

Gospel Herald

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A special luncheon was held Friday, October 6, 2000 at Western Christian College to honour the two hundred and sixty-two staff and faculty who have served over the past fifty- five years. The seventy-one people in attendance enjoyed a wonderful time sharing the memories, achievements and challenges of our rich history. Plaques were presented to all former staff and faculty for their commitment and service to WCC.

Back: Leslie Coulter, Deanna Cook, Nina Willett, James Willett, Arbutus Tetreau, Wayne Muirhead, Ken Starnes, Roland Olson, David Lidbury, Dwayne Davis, Roger Peterson, Bill Muirhead, Cheryl Oberkirsch, Michael Bolton, Shelley Jacobs, Dan Wieb, Carolyn McMillan, Jack Close, Marilyn Muller, Scott Roberts, Mark Husband, Don Husband. **Middle:** Velda Coulter, Darla Peterson, Gordon Goodwin, Floyd Jacobs, Cal Young, Doris Husband, Mabel Bailey, Shirley Lidbury, Helen Peterson, Bev Bolton, Cindi Roberts, Marti Elford, Mary Gurel, Allen Mitchell, John McMillan. **Front:** Dorothy Wieb, Mildred Goodwin, Marion Jacobs, Irene Young, Cecil Bailey, Lavine Bailey, Mary Muirhead, Marge Roberts, Rae Starnes, Karen Close, Evelee Wenaas.

Weathering the Storm

Walter N. Hart

They might have been apostles of Jesus Christ, but they still had to deal with storms! Some of them were professional fishermen, and the Sea of Galilee was their lake for fishing, but they were still frightened this night as the storm raged and their boat was in the process of being swamped. Jesus was there, but he was asleep in the stern (Mark 4:35-41)! Nor was this the only time the disciples got into difficulty on the sea, as the wind came up and the boat was battered by the waves (Matthew 14:22-34). This time Jesus was not with them, but came to them - walking on the water! The Apostle Paul also had experience with storms as he served Christ. Of special note is that time on the way to the imperial court in Rome, when a fierce northeaster drove the ship across the Mediterranean for many days and finally wrecked it on the shores of Malta (Acts 27:14-44).

As with the apostles, so with us. Life is certainly not all sunshine. Often we encounter the storm: family difficulties - business reverses - unjust criticism - sickness - death - loneliness - temptations - broken friendships - unemployment - problems at school. **This is life, and the follower of Jesus is involved in it: sunshine -- shadow; winter - summer; storm - calm.** Even Jesus knew these things. And He has not promised to withhold them from His people. He has not told us that we will not have to face storms as His followers. Real Christianity is not in living a storm free life, but in learning to persevere and to overcome.

What should we do in the storm?

How should we behave in the storm? What will help us to "ride it out"? **First, let us keep our faith.** Let us determine never to become fearful and hysterical. Jesus: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" (Mark 4:40). Does not God still reign? Is not Christ still with us?

Paul, in the midst of the storm at sea spoke of "the God to whom I belong and whom I worship" and urged those present to "keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told" (Acts 27:25).

In the midst of the storm, remember: "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5,6); "If God is for us, who

is against us?" (Romans 8:31,32); "So do not worry..." (Matthew 6:33,34).

In the midst of the storm, be hopeful. Doesn't calm follow the storm? Doesn't the rainbow appear following the rain? We can always live in hope if our life is anchored in the right place. Our hope needs to be embedded deep in the love and the integrity of God. "...that hope we hold. It is like an anchor for our lives, an anchor safe and sure. It enters in through the veil, where Jesus has entered on our behalf as forerunner, having become a high priest forever in the succession of Melchizedek" (Hebrews 6:19,20 NEB). "You will find trouble in the world - but, never lose heart, I have conquered the world!" (John 16:33 Phillips).

A storm is no time to cast away the anchor - but so many do! How sad when the storm is allowed to stop one from assembling regularly with the saints, to stop seeking ways to serve, to stop reading God's Word and to stop praying. That is asking for real disaster!

"Life is certainly not all sunshine. Often we encounter the storm..."

Have you had a great challenge lately? Have you had to face the wind and the waves? Have you acted so as to strengthen your anchor in the love of God, or to weaken it? In the storm, let us keep our faith and maintain our hope!

The results need not all be bad

The results of the storm need not all be bad, if we will keep our faith and maintain our hope (although it must be admitted that in the storm it does often appear as if no good could possibly result!).

The storm can reveal character. We do not know our real strengths and weaknesses until we are put to the test. Back in 1962, when we were building the church building in Halifax, all seemed to be going well. Then one day a strong wind came up! The men who were putting down shingles on the roof quickly came down. Engineers were called and the design altered. Storm braces were added to the trusses. The wind had revealed a flaw in the design and corrective measures were needed. Anyone can be a "fair-weather Christian" - it is when

all does not go well with us that we learn our real make up!

How strong is our faith? Do we really love God? Trials "test" our faith (James 1:3). It is the person who "passes the test" who receives the crown of life from God (James 1:12). Just as gold proves itself genuine when it passes through the assayer's fire, so our faith shows itself genuine when it survives the fires of disappointment, loss, sorrow, setback (1 Peter 1:6-8).

We know that Job was utterly loyal and faithful to God, that he served God out of true motive, and that he was no hireling who just served God when all went well. We know those things about Job because he faced and passed the test! So the storm can reveal character.

The storm can strengthen character. Was Job weaker or stronger after having faced and overcome sorrow and loss? Job himself said he was stronger; that he had a better understanding of himself and of God (Job 42:1-6).

The strong tree is the one that, during its growth, had some exposure to winds and storms. The tree, always protected, is the one that will fall first in a storm. The overprotected person, not meeting trials, will be immature, and so unsteady in reaction to life. There is a warning to parents here!

"...the testing of your faith produces endurance." And endurance or perseverance is necessary to the development of maturity, to a well-rounded, complete character (James 1:2,3).

To fail to strive, to reach out, to be tested, to face the storm, is to fail to develop as God meant for us to develop!

The storm reveals our need for the Master! It is when the storm starts to swamp the boat that we cry out "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" (Matthew 8:25). In the storm we recognize our humanity, our weakness, our ignorance, our smallness, our utter need for God! It is in the midst of the storm that we learn to rely "not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead" (2 Corinthians 1:8,9).

Howard Rutledge, U.S. Air Force pilot, imprisoned in North Viet Nam, wrote of how the pressure of the storm made him turn to God: "During those longer periods of enforced reflection it became so much

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Jesus' Invitation, Part 3

A Message from Matthew 11:28-30

Paul Birston

If we were to open our mail and find invitations from royalty to attend their banquet, would we go? Probably some of us would but some of us would not. We might feel shy and intimidated. We may not like crowds.

But what if we knew that our host was gentle and humble in heart? What if we knew he had sacrificed everything, and spared no expense, to prepare a place for us and make us welcome? Would we go to his banquet?

This is how it is with God. He invites us to the marriage supper of His Son Jesus. He has prepared a place for us in advance and eagerly desires our presence with Him. Jesus Himself, the humble creator of the universe, invites us to come to Him for rest and discipleship.

In Part 1 of three articles, we noticed that Jesus gave His invitation in the middle of exchanges with various groups about His identity. He shares good news in the presence of those who want to crush Him. He reveals His gentle, humble and loving character to the babes, the weary and the burdened.

In Part 2 we discussed how we can share Jesus' gracious invitation in ministry to others in small groups, individually and in sermons. In this last article we put what we have learned together in one example, among many possibilities, of a message from Matthew 11:28-30.

How Do People Think of Jesus?

How do people in the malls, offices, and community centres where we shop, work, and play, think about Jesus today? Do they think about Him at all? We sometimes hear His name used in these places in derogatory ways, as a common thing. What do people really think of Jesus today?

Some think of Him once a year as a baby in an artificial manger. Some think of Him as a banner over their religion: He stays high in the sky while they just do what they want. Others are mad at Him; they use His name in anger. Others are just incredibly cynical about Him because of those who profess to follow Him. They've seen it all: religious leaders who pilfer money to line their own pockets, who seek sexual favours, who abuse others and lust after power all in the name of the Christian

faith. Others are sincere in their beliefs but not really sure; age wears hard on their faith, it becomes a set of rules. Guilt weighs them down.

You know, things weren't a whole lot different when Jesus walked on the earth. If you don't believe me, consider this from Matthew 11. Jesus' relative John ended up in prison for doing the right thing. He wasn't quite sure if Jesus really was the Christ, the Messiah. He sent some of His followers to find out. Instead of scolding him or saying, "Oh what's the use?", Jesus told him about what He had done (11:4-6). Jesus made the blind see, the lame walk...He even raised the dead. He preached the good news to the poor. He loved them so much, He was about to die for them. He blessed those who would not stumble over this. Then He commended John to the crowds.

And what did the crowds think about

"Jesus' invitation involves three commands: come, take, learn"

Jesus? Some of them were cynical (11:16-19). They were like boys and girls playing a mock-wedding, or a mock-funeral game, without getting a response from their playmates. The people didn't like the serious message of John, or the joyful promise of salvation from Jesus.

What about Jesus' own countrymen? He did powerful miracles in the cities around the sea of Galilee (11:20-24). How did they respond? They did not allow Jesus' love and compassion to affect them; they would not change their hearts. Matthew goes on in chapter 12 to tell us that the religious leaders of His day, the Pharisees, accused Him of being a lawbreaker (12:2). They said He "casts out demons only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons" (12:24). They "counseled together against Him, as to how they might destroy Him" (12:14).

Come to Me

In the middle of this controversy, ...in the middle of this confusion, ...in the middle of this chaos, ...came a clear and calm voice.... It was the strong and controlled voice of Jesus saying, "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (11:28). "Come to me."

Jesus invites us to drop the old heavy burdens of rules, and laws, and our own feeble efforts to save ourselves.

Notice that Jesus' invitation involves three commands: 1) come, 2) take, 3) learn. He is the Expected One, the strong one, the one with the authority to reveal who God is (11:27). And who is He likely to reveal Himself to? The "babes" or little children; those who are spiritually open to Him. Not to the cynics, or to those who plot against Him, but to those who are humble enough to trade yokes. Are we willing to trade our yokes for Jesus'? Are we willing to come to Him for rest? This is the rest God promised from long ago. Not the rest of idleness, but the rest of His presence, being in tune with our Father.

What do we do when we say "Yes" to Jesus? We take His yoke upon us. Notice that Jesus does not put the yoke on us, we take it and put it on ourselves, voluntarily. And what is a yoke? It is something we use to pull a load.

Yes, it makes the pull easier, but it is for work. And we work in tandem with Jesus, not on our own any longer. The work is His; He sets the agenda. We abandon our objectives for His.

Jesus tells us to learn from Him; He invites us to be His disciples. A disciple is one who learns, who adheres, who practices the disciplines of his master and mentor. We hang on His every word, taking them into our lives, making His thoughts ours. And this is more than classroom learning; it is following Him through the streets and market places and hospital corridors; facing the same opposition He faces; being misunderstood like He is; giving up ourselves for others like He does; setting our sights on heaven like He did.

In doing His will we find rest for our souls. The struggle is over. We have come home. We are receiving God's promise of rest and refreshment for His people. Notice what His yoke is like. His yoke is still a yoke, it is an instrument of work, but it is easy. It fits well. It is shaped and honed for the job. It is perfectly fit for His burden. His burden is light. Will we come to Jesus, take His yoke upon us, and learn of Him?

Winnipeg, Manitoba

EDITORIAL

Brotherly Love

Wayne Turner



During the 1960's, the popular solution to the world's problems was love. "Peace" and "love" were emblazoned everywhere. The Beatles' 1967 song characteristically proclaimed, "All you need is love!" The theme song from the movie "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner," a powerful portrayal of two families trying to cope with an inter-racial engagement, proclaimed, "You have to give a little, take a little, and let your poor heart break a little. That's the story of, that's the glory of love."

What many young people thought they were inventing in the 1960's was something that had existed for thousands of years. Christians know it as God's love for the world (John 3:16) and the standard for all their relationships. Jesus stood, as He does today, as the epitome of such love. Although the love demonstrated in the 1960's often degenerated into a selfish sexual exploitation of others, Biblical love remains constant. It is selfless and giving. It seeks the welfare of others without any concern for self. "God is love...Love one another...Love your neighbour as yourself...Love your enemies... Love does no wrong to a neighbour." Jesus showed this love when He washed the disciples' feet, gently restored Peter after his denial, and forgave his executioners. "Greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus taught that brotherly love should be one of the distinctive marks of His followers. "By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

One of the best examples of the application of selfless love is seen in 1 Corinthians 8. Eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols had become an issue of conscience for some Christians in Corinth. Paul notes that while an idol is nothing, some brothers and sisters in Christ may have difficulties eating this meat. He not only recognized their need to abstain from this meat, but also their need to avoid having their consciences troubled and hurt by seeing Christians appear to be involved with idols by eating this meat. Paul declared, "If eating meat causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again." He was willing to yield his rights for the sake of other Christians. In Romans 14, Paul gives some principles for handling the differences in conscience that can exist between Christians. They are to love and respect one another, remember that all serve the same Lord, and not pass judgement on one another as they maintain unity.

The Biblical demand for unity in the body of Christ is clear and absolute. The Lord expects his people, in an attitude of mutual love and respect, to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." When one person or group of people in a congregation trample on the consciences of others, insist on having their own way at the expense of the views of others, and invite those who differ to leave, saying, "This is the way we are now going to do this here," can those people be walking in love? Insisting on having one's own way is not the way of Christ. Jesus is the one who said, "Not my will, thy will be done."

One of the hardest challenges is distinguishing between matters of faith, matters of conscience and matters of opinion. Matters of faith are defined by the clearly expressed teaching of scripture. These are unchangeable and non-negotiable. Matters of conscience are concerns that may result from one's study of the Bible and reflect his or her understanding of its application or a personal sense of right and wrong. Matters of opinion are simply the preferences and tastes that are held by each individual.

Although we sometimes see matters of conscience and opinion differently, we should not allow these to cause divisions between us. We need the "mind of Christ" - the commitment to unity and love that caused Jesus to empty himself and die on the cross for us. It is by the demonstration of our love for one another that the world will know whether we are truly the Lord's disciples.

Editor's Notes

Deadline: As usual, because of the holidays, our deadline for the submission of time sensitive materials for the January 2001 issue is one week early - December 5 instead of 12. Articles should be in by November 30.

Directory: The inclusion of the index has crowded out the directory for this month. Since this has happened from time to time, we have not sent out renewal notices. Payment (\$8.00/year; \$4.00 for changes) and updates for the period July 2000 to June 2001 are now due. If churches would please respond to this notice, it will save us the time and expense of sending out notices.

Best Wishes: The Gospel Herald staff takes this means of thanking our subscribers, supporters and customers for your loyalty. We wish one and all an enjoyable holiday season and a blessed year 2001 in fruitful service to our Master and to one another.

Circulation: A number of faithful readers and supporters have departed this life for a better one. Several others have cancelled their subscriptions, explaining that failing eyesight prevents them from reading the "small type". We would be encouraged to hear from some replacement subscribers.

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What Do You Pursue?

Max Craddock

What is truly important in one's life will be seen in the object of one's pursuit. Deep eh? This would appear to be a pretty obvious truth. However, people often seem to lose sight of this truth in the living of their daily lives and in the things they consider to be most important. For the Christian, the most important matter is to seek first the Kingdom and the righteous life in Christ. With the day to day pressures and activities one has to re-evaluate his priorities on a regular basis.

What would you list as a major problem for the Christian family today? There are perhaps several different dangers that could be noted as major pitfalls for the modern Christian family. One of those that has to rate as a major danger is materialism. On every hand, through advertising and in relationships with people, families are pressured to upgrade and acquire material "blessings" as possessed by those around them. While there is surely nothing wrong with enjoying the material things life has to offer, when these things become the first concern disaster lies ahead.

A major difficulty is the fact that one can become materialistic without really realizing it is happening. Many Christians have only come to recognize this fact - that it affects their Christian walk and influence on family - when it is too late. Too late because a pattern of what is important has been shown to the children in the home. Remember, children will be more affected by what they see than by what they are taught if the example does not demonstrate the spoken lesson. Too late because a lifestyle has been established that one does not or cannot change, at least without a major change in mindset.

Just here be reminded of some powerful thoughts from scripture regarding money and wealth. "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing

into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." (1 Tim. 6:6-10) Paul does not here say it is wrong to have money but warns of the danger of money becoming the focus and love of one's life. There are those who have been very successful in life and have made a great deal of money who have never lost sight of their responsibility to and their love for God. Unfortunately, many have been wrecked along the way to wealth.

Solomon, in Ecclesiastes, refers to money and wealth several times. "Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?" (5:10,11) If we are honest we are all subject at times to the temptation of making wealth, with which we can purchase the items our hearts desire. This can become a vicious circle as more and more is desired. It is easy in this scenario to lose sight of what is really most important... the seeking first of the Kingdom. Consider further the words of Solomon, "Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: that wisdom preserves the life of its possessor." (7:12) Wisdom is defined as being wise, soundness of judgment. Soundness of judgment helps to determine proper priorities for life. Wealth can often blind the eye to what is really most worthwhile. In gaining wealth be sure to pray for wisdom to see the big picture rather than just focusing

on the immediate. How is the impact of materialism being seen in church families today? Is the Christian family - your Christian family - losing focus on seeking first the Kingdom because of: 1) the time required in working to amass the money seen as necessary for the chosen standard of living? 2) the well-intentioned desire to give children "all the things we never had" that may undermine the children's view of what is most important? 3) the emphasis on wealth that can distort what is of first importance?

Next month, the Lord willing, we will further explore these questions. Since souls are at stake our answers are of utmost importance!

Mission News

India: Carl Johnson writes, "Larry, my son and I leave . . . Morrison, Tennessee for India on October 16 to visit the Lord's work that we have been engaged in since 1966."

"On October 16, I will be 83 years of age, so I would think it will be my last trip to India. I cannot think of a better birthday present but to visit the dear brethren over there."

J.C. and Betty Choate went for another period of work in India on September 6, completing 39 years of work in India and that part of Asia.

"A number of books will be printed in several of the local languages, spoken by hundreds of millions of people." Sixteen magazines are being distributed throughout the country. "There are 14 weekly broadcasts, heard in six of the major languages of India and neighboring countries."

Zambia: A medical team of 100 from the US along with 60 Zambian "counterparts" ministered in several locations providing treatment to over 15,000 people. Thirty eight were baptized and 219 rededicated themselves to the Lord. Bible studies were held with hundreds.

Ukraine: Rick Pinczuk, of the Slavic Evangelism Ministry, has sent us a copy of an article by Lily Hyde, entitled, Ukraine's Divided Orthodox Church losing Believers.

It is reported that there has been a spate of church building since independence but
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CHRISTIAN YOUTH

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The Power of Our Words

Whoever said, "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me," lied.

Words do have the ability to hurt us, perhaps in a greater way than almost anything else. James, the inspired biblical writer, speaks to us about the power of the tongue, "We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered, by a very small rudder, wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell." (James 3:2-6)

The tongue is small, yet so powerful! Mighty things do come in small packages. James goes on to tell us in James 3:7 that the tongue cannot be tamed by man. It can be controlled and monitored. In the same way that we cage wild animals we can also imprison the tongue. We have a matching set of ivory bars to control the tongue. We simply have to make sure that we shut the gates at the proper time.

The wise author of the Proverbs of the Old Testament spoke frequently and clearly on the danger of turning our tongues loose. In Proverbs 10:13-14 he says, "Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgment. Wise men store up knowledge but the mouth of a fool invites ruin." He continues in 10:19, "When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise." Then in 11:9, "With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbour, but through knowledge the

righteous escape." By now you could write the lessons as well as I can. We must keep a close watch on our tongues. We are responsible for a powerful weapon.

Listen to some contemporary wisdom on the power of our words. "The man who says just what he thinks, should think first." "It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt." "Talk is cheap, because the supply is greater than the demand." "Out of the mouth of babes come words that parents should not have spoken in the first place." "The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail more than his tongue." We all know a few people who open their mouths only to change feet.

We need to guard our words closely. Our words can injure and alienate so quickly that it is important that we guard each and every word that we say. We can destroy lifelong relationships with one careless or thoughtless word. The Psalmist compares the tongue to a sharpened razor (Psalm 52:2). We can all vividly remember a time when the sharp words of a friend cut right to our hearts.

The Bible teaches, and common sense illustrates, that the tongue has a great potential for building up and for tearing down. Our ability to handle this powerful instrument is a good indication of our Christian maturity. Each of us can remember a time when a word of encouragement or appreciation came at the most opportune moment. We were discouraged and weary and ready to give up, when the kind words of another lifted us up and encouraged us on our walk with God. Hopefully, only a few of us can remember those other times when we were equally discouraged and weary and ready to give up and the words of another came slashing at us bringing us even lower.

Gossip is extremely destructive! It produces nothing good, but destroys relationships, damages character and spreads

strife. It is a germ that creates a disease for which there is no cure. Before you speak, make sure you have all the facts, do not pass on that which has the potential of harming another. You do not like people gossiping about you; so do not gossip about others.

In contrast to the negative results of gossip, the tongue affords a tremendous opportunity for encouragement; there is simply no substitute for kind and understanding words. Think with me for a minute about two powerful words of encouragement, "thank you." Unfortunately many assume that when a close relationship exists no "thank you"s are necessary, but nothing could be further from the truth. To not say "thank you" is to take another for granted. To not say "thank you" is to begin to think not of how people have blessed our lives, but of how they could be doing more and to remember in detail all the things they have done to annoy us. To withhold thanks is to say a silent criticism. To not say "thank you" is to withhold a loving encouragement. To not say "thank you" is to remove a way of inspiring others to greater good. To not say "thank you" is a way to slowly but surely destroy the relationships that we now enjoy. Never miss an opportunity to say "thank you" to one that you love, to one that has served you well. The best way to avoid using the gift of speech for evil is to be busy using it for good. Set yourself a goal of saying a special "thank you" or word of encouragement each and every day. You may of course do it more often than once each day, but set yourself a goal of using your words to encourage at least once each day. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

BMC

Preacher/Evangelist Needed

A congregation of approximately 45 Christians needs a preacher/evangelist. We are located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Candidate should be mission-minded and interested in promoting growth within the congregation. Partial support provided.

Interested parties should submit their resumes to:

Convoy Avenue Church of Christ
48 Convoy Avenue, Halifax, NS
B3N 2P8
c/o Mr. Linden Terry
or e-mail to Lterry 4900@aol.com

The Kingdom of Heaven Come Down No. 3

Geoffrey H. Ellis



In the previous reflection it was proposed that a clear understanding of the church as the kingdom of heaven on earth would help to forestall the twin errors of self-centred sectarianism and earth-bound denominationalism. The same can be said for misdirection that results from a failure to distinguish between the kingdom of Christ and the nations of the world. Included are the errors of the "established church" and "civil religion."

The cross is key to understanding the church's proper posture with regard to society at large. Political forces that included both Romans and Jews crucified Christ. Jesus well identified the antipathy of the world toward him. He said to his disciples on the eve of his betrayal, illegal trial and horrific execution, "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you" (John 15:18-19). Thus, the cross signals that the world, including its political powers, stands opposed to Jesus' person, work and reign.

At the same time, the cross symbolizes the concern that Christ has for the people of this world and their nations. As Jesus came into the world to be its saviour, even so he sends the church into the world to witness to Christ's intention and to implement his redemption plan. Later, during the same dark night, Jesus prayed for his apostles, whom the Father had given him "out of the world," that "They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world" (John 17:6, 16-17). Thus, the cross points to both the kingdom's separation from and its penetration into the world.

It is significant that Jesus did not try to convert the Roman nation per se. Neither did he attempt to reform the Jewish puppet-nation directly. In fact, he avoided political involvement entirely in his kingdom mission. He announced the arrival of the kingdom of heaven and invited all men

and women, both Jew and Gentile, into it. It is true that he taught his disciples to respect the Roman law-cf. "Render unto Caesar..." i.e. "Pay your taxes!" (Matt. 22:21). He observed carefully the Jewish law-cf. "Go show yourself to the priest" (Matt. 8:4). He also taught that his disciples would be a blessing to the world-as light and salt (Matt. 5:13,14). Yet in the Revelation, Jesus taught that Satan would turn the seats of political power into centers of anti-Christian influence. He also taught that the good things of the nations would be used to benefit the kingdom (Rev. 21:26).

Clearly, there is neither Biblical permission nor practical reason for the church to become "established," i.e. to become the official spiritual adjunct of an earthly state (cf. Anglicanism in England, Lutheranism in Finland, Orthodoxy in several eastern countries, to name a few). Neither is there

He announced the arrival of the Kingdom of heaven and invited all men. . .

justification for the attempt to Christianize a nation, i.e. "civil religion". For example, American churches have called for a return to the time when America was "one nation under God." That time, of course, never existed, and recent attempts to achieve it by political means have failed (cf. "the Moral Majority," "the Christian Right," etc.). Canada is perceived to have been a "Christian nation" at one time, but the success of secularism in our time has snuffed out that feeble possibility. In the recent run up to the federal election, a poll indicated that a full 70% of Canadians believe that religion should be kept out of politics. (It is curious that the USA, constitutionally committed to the separation of church and state, is now hankering for some integration of the two. Canada, on the other hand, where an "established church" was fully expected but not achieved because several Churches competed for the privilege with the result that all lost out, now has assumed the American doctrine of separation of state and religion!)

Historians Richard T. Hughes and David Edwin Harrell in recent studies have both identified a move by Churches of

Christ in America toward the world. They identify a swing away from the "Sect" stance (as distinguished sociologically, where separation of the church from the world is maintained), to a "Church" posture (again a sociological category, where the world and its structures are embraced). Hughes suggests that, in the effort to defeat pre-millennialism, the church stopped thinking about the kingdom and thus became prey to world-linking attractions (cf. the popular slogan of the mid-century, "Christianity and Americanism go hand in hand"). Harrell contends that the division between the "institutional" and "non-institutional" churches that occurred in the mid-50s was as much a separation caused because some churches wanted to ride the tide to social acceptability and others did not. Both authors lament this shift to a world embracing position. Clearly, many have forgotten that the church is the kingdom of heaven on earth with its own distinct agenda and locus of power and that these are not found in the political structures of the world.

The church is the kingdom of heaven come to earth. It is in the world but not of it. The cross highlights the enmity of the world, including its political structures as bastions of continued rebellion against God. These will not be regenerated. But millions of their citizens will be if "...this gospel of the kingdom [is] preached in the whole world as a testimony to the nations..." (Matt. 24:14).

Waterloo, Ontario

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We are convinced that a widespread understanding of God's love, a proper response to it and a diligent effort to imitate it, would solve the problems of society and bring a great measure of peace and happiness.

Contemplate God's love and consider the love that is defined and described in I Corinthians 13. The word that comes to mind is, "unselfish". Love is not concerned with self but for others, "it is not self-seeking" (v. 5).

The greatness of God's love is the theme of the verse that has come to be known as the "golden text" of the Bible, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). This gift was out of concern for his enemies, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. . . . For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" (Rom.5:8,10).

It should not surprise us that Jesus teaches us that, in loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us, we are being sons of our Father who is in heaven (Mt.5:43,45). "John Smith and Sons" on a commercial sign tells the public that father and son are in the business together. They combine their efforts in accomplishing the work in which they are involved. When we love all, even our enemies, we are joining God in his business of love, the business of "God and sons".

War, crime, abuse, immorality, church and family conflict result directly or indirectly from selfishness, the absence of the kind of love that God has shown towards all and expects his people to practice. This is the love that, if practiced by Christians in their families, in the church and in the world would result in them being effective lights in the world.

In a materialistic, selfish, "I, me, mine" environment, the norm is to demand our rights and resent those who, in any way, appear to deprive us of those rights. In contrast, insisting on one's rights, getting even, settling the score, being offended, holding a

grudge and such have no place in the lives of God's people. With God's sons, when conflict arises, love is ready to "take wrong", "be defrauded", return good for evil (I Cor.6:7; Rom.12:17-19).

The world would expect the family, whose promising and much loved son's life was taken by a drunken driver, to call for swift and severe punishment of the offender. Not long ago we read of a Christian couple who, despite such deep hurt and loss, became acquainted with the offender, came to sympathize with the trauma he was suffering and finally took him into their home and helped him to overcome his problems and make a worthwhile life. Not many of us have learned God's love that well.

Man was made in the image of God but has failed to maintain that likeness. Christ came as "Emmanuel - - God with us" in order to enable us to know God and be restored to his image. This is the knowledge through which "His divine power has given us every thing we need for life and godliness" and through which we "partake in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires (selfishness) (II Peter 1:3,4).

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. (I John 4:16). To know God is to know love (7,8). "We love because he first loved us" (19). We respond to God's love by loving him and his. Love for God whom we have not seen, cannot be real if we do not love our brother whom we have seen (19). This love for one another is a natural and necessary result of loving God. Jesus pointed to this love for one another as the means by which "all men" would recognize, identify, his disciples (John 13:35).

God is love! There are many evidences of God's love. One of them is the love of his people for those whom he loves. *ecp*

(continued from page 5)

due to divisions and conflicts among the Orthodox (2/3 of Ukrainians) and the identification of Orthodoxy with political and national divisions, ownership of the buildings seems to be uncertain. The renewed activities of one group in 1990 and a division in 1992 have resulted in three Ukrainian Orthodox Churches with identical beliefs but in conflict because of political considerations (the independent Ukrainian state vs closer relations with Russia).

A recent study shows that, "Protestant and other religions are growing fast...even outstripping Orthodox communities in some regions.

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BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem today is an Arab town about 9 km. south of Jerusalem on the road to Hebron and Egypt. It was first mentioned in the Bible when Jacob buried his beloved Rachel by the roadside nearby. It and it's fields feature prominently in the romantic story of Ruth and Boaz. It was also here where Samuel anointed the shepherd boy, David, to be king. By New Testament times it was known as "the town of David."

Around 700 B.C. Micah predicted that someone greater than David would be born here. So Bethlehem became the place where Almighty God, the Creator, entered our world as a baby human being. And here the angels announced "peace on earth." Sadly, it has become a focus of unrest in that land today.

Under today's Church of the Nativity, possibly the oldest church-structure in the world and one of the best authenticated sites in the Holy Land, you can visit a simple cave that may have been part of that ancient stable. To enter one must stoop low below the lintel. Only children can enter without bending down. What a lesson in humility.

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Toronto Spanish American Encounter

What is known by our Spanish brethren as the XVI Encuentro Ibero-americano, was held, November 10-15, in Toronto, Canada, at the Bramalea church building in Brampton.

Santiago Molina of Toronto and Javier Cuarezema of Waterloo have been planning this event since returning from X Encounter in Los Angeles, California in 1995. These brethren regularly attend this annual event and have been joined by others from Canada in Puerto Rico, El Salvador and Dominican Republic. Geoffrey Ellis and Walter Straker have been involved.

The improvements to its building, its proximity to the airport and its central location between the Spanish congregations led to the Bramalea church being the location at which the Spanish brethren hosted the program this year.

Fifteen different men gave soul-searching compassionate speeches on the theme, "Don't be afraid to speak for Christ". Most of these were translated in a quiet dignified manner to a small group of English language brethren watching on TV at the back of the auditorium behind folding doors.

In total 87 brethren came from outside of Canada. They came from Chicago, Texas, California, Arizona, Virginia and Florida in the US and from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico. Brethren from Spain did not arrive and brethren from Columbia were not granted visas by immigration Canada. Including those that came from Windsor, Toronto and Waterloo, we had over one hundred different Spanish speaking brethren here at one time. One Canadian from outside Ontario, Andrea Muirhead, foreign student recruiter from WCC in Dauphin, Manitoba, attended.

We learned that in Canada there are four small active congregations in Ontario (Strathmore, Waterloo, Windsor and Ottawa) one in Montreal, one in Winnipeg, a few members in Edmonton and a congregation in Vancouver. Brother Santiago Molina, who speaks "The Heavenly Language" gave most of the following statistics. About 100 congregations in the Spanish language, meet in the USA. In Mexico there are approximately

1500 congregations. Many of them small, but also congregations with over 300 members. In Central America: Guatemala, 100; Belize, 4; Honduras, 80; El Salvador, 100; Nicaragua, 100; Costa Rica, 50; and Panama, 50. In the Caribbean: Cuba, 60; Dominican Republic, 130; and Puerto Rico, 28. In South America: Venezuela, 50; Columbia, 75; Ecuador, 30; Peru, 75; Bolivia, 40; Paraguay, 35; Uruguay, 40; Chili, 75; and Argentina, 60. In Europe: Spain, 70; Italy, 2; Belgium, 2; and Australia, 1. The fastest growing works among Spanish brethren seem to be in Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. Nicaragua, in the city of Managua, where Jonas Chavez is one of the elders and the evangelist will be hosting the 2001, XVII Ibero-american Encounter.

Planning for the Encounter was an interesting adventure. Monthly meetings began in October 1999 and were held at the Bramalea church building. Our Spanish brethren best understood how all the details would work out and they came through with flying colours, - in the black on a \$20,000 budget. One of the things that was a great blessing to the congregation in Bramalea was that so many of the members pitched in and helped in many different ways. At least ten different families kept someone and in some situations, the host family spoke no Spanish and the Spanish family spoke no English. In the case of David and Marion McPherson and the Jose Ventura's, Dave bought four Spanish/English dictionaries so they could communicate. He also had one of his co-workers at Humber College write out in Spanish, several sentences that Dave could use in communicating. Most of our Spanish brethren could speak some English, but only two or three of our brethren could speak some Spanish. One of those was Linda Whittington, who ended up being in charge of the meals. Over twenty families in the congregation supplied food and over 15 women were involved in cooking and serving meals. Several men were also involved with helping with the clean-up and whatever had to be done.

Advertising began in the Spanish newspapers approximately six to eight weeks before the event. Besides big signs in Spanish at the Bramalea location, advertising was done in Toronto, Brampton,

Hamilton, Guelph and Waterloo. Evening meetings were held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in each of these cities. The result is that our English brethren came to have some idea about our Spanish brethren. At 3:00 p.m. about 80 brethren left Bramalea for their cities to return at 9:00 a.m. the next morning. The same Spanish brethren went to the same city each evening and also stayed with the local brethren there. In several congregations on Sundays, October 8 and 15, Spanish brethren did the speaking, sometimes in English, sometimes in Spanish with a translator, which is also a different experience. The major effect on the congregation was that we saw the commitment and desire of our Spanish brethren to win lost souls. Some of our members are talking about attending the Encounter in Nicaragua in 2001. Prospects that came from the meeting were not as many as we hoped for, but the brethren in Toronto (Strathmore) were very excited because seven families have agreed to Bible studies and in Waterloo, two families.

On Saturday the brethren from all five congregations loaded up our Spanish guests and took them to see Niagara Falls. All returned to the five o'clock banquet hosted by one of our couples, Mark and Leslie Stowe at Johnson Controls in Milton. During three hours of eating and presenting awards much joy and hugging has in evidence.

My impressions are summed up in the October 22 Bramalea Banner. "To start with, the Sunday evening service from last Sunday, when brother Pablo Perez told of his conversion which was followed up by brother Lucrecio Mercado telling of the work in Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic and the many activities they are involved in, was very encouraging. Then the song that they sang after the close of the service caused everyone, (this happened several times as different brethren from the Spanish churches burst out into song), to listen. They love to sing and they can really sing.

To me it was interesting in trying to find a translator. They said, "Well, the people from that country, we cannot translate for them. Their accent is different than ours." I hadn't thought of that before. That was just in English.

(continued on page 19)

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*) email: bookreviews@gospelherald.org



focus.

The book, *The Church of Christ*, is exactly what its title points to, a Biblical Ecclesiology, that is a systematic presentation of the Bible's teaching on the subject of the church. The author's awareness of the considerable body of literature surrounding the subject of the church is evident in the considerable body of supporting footnote references. Yet the text itself concentrates on the Biblical statement and is not a sifting and weighing of human ecclesiological theories. Nevertheless, the student who may wish to pursue some aspect of the subject will find Ferguson's bibliographical references valuable.

Ferguson is author of over 50 books, including his popular works, *Early Christians Speak* and *A Cappella Music in the Public Worship of the Church* (the 3rd edition just offered). A number of his writings are extensive reference works on Early Christianity found chiefly in libraries. His *The Church of Christ: A Biblical Ecclesiology for Today* is surely his "magnum opus." If you would have any outstanding library of one volume, along with the Bible, this is the book.

The Church of Christ: A Biblical Ecclesiology for Today, by Everett Ferguson, R. G. Mitchell Family Books, Willowdale, ON, 443 pages, \$35.00 (US). Reviewed by Geoffrey Ellis, Waterloo, ON.

"Amazing," was the term used by several in their evaluation of their week at Camp Omagh in late August (2000). They were referring to the teaching received from Dr. Everett Ferguson, Abilene, Texas in a course arranged for by Great Lakes Bible College. He had taught five hours a day for five days on the subject, "The Church of Christ." The week was an intense excursion into the entire Bible in which the interlocking of the Old and the New was brought to light in remarkable detail and symmetry. The grandeur of the church as conceived in the mind of God, prepared for through the ages, and launched through the ministry and sacri-

fice of Christ was presented in glorious display.

In the class, Dr. Ferguson, professor emeritus of Abilene Christian University, for a supporting text, drew upon his 1996 book, *The Church of Christ: A Biblical Ecclesiology for Today*. This work, considered by some to be the outstanding book produced in the 20th century within Churches of Christ, is rich in its tracing of the mind of God in his wondrous creation—the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. And Christ is the key to the book's arrangement. Each of the book's six major divisions begins with a powerful description of the person and work of Christ, the Head of the body, the church: the Messiah, Lord, Saviour, High Priest, and Bishop. The material that follows in each section understands the shape and function of the church in the light of this Christological

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WCC Faculty Addition

Western Christian College is pleased to announce the addition of Carolyn McMillan to the College Faculty for the 200-2001 College Year. In 1999-2000 Mrs. McMillan received a sabbatical to complete a Master's degree at the University of South Dakota. She will be teaching College English, History, and Communications.

The College offers several University level general studies courses as well as Bible and ministry. One year certificates, two year Associate of Arts degrees and three year Bachelors degrees are offered. About one year of credits are accepted by Brandon University and the University of Regina. In February 2000 the College program received candidate status in accreditation. We expect to receive full accreditation by 2002. For information contact Larry Deal.

"RUN WITH IT!"

Youth Rally at Grimsby Church of Christ

WHAT A RALLY! The Grimsby church of Christ recently had their 2nd annual Youth Rally with great success. We had seventy-five teens with twenty adults for a beautiful fall day to share in God's blessings. Stephanie Desloges from GLCC was baptized Sunday morning after the rally as her parents from North Bay watched and celebrated her new birth into Christ.

Thanks to all who readily participated with a smile and a helping hand. This rally did not just happen by itself. Our thanks goes to the Waves from Great Lakes Christian College for allowing our ladies to use their kitchen and ovens to prepare meals for hungry teens.

Thanks to Rick Mcbay for the use of his sound equipment. "All For Him" and "Saved by Grace" were two singing groups that sang during the youth rally. (both groups from GLCC did an outstanding job)

Thanks to Marc Addison, an elder for the Mentor church of Christ in Ohio, for leading our thoughts in his stories and of course, HIS STORY, Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Thanks to Steve Colley, from Louisville, Ohio, for leading our voices and our hearts as we praised our Living God with thanksgiving for what He's done. Thanks to Darrin Douglas, preacher from Niagara Falls, who led the guys life labs (pornography) and to Joann Minter who led the ladies life labs, (decision-making) which dealt with relevant issues that plague our young people. We are thankful for the opportunity once again to be used in this area to reach out and share what God has given us, freedom from sin and death (Rom. 6:23). Thanks to our Grimsby family for **"RUNNING WITH IT"** and not away from it. Praise be to God for His great might that gives us strength to keep on running the race.

Keeping in step because of Him, Jeff Cobb.

Lithuania

The third quarter of 2000 was a busy time for the work herein Klaipeda. Cliff Turner, a recent graduate from the Edmonton School Of Evangelism, along with his wife Vilmarie, arrived in Klaipeda in July to join the work as missionaries. Also in July, Gerald Stockstill and his wife Patsy from Aztec New Mexico were with us, teaching one-on-one in our study centre. One hundred and twenty kids, from grades 4-12, from Klaipeda attended a Christian camp organized at a lake near Vilnius by the congregation in Vilnius.

We also followed this effort with a VBS in Klaipeda, attended by 50 children each day. In July four people were baptized in Klaipeda.

Aiste Venckute is a teenager and a friend of a member. Juozas Puodziukatis is the boyfriend of a member and a post-secondary student. Jurgita Jurkstaite is one of our translators and a college student. Galina Zvinkliene is a friend of one of our members and a single mother. Her two boys are being helped through the Christian Relief Fund.

In August, Cliff, assisted by two local members Jurgita and Juozas, began to do follow-up with World Bible School students in the town of Skuodas, not far from Klaipeda. Eight students came out to study with one making the decision to be baptized. In September they returned to Skuodas for another weekend of studies and a second WBS student was baptized. There are now three baptized believers in this small town so Cliff will be continuing with a monthly visit to provide ongoing studies.

In September the second annual Lithuanian ladies retreat was held near Klaipeda with twenty members and visitors from Klaipeda and Vilnius attending. It was an enjoyable Saturday of lessons and fellowship, with local members giving two of the lessons. Also in September, Kevin Carson and his family made a trip to Kaunas to hold services with three members of the church that live in that city. Two visitors also attended the worship.

Currently there is not a congregation meeting and worshipping regularly in Kaunas so we plan on a monthly visit to conduct services and provide encouragement. We also rejoiced in September when the Carsons and the Turners all received their visas to live and work in the country for another year. The visas are only given out on a year-by-year basis.

This quarter there was an average of 20 visitors and 15 members coming into the study centre each week to take part in one-on-one or small group Bible studies. We averaged 57 people at worship services each Sunday, with a total of 93 different visitors coming to worship services over the quarter. There are 38 active members of the church in Klaipeda.

Kevin Carson

CAMP OMAGH

Camp Omagh is Accepting applications for the paid position of:

Camp Manager

Successful applicants must be available to live on site during the months of July and August, and attend board meetings for the 2000-2001 year in an advisory role. The duties will include:

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OBITUARIES

Alfred Clarke

On Saturday October 21st an overflow crowd of fellow Christians and friends, estimated to be between 380 and 400 gathered at the Oak Street church building to remember Alfred Clarke who passed away suddenly on October 17th from a heart attack. Alfred was born January 5th 1941 in Regina Sask. He is survived by his wife, Chris (Nordli), son Randy (Dina) and grandson Adam, daughter Terri and granddaughter Sarah, two brothers Ray and Bruce, two sisters Carolyn and Sharon. He also leaves behind aunts uncles cousins and many, many friends.

Alfred was baptized while in his teens. After he completed his education at A.C.C. he became a teacher/coordinator in the Coquitlam school system for thirty five years. He became an integral part of the Burnaby congregation. Over the years he was a Song Leader, Sunday School Teacher, Preacher, Bible Class Teacher, and a Building Craftsman. He also found time to be the Junior Camp Director for nineteen years at the Spruston Road Bible Camp and lately was a Governor of the camp.

He was a friend to many, and an influence on so many young people that it is hard to count them all. He became a deacon in 1979 and then served as an Elder beginning in January of 1995.

Doug Kendig gave the Eulogy at the service, Kirk Ruch presented a message from God's word and Randy Clarke gave a family tribute. Others also came forward to give tributes. The songs we sang were some of Alfred's favorites.

He will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered.

Lloyd Shortt

Lloyd Alfred Shortt was born in Sebringville, Ontario on November 11, 1918, second of five children born to Bert and Lillian Shortt. In April 1932 Lloyd moved, along with his father, to Fredrickhouse in Northern Ontario that they might "carve a home out of the bush" in which the family could begin a "better life"

While living in Fredrickhouse Lloyd met and married Leia Calaezi, the daughter of one of the neighbours. They were married on October 5, 1940 in a log church building that Lloyd had helped build. Three children, two sons and a daughter, blessed this union. On October 5, 2000 Lloyd and Leia celebrated sixty years of marriage.

During World War II, Lloyd served with the Brockville Rifles for four years. Following his military service, he returned to Cochrane, Ontario. Together, Lloyd and Leia began rebuilding their lives and continued to build their family.

Lloyd and Leia became Christians while living in Northern Ontario; and have been members of the Collingwood congregation ever since moving here in 1965.

He passed away on October 30, in the Collingwood hospital, with Leia at his bedside.

He will be remembered as a person of commitment and devotion. Lloyd could always be counted on to help provide love and care for anyone who needed help whether family, friend or complete stranger. Lloyd also knew how to put things in perspective. He had learned the secret of not taking either himself or life too seriously and will always be remembered for his chronic dry humour. He enjoyed life and could find pleasure and satisfaction in simple things such as his gardening and singing and playing his guitar.

Besides his loving wife Leia, Lloyd will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by his sons, Ron (Shirley) and Larry (Gloria), and his daughter, Valerie McKean, as well as several adoring grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, Fred (Sylvia) and Charles, and one sister, Alvina; not to mention his many nephews and nieces. Lloyd's passing is also felt by his many friends, and neighbours and his brothers and sisters in the Collingwood congregation and his neighbours.

A memorial service was held at the church building in Collingwood on November 1, with the writer, assisted by Peter Dale and Paul Mazur, officiating. May God grant comfort to those who sorrow.

Randy Morrill

Albert Edward Bennetts

Albert Edward Bennetts died peacefully at the Clarion Nursing Home in Stoney Creek, ON, on Sunday October 29, 2000, at 10:30 AM with family at his side. He was in his 86th year and had recently celebrated 60 years of marriage with his lovely wife Ina.

His was a life well lived. Albert was born and raised in Toronto where he spent his entire life. He will be remembered as a diligent employee, excellent neighbor and a witty, fun loving gentleman. To Albert, the activities of the church and his family were paramount. He was always involved in the local churches where he and his family were attending. Some of these churches included the Wychwood, Maplewood, Fern Ave., Bayview and recently Stoney Creek. Albert made himself useful to each of these churches and served as an Elder, Deacon, Teacher, Treasurer as well as head of various committees over the years. He filled the pulpit at area churches and was also known for his eloquent presentations at the Lord's Table.

Albert took an early interest in the activities at Great Lakes Christian College and served as a Director for over 15 years. His influence was seen in both of his daughters and all 5 of his grandsons graduating from GLCC.

He enjoyed writing and had many articles published in the Gospel Herald as well as the local church bulletins.

Numerous acts of kindness and generosity are known to him and his creator. Albert loved the Psalms and lived as described in Psalms 105:5 'God satisfies us with good as long as we live, so that our youth is renewed'.

The funeral service was held at the Bayview Ave. Church of Christ on November 1, 2000. The service was officiated by Darrel Buchanan, and a memorial speech was delivered by this writer.

The family appreciates the kind words of support and condolences received.

'Blessed are those who die in the Lord.'

Dwayne Williams

Isabelle Brown

Our dear sister Isabelle Brown: Yesterday many of us gathered to collectively say good-bye to a beautiful sister in Christ. For over 50 years Isabelle faithfully served the Lord as part of the church family here at West Side. She was always available to help in whatever manner she could. She was a model of strength for those of us who observed her dedication to the Lord. For 38 of those years she served alongside Bill as an elder's wife. Her service to others and loving care touched many of us and we will never forget that. To Robert, Sandra, David & Murray we offer our sincere sympathies as they lost a wonderful mother. While our hearts are deeply saddened at the thought of being without her, we are certain that the first words she heard on the other side of Jordan were words of welcome and if we, like Isabelle live in the faith of Jesus Christ we will see her again. As was said of Caleb many years ago, it can be said of Isabelle, here was one who "wholly followed the Lord" (Judges 14:14)

Drew Chapados

Margaret Bell

On Sunday, October 8, 2000, Mrs Margaret Bell, a longtime homemaker of the Shamrock district passed away peacefully at the Foyer d'Youville Gravelbourg at the age of 80 years. The Funeral Service, a celebration for Margaret's life, was held on Thursday, October 12, 2000 in the Shamrock Community Hall with Hugh Gannon, an in-law and minister of the Church of Christ, Carman, Manitoba officiating. Special prelude music was presented by trio Mark and Marty Elford and Roberta Coulter. The scripture reading and closing prayer was given by son-in-law Terry Duffy. A loving tribute, including remembrances from the family, was shared by Sam Hawkins. For those wishing, gifts in Margaret's memory were gratefully received for the Foyer d'Youville Memorial Fund. Margaret was laid to rest beside her beloved daughter Francis in the Shamrock Community Cemetery.

Margaret, the seventh of 10 children of Andrew and Ida Wright, was born in Bengough, Saskatchewan on September 8, 1920. She took her schooling through grade eight at Wright School and her last two years by correspondence. In her early years Margaret committed her life to God through her baptism in Jesus Christ and that love and wish to honor and serve God shaped her whole life. She attended summer and winter Bible Schools in Radville. Margaret did a variety of jobs from domestic work to hospital laundry, from a local hardware store to chief cook for her brother's café in Bengough.

In 1947 Margaret and Elford attended a summer Bible School in Radville and a courtship began. They were married on June 9, 1948 and settled on the farm south of Shamrock. They were blessed with five children: Gerry, Warren, Karen, Stanley and Francis. Margaret was an

avid gardener and a wonderful cook, providing hospitality to many. Quilting was a favorite pastime and many quilts were given as gifts. She loved sharing her knitting talent with her grandchildren and neighborhood children in the 4-H. As a member of Standon-Wiwa Hill Community Club she eagerly participated in concerts, shows and community projects. Her love for God and the Church appeared in her love of family and friends, teaching Sunday School classes and feeding the more than 100 VBS children on her lawn during the summer Bible schools on the farm. As her family married she moved graciously into the roles of mother-in-law and grandmother. She was proud and interested in her grandchildren's lives and was committed along with Elford to seeing that each one got a Christian education. One of the highlights of their many travels was a visit to the Holy Land. Elford and Margaret celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in June, 1998.

These past seven years have been filled with physical battles. Margaret appreciated the love and prayers of her family and friends and the constant care that Elford so lovingly gave her each day. She became a resident of Foyer d'Youville in April, 2000 and it was there on Sunday evening, with her loving husband by her

side, that Margaret's earthly journey ended quietly as she peacefully passed away to be with her Lord.

Margaret was predeceased by her parents Andrew and Ida Wright, beloved daughter Francis in 1974, four sisters Agnes Bebeau, Ruby Bond, Marion Bebeau and Jessie Bay and four brothers, William James (infancy), Walter Wright, Clifford Wright and Alvin Wright. Margaret is survived by her loving family: her devoted husband Elford of Shamrock, four children: Gerry (Lorna) of Shamrock and their children, Jennifer (Jeff) Jacobs and their daughter Kayla; Janet, Timothy and Kathy; Warren (Evelyn) of Vernon, B.C. and their children: Daryl (Kristine), J'nea (Michael) Muller and their twin sons: Hudson and Nicholas and Kyle; Karen (Terry) Duffy of Nebraska City, Nebraska and their children: Kimberly, Rachel and Stephanie; Stanley (Maxine) of Shamrock and their children Monica, Melissa, Stephen, one brother Henry of Delta, B.C., numerous nieces and nephews.

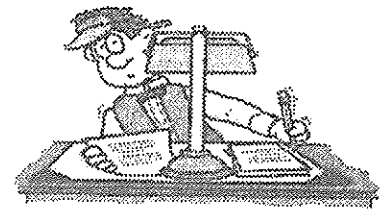
Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Piche-Hawkins Funeral Chapels.

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separate the important from the worthwhile from the waste. For in the past, I usually worked only on Sundays and had no time for what was too busy, too preoccupied, to do in two short hours a week think of the really important things. Now the sounds of death were all around me. My hunger for spiritual food was like my hunger for a steak. Now I know about that part of me that lies hidden. Now I wanted to talk about Christ and the church....I had neglected the spiritual dimension of my life. I took prison to show me how to live "without God" (In the Presence of the Holy Spirit, 34).

Christ may serve to remind us of one another. Suddenly we need for human companionship, for help, for encouragement. Friendships seem to disappear in the

critical moment in that great storm, the sailors decided to abandon the other people on board. Paul said that the sailors would need to be rescued and not abandon ship, lest all

be lost (Acts 27:30,31). The storm is a time for pulling together, not for trying to go it alone!

The storm reveals the power and compassion of the Saviour. "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:38). Yes, He cares! It was not the storm that woke Him from a deep sleep, but rather the need of His disciples!

When we put our trust in Him, lay our needs before Him, put our hopes upon Him, we find that He does care and does help us in our need! He is able to "sympathize with our weaknesses" (Hebrews 4:15). He went through some tough times Himself when He was on earth! If we will let Him, the Saviour will give us the strength to deal with life and to handle both the good and the bad times (Philippians 4:12,13).

This life has its share of storms. Sometimes it seems one storm follows closely upon another! Our Lord assures us that, for His people, someday the storms will end. Someday He will speak again - "Peace! Be still!" - and all storms will end for all time for those in Him! What will be left will be a great and peaceful calm (Revelation 21:3,4).

What about you? "Will your anchor hold

in the storms of life, when the clouds unfold their wings of strife? When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain, Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?" If your life is grounded firm and deep in the love and integrity of the Lord, fastened to the Rock which cannot move, then your soul will be kept steadfast and secure though the billows roll!

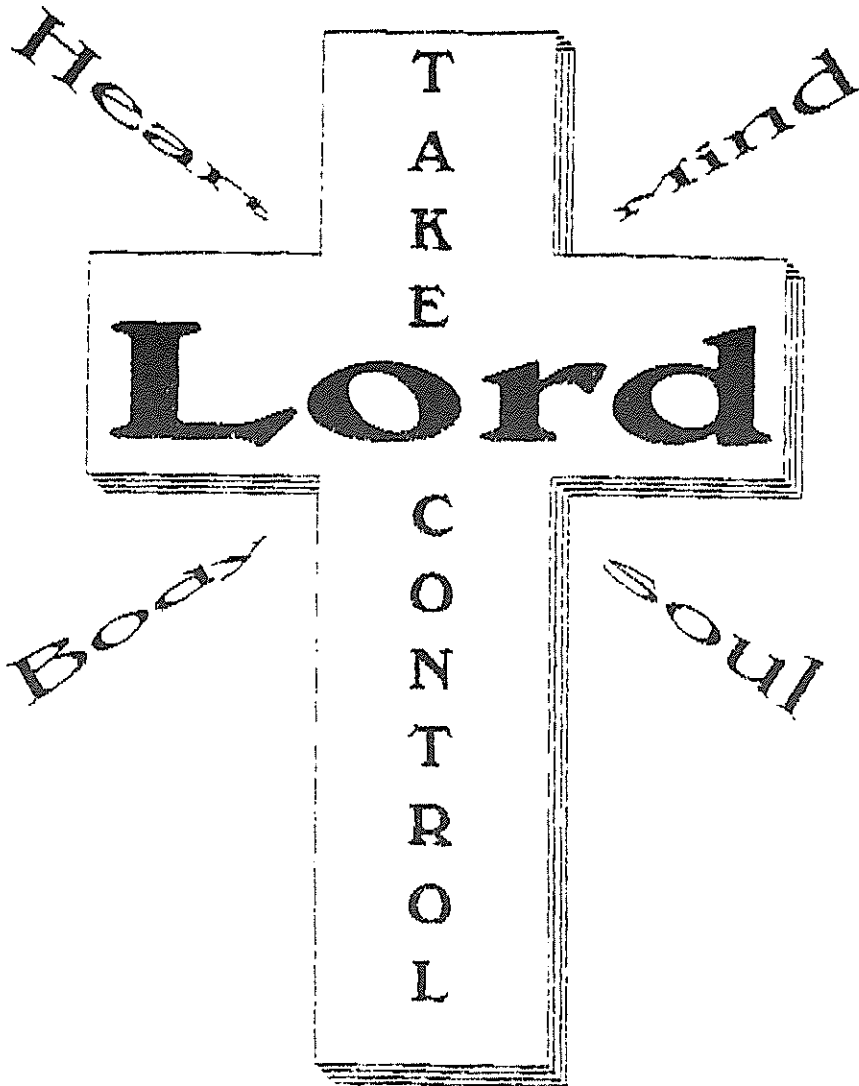
Owen Sound, Ontario

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The second impression was the smiling. Everybody seemed to have a big smile. They love to hear us use greetings and hello, "Ola" or "Buenas Dias" in the Spanish language. They either smiled or laughed or giggled when we did. Probably didn't sound exactly like the way they said it, and then they would say something in English. Whenever they spoke in English and we understood, they said, "I speak English!" The greatest blessing was hearing of the work of the church in each country and getting a perspective of how they work and their great zeal in soul-winning. The theme, "Do Not Be Afraid to Speak About Jesus" came out strong and clear. A special thank you again, to each one involved.

Walter Straker

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