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One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary at Omagh



picture courtesy David Lewis, Grimsby, ON

Credit Due: The credit line for the excellent picture on the front of the October issue was accidentally omitted. The picture was provided courtesy of Nadine Hafner Photography, Kelowna, BC.

On September 30th, 2001 the Omagh church of Christ celebrated its 150th anniversary. Those who attended enjoyed a sermon by Steve May, a sixth generation descendant of the founding family – the Johnstones. After worship service guests enjoyed fellowship and lunch with members young and old.

Artifacts such as the original communion cup, small hymn-books and photos from the early days of the church, were on display.

Many former members returned for this special event. (See story on page 14)

Who is This Son of Man?

Roy Merritt



Theological currents come and go. Sometime the stream of Christian thought runs deep; sometimes it is muddy or murky. Errors of former centuries infest this stream like evil spirits, clouding the vision of the 21st century church. The dark demon of unbelief is ever watchful for an opportunity to lure a careless or proud swimmer beyond the depths of his ability.

One of the great questions of all time, and in many ways the greatest question, concerns the identity of Jesus of Nazareth. "Who is this son of man?" asked the Jews before His death, that being one of His favorite designations for Himself. Was He also the Son of God? Was He merely a philosopher and teacher? Was He a God, but a subordinate one? Was He an angelic messenger with no claim to Divinity? Was He merely a pious fraud?

Men often answer these questions according to philosophy and not according to the evidence at hand.

Your next-door neighbor may claim to be a Christian, and yet subscribe to a view of Christ which is essentially that of Arius of the fourth century. Arius claimed that Jesus Christ was a created being who was not of the same fundamental substance and being as the Father. Another neighbor may claim, like Socinius of the 17th century, that Jesus of Nazareth was merely a great teacher and philosopher who revealed God in His teaching. Another may speak of Jesus Christ in glowing terms from one side of his mouth and speak of the myths and human delusions that created Him from the other. The form that the denial takes is incidental. The fact that so many may deny Him is of prime importance.

Behind this question of Christ's person lies the great question of the authority of Scripture. If a man goes to Scripture for an identification of Christ, he finds ample evidence that "in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form" (Col. 2:9). Suppose we question some of those who were in the best positions to truly identify Him.

Ask the angel who announced His coming birth to Joseph. This witness

tells us that the birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy concerning the Messiah made through Isaiah many centuries before. In both the prophecy (Isa. 7:14) and its application by the angel to the One who was to be born to Mary (Matt. 1:20,23), "Immanuel", or "God with us", is more than a pious euphemism. It refers to the same Person whom Isaiah describes as "Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6-7). These terms are blasphemous except when applied to Deity.

Ask John the Baptist. The New Testament portrait of John is that of a man who spoke truth despite flattery or threat. He could call the religious leaders of his time "sons of snakes" and could label the king himself as an adulterer. His life was one of preparation for One greater than he. He pointed to Jesus of Nazareth as "the

Ask the angel who announced His coming birth to Joseph.

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:34,35). John could not have lied nor given a mere man such a momentous title.

When John the Baptist spoke of making ready His way, "the way of the Lord", and of making His paths straight, he saw fit to apply directly the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3 in which, in the original language, reference is made to Jehovah God. Various other prophecies concerning Jehovah are also said to be fulfilled in the person of Jesus of Nazareth (e.g., Isaiah 6:9,10 and John 12:37-41).

Ask the Father. When Jesus emerged from the waters of baptism, a voice came from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased" (Matt. 3:17). Later this same voice proclaimed "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" (Matt. 17:5). At His death the sun hid its face and the earth trembled in shame. A few days later a messenger from the Father explained to the watching apostles that this same Jesus would return in glory (Acts 1:11).


Ask the apostles. These men had

opportunity to study the daily life and habits of Jesus of Nazareth as well as His public teaching. Before His death Jesus asked them for their verdict concerning His identity. Outspoken Peter gave the judgment of the group: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16). Following His resurrection, Thomas, having demanded conclusive proof, exclaimed of Him: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

Years later the aged John was to write a summary of the evidence concerning the person of Christ. "What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life - and the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us - what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:1-3).

Questions concerning the identity of Jesus are as relevant today in the 21st century as they were in the first, second, third or fourth. Nothing but a full and correct answer will make Christianity intelligible to our own faith and to the faith of others.

St. Catharines, Ontario



THE LIFE OF CHRIST

A manual for teaching children the Life of Jesus the Christ written by Elisabeth (Betty) Roemer has been published by the Gospel Herald Foundation. This manual grew out of her lesson planning and outlining during her years as a missionary in Europe.

Each lesson features memory work, a list of materials needed, the aim of the lesson, discussion, questions and application. The material is adaptable to any age group.

The manual is available through the Gospel Herald at \$10.95 each.

Eyes in the Dark: Christian Focus on the Evangelistic Frontlines

Jonathan Straker - www.sendaimissions.com

Joel Osborne and I were recently blessed with the opportunity to attend the 40th Annual Asia Mission Forum, held this year in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Almost all of what we saw there was exciting and encouraging. However, some items stand out about which I would like to raise issue.

Through a number of conversations with missionaries, both in Japan and at the Forum in Thailand, we realized that there appears to be a shortage of missionaries. As well, there is a shift in the way that missionaries are finding their support. A growing number of missionaries are raising the majority of their support from individuals - friends and family who know them and would like to help. This, in itself, is not a problem. It is wonderful that so many individuals are willing to get personally involved with missions. The disturbing part is that churches seem to be taking a receding role in supporting mission efforts. Many churches, as Christian communities, are not taking a proactive role in recruiting, developing and sending out workers for the harvest fields.

There is a relationship between missionary shortages and the receding role of churches in missions. If churches took a more active approach to missions, we would have more missionaries on the field. We have too much of an inward focus, and we limit what God can do through us.

When we, as churches, lose sight of the mission field, we are not carrying out our purpose as bearers of God's message. Our story of mercy and reconciliation is for every person - both nearby and abroad. When we stop being a people with a mission and a message, we cut short the life cycle of the church. As with every living thing, it is our nature to bear offspring. Certainly the church as the Bride of Christ is to be procreative in nature. If I am a Christian, it is because somebody shared a message of light and hope with me or someone in my past. That is where the cycle began in my life, but it does not end there. I am lifeless if I am not somehow involved in passing that message on. So let us renew our commitment to each other, God and His work and take action to spread His message of love and hope to the

nations. It is not enough to just be the product of somebody's vision. We must have a childbearing vision for the future.

It is a renewed vision for evangelism that can help protect us from the navel-gazing tendencies in which we are so easily entangled. Certainly we have occasion to be introspective from time to time. We need to take care of the planks that get lodged in our eyes but if our attention is directed inward for too long, we grow restless and start unraveling the bonds of our own church body. An overly internal focus easily divides us.

As Christians, we are to have a warrior's heart for the spiritual battlefield. Our challenge is to be sure that we focus on the right battlefields. When we bicker at home, it is indicative that we have lost sight of the millions - even billions - who walk through life without the hope of Christ - and the thousands who die daily, never speaking the name of Jesus. We need to be a people about ministry.

When we close our eyes to ministry opportunities, we limit God. We short circuit the work that God could do through us if we would simply step aside and allow Him to do God-sized things in our lives. It is, after all, God's work and not our own that we are discussing. God has a history of doing magnanimous things through puny people. Scripture bears witness to this in the accounts of Joseph, Moses, Gideon, David, a carpenter, fishermen, tax collectors and many others. Perhaps our greatest grievance is that we limit God.

On the other hand, in our limited mindsets and weak intentions, we find God triumphing as His might transcends our often less-than-mustard-sized faith. We see the impossibly vast mission field, throw our hands up and say, "what can we do?" But God is there whispering to us that for Him all things are possible.

Our God is big enough to overcome the limits we set. Our churches have the potential to be mission-minded and supporting. It is a healthy - even a necessary part of the life-cycle of churches to be actively involved in missions and outreach. I have caught glimpses of the sprawling harvest fields of Asia. They are plentiful. Tragically, the workers are few. Please

have a vision for spreading the good news of Christ to the more populous part of the world in which His name is foreign.

One final note: This article is not intended to be coercive or obligatory in nature. The best motivators for evangelism are not guilt and obligation. The greatest reason to share the gospel is that it is good news. It is a message of love beyond comprehension. It is a message that stands up to the keenest intellectual criticism while rising in beauty above the greatest epics of all time. Nothing compares to the cross and the empty tomb.

Bramalea, ON

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A Time For Hope

Wayne Turner



It seemed to be a very poor time for such a transaction. The Babylonians were besieging Jerusalem. Jeremiah, confined as a prisoner in the courtyard of the guard, had just warned King Zedekiah that the city was about to fall and the king, himself, would be taken as a prisoner to Babylon. Nothing could be done to prevent the total devastation of the city. Then,

with the assistance of Baruch and the Jews in the courtyard as witnesses, Jeremiah purchased a field in Anathoth from his cousin Hanamel. Everyone in the city was terrified by the impending disaster. Many people were starving. They were all trapped in the city, waiting for the iron fist of the Babylonians to complete their destruction. When survival was everyone's main concern, why would God tell Jeremiah to do something as trivial as buying a field?

It has been said, "actions speak louder than words." God's prophets sometimes made their points through symbolic actions. Hosea's marriage to Gomer is an example. Jeremiah's purchase was just such a demonstration. Much of Jeremiah's message had been about God's judgment of His people and the coming destruction of the city and the temple, the end of life as they had known it. This was not his only message. Jeremiah also spoke of the coming time when God would again gather his people together, the city would be rebuilt and a new covenant would be established. Messages of hope tend to fade behind the dark clouds of war. Jeremiah's purchase showed that despite the present crisis, God's people could still look forward to the future in hope. By purchasing the land, Jeremiah demonstrated his trust in God and belief in His promise to rebuild the city. "Once more fields will be bought in this land of which you say, 'It is a desolate waste, without men or animals, for it has been handed over to the Babylonians.'" (Jeremiah 32:43)

Centuries later, when Paul was being taken as a prisoner by ship to Rome, he warned, "our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." (Acts 27:10). Soon after, as Paul had foretold, the ship was caught in a terrible storm. For fourteen days, everyone lived in such fear they did not eat. On that day, Paul said they would all survive and encouraged them to eat; then he took some bread, gave thanks and started eating. Paul had not only talked about hope, he demonstrated it.

Few events in modern times have had as much impact on the world as the terrorism of the past months. North Americans no longer feel comfortable and secure. Their basic assumptions about life have been called into question. Can people be safe while travelling? Sitting in their offices? At home? Can people assemble in large crowds without fear? Is death-giving disease lurking in their food, water, air or mail? Can the threat of terror truly be eliminated? Will people ever really be free from such fears? Is there any hope?

The answer comes in two parts. First, those who know God and

live by faith should continue to do so. God's people walk by faith, not fear. In Psalm 23:4, David wrote, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Trust in God will carry us through the ominous, threatening events around us. Faith gives strength and courage. As John reminds us, "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

Second, the tragedies and the fear they have produced have caused many people to rethink their lives. Many people have been living with a myth of invincibility. They have assumed that life will continue as it always has. "Tragedy and death happen to others, but not to me." They have been able to live and even plan as they wished. The sudden and tragic death of literally thousands of people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, combined with the horrific nightmare raised by the prospect of bio-terrorism have shattered those assumptions. Many, especially young people, are beginning to truly recognize their own mortality. They are rethinking and reshaping their values. A new seriousness is rising.

Given the fear and uncertainty that tragedy has brought, the world needs hope. As people grope for ways to understand the changes that have been so violently thrust upon them, they desperately need to know that there still is a future. As people rethinking their priorities and values, they need to know that, despite rumours to the contrary, God is still here, offering love, salvation and hope. So many around us have ignored or denied Him as an irrelevant relic of the past. More than ever, God offers the only real hope in the face of man's inhumanity and evil.

This is the time for us, as Christians, like Jeremiah and Paul, to show the world the reality of our hope in Christ. Even in the face of suffering and death, we know that God is still in control and that Jesus has conquered sin and death. As Paul wrote in Romans 8:35-39, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all
(continued on page 5)

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Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage

Max Craddock

It would be a wonderful thing if there were no need to discuss the matter of divorce and remarriage in the church. However, the church continues to face this issue year after year. This month, and over the next month or two, let us consider the matter of marriage as well as the problem of divorce and remarriage. The desires of God for marriage and family along with the awful effects of not respecting God's will makes this an important subject for prayerful, scriptural consideration.

A beginning place is to consider what it is that actually constitutes marriage. It may well be true that what the world sees as marriage is not what God had in mind when He established it in the first place. The concern for Christians is what God desires and not what the world may set as the standard.

In God's sight it could be said that marriage is the living together of a man and woman as husband and wife based on some foundational conditions. Of first importance perhaps would be the eligibility of the couple to be married. A second important aspect would be the intention of the couple to marry, ideally, because they love each other and have the desire to commit to each other for life. Finally, there would be some sort of ceremony or conditions to be met that would be recognized and approved by the governing authorities as marriage. (This ceremony may be different from one culture to another but would serve as the approved process.)

Every marriage will be broken at some point either by divorce or death. Marriage is a faith commitment made, by the Christian, to another person with God as witness. This commitment is made for life - until death shall part us. The only honourable way for a marriage to be broken is by the death of one of the partners. Malachi 2:16 points out that "I hate divorce, says the Lord God of Israel..." This is true whether talking about the divorce of a couple that are married or of divorce from God's will and way. Every Christian going into mar-

riage needs to take very much to heart this truth and set his/her heart toward making the marriage work and last to full term...till death does part!

Since it is true that marriage broken by death is honourable, it may be profitable to consider some of the ways that marriage may be broken dishonourably. Perhaps the most dishonourable is that of desertion. Some have referred to this as "the poor man's divorce". To do so is to give this most despicable action some sort of honour that it does not deserve. In desertion one of the partners just walks away and stays gone from the relationship. While this is not the context of 1 Timothy 5:8 the truth of the statement surely applies here: "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." There are thousands of families broken by this terrible action in the world today. Anger, acts of aggression, dysfunctional relationships, and depression are only a few of the fruits of the sin of desertion.

Another dishonourable breaking of faith in marriage is in separation. The couple finds that they cannot live together happily, for whatever reasons, and decide to separate. This brings several problems. If there are children involved there is the matter of their care and their right to be raised in a loving home with godly teaching and direction for life. Also, the pressure of living without the companionship of the partner is a minefield to be traversed. Paul recognized this matter of separation to be something that one might have to face so he wrote in 1 Corinthians 7:10, 11 "to the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife." To fulfill this will require a devotion to God and dependence on His power to live a pure upright life when separated.

This teaching is even expanded to deal

with the issue of the Christian married to the non-Christian. If the unbeliever is content to dwell with the believer they should continue to do so since the life of the godly Christian may be the very influence that will lead the unbeliever to obey the gospel. "But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances;..." (1 Corinthians 7:15). While the Christian is not bound in this circumstance to keep the couple together the problems noted above will still be part of this unhappy situation.

Finally, for this time consider the dishonourable act of divorce. It has been suggested that divorce is the very sad, unhappy opposite of the wedding ceremony. Sadly, divorce is the end of a relationship that is sacred in the sight of God. He intended that marriage would provide for the companionship of humankind and would result in mutual support. In this relationship man and woman would populate the earth establishing families where He would be praised and honoured as the Creator God, worthy of praise and honour.

Divorce is the end result of a couple deciding that they no longer want to be husband and wife. Through a process in the courts the divorce is made legal and final. The divorce, according to the standards of man, may be for any number of reasons, which run everywhere from very serious, such as abuse, to the very frivolous such as "you just don't excite me anymore". The teaching of Jesus is more restrictive than that.

Next month we will look at the scriptural teaching on divorce. May we all look to God for direction in all relationships, especially those of the heart, seeking strength from Him to live in these relationships according to His will.

(continued from page 4)

day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Though the nations may rage around us and even collapse, our God will lead us safely through every trial and difficulty and bring us to our eternal home. This is the hope we have. This is the hope the world seeks.

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The Kindness and Sternness of God

"Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God:" (Romans 11:22).

I turned my television off today. I had seen enough! On Tuesday, I watched in shocked horror as the airplanes hit the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. I saw all air traffic in Canada and the United States grounded as NORAD took control of the skies. On Wednesday, I watched as the investigation into who had perpetrated these horrible deeds progressed. On Thursday, my heart broke as people paraded before the television cameras with pictures and homemade posters as they searched for their lost relatives and friends. They were hoping that those they sought had gotten out but lay unconscious or confused in a hospital and not been able to contact them. Their grief and loss made the events more tragic than we can imagine. The loss of buildings and unnamed individuals may be sad, but the loss of one's mother, father, husband, wife, brother, sister, fiancée or friend tore at my heart as the reality of this tragedy began to hit home.

Even in little Wunnumin Lake, thousands of kilometres from either New York or Washington, we have been affected by this tragedy. With the grounding of all air traffic, we were cut off from the rest of the world. Until freeze-up, the only means of transportation we have with the outside world is by air travel and that link was cut. Without it no one could travel to appointments with specialists and as those appointments were rescheduled they would again be waiting for weeks, if not months. The grocery store has a good stock of frozen and canned goods and we are in no way going to go hungry but no bread, milk, fresh fruit or vegetables would get through. Even Air Ambulance was grounded except for severe emergencies. My wife, BonneLee, gathered her staff after lunch on Tuesday and invited me to lead them in prayer. At 1:00 p.m. the entire Health and Social Services staff

attended, as well as patients coming for their after lunch appointments. We prayed and spoke about what had happened. The mood was sombre.

It has become clear in recent days that men, motivated by an unreasoned hatred, encouraged by other men and organizations that maintain power based on hatred of a common enemy, have perpetrated these horrible deeds. Hatred works like a cancer in our souls. There is no chemotherapy or radiation treatment that will remove it; we cannot go to a surgeon to have it cut out. It might be easier to remove if any of the above were real options. Hatred is in our hearts because we allow it in. It remains because Satan convinces us that we cannot remove it because it is how we feel. Satan convinces us that our hurts, complaints or injuries are real and that neither revenge nor justice should remove that hatred from our hearts.

These events have helped me to understand God's wrath and righteous judgement against those who would do such despicable acts. The wrath of a loving God against those who do such things neither surprises nor amazes me. The thought that God would readily forgive them for these acts, if they would repent, leaves me humbled and amazed. I do not find the paradox of a God of wrath, often described as a consuming fire and a God of love that would send His Son to take our place on the cross to be beyond imagination. I understand God's wrath against His children when they seek to hurt, kill, destroy and terrorize others of His children. I must believe in God's love and mercy; a love that seeks out and saves all who repent, because the only hope that I have is within that mercy.

When I saw the parade of these distraught people, I found myself wanting to see the perpetrators of these hateful deeds strung up. I know that I must move past such feelings, but, in all honesty, that is how I feel. I have no doubt that in the days or weeks to come we will see our

American neighbours strike back with fury in a war against terrorism.

We believe ourselves protected from the wrath of God because we don't crash airliners into buildings in an effort to kill as many as possible. Our hateful deeds don't take the lives of others but are we not also in danger of the wrath of God when we ignore His love and choose our own way rather than His way? Are we not also in danger of God's wrath when we gossip, backbite, nit-pick, criticize and slander those we should love instead? Are we not in danger of the wrath of God when we selfishly seek our own way and destroy the church: that Jesus die to save? Are we not in danger of the wrath of God when we ignore His commands and do what we want instead? Are we not in danger of the wrath of God when we selfishly seek to keep the Good News to ourselves rather than share it with a lost world? The events of September 2001 have reminded me of how the only hope that our world has is in the grace of God. We may have convinced ourselves that we are pretty good people; we've never killed anyone; we give to good causes and do volunteer work and we go to church almost every Sunday, which is more than most people do. Yet, without the grace of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, we are lost, without hope and in danger of the wrath of God. We have but one hope, but that hope is secure!

God has given us the freedom of choice. Some choose hatred over love; their own way over God's way and arrogance over humility. God's righteous judgment awaits them. If they do not repent, they will face a wrath that we cannot begin to imagine.

Since God has given us the freedom of choice, let us choose love over hatred; God's way over our way and humility over arrogance. God will welcome us into His presence and we will enjoy blessings beyond anything that we can now imagine.

Which will you choose?

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Reverent Fear

Paul Dale

Plastic breakfast trays were quickly being removed from the small tables. As soon as a tray left, the table was placed into the upright position and locked into place. With steady speed, flight attendants continued their tasks of clearing the seats and aisles in preparation for the unknown. Only moments before the head flight attendant was notified in the midst of serving breakfast that the plane would need to land before the scheduled time. Bewildered passengers looked around, surprised by the rapid movement.

Word began to spread around the cabin that something serious was happening. And then word came, "Prepare for an emergency landing". Passengers were told to put on life vests and then to move their bodies forward in a tuck position.

Minutes passed slowly by as the now quiet plane descended through the sky. Its engines silent. Only the rush of the wind against the metal could be heard.

Prayers both silently and verbally began to be offered by older passengers. Younger passengers pondered their future. Some quietly wept. Others quietly talked to their spouses, relatives and friends. One passenger realized he didn't have a will. Some on board were on their way to a wedding. Others were on vacation. Still others were returning from their vacation.

All were nervous. A man they did not know held the fate of 300 people in his sweating hands. Thirty years of flying had given him the confidence to at least try to keep the plane flying. Darkness filled the cabin, as power was nonexistent.

Finally a huge shudder. The plane landed heavily on the runway.

Tears flowed as the passengers disembarked down the emergency chutes onto the pavement below.

What had been a normal flight suddenly had become a flight of fear.

As I read and heard about the jetliner's emergency landing in the Azores, I couldn't help but reflect on my own experience a few years before flying on business from Vancouver to Calgary. Our flight was beginning its decent over the Rocky Mountains when the pilot came on and told us to fasten our seat belts and to prepare for

turbulence. Flight attendants quickly picked up coffee and juice glasses and then disappeared into the security of their own seats.

About five minutes later the first of two roller coaster rides 30,000 feet in the air took place. We dropped so quickly I rose out of my seat with my belt the only thing holding me in. Some on board began screaming. I tried to remain calm although inside I was afraid. I recall praying a short prayer that I would see my wife and children. Moments later another air pocket and an even deeper drop and then we smoothed out.

Our landing in Calgary was rough. The wind tipped the plane as we were landing and as I looked out the window it seemed the wing was only inches off the runway. I wanted to kiss the ground as we debarked.

It was just an ordinary sailing. Their leader had asked them to set sail across the lake while he remained with several thousand people whom he had just taught and fed. He took the time to bless the massive audience and encouraged them to go home. Probably exhausted from the day's activities he went up into the hills and spent time alone with his Father in prayer.

A while later he decided to seek out his companions and went down to the shoreline. Looking out he could see their boat. Using his special powers, he began to walk across the water. They noticed the strange figure on the water and became afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost. He assured them that all was okay.

One of the number, realizing who was on the water, asked if he could join his leader out on the sea. Filled with impulsiveness and probably courage, he stepped out over the wooden side of the boat and onto the wetness of the water.

All seemed to go well until he took his eyes off the leader and "saw the wind". His courage dissipated. Realizing he was doing the impossible and filled with fear he began to sink. Crying out to the leader he pleaded for help. The teacher reached out and took the hand of his follower, lifted him out of the water and helped him back into the boat. Climbing into the boat himself, the teacher watched as the wind died

down and the water became calm.

His followers became afraid again. They were amazed and bewildered by what they saw.

Years later, the follower who stepped out of the boat with confidence and sank with fear wrote the following words of encouragement for mankind:

"Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear."

"Show proper respect to everyone, Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honour the king."

"Do not give way to fear"

"Do not fear what they (those who do evil) fear; do not be frightened"

"Humble yourselves therefore under God's mighty hand that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

The apostle Peter learned, through life's experiences, the difference between human fear and reverent fear.

Reverent fear of God brings salvation and gives joy, confidence, hope, encouragement, and peace in times of human fear.

We have a faith that gives us peace that passes all understanding.

Matthew 14:22-32; 1 Peter 1: 17; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 Peter 3:6; 1 Peter 3; 14; 1 Peter 5:6,7.

Stratford, Ontario

Fallfest 01

The theme was A.W.O.L.- A Way Of Life.

Fallfest, a youth rally held at the Convention Centre of the Sheraton Hotel in Niagara Falls on the Canadian thanksgiving weekend, was attended by about 900 high school and college age young people. The expected 2000 was drastically reduced as a result of the Sept.11th events.

Great singing, a hilarious comic group, excellent drama, videos, concerts, art and an excellent presentation by the keynote speaker Jeff Walling were enjoyed.

"While we have other great youth rallies which offer many enriching experiences, this one by its large audience showed our teens that there are many other young people trying to live the Christian life. I highly recommend that next year your young people attend this rally."

information supplied by Sharon Ellis

POINTS BY PERRY:

WTC

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The letters "WTC" are now deeply etched in minds the world over. They are symbols of colossal acts of terrorism that took thousands of innocent

lives and left a trail of shattered families and battered businesses.

There have been many attempts to explain the events that occurred at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. A letter to the editor of another publication openly reveals a conviction that this was an act of God. Respondents found this unacceptable and scolded the writer.

In *WORLD* magazine, in an article entitled "Sinflation", in which he linked the horrible happenings to sin, Joel Belz wrote, "The point is this: Sin always carries a high price tag". He then explained that, "Both 'we' and 'they' have worshiped false gods - and now we're being called on to look our idolatry square in the face". He continued, "Nor was September 11 the first time God has allowed one group of pagans to inflict error, horror and death on another group, or even His own people. The wages of sin get paid on God's schedule and in God's way". Strong language indeed!

Belz referred to the gods of "nominalism, materialism, secularism and pluralism" and pointed out that the "transmitting towers for the major media and entertainment networks" capped the towers. His evaluation appears to be related to the increasing media promotion and the general public acceptance and approval of immorality along with the widespread tendency to leave God out of our lives. Some readers even understood that Belz was saying that the victims suffered because of their sins and complained accordingly.

By all civilized standards, such deliberate destruction of human life and valuable property is the ultimate in wickedness. We ask, "How could any human be so evil? What could generate such hatred?"

History records many instances of man's inhumanity to man. This began

very early in our history. Cain killed his brother Abel. This was not attributed to God. In fact, God questioned Cain's anger and advised him that, "sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it" (Gen.4:7). Despite this, he dealt treacherously with Abel. Nevertheless, God did not stop his evil action in order to save the life of his innocent brother. Sin has had its way and the innocent have suffered undeserved consequences many times since that long ago event.

All attempts to explain such happenings result in difficulties, objections and misunderstandings. Although we believe that God is in control, we struggle to understand and end up, once more, acknowledging that we do not know or understand the mind of God in such matters (Isa.40:13).

Because we do not understand, we ask why he allows such injustice. Firstly, we must realize that God's perspective is eternal in contrast to our tendency to take the temporal view. Secondly, God gave man the freedom of choice and he does not take it away from those who choose evil. We see, endure and accept the results of this on a smaller scale every day but the size and significance of this event startles us to serious thought. Whatever our conclusion

as we attempt to explain or understand, surely, as with many other horrible historical happenings, this can serve as a wake-up call - good can come from evil.

The Bible provides both the explanation and the solution. As we read Romans 1:18-31 and compare it with the culture presented by our media and gaining general acceptance, we cannot but see the similarities. The repeated statement, "God gave them over . . ." reveals God's displeasure and discouragement with those who depart from His way.

The solution is clear. All have sinned and fallen short (Rom.3:23). Already, realizing the uncertainties of life on earth, many individuals are turning to God in humble repentance and obedience, being baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

The open acknowledgement of God and the repeated requests for prayer by the U. S. leadership (sadly not the Canadian) is impressive. Both individuals and nations must humbly repent and submit to God's authority. Let us go to His word for a full knowledge of God, acknowledge our dependence in sincere prayer and seek His blessings through repentance and obedience. Jesus came that we might have life "to the full" (John 10:10). He is the answer. ECP

Full-Time Evangelist Position

The Lloydminster Church of Christ is seeking a full-time evangelist to work with a congregation of 30-40 people. Lloydminster is a growing community of approximately 20,000 people, located on the border between the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and approximately halfway between Saskatoon and Edmonton on the Yellowhead Highway.

This congregation is seeking an evangelist with experience in sharing God's word through preaching, teaching, home studies and visitation. Applicants should

- (i) Have some full-time experience as an evangelist.
- (ii) Have demonstrated abilities in working with young people.
- (iii) Be evangelistic and growth oriented.

Financial support is in place to assist an evangelist with the purchase of a home. A monthly working fund is available to support outreach activities.

Please address your inquiries or send your resume to:

Mr. Ed Young, Chair, Selection Committee
Church of Christ

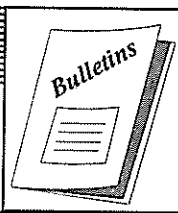
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FROM THE BULLETINS



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

How Do We Grow?

Max Craddock

It is in an intimate walk with Christ that the church (collectively and individually) grows. John 12:20, 21 tells us of some Greeks who came to Philip and requested, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." The Christian is to demonstrate the Master in his/her life and in such a way that those who would see Jesus should be able to do so in this demonstration. The key word here is demonstration. It is not simply about knowing about Jesus but it is about walking in his steps for all to see. It is letting the light of Jesus shine through and in oneself. (Matthew 5:16)

Congregations must grow as a family and show this to the world. Often those who are open to study are people who are lonely and in need of meaningful relation-

ships. There is nothing unusual about this, as all of us need to feel loved and appreciated. The Lord's church must be seen as a loving family of people who support one another in living the Christ-like life. There are several passages that bear on this important aspect of the church and, make no mistake about it, the growth of the church depends on it being characterized by these things. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to love each other just as he loved them (Jno.13:34,35). This is a great challenge as seen in the fact that Jesus loved the church enough to die for her. The early church got along and they met together and shared together on a daily basis (Acts 2:46,47).

Paul speaks about many of the signs of this proper Christian relationship (Rom.12:9-). This does not just happen but

comes because brethren are committed to being the people of God. He says, for example, to honor each other above self; share with God's people; practice hospitality; rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn; live in harmony. Again, these things do not just happen they come because of commitment. May we never be guilty of becoming so busy and self-centered that we fail to have these qualities 'on display' for any who come seeking.

It is important to remember as well that family cannot be grown except through times together. Attending the services of the church is a good start but we must do more. There needs to be other times together in fellowship and hospitality. There is great value in working together in ministry as well. Each one ought to seek to become involved in the work of the church in whatever area he/she has interest and talent. Just as surely as working with a person in an office or factory can build friendship and concern so working with others in the great work of God can help growth in Christ.

Strathmore Searchlight, Toronto, Ontario

War, Terrorism and Christianity - America Under Attack

Walter Straker

It is almost impossible to fathom what happened on Tuesday morning, September 11, when a hijacked American Airlines plane from Boston crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Centre in New York City and an hour later a United Airline plane crashed into the north tower. A third plane, a 757 AA jet crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, DC killing numerous people. Not much later, another United Airlines plane crashed just outside of Pittsburgh.

We can't imagine the kind of diabolical minds people have, that would kill thousands upon thousands of innocent people in their desire to destroy the American nation. The Bible is full of prophecies of wars and rumours of wars, but this is the first time that there has been anything of this nature on the North American continent. It's somewhat similar to what happened on Pearl Harbor, over fifty years ago, when a Japanese admiral stated, "We've gone too far and we've awakened a

sleeping giant." This has been an incredibly catastrophic, sophisticated and well-planned, co-ordinated, financed and orchestrated attack on America: on the financial district; on the communications district; on the war department and on the government. This is likely the most horrific, diabolical event in modern world history. (The most damage and number of people killed in the shortest time).

We now have to realize that the forces of evil are much more alive and deadly than we might have imagined. When Mr. Goldberg of the Israeli department said that, "This is something that people in Israel live with every day," we start to get an idea of what a war zone is.

As Christians, we need to be far more energetic in our prayer life, in our evangelism in bringing Jesus Christ to the world. We also need to pray that the backlash does not go out of control.

In the evacuation attempt, people were jumping out of the 80th and 90th floor

windows. One man said that he saw 17 people jump. They are seeing dead bodies on the streets. The repercussions around the world will be incredible. All the major government offices and towers throughout the US and Canada were closed, including the CN Tower and major high rises in Toronto. We will not have the freedom we've had in crossing international borders.

One thing we can do in practical terms is to donate blood through the blood donor clinics around Toronto and the rest of Canada.

Bramalea, 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.
e-mail: forwomen@gospelherald.org



Challenges to the Family in the New Millennium, Part 1

LaVonne Roberts

(Editor's Note: The following is part one of a three-part series of lessons presented by sister Roberts at the 2000 Winter Retreat for Women in Moose Mountain Provincial Park and printed in Sister Triangle. We thank her for sharing these with us. lch)

I want to say thank you for this opportunity to talk to you about something I feel very passionate about. When I was asked to consider speaking to you, I was somewhat hesitant only because of the time commitment, but after consideration, I felt the Lord nudging me to spend some time in study and to take this opportunity to be challenged and to challenge you concerning something that is very much on my heart, and I am sure on yours as well.

I don't like to get hung up too much on the idea of the new millennium, understanding and believing that the struggles we are now facing in our homes and in the church family are not necessarily new struggles, but perhaps Satan's attack is getting stronger, and he is fighting harder to take away our security, stability and sense of peace. He continues to be a master in the battle, but God continues to be the Victor in the struggle, if we are willing to initiate his help. My concern is that often in the battle, my tendency is to try to deal with it all myself, not allowing God to participate on my behalf.

I want to share with you the results of my study and hope that it will be encouraging to you in your own personal situation, whether it be that you are young and single, older and single, married with small children, or perhaps older and on your own. Satan is not partial in his attempts to wear us down, and his attack on the family affects everyone and can erode at the very heart and foundation of our church family.

I do not want to be negative and discourage you, even though much of the information and challenges seem overwhelming and discouraging. However, I do

want to encourage and inspire you to grab hold of God's promises and know that He has the power to help our families to be all that he wants them to be. I also hope that in our study together we will grow to feel a renewed responsibility to each other and know that we all carry the load of building a heritage of faith. Where does the problem lie? This question is overwhelming to me, and you may ask 15 different people and get 20 different answers.

However, I can share with you only from my perspective as I have studied and questioned and asked those with whom I work. I wanted to share the results of a survey that I did among those I associate with in Dauphin in order to give you a perspective of how they feel the battle is going.

The adults were quite strong in stating their concerns:

1. Civil law is robbing us of the traditional ideal of what God intends a family to be.

2. The poor economy is robbing our young people of the possibility of having dreams.

3. Parents are too busy to teach their children about God's Word.

4. The "I quit" syndrome is alive and well; if it's too hard, give up.

5. The secular, humanistic voices are conspiring to redefine and as a result destroy the family.

6. Careers have become more important than strengthening and participating in our families.

7. The "this sucks" mentality is prevalent among our young people.

8. We are not teaching our children to serve, but they are concerned more with what they deserve in society and in the church.

They think, "What is the church doing for me?" instead of "What can I give the church?" We have become Self-Seeking and Self-Centered.

I had a special devotional with the girls (students in the dorm at Western Christian College) and did not require them to come, only asked those to attend who wanted to be there. It was a bit of an experiment to check out how many would be committed to giving up some of their time for an unknown spiritual discussion. Out of 24 girls, only 7 came, but we had a wonderful discussion about their concerns and fears for the church and their families as they approach a very important time in their lives. Here are some of the comments and concerns that they shared:

1. People come to the church more as a social event than a lifetime commitment to God.

2. Parents don't have time to really raise their kids; so, kids look elsewhere to feel special, valued and cared about, and they don't feel connected to the church because they are not connected to their own families.

3. It is not a priority for many to meet together as a whole body; this destroys the sense of family. We are meeting together less and have too many options available to us, which can develop apathy.

4. We don't feel as compelled to share our faith; we have too many material things and we have become LAZY CHRISTIANS!

5. Young people do not respect their elders or their parents. They have not been nurtured to know and trust older individuals; so, they are afraid and have poor or no relationships with elderly in the church.

6. There are less boundaries and more leniency in families, even in the church.

7. Young people feel criticized and discouraged. They are often categorized in a negative way and judged to not be able to make a difference. They want to be respected, too.

8. Divorce has become too common, and we have become too accepting.

9. Premarital sex is prevalent, known to more people, and accepted too readily.

10. People are not committed any more.

11. Guys don't respect women like they need to.

12. Society's perception of being spiritual is warped!

13. People are too busy making ends meet.

14. We think about what the world owes us, what we deserve, not what we can give. This affects our whole life.

15. We don't talk about salvation and baptism any more. We need to be focused on

(continued on page 15)



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ONTARIO

Ajax: "Margaret Wright has moved to Rosedale Nursing Home. Parent's Night Out began September 7 with informal group discussions related to the challenges of parenting. This will be held on the first Friday of each month. The goal is to share insights and information as well as to be refreshed in an evening of support and encouragement. Monthly men's spiritual growth meetings commenced in September with the purpose of engaging in spiritual conversation, mutual encouragement and training in Christian leadership. The adult Sunday school class is studying basic principles of Scripture formation and interpretation. Sunday evenings is a study of 2 Corinthians.

Beamsville: The October 7, area wide Sunday evening service was hosted by the Beamsville congregation. September 29 was the wedding of Rhiannon Allyn Smith and Douglass Darren Brown. The congregation joined the GLCC Alumni in the Tallman auditorium for the Sunday morning service on October 14.

Bramalea: Walter and Shirley Straker visited Texas to meet their fourteenth grandchild, Caleb Edward Straker, son of Norman and Shirley Straker of Saginaw, Texas. Shirley and Jonathan were able to take in Harvest Call at North Richland Hills in Fort Worth, Texas, on October 4-6. Four members of the congregation attended FallFest at Niagara Falls, Ontario with about 800 high school and college students, and recruiters from several of our Christian colleges present.

Brantford, North Park: The ladies had "Stitch and Chat" Friday, September 21 from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the building. The congregation is collecting money for the relief fund for New York and Washington.

Grimsby: On September 16, Lindsay Jones was baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of her sins. On October 13 the Swaziland team and their parents met with Thayer Salisbury and family from Manzini, Swaziland. On October 21 the brethren held a service in the Bethesda Chapel in Campden. Grimsby will host the area-wide singing on November 4.

Hamilton, Fennell Avenue: "The church celebrated it's 50th anniversary on Sunday, September 23, with a large number of past members in attendance. Throughout the day the congregation was privileged to hear God's word reached powerfully as well as reminiscing with past evangelists. These included David Johnson,

Bob Davison, Guy Stopard, Randy Morrill, Bryan Meneer, Bert Thompson, Bob Hibbard and Roy Merritt. Song leaders included Don Burgoin, Bob Hunter, Don Snure, Roy Cox, Bob Davison and Dave Jaggard. Sister Lynda Russell has placed membership here. Sister Julie Keating was baptized into Christ on August 12th. Also, Carson and Janet Clark have placed membership here.

Our brother Guy Stopard resigned as evangelist on the 31st of August. Guy, Marg and Tracy will continue to reside in Hamilton. A search committee has been appointed. Guest speakers have been Don Perry, Henry Boland, Joe Sandassie, Mike Gray, Devon Bennett and Geoff Ellis.

Since June, the church has hosted a "Key to the Kingdom" coffee hour every Thursday morning as a community outreach. The key to the kingdom lesson is presented with refreshments afterward. Further advertising is planned. Also, tentative plans are underway to host a VBS in 2002 with assistance from the congregation in Mayfair, Alabama." *Chris Gardner*

Huntsville: Carlin Preston was baptized into Christ by Lee Whitfield at Camp Omagh on August 22.

Newmarket: Will Shearer was baptized in late September. Speakers for October were Everett Kent, Elgin Whitfield and Bill Russell. Keith and Marie Thompson had an open house October 6 for their 50th anniversary. We were saddened by the sudden death of John Moore on October 11.

North Bay: Little Natasha Hacquard, after spending much time in the Ottawa Hospital, came back home but had to be taken back to Ottawa with her mother, Tina, by air ambulance on September 14. Please pray for Ray, Tina and Natasha.

Omagh: The congregation celebrated their 150th anniversary on Sunday, September 30.

Peterborough: Brian Sullivan of Wellandport preached in a meeting here, October 11-14.

St. Catharines (Ontario St.): The brethren helped two families with groceries for the month of September. The congregation holds a prayer meeting Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m.

Stratford: Fred and Donna Marshall were honoured at a going away fellowship on Sunday, September 16 as they were to move to British Columbia. The ladies began their class with a pot-luck, Tuesday, October 2.

Sudbury: A late report from Sudbury informs us of the following baptisms: Diane Fisher and Margaret Witowski (Feb.), Ron Asselin (May), Anne Neas (June), June Brouillard (August) and Jessica Black (Oct.). Also, appreciation is expressed for the regular attendance of Jadah Foliott (South River), Luke Vine (Thessalon) and Amy Hannah (Tintern) all of whom attend Laurentian University.

Sundridge: Part of the material here was submitted and accidentally missed for the August

issue. Jeremy Frost was married to Jacinthe-Laure LeBel on June 9. The couple resides in North Bay where the bride's family lives. David Miller received a wonderful Fathers' Day gift when his wife Karen gave birth to Tyler James. The same week, Jackson and Rhona Bigelow were blessed with a baby girl - Koree Elizabeth. Adam Lawrence and Lindsay Hartford were married on June 23 in Sundridge. The older men, Grant Preston, Lewis Kent and Chuck Fry have some health problems. They continue to bless the congregation with their presence at the assembly whenever possible. Steve May and Hubert Lawrence were appointed elders at Sundridge on September 9. George Mansfield of Stratford was guest speaker that morning.

Tintern: The summer interns, Paul Moore and James Holston, benefitted by experience, mentoring/training and financial support. The congregation gained from the interns' enthusiasm and hard work, especially with our young.

The congregation had a "Celebration of Thanks" on Sunday, September 30, with a turkey dinner. Justine Zila was baptized on September 3 and Ryan and Brandon Whitehead on September 27.

Tintern will host the area wide worship on December 2. Joshua Book came home from hospital on September 6 weighing 4 lbs. 1 oz. Guest speaker on October 14 was Thayer Salisbury from Manzini, Swaziland. He also taught the adult-teen class. The elders decided to send \$500.00 along with the results of a special collection to the disaster relief fund at the Manhattan church of Christ in New York

Toronto (Bayview Ave.): The 2001 Spiritual Renewal Weekend, "Lord, Teach Us To Pray," was on October 19-20 at Bayview. Jim Hawkins of Delta, B.C. was the guest speaker.

Toronto (Strathmore Blvd.): On September 2, Wendell Broom taught the Sunday school and preached during the worship hour. Max Craddock spoke at Newmarket on September 16. The monthly ladies' class began on September 29. The monthly pot-luck honoured little Chase Hibbard with a baby shower. On September 16, Chantelle Craddock was baptized by her grandfather, Max. Santiago Molina is going to Honduras to see his mother, Maria Molina who is very ill. He will leave around the end of October and then visit Nicaragua for the 17th Encounter Ibero-American, November 6-10.

Waterloo: Jackie Wall notes that the "Mitts for Orphans" program resulted in ten large boxes of items ready to be shipped to Rick and Carol Pinzuk in the Ukraine. John Clayton will be featured October 26-28 in a special meeting and will be guest speaker with the subject, "Our God Is An Awesome God" to the College Rally 2001 on October 27.

Welland: On Saturday, October 20 the congregation hosted a area-wide singing to "Sing the Old Favorites."

(continued on page 15)

NEWS - FAR WEST -



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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver: The "Key to the Kingdom" TV program is now being seen at 9:30 p.m. on Sundays in the Vancouver area. The annual B. C. Preachers' Retreat was enjoyed by most of Vancouver's preachers, October 28th-31st, at the home of the Sam Tumlinson's on Shushap Lake near Salmon Arm.

Abbotsford: It is hoped that Willie Neinhuis' daughter and family from Holland will be able to be here by Christmas. Willy has been undergoing tests for potential surgery on her leg. Norm and Jen Weir had a two weeks' vacation, in their camper, to Spokane and points-in-between in October.

The congregation lost Russ, Cassandra and Brayden Hall to the Kamloops/Ashcroft area when Russ accepted a new job. The church took part in a "Life Chain" event sponsored by Abbotsford to pray for a change in the law to do away with abortion and support pro-life.

Burnaby: The Burnaby congregation was host to John and Rosalyn Bailey from Hurst, TX the weekend of Sept. 28th-30th. John is the son of J. C. Bailey. People from several congregations were present to hear him speak on Friday evening about "Commitment". On Saturday morning, Brother Bailey addressed the men present while Rosalyn spoke to the women. Quoting a friend, she told the group "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." That means staying in focus." After a coffee/tea break, John answered questions (with occasional help from Rosalyn) concerning the direction Canadian and U. S. churches are going and distinguishing between "conservative" and "liberal" terminology. He urged us to be sure the Bible does or does not put a limitation on some practices of the church before we impose our beliefs on others. "The church has been forced to make some secular changes," he said, "because of the times in which we live. The New Testament is a universal book with a time dimension which allows each age to cope with its own problems." Brother Bailey continued his theme during Bible class and following sermon, emphasizing that every instance in which we are admonished to love God also ties in love for our fellow-Christians. He and Rosalyn celebrated their 41st anniversary by spending a couple of days at Whistler before arriving in Vancouver.

The 21st annual "Friends of Fish Freaks Festival", a seminar for youth leaders and par-

ents of participating young people, was held in Sept. Mike Parker, our youth director, left on October 11th with six others for six weeks of intensive work in NE India. (See Foreign News section for details.)

Betty Chow, who has been visiting our services for some time, received her Canadian Citizenship in a ceremony in Vancouver on Oct. 11th.

E. Vancouver City Church: We are welcoming new immigrants from Mainland China to our services and Bible studies. One young woman, who has been here only a few weeks, is a believer in Christ. Her grandfather worked somewhat as a Bible teacher in China during the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s. She told the congregation that she heard about her grandfather going from house to house to strengthen the Christians, teaching the Bible and singing Christian hymns with the believers. She is excited to be with us. After talking with Simon Hui, who worships with Delta, we are considering renting an additional room at the Trout Lake Community Centre for the purpose of having a class for new immigrants during the time the congregational Bible class is being conducted each Sunday evening. Steve Hasbrouck helps Brother Hui with an English-Bible class taught on Saturdays using the "Let's Start Talking" series that has been successful around the world for two decades.

Several members started working together last month to prepare weekly home Bible studies, meeting together once a week for prayer and planning. The new lesson is discussed, including the theme, scriptures that will be used, and how to present the lesson. Each teacher then teaches it in a host home to which friends have been invited. The following week, teachers meet again to go over the outcome of the week before, discuss problems, questions that came up, etc. before the lesson for the coming week is outlined. In this way, City Church hopes to teach "publicly and from house to house" (Acts 20:20).

The Spirit of Life Bible Institute has three satellite classes well underway. Five students are deep into Psalms with Charles Speer on Wednesday evenings at the Oakridge facility, and five students are studying the "Life and Teachings of Christ" with Richard Rogers on Friday afternoons in the facilities of Brother Dan Keeran's Counselling Training Centre on the twelfth floor of the Standard Building in the heart of the city. The congregation is continuing the study of the book of Hebrews by Gerald Paden which is one of our video courses for the satellite school.

Delta: Darren Williamson has accepted the position of minister for our congregation on a part-time basis as he finishes his studies for a Masters degree in Church History. Jim and Carolyn Hawkins were among the featured speakers at the Western Canadian Christian Convention in Calgary Oct. 12-14th. Jim also

conducted a "Prayer Workshop" for the Bayview congregation in Toronto Oct. 19-21st.

Maple Ridge: Don and Patti Johnston moved to Maple Ridge at the end of September in order to be able to work more effectively in establishing our new congregation. An ad inviting enrollment in Bible Correspondence Courses was run in the Maple Ridge newspaper last month, and several prospective full-time workers were interviewed.

Victoria: The Shelbourne Street church of Christ is searching for a new Minister of the Word. Interested parties may contact Jim Mann (Chair of Search Committee) 2601 Averbury Avenue, Victoria BC V8P 4G5. jimmann@telus.net Church website: www.sscoc.bc.ca

ALBERTA

Calgary: David and Shirley Lidbury arrived in September to begin their work in Family and Counseling for the Maryvale congregation. The Youth Assembly program has been divided into two age groups with two distinct themes: "Kid's Time: God's Big Picture!" is being studied by grades 1 through 4. "Little Kid's Time: My Great Big God!" is keeping ages 2 through 5 charmed. Each group is set up with 4 teachers and 16 helpers divided into teams who teach for two Sundays, then have six Sundays off.

A new "Alpha" course was offered from September 19th to October 24th, with the second part starting November 7th to December 12th. Each weekly session begins with an informal dinner, and includes small group discussion of issues raised during the lessons. "Alpha" is comprised of a series of studies on topics such as "Who Is Jesus?", "Why Did Jesus Die?", "Why and How Should I Read the Bible?", "Why and How Do I Pray?", and continues into deeper questions.

A "Workshop-Workday for Teachers" on September 15th readied classrooms and the resource room for the new year. There was Facility Training, October 5th-7th for the "His Needs, Her Needs" course to be offered again this year.

Luke, Janet and Rachael Taylor have moved to Beamsville, ON, and are missed.

Keith and Penny Rathwell were the couple chosen to visit missionaries Jason and Sheryl Moriarty, who are supported by this congregation, in Papua New Guinea. They left on Sept. 10th. Andrea Yurk and Kara Hultgren have returned from their mission trip to Zambia.

Four people have recently been baptized: Brian Marsili, Peter Garang, Mecca Abraham, and Merry Akway Lero.

This year's fall clothing exchange was held on Oct. 20th. It gives people in the church and neighborhood the chance to put clothing their families no longer need to good use, and is held twice a year in the fall, and again in the spring.

Edmonton: We rejoice along with the angels in heaven as another soul has been snatched out

(continued on page 13)

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



Jesus Among Other Gods, The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message, by Ravi Zacharias, Word Publishing, Nashville, TN. 195 pages, \$19.99 (U.S.)

Jesus' Resurrection, Fact or Figment? A Debate Between William Lane Craig and Gerd Ludemann, R. G. Mitchell Family Books, Willowdale, ON, \$20.99 Cdn.

Restoring My Soul, The Pursuit of Spiritual Resilience by Bill Flatt Ed.D, Gospel Advocate Co. Nashville, Tn. 270 pages, \$14.99 U.S.

Here is a very interesting debate between two scholars: One who affirms the Resurrection of Jesus and One who denies it. It is amazing that Ludemann, who denies it is a "professor of New Testament and early Christianity." Not only that but the book describes him as an atheist!

"Tough times don't last. Tough people do." Bill Flatt, counsellor, professor and preacher shows us how to face and overcome the many trials of life. He has a lifetime of experience in dealing with these matters. He shows the reader how to deal with worry, fear, depression, low self-esteem, anger, sex, grief, divorce, etc.

The arguments are made in relatively short chapters so it is easy to follow them. William Lane Craig does an outstanding job in upholding the truth on this vital topic.

He is very capable of using the tools provided by psychology and other disciplines, but tests everything by the Scriptures.

Believers will be greatly impressed with his solid arguments and by the utter failure of his opponent to make any effective response.

We are happy to give this book our highest recommendation. A copy should be in every home. If couples, families, elders, preachers, yes, all of us, would read and apply this book, then everything would go more smoothly. It would be ideal for class study.

This outstanding book presents a great challenge to the reader. It presents great depth of thought on the greatest possible theme: Is Jesus truly a Divine Being and the only Son of the Living God? Also, are there other gods in addition to Him?

The author was born in India and is well versed in the many religions of that country and the rest of the world. He demonstrates the many shortcomings of the "Eastern religions," such as Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism. Since these religions are becoming more prominent in the West, it is imperative that we realize their shortcomings in comparison to Christianity. The author powerfully shows the complete superiority of Christianity to all these other beliefs. Only Jesus Christ can be recognized as "the Way, the Truth and the Life."

This book will fortify your faith and assist you in responding to those who accept these other beliefs.

There is also a youth edition in paperback for \$9.99 (U.S.)

(continued from page 12)

of the grasp of Satan and added to the Lord's Kingdom in Edmonton. Tammy Rusin was baptized on September 13, 2001.

Glen Ostrosky started the Intern Program in Edmonton this past September. Glen with the support of his wife, Connie, has a goal to go into full time work with the church. There are three men who are considering entering the program with the intent on full time work with the church. We ask for your prayers for these men and their decisions, as we know there are never enough people to do the work of the Lord.

Herb and Carlene Anderson have returned from their travels across Canada and their visit with relatives in the US. They had some enjoyable times visiting with Christians brothers and sisters across the country.

The Edmonton church of Christ is going to host Vision Canada 2002. We have secured King's College to facilitate the 4-day event. The topic for Vision Canada 2002 is evangelism. We are looking forward to having very congregation in Canada represented at the lectureship in June!

Some of the men from Edmonton continue to help out the Lloydminster congregation to fill the pulpit while they continue their search for a full time worker. It is a privilege to serve the Lloydminster congregation in this way.

The Edmonton church of Christ family camp, in-conjunction with the annual congregational picnic was held in September. They were well attended and a great success.

Dave Friesen

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Yellowknife: Verna May Kemble, formerly of Calgary, had cancer surgery in Edmonton in August. She was returned home the following week.

MONTANA

Three Fork's: In September I began teaching a series of lessons titled, "Satan, Angels, Heaven and Hell; Exploring the Unseen." This series has been well received so far. We have advertised in the local paper, plus we have flyers that we are using for personal invitations.

We are wrapping up our study on "What Makes Churches Grow". To continue equipping the saints here, I will lead a study on "False Doctrines," focusing on the origin of some of the false teachings that our members encounter in their interactions with people, and how to refute these doctrines. Eschatological (the study of end things) and "Rapture Fever" will be some of what we study.

Jim & Elma Miller will be updating us on their "Lifeline of Hope" community outreach

and mission report, October 6-7. They work primarily with orphans and orphanages, providing food, medicine and clothing through the church in Khabarovsk. They have just returned from Russia after adopting a physically handicapped orphan girl named Vika. (We take up a special collection on the first Sunday of each month to support their mission work in Far East Russia).

Gene Polvado will present a gospel meeting on "Great Chapters of the Bible", October 19-21.

Also on that week end is the "Valley Rally" a youth rally jointly hosted by the Bozeman and Belgrade congregations. Most of our teens will attend at least part of this weekend's event.

David Ford

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Great Lakes Christian College Honours Geoffrey and Doreen Ellis

Great Lakes Christian College hosted 240 people on Saturday, September 22, for with a dinner at which we honoured Dr. Geoffrey and Doreen Ellis for their contributions to both our school and to the church.

The Ellis family first came to serve on the staff of Great Lakes Christian College in 1954; Geoff as the history teacher and Doreen led the woman's athletic director. In 1961 Ellis became President of GLCC and led the school until 1984. His era of leadership saw the construction of the main classroom with two subsequent additions including a cafeteria and a gym. Also, major additions were made to McPhee and Huron Halls. It was an era of growth and consolidation for the school, which has just begun its fiftieth year of continuous operation.

In spite of all of the campus improvements that came during those years, the Ellis family will be remembered not for their building up of the school so much as for the great impact they have had on the lives of so many who were students or who served as staff during this time. Geoff and Doreen opened their hearts and their homes to us. They cared not only about the school, but also about our families. When Doreen sees my son James, she will remind him (with what seems grandmotherly pride) that his first night out of the hospital was spent in her home.

In presenting a plaque to Geoff and Doreen, Lawrence Whitfield shared the blessings of being invited into Geoff and Doreen's home

while he was here as a student. I have heard many others comment on the impact of having Geoff take a personal interest in them as a person while they were here as students. What a fine example they have been to us.

In 1996 Ellis was appointed the Principal of Great Lakes Bible College and was instrumental in reactivating that post-secondary program in Waterloo. He served there from 1996 until his retirement earlier this year.

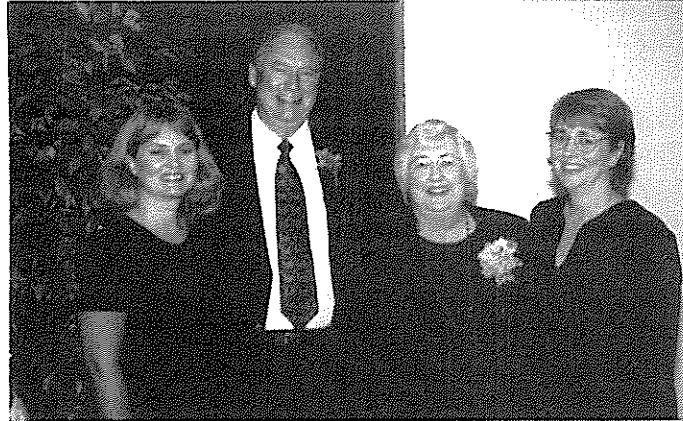
In addition to this work, Geoff co-authored a book entitled *The Other Revolution: Russian Evangelical Awakenings*, which explores the history of Christianity in Russia. He has also made several trips overseas to serve as a guest lecturer in Bible Colleges in Nigeria, Russia and Finland.

Max Craddock, Chairman of the Great Lakes Bible College Board of Trustees, reminded us of the impact the Ellises have had on the school and church com-

munity. By way of appreciation for their work, Doreen was presented with a plaque from the teams she coached and both were presented with an appreciation plaque from the Christian College.

The final award was a trip for the Ellises to the Bible lands or other destination of their choice from the members of the Board of Trustees of the Bible College, expressing their appreciation for the Ellis' work, without remuneration during the past five years.

Art Ford



Dr. Geoffrey and Doreen Ellis with daughters, Becky Coursen (L) and Beth Forsyth (R). Absent, son Mark, currently residing in Atlanta, Georgia.

Omagh Church of Christ Anniversary - One Hundred and Fifty Years of Continued Service

One of the principal founders of the church was a man by the name of James Beaty, an Irish immigrant who came to Upper Canada with his brother John in 1818. He settled in Toronto and later became an alderman, the Mayor of Toronto and a member of Canada's first Federal Parliament. He was known as a Conservative in politics, and in religion a Disciple.

James Beaty and John Beaty bought land in 1829 in Trafalgar Township on the 4th line north of Omagh. In 1850 James Beaty Sr. donated one acre of land for the site of the present church. The building was designed by James Beaty, amphitheatre style, with the congregation looking down on the communion table as he felt the communion, celebrated weekly, was the central part of the worship. William C. Beaty,

hailed by ox cart from Toronto the doors, windows, communion table and all other fixtures. The original doors and windows are still in use today. The original pews were replaced in 1969. However, several of the original pine pews are in use in the Sunday school room. Of interest was the Georgia Pine ceiling which was installed in 1906 at a cost of \$95.00. Situated on the north side of the road was a large horse shed donated to the Church by the McCann family. The building was renovated in 1948 with care given to maintain the original building.

The Beaty's were a very large family and were very active in the Church for many years. The Beaty's married Stewarts, Wilson, Johnstones, and McCartneys. These few families first met in the Beaty's log home on July 18, 1824. They then

moved to the new building in October 1851 and three meetings were held that day with the principal speaker Alex Anderson from Eramosa. William C Beaty continued to preach at Omagh until 1926. Some of the names added to the roster at Omagh were Buck, Bousfield, Wales and other Johnstone and McCartney families. The church was called Disciples of Christ Omagh until 1930 and then changed to the Church of Christ, Omagh.

There are many fond, humorous, and serious memories and changes over the 150 year period. This congregation and this old building, with some members who are sixth and more generations, have continued with weekly services without a break in fellowship, preaching and communion for 150 years.

(continued from page 10)

"Holy Living"!

I asked the girls what they were afraid of as Christian young women:

1. I am afraid I am going to live to work and neglect my family.
2. I am afraid outside influences and evil will pull my children away from God no matter how hard I try to teach them about Him.
3. I am afraid I will be trapped in a loveless marriage and not be happy.
4. I am afraid I won't be able to make a difference.
5. I am afraid that if I am persecuted, I won't be strong enough to handle it.

In dealing with all of this, it is easy to become discouraged. If you are like me, I am anxious for God to come, any second will do, and I am looking forward to no more laundry or dishes! However, we do not know when God will choose to come, and in the meantime, we have a deep responsibility to each other and to our Savior to continue the good fight and accomplish the development of healthy families, which will in turn nurture and develop healthy church families in this new century we are entering. Okay, are you depressed yet?

Dauphin, MB

(continued from page 11)

Windsor (West Side): There have been four baptisms recently: Dennis Wessel, Hanna Vasilevskaya, Larry Guitar and Ken McRae. Spessa Cali blessed the congregation by returning from Albania. The congregation now has ten different nations represented in the assembly. The congregation made a special appeal for Nadia Shevchuk of Germany for medical expenses. The children's ministry hosted the annual Fall Family Party on October 13.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Moncton: Long time members, Roger and Ginette Leger, were transferred to Prince Edward Island. The fifth in a series of evangelistic pamphlets is now ready for distribution. It's called "Is There Meaning to Your Life?" The Johnson family made a trip to the USA in August, taking son, Tom, to Harding University, visiting with family and supporting congregations in Kentucky. Diana's mother, Margaret (nee Smart) Denham passed away suddenly on September 10 in Kentucky.

NEW YORK

North Buffalo: Prayers are requested for Glenisha Ferby who has been in a body cast for six weeks. September 9 the ladies had their Prayer Sister exchange after the morning service.

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor: UU Akpanudo placed membership with us. On Wednesday evenings the adult class is viewing a teaching video by Jim

McGuiggan on the major themes of the Old Testament.

Several have recently responded, requesting prayer.

Mission News:

India

Bob and Sharon Parker, Gloria Drader and Garth Nelson, all of Saskatoon, Tim Bell of Gravelbourg, Stewart McMillan, of Brandon, MB and Mike Parker of Burnaby, BC flew to Singapore on October 11th, and from there to Calcutta. After spending Sunday with the church, they flew on to Guwahati, and on to a number of other places to work with local congregations and several Preachers' Schools. They also visited native schools to sing, share information about Canada, and do skits with Biblical implications. They have been conducting classes for all ages and for church leaders, with visitation during the day and meetings in the evenings. They will return via Singapore and Seoul, Korea, on November 20th.

Tobey Huff, Venatua

The Huffs have returned to the United States from Venatua as their plans for starting a Bible College in Fiji could not be worked out at this time. Zambia

The Northreach effort has resulted in the establishment of over 50 congregations.

A large meeting was held in the valley at Siacheleka. "Chief Siwatachela heard about the

(continued on page 17)

PREACHER / EVANGELIST WANTED

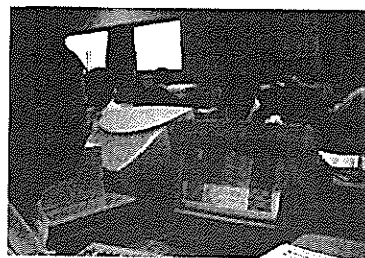
Evangelist sought for Bramalea Church of Christ, Brampton, Ontario, Canada. This well established multicultural congregation is situated near the Toronto Airport, in the Brampton/Mississauga area.

Primarily the candidate will fulfill the duties of pulpit preaching; he will also be part of a team effort of evangelistic outreach. Please send resume to the attention of the elders at 750 Clark Blvd., Brampton, ON L6T 3Y2; (905) 792-2297; Fax: (905) 792-8623; Email: stnf66@aol.com. References should indicate that the candidate demonstrates sound gospel preaching and teaching. A tape of typical sermons would be very helpful.

All applications will be reviewed in strictest confidence and only selected candidates will be contacted.

If you have ever considered attending Great Lakes Christian College **NOW** is the time to check us out!

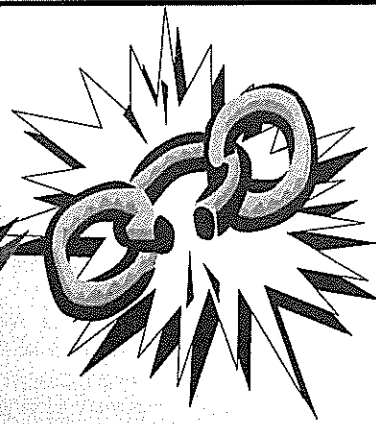
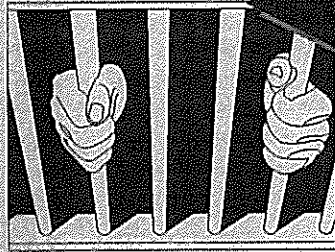
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February 12, 2002



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OBITUARIES

Sven Ulrich

Sven Ulrich of the Weyburn, Saskatchewan congregation passed away on July 19, 2001. Sven was a faithful contributor to our work for many years, giving \$5 from his small pension each month. Much mission support comes from Christians like Sven who love the lost and are willing to do what they can.

Sven was born in Denmark and was always concerned about the souls of his countrymen. When he was younger he made several trips to Denmark to teach and preach.

Unfortunately, missionaries who went to Denmark some forty years ago, did not stay, and two Danish brethren who preached full-time did not remain faithful. At one time the church in Copenhagen had a large building, but it was sold, and now there are only a handful of brethren in Denmark.

I wish I had a hundred lives to learn a hundred languages so I could preach the gospel to people of a hundred tongues who have never heard. Pray for the people of Denmark as Sven did. Pray that some faithful brother who has the perseverance to work in a difficult area will dedicate his life to preaching the gospel in Denmark.

Roy Davison

Ira Rice

Ira Rice, widely known evangelist and writer, was killed in a collision of his van with a truck on the morning of October 11 near Shepherd, TX, where he had closed a gospel meeting the night before. He, apparently lost consciousness and ran into the stopped truck without braking.

He is known for his fierce passion for getting the gospel all over the world and his zeal for the purity of doctrine and practice. His

wife, Vada, lives in Memphis, TN. Further details are not available at this time.

In Memoriam Martin Schlarb

Schlarb – In loving memory of a dear husband, father and Opa, Martin; on the seventh anniversary of his passing, October 30, 1994.

Remembering you is easy,
We do it every day,
Missing you is a heartache
That never goes away.
You had a smile for everyone,
You had a heart of gold,
You left the sweetest memories,
The world could ever hold.
To us you were someone special,
What more is there to say,
Except to wish with all our hearts,
That you were here today.

Your loving wife, Louise, children and grandchildren.

(continued from page 15)

efforts of these leaders and asked them to do the same thing at the village at Sinsya Hill. There is a new congregation at Sinsya Hill.

"In Kapombo we stayed one week. During our stay we walked around the township doing door to door campaigns. The strategy used in these campaigns really helped us so much that daily we baptized scores of people. Among these was a Pentecostal Holiness preacher. He had preached for eight years in the local church without being baptized. His "pastor" did not think "immersion" was important for him to be saved. Through the hearing of the Scriptures on baptism, he desired that he be baptized with all five members of his family.

We joyfully administered the baptism and immediately his baptism spread like busy fire in the township. More and more people started coming to us to inquire about baptism."

Thomas Siafwiyo

Disaster Relief

Bill Johnson of the Springfield Gardens church in New York rote the following report. We were blessed to have responses from the Lord's Church throughout this country. Over 160,000 pounds of supplies were received from the Churches of Christ Disaster Relief and Healing Hands ministries in Nashville. The first truck load was taken to the designated drop off at Shea Stadium. It was amazing to see doctors and Red Cross workers immediately loading our medical supplies into police vans for the journey into downtown Manhattan. When we circled the fellows along with the truck driver and his wife and began to sing God is a Good God, those words echoed and drew other police officers and relief workers our way to join hands with us. The second truck from Nashville had additional food and tools to aid in the rescue effort. Those items were brought to our building. We were able to supply a rescue ambulance and a triage unit with supplies.

We have fed firefighters and police and relief workers. We have provided roses for families as they go about the heartbreaking task of supplying DNA samples to authorities. We attached information so they could contact us at the church. We have started the sobering task of meeting with family members who lost loved ones in the WTC collapse.

We don't want to play pile-on with the funds you've sent us. So we are planning several major efforts in the near future we believe will be helpful.

From AIM, the bulletin of the Granny White church in Nashville, TN

Tobey Huff, Venatua

The Huffs have returned to the United States from Venatua as their plans for starting a Bible College in Fiji could not be worked out at this time.

Great Lakes Bible College Short Course

"Creative Writing"

December 17–21, 2001

This course addresses ethical matters pertaining to the ownership of intellectual property while teaching proper use of current 'style manuals'. Attention will be given to grammar, punctuation, editing skills, research and publishing. This course is very practical, touching on the production of Bible school curriculum, bulletins, articles, newsletters, sermons, book reviews, letters, proposals, resumes and job descriptions.

Our instructor is **Shirley Straker** of Bramalea, Ontario. Shirley brings to the classroom many years of professional experience and a graduate degree specializing in this particular field of writing.



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6:00 p.m.

Tallman Auditorium

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Guest Speaker: Jerry Rushford

Director of Church Relations, Pepperdine University

Seating is limited; reservations must be received by November 12th!

To reserve your seat, contact Crystal Cook, 905-563-5374, Ext. 230 or CCook@admin.glcc.on.ca or Nelli Page, 905-563-5374, Ext. 210 or nelli@glcc.on.ca.
