on the authority of the Bible, had continued to produce religious division and had, according to some, created a brutal exclusivity and self-righteousness. Perhaps this was the result of shock that something like the ICOC could grow out of us, especially since it seemed to have simply carried our concepts to the next logical step. Perhaps it was the way in which the Bible had come to be used in some places principally as a weapon against both neighbours and brethren. Ultimately, only God knows the various influences that produced a movement for change, which appears to have begun with discussion of the need for a "new hermeneutic." Rejecting our old, "traditional" way of using the scripture as too confining and legalistic, the proponents of a new hermeneutic argue for more emphasis on grace and freedom. Examples should not be considered as binding. We must not be judgmental of those in denominations. We should be more open and accepting of them. Brotherhood tradition rather than false doctrine have become the target. Distinctive marks like worship, baptism and the uniqueness of the Lord's Church are questioned, to the point that some would seek a totally new and different path. And brotherhood tensions have increased as personal consciences of other Christians are cast aside in the desire for change.

Looking back, we are painfully aware that division has been an unfortunate part of our history at almost every turn. Instead of fulfilling the vision for unity that was originally part of Christ's prayer and a goal of the Restoration Movement, there are now more religious bodies in the world, not fewer. People who should have found unity and harmony in a common faith have often, instead, lived in suspicion and mistrust of one another. Those with more agreement over the central faith and practice of New Testament Christianity have broken fellowship. Under such conditions, is real progress or growth likely or even possible? At the end of the 1990's, as fellowship fractures even further, what future can there be?

The 1900's have seen great things for the Lord's work in Canada. Yet it seems that for every two steps forward there has been at least one step back. In our next issue, we want to look ahead to the future and see what can be done to create real progress for the church in Canada.

# FAMILY TIES

Articles for this page or reactions to it should be sent to  
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## Waiting

It seems that the majority of our lives are spent waiting. We wait in lines at stores, banks, doctor's offices, etc. No matter where you go you're probably going to have to wait. We might not be able to avoid the waiting but there are things that we can do to make sure that the time in line is not wasted. Here are some rules for waiting.

First, I believe that we need to understand that waiting for anything is an opportunity. I recently sat in a doctor's office where the nurse had been nice enough to direct me and of course I heard those beautiful words "the doctor will be right with you." "Right with you" must mean the next day on the calendar because it was some time before the doctor opened the door. Exactly how much time passed I cannot be sure but I do know that my nap was enjoyed. Amazingly, I came to realize that earlier that day I had complained about a lack of time to pray. Instant revelation: line time is prayer time. We waste time not because of waiting in lines or traffic jams but because we fail to see every second as an opportunity to do those things that we claim we do not to have enough time to do.

The second rule for waiting is that we should not wait for someone else to act when we are capable ourselves. A young

girl recently spoke to me about her struggles with her church. She noted that her youth leader was not doing enough and she kept saying that if she was older she would.. Would what is the question. What exactly was she or are we waiting on? We keep waiting for someone else to make it better when we could help improve the situation by taking the time we use to criticize and investing it in the solution. At work, if there is something that needs to be changed, everyone is expected to be actively involved in the solution and there is no time to wait for someone else.

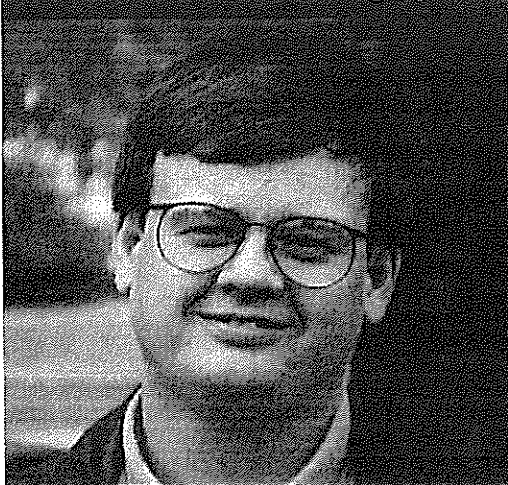
Rule three is not to spend time waiting for good news when you already have the greatest news. I found myself walking out of that same doctor's office with head down and tears not far from the surface. I had looked forward to that appointment as I was sure the doctor was going to speak good news about this disease called Parkinson's. I had prayed and fasted: or at least prayed and I knew that the doctor was going to say that the disease was not spreading. I could picture myself walking out of that office with a proud stride but instead my eyes were fixed down on the pebbles I kicked with my feet. While sharing with my wife that night she made me

aware of a simple little fact that I often overlook. That fact is that in Christ we have won. The crown of life is mine but strangely I look past the greatest news and settle for good news. Please understand. Everyday I pray for a Parkinson's cure and I will fight for good health with every means I have, but the greatest tool we as Christians have is to stay focused on the greatest news, known as the crown of life. If that is my focus then time will always be seen as opportunity even if it is spent waiting in line.

Rule four is to remember that someone is waiting because of you or is waiting on you. Have you ever noticed that there is someone else behind you in line or that there is another car behind yours. Your attitude in waiting affects both those that are waiting with you and those that are watching you. Maybe there is one person that is waiting for God to cure the disease that I have and that person would be my wife. I need to remember that she is waiting and expecting God's miracles with me and I need to understand that my attitude affects her.

Rule five is that we need to be aware that God waits with us. In line God is there ever willing to help us as we learn to see every waiting second as an opportunity. God is also our comfort as we wait. We are guarded so as not to have more than we can endure. Tears flowed freely on Monday and Friday. Monday was spent at the doctor's, while on Friday the word was that we can expect a son. Our partner when we wait knows exactly what we need and when we need it.

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## Precious Memories

**P**recious memories, we all have them don't we? Pictures of those near and dear to us kept around our homes serve to facilitate our precious memories. "Remember when's", are an important part of our family gatherings, class reunions, anniversary celebrations and other times that we gather to interact as human beings. We find comfort in the good memories of friends and relatives from whom we are now separated, whether by death or distance. When we think of our precious memories we find it hard to understand Paul's personal pilgrimage toward maturity, which included, *"forgetting what is behind"* (Philippians 3:13). Paul recognized that he was not yet all that he should be, that he needed to grow into the image of Christ. His plan as he states it in Philippians 3 was to *"forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead as he pressed on toward the goal so that he might win the prize for which God had called him heavenward in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14). BUT, our memories are so precious, our memories encourage us and inspire us, surely forgetting them would be more harmful than helpful.

Some are burdened with memories so painful that they physically wince when they come to mind. Those who have been the victims of sexual abuse spend their lives fighting painful memories. Those who have been the victims of verbal, emotional or physical abuse fight equally painful memories. If you suffer from these painful memories you probably don't appreciate me reminding you of them, but please read on; you may find help in dealing with your painful memories. I know that you have tried to forget them, but they keep coming back, don't they?

Even good memories may need to be forgotten if they cause us to believe that we have arrived: that we must be spiritually mature, look at the family we have come from, and that God certainly is fortunate to have us as His servants, look at how tal-

ented we are, how much we are doing and how pleasant we are to be around. Those who have replaced grace salvation by works salvation don't have memories so much as they have accounts. They keep track of every good thing they have done, hoping that they will outweigh the bad and trusting that God is also keeping an accounting and that their books will match up. These memories will produce people that are full of pride and who love to sit in judgment of others. They are confident that they always do the right thing and enjoy every opportunity to look down on others. Forget about earning your way into heaven, trust in the grace of God and do the works that He has prepared for you (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Memories of past sin, failures and mistakes may give you a burden so heavy that it has sucked all the joy out of your life. Nobody else has to remind you of your failures. You remember them only too well. Every time a good opportunity presents itself you have to reject it, because you don't believe you are worthy of such an opportunity or blessing. You reject relationships because you believe that if they really knew you, they couldn't possibly love you. You find it difficult if not impossible to encourage others because you feel so lousy about yourself. You can't praise God because you see Him as a tyrant who can hardly wait until He gets the opportunity to punish you. You are lonely and hurting and the downward spiral seems to never end. Paul says forget what is behind.

Perhaps it is the memory of how others have hurt you through their words or actions that haunts you. Your relationships are all short lived because eventually others say or do something that hurts you. You find it hard to forgive and impossible to forget. You believe that to just let it go would be a sign of weakness that would encourage everyone to take advantage of you. So you think of the hurts and find yourself miserable and lonely. Paul says

forget what is behind.

Why do these painful, harmful and hurtful memories keep coming to mind? Even those who have made a good effort to forgive, to be forgiven and to put the past behind them report a great deal of difficulty accomplishing that. The memories just keep coming back to mind. Why is it so hard to forget what should be behind us?

These painful, harmful and hurtful memories are a work of Satan. Through them he can keep you ineffective, lonely, discouraged and outside of Christ. You may have chosen to forgive, but find that you cannot forget. Unfortunately it is not all that easy for us humans to forget. We cannot choose what to forget and what to remember. If we could there would be no need for pocket calendars and the host of items that help us remember what we need to remember. There is a lot of help in that area. An entire industry has sprung up providing us with all the help we need to remember what we need to remember and to organize our lives. Why isn't there an industry providing help in forgetting what we need to forget? How will we ever learn to put the past where it belongs and forget the harmful, hurtful and painful memories that haunt our days and especially our nights?

If I had an easy two or three step plan that required almost no effort or discipline on your part, I would write a book and make a tour of the talk shows and become quite famous. The answers are anything but easy. They will require an immense amount of effort and a great deal of discipline on your part. You will discover how hard it is to finally let go of the past, but you already know how difficult it is to continue to hold on to it.

First, pray, pray that God will help you to finally leave the past in the past. Be very specific in your prayers. Name each item you want to leave in the past. Ask God to give you the strength to finally let go of your harmful, hurtful and painful memories.

Second, talk to someone you trust. Many report that it is much easier to let go of the past after they have talked with someone about it. To continue to talk about it over and over and over again, is to remember it, but to speak to someone about it, gain their perspective and help in putting it behind and pray with them is most helpful.

*(continued on page 12)*

**POINT BY PERRY:**

**"Things New and Old"**



**A**fter Jesus had taught His disciples by a series of parables, he said, "Therefore every scribe who hath been made a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, who bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old." (Mt.13:52, ASV). When entertaining guests, the host offers them that which has been saved for such an occasion, along with items recently acquired.

Just so, those taught in the law and the prophets and now further enlightened as disciples of Jesus could combine those teachings, the old and the new, to provide a convincing message to those they taught. The Old Testament has been described as the New Testament concealed and the New as the Old revealed. Together they provided lessons that are a feast indeed.

The principle taught by Jesus in this statement primarily applied to the use of former knowledge, things old, enhanced by things learned from Jesus, things new, in teaching the way of salvation as Peter did in his sermon in Acts chapter two. However, the same principle has many applications for Christians today.

When one becomes a Christian he can use skills, strengths, talents, friendships and knowledge attained previously to enable him to be a more effective teacher, a more fruitful disciple. Scholarship, possessions, abilities and associations can now be combined with new knowledge and relationships and used to spread the gospel.

This principle also has application in the methods use to spread the gospel message to every creature in the whole world. Initially, the gospel was spread largely by word of mouth. It was preached, taught and shared publically and "from house to house". No amplifiers or telephones were available. Travel was slow and dangerous, yet the gospel "was preached in all creation under heaven" (Col.1:23). The new message was spread by old means. Sometimes personal and circular letters were used. These old methods are still good and should be used by all Christians. The personal element is important whether in conversation or correspondence.

As the world has become larger with

rapidly increasing population, new methods have become available to enable us to reach the whole creation under heaven even now. Instead of having to handwrite single copies of our messages, we have the printering press and photocopier which can spew out copies by the thousands. Replacing the messengers who took days or months to carry the letter, we have a world wide postal system, able to deliver our messages in a few short hours.

Oral communication of the gospel no longer requires our bodily presence. The telephone, radio and television make possible quick communication with personal acquaintances or with vast multitudes not previously known and at great distances from us. Combined with modern technology, the oral and written message of earlier times can reach out to the larger population of our times at greater distances from us to meet the challenge they present.

The message is the same, the field is larger. Combining the old message with the new technology, we can fulfill the old and continuing commission to preach to every creature in the whole world. Ideally, every Christian is involved in the task; talking to family and friends in person by telephone or e-mail; supporting those who give themselves to public proclamation; giving to enable radio and television preaching and corresponding with persons known and unknwn. World Bible School provides a means for individuals to teach individuals far away. Key to the Kingdom television has proven to be an effective method of surfacing searchers.

The Gospel Herald, whose stated purpose is the "promotions of New Testament Christianity", has been involved in the task since 1936. Similar papers, prior to that date were "starved out" for lack of support. As we enter a new century and a new millennium, what will the story be? Will we look forward with vision to a more effective and influential period of service or bow to the burden of discouragement? Having been involved with the Herald since 1953 and well on the way to being an octogenarian, I am wondering who will pick up the torch for the new century. Perhaps with "new blood" the old paper can become a bigger, better and more fruitful instrument in the spreading of the message. Would a web page, a wider circulation and, perhaps, a new look increase its effectiveness? Who will rise to the challenge?

The message will soon be 2000 years old but the means can be as new as the latest technology, that we might "by all means save some." (I Cor.9:23).

*ecp*

### Key Update

Michael Tackett, the speaker for Key To The Kingdom, has made two visits to Canada in the last while. He was in Vernon, B.C. in October for a meeting that was well attended. Then in November he was with the Fennell Ave. congregation in Hamilton and they also enjoyed a good meeting. There were a good number of people who are taking the Bible courses as a result of the program who attended both meetings. Pray for good fruit from these visits.

We continue to receive a good number of phone calls every week from viewers who are interested in study. Of course, many of these are religious folks who are simply interested in any Bible course that is offered. Others are people who are looking for something and, where better to look, than into scripture. While many do not continue in any study others do. For these we need to pray that the seed of God's word will find root.

We are happy to report a baptism at Strathmore this past month as a result of the outreach of Key. A young lady took the course and came to understand her need to be born again. We pray God will bless her richly. Also, we have heard from other brethren of people who are involved in study and/or attending the worship services of the local congregation. Again, pray that God will bless all who are being reached and are responding to the outreach through Key To The Kingdom.

Take advantage of this tool in your area and advertise the program. It is carried on Vision TV on Thursday mornings and Sunday nights. (8:30 Thursday morning and 12:30 Sunday night from Toronto - and Vancouver...western time) Check your own TV listings for time in your area. Please support the work by your prayers, follow up studies and financially.

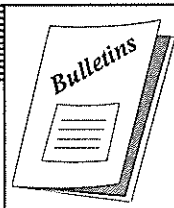
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M4C 1N3

ph-416-461-7406, fax- 416-424-1850,  
email-maxc@sympatico.ca

*Max Craddock*



# FROM THE BULLETINS



Short articles for this page are selected from church bulletins. Such should be sent to the editor at 45 Millfred Drive, Winnipeg, MB R2M 2N9; email: wpgwayne@aol.com

## Find Fault Or Give Praise?

So often we very quickly can find the faults or errors in others and in the things they do. Almost daily I catch myself being guilty of this very thing. Sometimes it is with the ones that I love the most. Sometimes it is in regards to people that I don't even know. When I or any one is guilty of this there is one thing that is always being forgotten: everyone needs recognition for their accomplishments. Few people make the need known quite as clearly as the little boy who said to his father: "Let's play darts. I'll throw and you say, 'Wonderful!'"

You see what it boils down to is the issue of self esteem and feelings of worth for myself and others. When I'm critical and insistent on finding error in others and the things they do, it is an attempt to boost my feelings of worth. However we need to remember that our sense of self worth will always receive a boost when we focus on building others up. What kind of difference would it make if we refused to focus on the faults of others? What impact would it have if we said no to pointing out errors in others and focused on encouraging them? One thing it would do: it would build healthy feelings of worth in everyone.

Tim Kimmel in his book, "Little House on the Freeway" tells the story of seventy-two year old pianist, Andor Foldes who recalls how praise made all the difference for him early in his career. His first recollection of an affirming word was at age seven when his father kissed him and thanked him for helping in the garden. He remembers it over six decades later, as though it were yesterday.

But the account of another kiss that changed his life says a great deal about our inner need for purpose. At age sixteen, living in Budapest, Foldes was already a skilled pianist. But he was at his personal all-time low because of a conflict with his piano teacher. In the midst of that very troubled year, however, one of the most renowned pianists of the day came to the city to perform. Emil von Sauer was not

only famous because of his abilities at the piano, but he could also claim the notoriety of being the last surviving pupil of Franz Liszt.

Sauer requested that young Foldes play for him. Foldes obliged the master with some of the most difficult works of Bach, Beethoven, and Schumann. When he finished, Sauer walked over to him and kissed him on the forehead. "My son," he said, "when I was your age I became a student of Liszt. He kissed me on the forehead after my first lesson, saying, 'Take good care of this kiss -- it comes from Beethoven, who gave it me after hearing me play.' I have waited for years to pass on this sacred heritage, but now I feel you deserve it."

The Duke of Wellington was brilliant, a demanding military leader, and not one to shower his subordinates with compliments. In his old age, a young lady asked him what he would do differently if he had his life to live over again. Wellington thought for a moment, then replied. "I'd give more praise."

*Roger Lansdell, Pinehill Messenger, Sault Ste. Marie, ON*

## Cold Comfort

In the world's biggest igloo, everything is frozen, except the prices.

Located just north of the Arctic Circle in Swedish Laplandia, The Ice Hotel is one of the globe's most exclusive inns. It's truly unique because it's built from scratch each November and it melts every spring, only to be reconstructed the following fall with a brand new design.

As soon as the temperature dips below freezing, 30,000 tonnes of snow are sprayed into special metal molds. Those molds are removed once the snow is hard enough, and 10,000 tonnes of crystal-clear ice is brought in from a nearby river to fashion the building into a fullfledged hotel, complete with a chapel, cinema, bar and art gallery. Almost all the accessories are made of ice, right down to the drinking glasses.

Inside, the temperature moves between minus four and minus nine degrees, depending on the weather outside and the

number of guests. The hotel has room for a hundred people who bundle into thermal sleeping bags on ice-block beds covered with reindeer hides. Only the price will leave you cold.

Life is a lot like The Ice Hotel. The cost is high. The stay is short. The surroundings are cold, aside from the comfort of human company. Lots of us are trying to find rest while huddling in our own little cocoon of self-concern. The trouble is, you can't stay there. Eventually, you have to climb back into the cold. We'd be so much better off just to share the warmth afforded by those around us.

But like The Ice Hotel, life offers many distractions to take our minds off our inhospitable surroundings. Before long, we're enjoying our stay, careful to make periodic visits to the chapel -- that place in our heart reserved for the spiritual. But it's cold there too when all we find is the frigidity and rigidity of personal ritual instead of personal relationship with the Lord Jesus.

When faith becomes just another compartment in our well-ordered lives, it's easy to forget that everything we see is temporary. One day, God will take it all away with the slowly-gathering heat of His judgment. "Since everything around us is going to melt away, what holy, godly lives you should be living!" writes Peter. "You should look forward to that day... to the new heavens and new earth He has promised, a world where everyone is right with God." (2 Peter 3:11,13)

Until then, the church could take a lesson from the igloo builders. We can't rely on human structures of the past to meet the needs of the present once the social climate shifts. Though the essential building blocks of faith and obedience remain unchanged, God often calls us to rebuild, to stay relevant and dynamic. To those struggling in a frigid, unforgiving world, our church will either be a comfort in the cold, or just cold comfort.

*Rick Gamble, Cross Current, Brantford, ON*

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# FOR WOMEN BY WOMEN

Articles for publication and/or reactions to this page should be sent to Linda Hammett Rt. 4, Box 164, Vincent, OH 45784.



## Does It Really Matter?

If you are like me, you are probably involved in many activities, often more than you really want to be involved in. Time is such a precious commodity, something which we too often take for granted. It sometimes gets to the point that I am not able to participate in everything that's going on around me. Because I am so busy, and I think also because I'm getting older, I have found myself wondering lately if everything that is occupying my time is really worth the time I spend on it. I enjoy very much most of the things that I do; however, when I find myself physically and emotionally worn out, I have to stop and ask myself if it really matters.

Our ultimate goal is to live the kind of life that will be pleasing to God and will find us in heaven for eternity. So, I have been asking myself lately as I evaluate the activities in which I find myself involved—does it really matter? Will doing this get me to heaven? Will doing this help someone else get to heaven? More often than not, the answer to these questions is 'no'. I, for one, need to reconsider some of the things I am spending my time on.

There follows a list of questions that you might want to take the time to ask yourself. These are in no particular order but are just some things that I've thought about in preparing for this article and that I've asked myself recently. In answering these, we may be able to determine what is really important, and what will help us bring glory to God and live the kind of lives that He would have us live. Answering them might also mean that we need to make some changes in our lives. We may need to rearrange our lives so that we have time to take care of some of the important things.

The Bible tells us that whatever we do, in word or deed, should be done in the name of the Lord (Col. 3:17). Perhaps in answering these questions we should keep this verse in our minds in order to answer correctly. I am not going to include any scripture references for any of these questions. I believe that if we have to search the scriptures to find the answer, it will

make it more meaningful.

So, ask yourself these questions:

*Does it really matter...*

- ~if I go to church on Sunday night?
- ~if I visit the sick?
- ~what kind of clothes I wear?
- ~if I go to R-rated movies?
- ~if I discipline my children?
- ~if I give to the needy?
- ~how much time I spent watching TV?

*Does it really matter...*

- ~whether or not I spend time in prayer on a daily basis?
- ~if Bible study is part of my daily life?
- ~if I live with a man to whom I am not married?
- ~if I teach my children good manners?
- ~if I tell my family that I love them?
- ~if I tell others about Jesus?
- ~if I drink socially with friends or privately in my home?
- ~if I use bad language when I'm angry?
- ~if I slam the door when I get mad?
- ~if I go to church on Wednesday night?
- ~if I tell or listen to jokes that are off color?
- ~if I gossip?

*Does it really matter...*

- ~if I eat too much?
- ~if I use tobacco products?
- ~if I allow my children and/or myself to miss worship services or other church activities for sports events?
- ~if I "borrow" a pen or other supplies from work and "forget" to take them back?
- ~if I drive 100 or 110 in a 80 km.p.h. zone?
- ~if I am late for church week after week?
- ~if I invite my friends and neighbours to attend a worship service with me?
- ~that I don't have enough money to give to the church but can always manage to come up with enough for vacations, a nice car, nice clothes, entertainment, etc.?
- ~if I don't go to a foreign country to spread the Gospel?
- ~if I work 50 or 60 hours a week and have no time or energy to spend with

my family?

- ~if I spend money buying things for and fixing up my house?
- ~if I teach my children to respect them selves, their peers and their teachers?
- ~whether or not I try to find a church to attend when I'm on vacation?

*Does it really matter...*

- ~if I visit people in prison?
- ~if I feed the hungry?
- ~how I worship God in song (with the instrument or without)?
- ~when I talk badly about others and tell things that may not even be true about them?
- ~when my boss tells me to lie for him to a client, and I do?
- ~if I give a full day's work for a full day's pay?
- ~if I cheat on my income taxes?
- ~if I watch shows on TV that depict situations and lifestyles that are contrary to God's teachings?
- ~if I go to a bar with a friend but only have pop?
- ~that I don't speak up and let people know how I feel on moral issues?
- ~whether or not I confess my faults to my brethren?
- ~if I am envious when my friends get a new house or a new car?

I know that there are many more questions that we could ask ourselves as we try to determine how God would have us live. I think that, too often, we don't put enough thought into decisions that we make about things that we do and say. We are influenced by those around us more than by God's Word and participate in some things that we probably should not. It is all too easy to make decisions and then try to justify them by misconstruing scriptures or taking them out of context to fit what we are doing.

As this year draws to a close, my prayer is that each of us will examine our lives and determine which activities and practices that are a part of us need to be done away with or altered. We need to live every day for God, which means doing and saying only those things that bring glory to Him. We must live so that Satan cannot get a strong hold on us and make us believe that we are living for God when, in fact, we are not.

By answering these questions, I hope that we will all become more aware of how we can best use our time and live our lives so that we will inherit eternal life. Decide for yourself what really does make a difference!

# NEWS

## - EAST -



by **Walter R. Straker**  
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### ONTARIO

**Ajax:** The eldership has been disbanded as Albert Langford resigned leaving only one elder, Malcolm Porter. Jenna Barclay decided to put on Christ in the waters of baptism and was added to the church October 3. Bob Brown resigned as a trustee and deacon.

**Beamsville:** After 35 years, John Lumley submitted his resignation from the position responsible for building and maintenance. On the evening of November 7 the congregation hosted an area wide meeting of worship and praise.

Due to the sickness of her father, Wanda Speer returned home from her mission work in Ghana, where she works as a nurse. Since her return, her father passed away. She expects to be home in Canada for two months before returning to Ghana.

Walt and Julie Cromwell placed membership. A congregational meeting was held November 14 relating specifically to the budget.

**Bramalea:** Derek Czeban and Walter Straker attended the 15th Encounter Ibero-American in La Vega, Dominican Republic with nine other brethren from Waterloo and Strathmore. Walter spoke three nights in English to Dominicans studying English. Twenty-eight signed up for Bible correspondence courses in English. Eleven were baptized in the Spanish campaigns. Guest speakers in October were Larry Grizzell from Colorado and Ed Jermakowicz, recently returned from Belarus, now living with his family and mother in Oshawa.

Two special days of celebration happened. One was the congregation's 30th Anniversary and the formal opening of the new addition to our building. Presentations were made by Wilson Dicker of Rochester, New York and Fred Whittington and Lee Wood from the congregation. The sec-

ond was a Family Day with speaker, Fred Knutson. Our first ministry team meetings were held that afternoon with good participation. A special contribution was taken for the building fund which brought in \$5,678.00. Bob and Liz Hunter spent two weeks in Israel. On November 14, one of our former deacons, Charles Wong, who moved to Dallas, baptized his daughter, Esther Wong at their home congregation, the Allen Church of Christ, in Allen, Texas. Gwen Spillett celebrated her 80th birthday, November 6.

**Brantford:** The ladies had their October Stitch and Chat on the 29th and a pot-luck lunch at the building on October 31.

**Collingwood:** The ladies class resumed for the fall, on October 19. Wayford Smith had surgery in Barrie on October 26 and is recovering well. Jamie Beattie, son of Dave and Candace put on his Lord in baptism on October 30.

**Grimsby:** A youth rally, entitled "Hang On" (Hebrews 10:23), was held on November 20. The congregation is filling 40 shoe boxes with toys, school supplies and hygienic items to be given out. The ladies Joy Group was planning to give them out to each new residence in the new subdivision being built in Grimsby. The men had a breakfast on October 30.

**Guelph:** The congregation now has three Jamies: Jamie Azzoparde, who on Friday, November 12 at 7 p.m. baptized Bionca Douma in the baptistry at the Waterloo church of Christ, (Bionca has been attending services for several years); Jamie Addison is attending the University of Guelph and she comes from Cleveland, Ohio; and Jamie McKnight, who is working in Guelph and comes from Caledon. Another new member is Myralyn Garcia. Six members from the congregation traveled to Arkansas to the Harding University Campus to attend the French Mission Workshop and Reunion.

Graham Amy has been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Great Lakes Bible College. Keith Thompson has been speaking for the congregation once per month.

**Hamilton (Fennell Ave.):** A special meeting with Michael Tackett was held November 12-14.

**Hamilton (West):** "Mike Gosselin

returned from missionary work in the Dominican Republic and told us of the good work which is going on, under great difficulties. Jonathon, Jene and Jaiden Page left for Harding University where Jonathon will be attending the School of Preaching.

The facilities committee have presented some exciting proposals for our 5-year church plan. The congregation is now supplying food to the Hamilton Neighbour to Neighbour program." *Ed Van Alstine*

**Meaford:** Sister Pauline Ford passed away November 7 and her funeral was held in Meaford, November 9 with attendance overflowing a full building and full fellowship area.

**Newmarket:** The ladies collect items for the Yellow Brick House, which is a women's shelter in Aurora. Geoff Ellis was guest speaker November 7. Brian Cox held a four day meeting, "Are You Ready for Y2K?" at the Fenwick church of Christ. On October 19, forty members gathered for a brain-storming session of ideas for their work. The brethren ended October with a pot-luck dinner at the building. Gerry Ellis and Santiago Molina of the Strathmore congregation gave a report on their hurricane relief trip to Honduras.

**Smithville:** Chris Nicholson, son of Jim and Joan of South River, recently married and preaching for a church in Florida, preached in a meeting in Jordan, ON a few weeks ago. He has arranged to move back to Canada and work with the Smithville, ON church beginning in January.

**St. Catharines:** The ladies class is studying "Women In God's Design." In November they study Acts on Mondays, have a Bible study on Thursdays, a men's breakfast on the 27th and Kids for Christ on the 26th.

A birthday tea for Nellie Johnson's 90th birthday was Sunday November 21.

**Stratford:** The morning worship time has been changed from 9:45 to 9:30 a.m.. On September 14, the men met for a training for service and fellowship. Friday evening, October 1 was a singing and fellowship time at George and Pat Mansfield's home.

**Sudbury:** Two new souls, Amanda St. Jacques and Angela Cushing have been added to the family of God.

*(continued on page 16)*

# NEWS

## - PRAIRIES -



by Wayne Turner  
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### MANITOBA

**Dauphin:** The bulletin noted two baptisms from last summer's Let's Start Talking work in Estonia.

Recent speakers have included LeRoy Murphy, Scott Roberts, Jack Close and Mal Tarrant. (Mal is looking for an opportunity for a full-time position in the kingdom.) Scott Roberts presented a lesson on "The Apostle Paul and Stress." He has been sharing this lesson with other congregations through the WCC library dinners, and spoke in Winnipeg and Regina at the end of October.

Marg Roberts suffered a mild heart attack. An angiogram revealed that she is not a candidate for bypass surgery, but is receiving ongoing treatment and medication.

**Winnipeg:** Hugh Gannon, evangelist at Carman, MB, was the featured speaker for the youth rally. This was a really great rally with young people from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in attendance. Thanks to all who participated, and especially Hugh for the great lessons.

A special prayer concern of the congregation for the past several months is little Nicholas Denby, nephew of Bea and Brad Denby. Nicholas has been undergoing chemotherapy for several months to deal with cancer in his lung and heart area to shrink the size of the tumor. We are thankful that recent surgery appears to have been successful in removing the tumor. Latest report is that he is now recovering at home.

### SASKATCHEWAN

**Regina:** 178 people came to the clothing exchange, October 25, including two families from Kosovo. Clothing is also being sent to an orphanage in Russia. On October 29, a group of the men enjoyed a period of fellowship and breakfast at the Fifth Friday Fraternity Fellowship Breakfast (FFFFB).

Kevin Vance presented a family orient-

ed lesson on October 31, "What Kids Need From Parents."

Ray McMillan was planning some special lessons on eschatology "Facing the End" on Sunday evenings in November.

**Saskatoon:** Our ministry at the Provincial Correctional Centre bears fruit again by the power and providence of God. A young man we met through this ministry introduced us to some of his relatives about six months ago. One of those relatives showed an interest in spiritual things and began attending worship with us. On October 19th, Phil Harvey put on Christ in the waters of baptism. We rejoice with Phil and thank God for the opportunities He gives us to share the good news.

The Saskatoon Congregation has just completed their first WATER WALK, a 20 km. walk with sponsors raising money to provide Manna International the necessary funds to build new wells to supply clean, safe water in Kenya. Project Coordinator Jason Bandura announced that a total of \$1371 has been raised.

We are now officially a Distribution Centre for the Good Food Box program which is an initiative of the Saskatoon Child Hunger and Education Program [CHEP]. CHEP is involved in several programs to help needy families and children in Saskatoon. The Good Food Boxes are distributed twice per month and provide low cost food that is high in nutrition. Participants pay \$10 for a small box and \$15 for a large one. The value of the boxes is about double the cost. The money is collected following normal pay days or Social Assistance checks and the food is distributed later in the month when many people have run out of food and money. The Boxes are being dropped off at our building which gives us a chance to meet and minister to our neighbors who are in need.

A Weekend Children's Bible School was held in our building on November 5 - 7. The Lessons featured the missionary journey of the Apostle Paul. The children were led in review of their sessions, with a final lesson to the congregation on Sunday morning.

On November 9th, a very happy Maureen Fleming shared with members of the Saskatoon Congregation the news that her grandson Stephen Fleming of Dauphin

was being baptized. Stephen is 13 years old and was a part of the Saskatoon Congregation for many years. We rejoice that Stephen has made this decision.

Dave Parmenter has accepted employment in Shaunavon, SK and he and his family will be moving shortly. The family has been a welcome addition to our congregation. We will miss them.

Victor Hugo has been diagnosed with Prostate cancer and will be undergoing a lengthy experimental treatment beginning November 15th. *Bob Parker*

**Weyburn:** John Bailey will be doing a series of lessons on Relationships on December 10-12.

Roger Peterson, well known for his many years of service at WCC, underwent a quintuple bypass heart surgery. He is recovering well.

The congregation is planning to have a Sojourners team with them in July.

*(continued from page 7)*

Third, think good thoughts. *"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praise worthy - think about such things"* (Philippians 4:8). You can force the bad out by putting a lot of good in. Read good books, like the Bible. Attend Bible Studies. Speak with encouraging, positive and uplifting people. Participate regularly in worship assemblies that praise God. Get involved with good people in powerful ministry. If it is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praise worthy -- keep it in your heart.

Fourth, each and every time a painful, harmful or hurtful memory comes to mind, pray. Pray that God will remove it and keep praying until He does. Then take a moment to think some good thoughts to treasure some memories that encourage you.

Lastly, never give up! If you keep on praying, seeking, asking and knocking God will answer your prayers. That is a promise that God wants you to remember.

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# NEWS

## - FAR WEST -



by Marion Waugh

4727 15A Avenue

Edmonton, AB T6L 6J1

Phone & FAX: 403-463-7324

### ALBERTA

**Edmonton:** One item that was overlooked in the July report was the appointment of Peter Ross to the office of elder. Peter and Linda have a long-time association with the congregation in Edmonton, although for several years they made their home in Kenora, Ontario. They returned to Edmonton in 1998. The church in Edmonton is pleased to have Peter serving as shepherd.

We sent our two evangelists-in-training, Cliff Turner and Shawn Redding to Lithuania for the month of October, so they could have first-hand experience in foreign missions work. Both men returned safely, and with many stories of their work in Lithuania. They spent the month working in the city of Klaipeda with Kevin and Catharine Carson. Kevin formerly served the church in Edmonton as evangelist. They also spent time in the capital of Vilnius with Chris Nichol, who also received his training in Edmonton. Cliff and Shawn taught a series of evangelistic messages and worked daily in the Bible study center. Cliff baptized one of the young men he studied with. We are thankful for these men who are willing to make the sacrifices necessary for training to be evangelists, and for taking a month away from their families to teach seeking souls halfway around the world.

We rejoice that Keith Killeen was restored to fellowship on October 10. Keith was an active member in the church several years ago. We are thankful that his heart has once again been opened to God's word.

Congratulations to Carmen Sakaluk and Brian Sams, who were united in marriage on October 31. Carmen and Brian were both converted to Christ here in Edmonton.

Fourteen of our teenagers traveled to Winnipeg for the Youth Rally on October 15-17. All the teens who attended enjoyed

the trip and the youth rally. Special thanks to the parent drivers/chaperones: Marion Waugh, Dianne Friesen and Joyce Aulenback.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Vancouver (Oakridge):** Prayers were asked for Joyce Hooper and her sister as they continue to work in Mexico, helping the less fortunate there.

"Key to the Kingdom" is broadcast from Vancouver twice a week and the signal covers Western Canada to Saskatchewan. At the present time there are about 70 calls per week from across Canada requesting Bible courses from the program. There have been about 40 baptisms so far. A contract has been signed through to the end of August 2000. Monthly cost average is \$7,259.00. We have been asked to make a financial contribution by including the program in our budget or by having a special contribution.

**South Burnaby:** As part of our effort to cover the costs of our building renovations we've designated the first Sunday of each month as a special opportunity to contribute funds for the building, in addition to our regular contribution.

Velma Forman's biopsy was clear, so she's preparing to leave for Papua New Guinea to continue her work there. Please remember her and her medical mission in your prayers.

Welcome Potlucks are held after services to welcome new guests and members and get better acquainted. Everyone is welcome.

We have a food bank in operation.

A men's prayer breakfast is held about once a month.

There are 4 mid week services throughout the area.

S. Abraham, our missionary in Bangalore, India sends words of thanks for his additional support for the remainder of this year. "I have started a work in a new place called Kanchepuram. Our brother Perinbum is now there and has influenced some people. I went there September 6 and stayed 4 days, having a good time preaching the Word. The town is a Puka Hindu place, with a lot of Hindu activity going on. They request I go once a month for a week. The brethren a Kumily are doing fine. The brethren at Bangalore in Hebbal do well, also the work in Chinnapa Garden." (The new

work is about 150 miles from Bangalore. Brother Perinbum is not supported. He is a medical worker in the villages.)

**Vernon:** "Key to the Kingdom" speaker, Michael Tackett, recently spent three days in Vernon B.C. His focus was to encourage the church, to create greater awareness of the need to support the broadcast, and to make contact with those people who are watching the program in our area.

The weekend meeting was an overwhelming success. The local church was greatly encouraged in the faith and people who are regular viewers of the broadcast came from many areas of the Valley to hear the speaker. Sunday's lessons drew a crowd of 127.

People are being converted to Christ in this province and throughout our nation. Praise God! for the one program that reaches the entire country of Canada.

*Bruce Tetreau*

### MONTANA

**Great Falls:** Larry and Renee Elford and family from Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan have arrived. Larry will team up with Scott Laird as another evangelist and Larry's focus will be Malmstrom Air Force Base and the teens. Larry's responsibilities will include preaching, teaching, equipping and evangelism.

In August there was a youth rally in Libby, Montana. The theme was "Who's Who in Heaven and are You on the List" We learned not only about the good news of heaven but also about the darkness and evil of hell. The lessons were given by Scott Laird, Gary Bennett, Mike O'Rourke, Brian Johnston and some willing teens. The rally also included many activities such as hiking, football, high lining, a Christian beach party and visiting the Heritage Museum and the Libby Dam.

The teens also attended the youth rally in Butte. The theme was "Gone Fishin". Great lessons were given and there was lots of singing. Fishing and Volleyball were the activities. It was a special weekend.

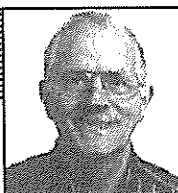
MOPS has begun again on an every other week basis.

So far 21 precious souls have been added to the Lord's kingdom.

The new entryway on the building is almost completed.

# BOOK REVIEWS

Books to be reviewed in this column should be sent to **Keith Thompson**, Editor, 348 Dixon Blvd., Newmarket, ON L3Y 5C4 (Books may be ordered from the *Gospel Herald*)



*Natural Church Development* by Christian A. Schwarz. ChurchSmart Resources, Carol Stream, IL. (ISBN 1-889638-00-5). \$27.95 CD (Reviewed by Roger Lansdell)

Over the last number of years there has been an increasing concern over declining church attendance, evangelistic outreach and churches closing their doors. Statistics have clearly shown that these concerns are well founded. The church is not growing and in fact, a more realistic description for many churches is that they are faced with the real potential of extinction in the not so distant future. For most, we prefer to ignore this reality even though it's truth shouldn't be ignored.

Some, however over the last number of years have been struggling with what might be done to change the course that many congregations are traveling. The suggestions have been numerous and in most cases has been the source of much debate i.e.. contemporary versus traditional and small group development.

To any who are struggling with what to do or any who may be embroiled in debate

as to methods that will enhance church growth I want to say, "STOP!" Stop for a while and do yourself a favor. Read and meditate on *Natural Church Development*

Since the 1980's Christian Schwarz, as head of the Institute For Natural Church Development, has surveyed over 1,000 churches in 32 countries on 6 continents. The intent of the survey was to try to discover through statistically concrete data if there was any correlating principles, that when applied resulted in church growth. The survey results amounted in over 4,000,000 pieces of information. After careful research into the data that was collected the findings are astounding. Basically Schwarz has been able to scientifically identify that the true causes of church growth are not what we have many times believed them to be.

In this work he identifies and discusses eight essential qualities that were discovered through world wide research. It was found that when these eight qualities were present, no matter where in the world the particular church may have been or what

theological positions they may have held, growth was being experienced but where they were not present decline was evident.

Robert Logan, who wrote the forward for this book says about the research and findings, "To my knowledge, there has never been such an extensive, statistically valid, worldwide church growth project ever conducted."

Basically Schwarz concludes that healthy churches will naturally be growing churches. He verifies through his research that there is a very clear link between qualitative growth (health) and numerical growth. The research confirms that if numerical growth is not being experienced that there is a health problem somewhere. Convincingly he argues that nature confirms this e.g.. healthy trees produce naturally other trees.

Again from Robert Logan, "You will find through 'Natural Church Development' a greater understanding of how God wants his church to grow. You will learn how to release the growth potential within your church. Read it, ponder it and take the next steps to becoming a healthy, growing, reproducing church!"

I concur. You can't help but be impacted by this excellent work. Every church leader, whether preacher or elder, and anyone who cares about our future should read and contemplate on this intriguing work.

## Imagine yourself . . .

- . . . walking on the sandy shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Visiting archaeological sites that reveal places where Peter and Paul used to come and go.
- . . . sailing on the glittering blue waters of the Sea of Galilee. Scanning the shore for sites of some of Jesus' astonishing miracles.
- . . . floating in the briny waves of the Dead Sea, not far from the very place where David hid as he fled from King Saul's jealous wrath.

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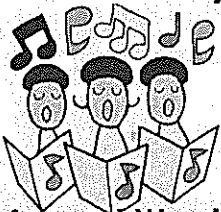
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(continued from page 11)

"Things look very promising here in Sudbury, but still we humbly request the prayers of our brethren"

*Bethel Bailey*

**Sundridge:** Pauline Frost wrote that she had surgery in June for breast cancer and had radiation treatments in Sudbury. "I have really appreciated the prayers and kindness of my fellow Christians." Steve and Phyllis May attended the John Clayton meetings in St. Catharines. Ralph Tallman was guest speaker on October 24. The brethren raised \$4000 to put new windows in their building and their next project is to drywall the inside of the building.

**Thessalon:** Engagement: Murray Smith to Ina Alcock of St. Catharines. The wedding is being planned for February 12, 2000. Congratulations!

The Bible school children built a Noah's Ark to scale. On October 24 the evening service was a singing at the Algoma Manor. New members are Johanne and Lisa Fischer from Austria who live in the Sowerby area. Vernon Bailey, who recently had a serious heart attack was back at services.

**Tintern:** At a "Celebration of Thanksgiving" day on October 3 the church met for worship, classes for kids and a traditional Thanksgiving meal. "Our attendance was 238 with many visitors from the community. The congregation was saddened by the loss of Glen Tice, who died on October 14. Bev and (son), Jeff Forman placed membership with Tintern on October 24. The congregation had a seminar on small groups on October 22-23, led by John Ellas, who shared a number of Biblical and practical principles concerning the use of small groups."

Eartha Zila and Noel Walker were elected to the board of directors for Omagh Bible Camp.

**Toronto: [Bayview]:** "David Knutson is coming over from St. Catharines most Sundays to teach and preach while we are looking for a full-time minister. We have just finished collecting breakfast food items for an inner city school that feeds more than 50 children each school morning. We sponsor 12 children in third world countries on an ongoing basis.

Our young people organized a canoe trip to the French River over the Labour Day weekend. They also play sports together every Tuesday

evening. We are proud of their self motivation. We had 20 people out for a "crop till you drop" evening. We cropped stamps for the Leprosy Mission that sells them to raise money. It was a good evening of fellowship and fun. We are becoming known in Toronto as "the little church with a big heart."

*Garry Peddle*

**Toronto: (Strathmore):** Max and Cledith Craddock were in Meaford for the Georgian Bay fellowship where Max spoke Saturday and Sunday. An evening singing group meets every other Friday for fellowship and practice. A new converts basic study class began Sunday, October 10. Elsa J. Selassie was born of water and Spirit into the kingdom of God. She has been coming to services for some time at the invitation of sister Marva and has also been involved in a Bible study with Max Craddock. Dexter Philip was also baptized on September 5. Evelyn McDonald was baptized on Sunday evening October 24. She is a Key to the Kingdom student who had been studying with Daphne Pegg.

The second annual youth lectureship held on October 1-3 had the theme "The Christian Soldier". A Bible Bowl was held October 31.

Claudette Fleming, from Bermuda is a new sister attending the University of Toronto for a few months. Guest speaker in September was Bob Hibbard. Cledith Craddock is teaching the ladies class.

Santiago and Anna Molina spent a week in the Dominican Republic at the 15th Ibero-American Encounter. Note: This event will be held next year in Toronto on October 10-15 at the Bramalea Church of Christ building.

A teacher development day with Ralph Perry is scheduled for December 4, 1-4 p.m.

**Vandeleur:** Sister Aileen Boyce fell the first week of November and broke her right arm just below the shoulder. Aileen is Joe Cannon's sister.

**Waterloo:** The congregation, with help from Guelph and Bramalea collected \$254.00 in Canadian Tire money for the work in La Vega, Dominican Republic. Many purchases were made with the money, including classroom supplies, tools, soccer balls, baseballs and some cash for church supplies. October 10 was "bring a student day" and the plan is to supply meals for students from the two uni-

versities and GLBC.

The brethren had a special fellowship time that they called "A Taste of the World" with food from many countries. The ladies had a retreat on November 20.

**Windsor (West Side):** Brother Bob Liles passed away on Monday, November 8 and his funeral was on Thursday. Bob had been an elder for many years in this congregation.

Fellowship groups were to be resumed the last Sunday evening of each month, beginning November 28. The "Keenagers" meet at the building for fellowship at 11 a.m. every second Thursday. Their Wednesday night study is on the book of Revelation. Fellowship groups meet on the last Sunday evening of the month.

Spanish/English services are on the third Sunday night of the month.

#### NEW YORK

**North Buffalo:** Jackie Ortiz was baptized on September 12. On October 31 the brethren had a singing at the Manor at 2 p.m. Several from the congregation attended the youth rally at Lawson Road.

#### Mission News:

#### Haiti - Correction

Our apologies to Ray Fillion. We sincerely hope that the errors in his phone number in the October issue has not resulted in the loss of support for his work in Haiti. Apparently, no one has responded to the challenge and opportunity presented in that abbreviated report.

Brother Fillion plans to leave on January 8, for another two month effort in Haiti. He would very much like to hear from you if you can assist financially or if you would consider joining him on the trip.

The correct phone number is (604) 850-9001 and his new address is Raymond Fillion, 102 2410 Emerson, Abbotsford, BC V2T 3J3.

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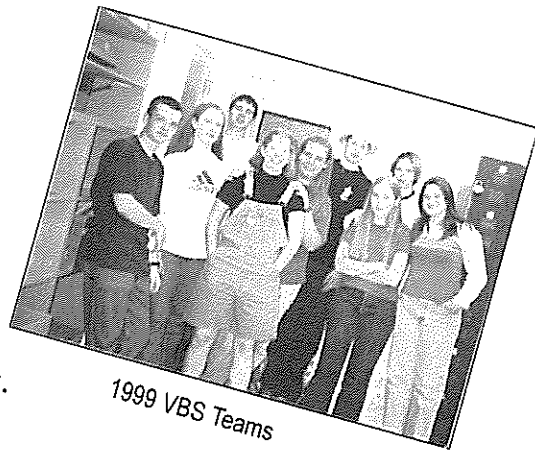


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# OBITUARIES

## Mabel Harriet Davies (1912-1999)

Sister Mabel Davies, aged 87, passed from this earthly realm on September 27 in hospital in Saskatoon, SK. Born on April 17, 1912 at Rugby, ND, she moved to Radville, SK with the family less than two years later. There were four boys and four girls. The family spoke only Norwegian.

She met Glen Davies from Oungre, SK while attending Bible School in Radville and they married the following December. After a period in Hoffer and ten years in Regina, they moved, in 1951 to North Battleford where they lived until the present.

The church was central in the family life and there was usually company from church on Sunday to enjoy her good cooking and fellowship.

Left to cherish Mabel's memory are her husband, Glen; five daughters and four sons: Beverly (Mel) McClure, Burnaby, BC, Owen (Sharon), Wilkie, SK, Doyle, North Battleford, SK, Barry (Linda), Hanna, AB, Myrna (Tony) Sander, Wilkie, SK, Sandra (Bill) Kowalski, North Battleford, SK, Bonnie (Charlie) Muller, Brandon, MB, Llewellyn (Kathy), Whitecourt, AB, Wanda (Greg) Nordstrom, North Battleford, SK; 24 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren; and two sisters: Lil (Bob) Beamer and Helen Hoff as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, four brothers and a sister.

A celebration of life service on October 1 was conducted by Bob Parker and Jelsing Bailey.

Papua New Guinea	F	15	Whitfield, Jean	O	16	Modern Day Samaritans	Ag	6
Papua New Guinea	Ap	18	Whitfield, Jean	N	17	Telling on Ourselves	N	8
MISSIONS—QUEBEC			Overton, Ray Lee			SEXUALITY		
Quebec Province	Jl	15	"Willful Absenteeism"	N	2	Hollywood Impurity	O	9
MISSIONS—UKRAINE			PARENTING			Smith, Don		
Slavic Evangelism	J	15	A Knowledge Given			Worship Words	J	9
Ukraine	Jn	15	in Childhood	F	10	Smith, Murray		
Ukraine and Russia	N	15	"Christian Parenting"	Ag	11	"The Perpetual Enemy"	J	9
Ukraine—Pinczuk	N	15	Satan IS Alive and Well	N	9	What Jesus Means To Me,		
MISSIONS—ZAMBIA			Parker, Mike			Part I	Ag	5
Zambia	J	15	The Parable of the Cliff Edge	Jn	2	What Jesus Means To Me,		
Zambia	F	15	PASSION			Part II	S	5
Zambia	Jl	15	My Passion For Preaching	S	6	SPIRITUALITY		
Zambia—Merritts	N	15	PATIENCE			Looking for God in the		
Molina, Santiago			Waiting	D	6	Wrong Places	J	4
Hurricane "Mitch" Relief			PEACE			Spiritual Decline	F	2
Effort Report	Ag	1	The Prince of Peace	My	4	Stumpf, Des		
Morphy, Peter			Perry, Donald			We Need to Grow in		
A New Lesson	F	8	"Truth and Tolerance"	S	8	Numbers Too	M	7
MOTHERS			Perry, Eugene C.			SUBMISSION, To God		
The Heart of the Home	My	10	Acceptance vs Approval	S	7	Overcoming Our Strength	N	8
OBDIANCE			Affirmation Needed	Jn	8	SUCCESS—In Life		
Listen AND Hear	M	10	!!AIII!	M	9	When Life is a Success	My	5
"To Serve Them All My Days"	Ag	2	Caught and/or Taught	Ag	8	TOLERANCE		
OBITUARIES			"Count Down to Eternity"	J	7	"Truth and Tolerance"	S	8
Bailey, Walter Stanley	Ap	16	Do We Persuade?	Ap	8	TRUTH		
Blak, Reba	Ap	16	"Heavier Judgement"	O	8	Have you Heard?	S	4
Bumstead, Dorsey Wellington	S	14	"Not So With You"	F	5	"Truth and Tolerance"	S	8
Dale, Muriel	F	17	Our Purpose	My	7	Turner, Felix H.		
Dale, Victor Maunse	S	14	"Post-Modern" Worship	Jl	8	Ezra: Lesson in Faith	Jn	3
Davies, Mabel Harriet	D	19	The Food That Endures	N	7	Freedom Misdirected	F	7
Davis, Earle	Ag	16	"Things New and Old"	D	8	"To Serve Them All My Days"	Ag	2
Elford, Clifford Russell	O	16	Perry, Evelyn			Turner, Wayne		
Elliott, Thomas Gregory	S	14	Answering a Real Need			Balancing Our Ideals	M	4
Frost, W. (Jack)	M	15	Orphan Opportunity	S	9	Civil Government	O	4
Garner, Marion	My	16	Satan IS Alive and Well	N	9	Conviction, Convenience or		
Gatewood, Dr. Otis	N	17	PRAYER			Contentiousness	N	4
Hartle, Thomas W.	J	17	Lord Teach Us To Pray	O	6	Do You Believe?	Jn	4
Hogg, Esther Frances (Barnes)	N	17	PREACHING			God and the Charter of Rights	Jl	4
Jackson, Derek	S	14	My Passion For Preaching	S	6	Have you Heard?	S	4
Jackson, Derek	O	16	PRIORITIES			It Is Hard To Have Fellowship		
Kolesnikow, Maria	Jn	17	Burning Priorities	Jn	7	With a Cactus	Ag	7
Krogsgaard, Maria			PURITY			Looking for God in the		
Alvide (Arteson)	Jl	17	Hollywood Impurity	O	9	Wrong Places	J	4
Lowery, Connie	Ag	16	REJECTION, Of God			One Step Forward And...	D	4
McDonald, Geraldine	Ag	16	Why Do People Reject God?	N	10	Seeking the Lost	Ap	4
McInery, Elma	My	16	REPENTANCE			Some Things Are Carved in Stone	Ag	4
McNalty, William Evan	Ap	16	Grace and Repentance	Ag	9	The Prince of Peace	My	4
Monney, Clarice	N	17	RESPONSIBILITY, Accepting			The Y2K Bug	F	4
Mowrer, Mildred	Ag	16	Remain True to Your Word	S	8	WESTERNCHRISTIAN COLLEGE		
Ocampo, Augustine	O	16	RESTORATION			Western Christian College		
Pack, Frank	F	17	"God's Lost Lambs"	S	2	Promotions and Appointments	Jn	13
Perry, A. Frances	J	17	RESTORATIONMOVEMENT			WORDS		
Perry, Winfred	Ap	16	Balancing Our Ideals	M	4	!!AIII!	M	9
Silver, Maude Caroline	F	17	"Keeping the Flame Alive"			WORSHIP		
Smith, Raymond Merlin	O	16	Restoration Revisited	Ap	3	"Post-Modern" Worship	Jl	8
Stapleton, Neville			REVIVAL			"Worship God"	D	2
In Loving memory of	O	16	Worship Words	J	9	Young, Charles		
Straker, Hazel Jane (Fee)	My	16	SELF-ESTEEM			Becoming A Third-class Christian	O	2
Taliman, Edna May	J	17	Find Fault Or Give Praise?	D	9	SERVICE		
Whitfield, Jean	S	14						

### Mission News:

## Lithuania - Carson

Canadians Kevin and Catharine Carson, along with their children Jesse and Claire, continue to serve as missionaries in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

In the second quarter of 1999, thirty-two new students have registered to study the Bible in the Klaipeda church of Christ's Bible Centre.

### September Highlights:

Brother Larry Foster, from the U.S., gave 4 lectures on Bible Archaeology on September 10 - 12. He used a lot of slides and diagrams and the series was full of very good faith-building information. An average of 22 people attended each lecture.

Brother David Pryor from Mississippi conducted a singing school, September 24-25. An average of 22 people attended each session. The focus was on helping people to learn to sing better, and to develop their enjoyment for singing. As well, there were special classes for men on leading singing.

A young couple, Gediminas and Indre Ilevicius were baptized at a lake in one of Lithuania's national parks near Klaipeda.

### October Highlights:

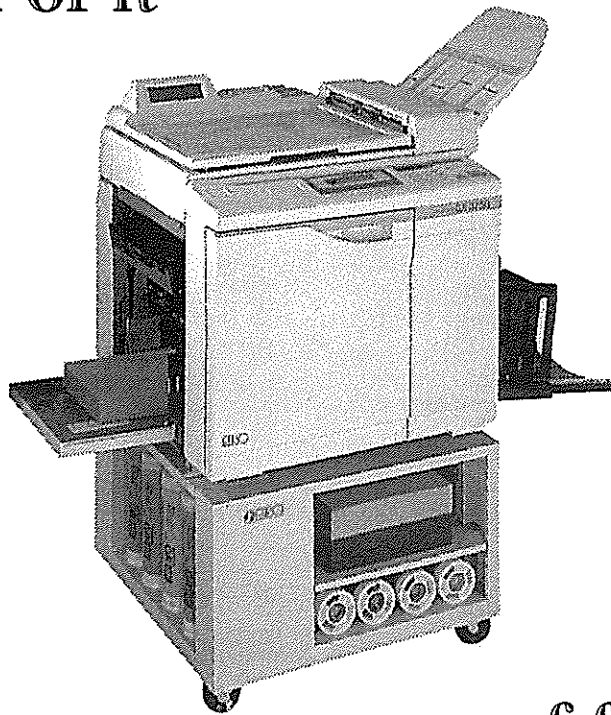
Edmonton preaching interns Cliff Turner and Shawn Redding delivered 6 lectures in Klaipeda over a 3 week period. The theme was "What Do You Know About Jesus?" An average of 24 people attended each lecture. Cliff and Shawn also conducted one-on-one Bible studies in the study centre, handed out invitations to the lectures in the marketplaces, and spent time meeting with and encouraging the members.

Victor Vatin, the teenage son on one of the church's members, was baptized by Cliff Turner. Victor has been attending and studying for over a year.

Zivile Zibudaite, a member and our part-time secretary, left Klaipeda to work as a nanny in the Boston Mass. area.

The church purchased a new sandwich board to better advertise the study centre.

Don't think of it  
as a printer.



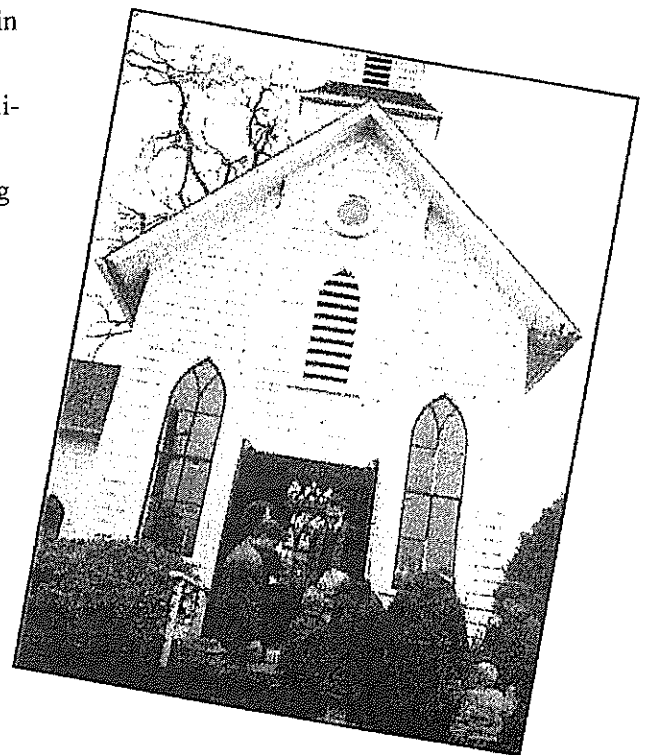
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