

# Gospel Herald

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BEAMSVILLE, ONTARIO

August 2003



Harding College students and helpers who participated in the 1948 Westdale, Hamilton campaign led by Andy T. Ritchie Jr., one of four conducted in Ontario by Ritchie and teams of Canadian and American students: 1947, Ivon Ave., Hamilton; 1948, Westdale; 1950, 1951, Bayview Ave., Toronto. These early post-war years began four decades of growth for churches of Christ in Canada. Read the article: The Ritchie Campaigns on page 2.

# The Ritchie Campaigns

Geoffrey H. Ellis

In the years immediately following World War II, a period of growth began for Ontario churches of Christ that would continue for some four decades. Canadians had forged a new sense of national identity during the war years and were ready for bigger and better things. This spirit moved our brethren as well. Four Ontario campaigns, in the years 1947, 1948, 1950 and 1951, conducted by Andy T. Ritchie Jr, Harding College professor, provide an important window to the conditions of those earlier years.

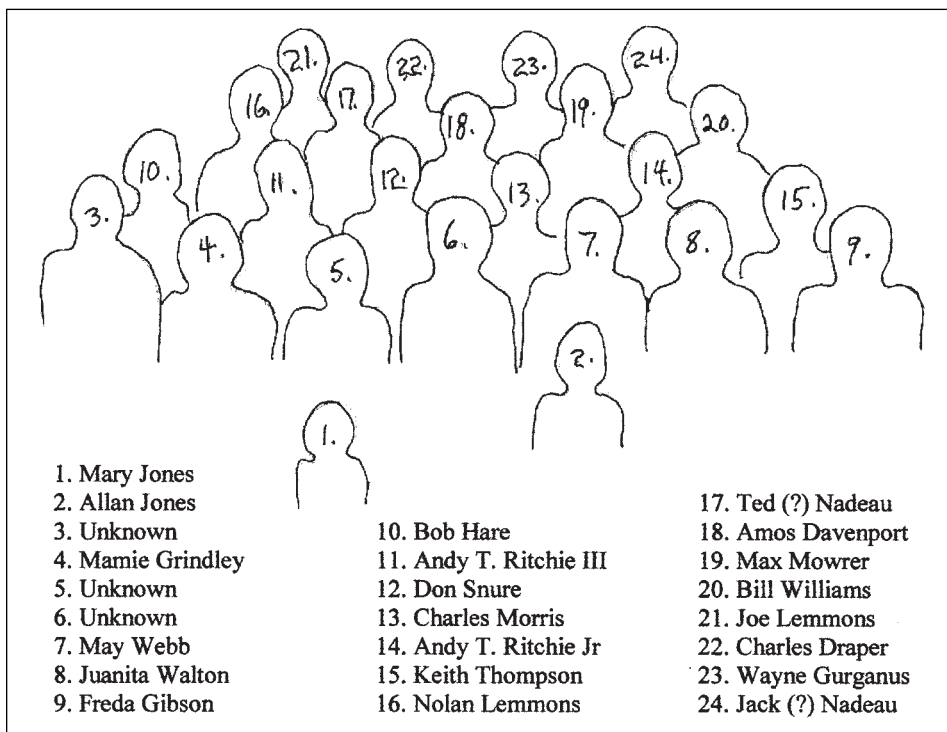
What was it like in 1947? There were fewer congregations in Ontario than fifty years earlier—27 in contrast to 32. The brethren were dealing with the news of the death of a Harding student, Russell Johnson, taken in an auto accident on his way to a preaching appointment. His father, George M. Johnson from Winnipeg, had recently arrived to preach for the Fern Ave. congregation in Toronto. Omagh Bible School conducted its eleventh year of teaching. Twenty Ontario young

people were enrolled at Harding College as well as others at Lipscomb and Abilene, the early portion of a wave of Canadian students who would attend southern Christian colleges in the second half of the 1940s. The “June Meeting” was hosted by the Fern Ave. church in Toronto and was attended by 600 to 700 people. Joe and Rosabelle Cannon were present and the occasion served as a send-off as they would shortly head for mission work in Japan. Two new congregations established in Hamilton the previous year, Ivon Ave. and Westdale were looking for assistance in order to grow and flourish. The Bayview Ave. church in Toronto had completed its building in 1946 as well and also looked to better days.

Keen on evangelism, George M. Johnson arranged for George S. Benson, president of Harding College, to conduct a four-day meeting at Fern Ave. in March 1947 and to explore ways for advancing the cause in Ontario. A meeting was hosted that was attended by inter-

ested brethren from Thessalon, Sarnia, Meaford, and at least ten congregations from south-central Ontario. Benson proposed several initiatives: (1) a one-month campaign to be conducted by Andy T. Ritchie Jr and Harding students, (2) college students to be employed by local Ontario congregations for the three summer months, (3) two workers to be supported by American churches to work in needy areas for extended efforts. He pledged \$1,000 from the College church in Searcy of which he was an elder, encouraging the Ontario churches to match this amount for the campaign. (The Tintern congregation was the first to respond with \$100.) Collingwood and Brantford were identified for the third initiative. It had been Johnson’s expectation that Fern Ave. would host the campaign, but the timeliness of support for the new efforts in Hamilton drew attention. John Whitfield, preacher with the Raymond and Beecher congregation in St. Catharines, recommended that Ivon Ave. be selected. There was enthusiasm for this plan and Benson returned to work closely with Ritchie in the preparations. Also, while in Ontario, Benson, following a tour of the snow-covered campus of Omagh Bible School, attended the OBS annual meeting conducted in Beamsville, March 3. There he recommended that Omagh be upgraded to a year-round school, teaching high school and the first two years of college, so that Ontario students could attend our southern colleges, earning the BA degree with only a two-year “absence” from Canada. He offered to arrange for the recognition of credits by Harding College. Jardine McKerlie, who had led in developing the Omagh Bible School campus several years earlier, and president of the OBS corporation,

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# The Genres of Scripture – Narrative, part 1

Thayer Salisbury

Fee and Stuart, in their highly respected book *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, suggest that the understanding of different genres is the key to understanding the Bible (9–10). Their emphasis on genre may be a slight exaggeration, but it is true that we need a greater awareness of the different kinds of literature within the Bible.

In this series we will give attention to five genres that appear in the Bible: narrative, law, wisdom, parable, and apocalyptic. Of course there are other genres or sub-genres that also appear in scripture (prayer, gospel, and sermons, for example). Although this series will not cover all of the genres that appear in scripture, the ideas presented here should help in the study of the whole Bible.

Each genre presents its own challenges to the student. Each genre also has its own benefits.

## Narrative

A narrative is not a listing of ideas, theories, or rules but “an account of events.”

Most of the Bible is narrative. Tom Steffen claims that 75% of the Bible is narrative (125). Other writers might put the figure slightly lower, but clearly narrative is the biggest biblical genre. The Old Testament opens with sixty-nine chapters of almost solid narrative. About half of the New Testament – including almost all of the four gospels and the book of Acts – is narrative. Clearly, if we are going to understand the Bible, we must learn to understand narrative.

Narrative has tremendous advantages as a teaching tool. Narrative is more memorable than essay or law. Narrative is more practical and applicable than most other forms of writing. That seems to be why God used so much narrative in the Bible.

There are also certain difficulties with narrative as a means of teaching. Narrative is not as plain as law. When we read a narrative we are often forced to ask questions such as these. “Am I being

told what did happen or what is supposed to happen? Who is right and who is wrong in this story? Is this narrative giving us an example of what we may do or of what we must do? Which of the characters in this story am I to view as a good example? Which are to be viewed as bad examples?”

In other words, the fact that the Bible contains so much narrative brings us up against the troublesome question of examples.

## Examples

The proper use of examples can be very difficult to understand. Some feel that Bible examples have the same force as Bible commands. Others feel that examples prove only what we may do, not what we must do. Which way is right?

Certainly, examples are there to teach us. The giving of examples in a narrative setting was a very common form of teaching in the ancient world. But we must learn how examples instruct us. There are “bad” examples as well as good examples. We are not to follow those. We should follow only examples approved by God.

Even some of the good examples may not be intended as binding instruction for all Christians. Sometimes an example is just showing a way things can be done, not how they must be done.

The sharing of everything in common by the church in Jerusalem (Acts 2:44–45) is a good example. God approves of what they did there. Yet, it is clear that it is not intended as a command to all churches to do the same. Nowhere else in Acts, nor in the epistles, do we see the early church keeping this practise. If it were something that was expected of all Christians, we would expect it to be mentioned again.

If someone wishes to form a community of believers who share in this way, they may do so. They can show from Acts 2 that it is an acceptable way for Christians to live. But if someone wishes to force others to join such a community, they are wrong. This practise was

not followed in other New Testament churches.

Many examples are incidental. They are not given to indicate how we ought to do things. Instead they tell us how the early church in a particular place did them. The example itself is not binding, it only indicates one way the thing may be done.

## An Example with Other Indicators

Examples become significant instruction if they are related to the gospel (1 Cor 2–2), especially if the same thing is mentioned enough to show that this was the universal practice of the church. Let us consider how this principle applies in Acts 20:7–9.

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GLBC  
Short Courses



## What Next?

Wayne Turner



**D**o you ever find yourself feeling frustrated at the direction the Canadian government, its courts and the society and people of Canada are headed? Do you wonder, even fear, what will happen next – what moral standard will die, what right will be removed, what religious freedom will be taken away?

Consider that over the past decades, we have seen the use of Bible reading, prayer, and even posting the Ten Commandments taken out of the schools. Premarital and extramarital sex, living together before marriage and pornography have become open and acceptable. Homosexuality has gone from being a crime to enjoying an especially protected status as a “sexual preference” – such that those who publicly speak or write against it can be the targets of legal sanctions. Preaching and attempting to convert people is seen as narrow and offensive. Churches are increasingly discovering that their status as registered charities issuing receipts for donations is bringing more government regulation about limits to what can be done with donated money, especially when money is being sent to individuals or mission works outside Canada.

Western culture was originally rooted in Judeo-Christian or Biblical values. Looking back, we have understood that the colonization of North America was at least partly motivated by people of faith and conscience who sought freedom. This is especially seen in the arrival of people like the Pilgrims; Puritans who sought to escape oppression in England. As a result, the laws and culture of North America reflected those early values. What our founding fathers did not anticipate was that one day, the pursuit of freedom and personal rights would be turned against the beliefs and values on which their new world was based.

Because of these roots, many people, including some Christians, have seen Canada and the United States as “Christian countries.” They have unfortunately been unable to see the distinction between some of the behaviours and values that characterize a Christian and the faith and relationship with God that should lie behind the externals. It has been comfortable for many who profess faith in Christ to live in a climate that seemed so similar to their values. In this environment, some church members, motivated more by culture than faith, became comfortable and complacent, not willing to see or acknowledge the spiritual realities around them – that right moral conduct does not necessarily represent that a person is saved or right with God – nor doing anything to try to change them. For such people, the changes of the past decades are most distressing and disturbing.

Today, humanity is running amok. Like the time of the Judges, everyone is doing “what is right in his own eyes.” Concepts of authority and submission, especially to God or the Bible, are rejected, outright. People believe that the

answers to the world’s problems lie in human knowledge, wisdom and ingenuity. They fail to see that it is this human arrogance that has created, not solved the problems. As Jeremiah said, “I know, O LORD, that a man’s way is not in himself; Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.” (10:23). Spiritually, many people are zealous for something supernatural, but as Paul wrote, “they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.”

As the world changes around us, there are three things we need to keep in mind. First, changes in the world do not and should not change us. We are not of the world. We belong to God. Therefore, our minds, hearts and lives are shaped by Him. We are not chameleons changing to blend into our surroundings. We are lights set on a hill for all to see.

Second, ever since the Garden of Eden, the world has been under the power of Satan. He is the master of deception. If he can disguise himself as an angel of light, can he not disguise a culture in sufficient “Christian” trappings to lead people astray? Certainly he can! Therefore, we should not be anxious or alarmed as the moral veneers of our culture are peeled away to reveal what we should already have known. The world belongs to Satan, and it is lost in sin.

Third, no matter how powerful Satan may be, God is ultimately in control. Satan has already been defeated by the cross of Christ. The only way to see the truth of our world is through the spiritual eye of faith. Though our culture has been rich in religious platitudes and high sounding words, sin and Satan have been ever present – moving and manipulating the world away from a genuine relationship with God or the faith and righteousness that He desires.

More than ever, we need to take our stand with Christ, no matter how unpopular it may be. As our culture moves away from its past bedrock values, we need to hear Jesus. “Do not be anxious...I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

### GOSPEL HERALD

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## For Some Have Never Heard It

Back in 1866, Catherine Hankey wrote the wonderful hymn, I Love to Tell the Story. This hymn speaks of faith in the unseen things of God and expresses joy in the opportunity to share this wonderful story with others. Verse three reads:

*"I love to tell the story;  
Tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it,  
More wonderfully sweet;  
I love to tell the story,  
For some have never heard  
The message of salvation  
From God's own holy word."*

Have you considered how privileged you are to have heard this wonderful story and that you are blessed with the privilege of reading it every day. What a joy it is for the Christian to share this good news of Jesus with "some who have never heard". It might seem that everyone in this country has heard. However, the truth is that many have not heard the un-perverted gospel but have only heard it through the teaching of those who have brought a "different gospel" as Paul warned about in Galatians 1:6-9.

New Testament Christians have a duty to make a careful study of God's word and then share "the message of salvation" with others who do not know the way of God, even if they think they do. There is a great example of this in Acts 18. "Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about

Jesus accurately, through he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately" (Acts 18:24-26). Here is a wonderful example of Christians having a concern for others who did not know the way of God correctly, who were prepared by their own study and knowledge of Christ's way, and who were willing to challenge this religious man on the accuracy of his beliefs.

John warns Christians about the need to know for themselves the will of God when he wrote, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). This ability to check the teaching being given can come only through a careful and personal study of the word of God.

Sometimes when I am answering

the phone on Sunday nights for the Key To The Kingdom program, people will call to disagree with something that Michael Tackett has taught. At times these are people who call with Bible in hand and ask well thought out questions and seemingly seeking the truth. Occasionally, it is someone who just wants to argue and seems to have no real knowledge of scripture but wants to argue anyway. Once in a while a person will call in with some statement they think is in the Bible that disagrees with what has been presented...they don't know where it is but know they read it in there somewhere! (I can remember as a kid hearing people, in trying to get their children to wash their hands and face properly, say, "You know it is like it says in the Bible, cleanliness is next to godliness".) For non-Christians to say such things is one thing, for Christians to do so is sad!

Is it possible that "some who have never heard it" are the friends and family of Christians? Is it possible that these people are not being told the wonderful story, including the need for faithful obedience to it, because Christians do not know the word well enough to share it? (Consider 1 Peter 3:15) More directly, dear reader, are you missing opportunities to share the wonderful

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The CCCHS exists for the purpose of gathering, organizing and preserving historical materials and for the encouragement of Restoration studies pertaining to churches of Christ in Canada.

### The CANADIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

invites you to attend its annual meeting and Restoration sites tour of the Niagara Peninsula, Saturday, August, 16, 2003, at the Tintern Church of Christ.

Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Sack lunch and fellowship, 12:00 Noon. Tour of sites: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

For additional information, contact Geoffrey Ellis, sec., (519) 885-3702, or ghellis@golden.net.

# New Opportunity in Newfoundland

Tim Johnson

Newfoundland is a ruggedly beautiful, unique place populated by friendly people used to climate extremes and the ups-and-downs of a resource-based economy. Though thousands have left for better conditions in other provinces, over 600,000 people remain. Larger communities are modern and comfortable like anywhere in Canada.

The Kingdom has had a mere toehold in Canada's most easterly province in the past. Through the good intentions of American military people on temporary bases and Christians from elsewhere who have lived in various locations due to job transfers, attempts have been made to spread the gospel - but little remains. At present I'm aware of only one family in St. John's, and a new opportunity in Gander.

With the help of eight congregations of the church and two individual Christians, I flew to Newfoundland Thursday, June 19th for 5 days to meet with Chad Parsons, a 28-year old Christian living in Gander. This was in response to his appeal to several congregations for people to come and help him with a 3-day meeting. His is a remarkable story of finding the Truth through determined personal study of the scriptures.



Chad Parsons

Chad grew up attending the United Church of Canada in Gander and quickly became dissatisfied with their unscriptural positions and little emphasis on learning the scriptures. He began to study the Bible to find out the truth for himself, and

to identify which religious group is practising it. He accomplished the latter by reading up about churches that provide information on the Internet. He quickly became impressed with churches of Christ and decided he wanted to be a part of us.

In the meantime, he convinced 5 others to join him in his studies and Sunday worship. Four of them eventually decided not to continue in the group due to some personal moral problems they had, and another moved away a few months ago. Sadly, this left Chad by him-

self. Sensing the need to get some help, he phoned several congregations last year and invited brethren to travel to Gander for a 3-day meeting. Apparently two Christians from Kingston, Ont. did so, as well as someone from Brantford. During this meeting last year they discovered that Chad had never been baptized into Christ, so they taught him about it and proceeded to immerse him. Bringing us up to date, Chad again phoned many congregations this spring to invite people to join him in Gander for another 3-day meeting, to which I responded.

As you can gather from the above, Chad and I were the only people at the meeting, held at the Gander Lion's club hall. Not letting this become a discouragement, we decided to use the time to do some in-depth Bible studies about vital matters he seemed to be full of. I made sure he understood the gospel clearly and that he had obeyed it properly. There were other issues that needed to be ironed out and he demonstrated a humble, co-operative spirit as we studied them out. We spent a great deal of time discussing ways he could reach out into the community to

spread the gospel and grow into a congregation. He has the courage to do so.

Despite limited training, Chad is a decent preacher. He can speak in public and has a surprising knowledge of the scriptures. Desiring to repeat the format used at last year's meeting, he had lessons prepared and delivered them from the Lion's club podium for me to hear and critique. In short, what I found in Gander was a 28-year old man who knows the truth of the gospel, has a good grasp of the nature of the church, desires to promote it, and has not been discouraged by the loss of others in the group. Even though he is alone again, I don't believe it will be for long. Since my return to Moncton, Chad has already been studying with interested souls.

For now, he is anxious to provide his apartment as a meeting place when Christians travel through the area. He lives one block from the main highway. Gander itself is mid-way across the province and located right on the Trans-Canada. He can rent the Lion's hall if a larger space is needed.

Chad needs encouragement and brethren who will stop in Gander for fellowship when traveling there. You can write him by mail or e-mail and let him know you care (181 Elizabeth Drive Gander, NF A1V 1H6; chadparsons77@hotmail.com). Perhaps some would consider a trip to Gander next year for the next meeting he is planning. A vacation can easily follow. Several Christians in the Maritimes are continuing to provide him with guidance, good materials, and ongoing friendship in Christ - all from a distance.

Spreading the gospel in an isolated area is not an easy task, especially when one is virtually alone. Let's pray that this brand new flame of light in a rugged place will continue and spread. It's encouraging to hear that there are still people in the world who find the Truth on their own through personal study and application. This man has also found the church on his own and has reached out to us for help. He wants us to know he is there fighting the good fight and would like our prayers and fellowship. Let's do our best to give it to him.

Moncton, N.B.

## Western Christian College Church History 2

(REL 293/HIS 223)

(13th century - present)

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story because you do not know the word well enough?

After becoming a Christian by being born into the Kingdom of God, the Christian must grow in continued service. Jesus said, "...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:20). Since one must know the will of God to obey it, it seems a logical activity of every Christian will be personal Bible study. Some find it very hard to get into a regular "habit" of Bible study but it is of great importance to the Christian to do so. (Note Acts 2:42; 1 Peter 2:2)

Bible study is important because the Bible is the word of God for life. Knowledge of and obedience to these words sets one apart as God's called out priesthood. Again, Jesus said, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17). David spoke in glowing terms of the word of God in Psalm 19:7 - 11. "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statues of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward." The bottom line is, if one is going to be useful to God, he must study the word!

Not only does the word of God sanctify, but it also preserves. In the Old Testament there is the reminder that the people of God can be destroyed because of a lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:6) Paul told the Ephesian elders, "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:28 - 30). Make no mistake about it. One of the first steps toward backsliding is to neglect the study and application, to self, of God's word.

When we receive the word properly, it will save our souls. "Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you" (James 1:21)

Since all the above is true, why do Christians neglect Bible study. Next month, why is study so often neglected?

## 2003 Great Lakes Lectures

**"Be Encouraged - God Turns Trials Into Triumphs"** is the theme of the 2003 Great Lakes Lectures. Lessons for the lectureship will be drawn from Second Corinthians, an intensely personal letter by the Apostle Paul in which he describes his concept of ministry.

The lectures will be held on the campus of Great Lakes Christian College in Beamsville, Ontario, beginning Sunday evening, November 2nd, and concluding Tuesday evening, November 4th.

Evening keynote speakers are John Bailey, Colleyville, Texas; Jack Evans, President of Southwestern Christian College, Terrell, Texas; and Philip Slate, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. There will be lectures and classes throughout Monday and Tuesday, with ladies' classes taught by Shirley Straker, Brampton, Ontario, and Patricia Evans, Terrell, Texas.

The lectures are a joint work of Great Lakes Bible College and Great Lakes Christian College. For further information contact Walter Hart, Great Lakes Bible College, 470 Glenelm Crescent, Waterloo, ON N2L 5C8. Tel. 519-884-4310 or 519-579-9064.

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**Phone:** 905-385-5775 (Office)

**Email:** email@churchofchristhamilton.com

All applications will be reviewed in strictest confidence and each will receive a reply.

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was identified as the contact man for this initiative. (Dr. McKerlie, however, moved to Searcy in August 1947 to establish an industrial arts department for Harding College. He died suddenly the following year, Nov. 13, 1948 at age 52.)

Andy T. Ritchie (1909-1983), Harding music teacher (1946-1974), agreed to lead the summer campaigns. Ivon Ave., Hamilton, was the site for the first of the four campaigns to be conducted in Ontario. Ivon Ave. was the result of the initiative of a Hamilton barber, Alex Fisher. He had purchased a double garage in east Hamilton and converted it to a 30x20 foot space for Sunday school activities that began May 26, 1926. By September a small congregation was meeting there regularly with preaching by W. F. Cox, evangelist with the Sanford Ave. church. Seventy-year old Cox moved to be the fulltime preacher for this group May 1, 1947. The campaign began June one and carried through to June 29. Campaigning, including door-to-door work and evening meetings for children and adults, was somewhat new for Canadian brethren. Anticipating that young men would do the house calling, some were

taken aback when it developed that more young women than men would be involved. It was also expected that the team of students would be largely returning Canadian students. Of the 20 workers (one report gives 19, another 21), only five were Canadians: Olive Peddle, Keith Thompson, Toronto; Sybil Hibbard, Sarnia; Bob Adams, Winnipeg; and Mabel Perry, Tintern. Local members participated as well for one or two weeks each: Audrey Fisher, Hamilton; Allen Killom, St. Catharines; Bethel Bailey, Sarnia; and Murray Hammond, Toronto. The campaign was conducted in a tent pitched on a lot on the corner of Ivon and Roxborough that became the site of the future building. Radio announcements were made and Ritchie was received by the mayor. The Harding students were billeted in homes of members of the three Hamilton congregations. Ritchie with his wife and four children rented a home for the month. Nine baptisms were reported as a result of the four-week meeting. Four baptisms followed, including Bob Priestnall's mother and Vera Clark. Three Ivon Sunday school boys were baptized at Omagh that summer, including Bob Priestnall. With the help of Ontario churches, a base-

ment auditorium was completed and opened September 1948. (It wasn't until 1959 that the building was completed. The congregation moved to new quarters in Stoney Creek in 1982.)

The second Ritchie campaign was conducted the following year (1948) for the newly established Westdale congregation in west Hamilton. This congregation had been formed in 1946 under the leadership of Lloyd Snure and Albert Jones, former members of the Sanford Ave. church. A derelict hall at North Oval and Sterling had been secured and renovated. While Ritchie's extant files on the Westdale campaign are not as complete as for the Ivon campaign, some details can be pieced together. The effort lasted from August 15 through September five. The first week was preliminary with various local speakers conducting the evening meetings. Ritchie arrived to carry on from Sunday, August 29 through September five. The team of Harding College students included 12 men and seven women for a total of 19, plus Brother Ritchie's fourteen-year old son, Andy T. Ritchie III (who would return to Ontario to teach for several years at Great Lakes Christian College), and Don Snure, a Westdale teenager. Brother Ritchie consulted with Don's older brother, George Snure, a student at Harding, in preparation for his second Hamilton campaign. Keith Thompson was the only Canadian member of the team. No record of the results of this campaign have been uncovered. Westdale merged with the Mount Hamilton Fennell Ave. congregation in 1954. (Ritchie was also able to open a three-day

Waterloo  
Career Retreat



meeting at Ivon Ave. on September five. William D. Medearis, Detroit, continued this meeting through Sunday, September 11 at which time the formal opening of the Ivon basement auditorium was celebrated.)

The two Toronto campaigns conducted by Ritchie with teams of Harding students in the late summers of 1950 and 1951 received only passing attention in the Gospel Herald. Both campaigns supported the efforts of the Bayview Ave. congregation. Ray Dillard was the Bayview preacher during the 1950 campaign and Ralph Perry was the newly arrived preacher for the 1951 effort. The Bayview congregation began in 1902 as the Bathurst St. church and moved to its Bayview location in 1940. Its basement auditorium was completed in 1941 (the war was on!) and the auditorium in 1946. Only a brief account of the 1950 campaign appears in the October issue of the Gospel Herald: "Just closed a two-week's meeting with Brother Ritchie and a group from Harding College. There were four additions and two restorations." The 1951 campaign, August 26-September 7, involved ten Harding students, five men and five women; none were Canadians. Both Ralph and Don Perry worked in the effort, however. The goal had been for 12 to 14 workers. "These would go out two by two, genders not mixed unless married." Three baptisms and one restoration resulted.

Several reflections are in order. Intentional evangelism was the emphasis of the day. Extensive planning and preparations were involved. Interest in spreading the Gospel was regional in Ontario. Alex Fisher, W. F. Cox, George M. Johnson, A. Linn Whitelaw and John Whitfield each corresponded with Benson and or Ritchie in preparation for the initial Hamilton campaign. Door-to-door campaigning, while not an innovation, was somewhat new to Canadian brethren and met with typical resistance at the

door. The campaign efforts were individually successful but the long-term results were modest. From Benson's perspective the flow of Canadian students to Harding needed to be reciprocated by evangelistic initiatives supported by these students back home. However, involvement by Canadian students was small at the beginning and non-existent at the end. The campaigners themselves were blessed and several fortified for their future service. Several are well-known to us: Bob Hare (1947, 1948) served for many years in Eastern Europe; Ted Nadeau (1948) in Germany; Norman Starling (1947, 1948) in Ontario; Max Mowrer (1948) Japan, Saskatchewan, Ontario; Keith Thompson (1947, 1948) over fifty years of preaching in Ontario; Jimmy Massey (1951) in the Caribbean. Ritchie was the ideal man for this early effort. Soft-spoken, polite, respectful, dignified and reserved, he was well received by both the brethren and the community. W. F. Cox wrote of his work: "Clear, kind, forceful, convincing... His first appearance on the platform on each occasion was characterized by a few seconds of silence then with a smile which seemed to express his heartfelt appreciation of the occasion for bringing the wonderful salvation to so many, he began. His serious consideration for the lost and his sympathetic manner of teaching won the hearts of those who heard him."

The Ritchie campaigns signalled to Ontario brethren action, excitement, intentional evangelism, enthusiastic young people, and a commitment to growth. No doubt the subsequent increase experienced by churches of Christ in Ontario in the years following drew stimulation and example from these efforts.

(The author invites comments, corrections, and additional data for the period, 1946 - 1951. Address: G. Ellis, ghellis@golden.net)

Waterloo, ON

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## **Owen Sound Ladies' Renewal**

**September 26,27,28, 2003**

**Theme: Trust in the Lord**

**Speakers:**

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Marg Sandiford - Waterloo  
Shirley Straker - Bramalea

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Note from the editor: This is the completion of 10 years of NewsEast. Walter Straker.

### NEWFOUNDLAND

**Gander:** (From Tim Johnson's report). Chad, a 28-year-old man living with his disabled mother, began studying the Bible to find out the truth for himself, and to identify which religious group was practising it. After finding information about churches on the Internet, he decided he wanted to become a part of the church of Christ. Last year, Chad invited congregations to visit Gander, and some Christians from Kingston and Brantford, Ontario, responded, and he was baptized. Five others from the community joined Chad in his studies and in Sunday worship, but have since moved or stopped attending. When Tim and Chad met in June, therefore, instead of the gospel meeting Chad had planned, the two men spent three days of in-depth Bible study and in discussing ways Chad could reach out to the community to spread the gospel. Tim says: "Even though he is alone, I don't believe it will be for long. Since my return to Moncton, Chad has already been studying with an interested man."

### ONTARIO

**Beamsville:** (We discovered a mistake in last month's news: Clara Pauls is 78 and will have to wait 2 more years for her 80th

birthday. Sorry.) The Youth Outreach Mission from Lebanon, Tennessee, was back this year from July 10-18 to work with the congregation in preparation for, and conducting of, vacation Bible school. Don Smith spoke for the 20s group at Camp Omagh July 4-6, on "Living My Life and Experiencing God in All Its Stages."

**Bramalea:** Lane Hamm and Kevin Hunter were installed as new deacons on June 22. Kim Lirette and family moved to Ottawa the first of July. Prime Timers week at Camp Omagh had 14 full-time students and 8 part-time. The 2004 lessons will be on 2 Peter. Out of town guest speaker June 29 was Wayford Smith from Beamsville.

**Brantford:** The brethren continued their very successful teen nights on June 27, the last meeting until September.

**Collingwood:** On June 17, Frank and Edith Kneeshaw celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary.

**Grimsby:** The area wide singing on June 22 was hosted by Grimsby. David Lewis, a member at Grimsby, received "Volunteer of the Year" at the Grimsby Senior Centre.

**Kingston:** A contact from Key to the Kingdom was recently baptized by Brother Gordon Gibson. Brother Gibson, a retiree, has led a very active follow up of Key contacts in Kingston.

**Meaford:** The congregation rejoices in the addition of a new sister, Marnie Cramp, who was baptized by her cousin, Evan Cramp. The brethren have begun their "Wednesday Backyard Meetings." Some of the seniors traveled to Collingwood to visit the Scenic Caves and Sheffield Black History Cultural Museum on July 10. A meeting and young adult rally is planned for September 24-28 with Patrick Mead from Rochester, Michigan.

**North Bay:** If you are interested in receiving David Lock's Prayer Warriors newsletter, which has many prayer requests, please email him at davidrlock@acncanada.net.

**Newmarket:** Christine Sisler was baptized in June and Karen Shin in July. Steve Johnson is preaching in Newmarket for a year while studying at the University of Toronto for a PhD in homiletics. He is on leave from ACU. Nathan Pickard, an ACU student, preached for them one Sunday each month, June through August.

**Owen Sound:** Their annual ladies' retreat will be held September 26-28.

**St. Catharines (Ontario Street):** The congregation hosted the area wide singing on June 15. Dave Knutson was recent guest speaker. Don McKenzie had double bypass surgery on Thursday, June 26, but was still able to be guest speaker at Camp Omagh on Wednesday, July 9, for Prime Timers. That same morning, Barclay Osborne, recently returned from Japan, gave a talk about the

Japanese work. The congregation's new email address is cofc@mergetel.com.

**Stratford:** Joe and Doris Kippax celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on June 5. The Great Lakes Chorus recently presented a great program followed by a meal and visitation. The congregation is looking forward to the September retreat at Omagh.

**Tintern:** The congregation mourned the death of Linda Tallman in June. Three families placed membership in the past three months. Some members of the congregation participated in a mission team to Papua New Guinea, and Sendai, Japan. Paul and Mitsuyo Mawatari, from Sendai (where Paul preaches) visited Tintern. In June the congregation participated in Sunday evening area wide worship services with Beamsville, Grimsby, and the St. Catharines (Ontario Street) congregations. Recently, they organized two special events: Women's Health Day, and Veggie Tales Bible Day Camp: an Overboard Adventure with Jonah. Both events were well attended by the community.

**Toronto (Bayview):** The congregation celebrated its 60th anniversary June 22. 105 brethren attended from various congregations. Gordon Tallman spoke on the history of the congregation; Dave Knutson preached the morning lesson; and Don Whitfield and Kevin Samuel led the singing. Morning services were followed by a special lunch.

**Toronto (Harding Avenue):** The international ladies' lectureship in Trinidad West Indies, with the theme, "Women of Excellence, Arise," will be held August 9-12. Sister Chan Ramcharitar will attend, along with one other from Harding and three from Scarborough.

**Toronto (Strathmore Blvd.):** Santiago and Marlon Molina went to Honduras for a campaign the later part of July. They intend to finish some construction on the church building as well as evangelistic activities. Moses Velasco left on July 14 for three weeks working with a "Let's Start Talking" campaign in Thailand. The 60th wedding anniversary of Don and Mary Cameron was to be celebrated with a come and go tea at the church building on August 2. Immanuel Velasco returned from the mission trip to PNG on July 16. Karen Ellis, the daughter of Gerry and Wanita Ellis, was baptized on July 20.

**Waterloo:** Valarie Ferguson was recently baptized, and also Patricia Allen, from Halifax. Javier Cuarezma, of Waterloo, and Santiago Molina, from the Strathmore congregation in Toronto, took a mission group to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, July 21-31. Team members also include Gordon Azzoparde from Guelph, Janette Bacic from Beamsville, Oswaldo Cuarezma and Garry

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*You are invited  
to a Come and Go Tea  
in honour of Don Smith's  
25 years of ministry  
Saturday September 13, 2003  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Church of Christ  
4900 John Street  
Beamsville ON L0R 1B6*



by Marion Waugh  
6931 Farrell Bay  
Regina, SK S4X 3V4  
Phone: (306) 545-0550  
E-mail: waughr@sasktel.net

(The help of Barbara Lewis in gathering news is appreciated.)

### ALBERTA

**Calgary:** A Ukraine Orphanage Clothes and Toy Drive was held in June.

A variety of camps were held over the summer: High School, Leaders in Training, Grades 4-6, VBS, Jr. High, Rookie and Family. Tyra Hedges and Greg Banco were baptized recently.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Abbotsford (Central Valley):** Rudy and Yvonne De la Rambelje returned to their home in the Netherlands at the end of June, after having spent three months in Canada with their son, Glenn, and family. We have spent several months painting murals for our VBS, which is an evening program from 6:30-8:30 Aug. 5-8. "The Jesus Expedition: Exploring the Miracles of Jesus" is the theme, with different rooms set up to look like various parts of the world. In the Pacific Ocean are murals of deep-sea divers, fish, and sea plants, with ocean sounds in the background. Antarctica features penguins, explorers, snow, igloos and ice fishing. An air conditioner will give a decided chill to the atmosphere. A room for the Brazilian Jungle was transformed with exotic flowers, vines, thick trees and colourful birds. Sand, camels and an oasis gave kids an idea of what the Egyptian Desert looks like. Children 6-10 years old (grades one through four) go to a different room each day. Even with our new downtown location providing a down-sized facility, and having to narrow the age range of those attending, we are still expecting a larger number of children this year.

**Burnaby:** Two couples were recently married at Burnaby: Derek Wang (who was baptized two weeks earlier) and Lena Li were married in a private ceremony at our building June 26. Frank Smith and Rose Prasad (formerly of the Oakridge congregation) were married on May 10. In July, Elizabeth Jacobs, Joanna & Julia Ruch, joined a group of young people from the Vancouver, WA. Church on a mission to Tecate, Mexico, to build a house for a destitute family in the village. Roy & Patty

(Jacobs) Kunkle of the Washington church have led a group of teens to help our neighbors to the South for the past several years. A special offering taken the last Sunday in June netted approximately \$2500 to aid the church in Prince George, B.C.

**City Church (E. Vanc.):** At his own expense, Simon Hui is running an ad in the Vancouver Chinese language newspaper advertising our classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. These inform prospective students that they will have the opportunity to learn ESL plus the Bible. Steve Hasbrouck and John Sproul began a new class on Wednesday evenings in the home of one of the students who has been attending the afternoon session. She had four ladies waiting for us. One has a daughter studying in Japan, which gave Steve a great connection. Another lady said, "I have been here two years. A year after I came, I went back home (China) for a visit. I was amazed that so many people are now believers of the Bible - I want to know what they believe." Tuesday evening studies continue at the home of Mark and Carolyn Gray in Port Moody. We intend to advertise our Sunset classes in local papers for the fall schedule. The building owned by the Keerans on 6th and Main is available to be used for classes and Bible studies. - Condensed from report by Steve Hasbrouck

**Deep Cove:** Dan and Jenny Keeran met with Steve Hasbrouck and John Sproul to ask for help in training members of the Deep Cove congregation how to start and conduct house churches, as the city won't allow the construction of any new church buildings unless old ones are being replaced. This is regrettable, but understandable since the town has only limited growing space in its choice spot on the North Shore.

**Maple Ridge:** June 29 marked our first official Sunday evening service at the Best Western Motel. It also kicked off a Youth Ministry service. For the first two weeks, adults and youth met together for a time given to worship in songs of praise and prayer.

**Oakridge:** The father of one of our members, Robert Panergo, is the preacher for the San Manuel church in the Philippines. We recently sent \$200 (U. S.) to aid them in the building of a place to worship. Eugene and Efen Abella, newcomers to Vancouver, are helping with publication of our weekly bulletin. The younger generation prepared and served a banquet in honour of all of our senior members in appreciation for their long years of work for and faithfulness to the Oakridge church.

**Prince George:** Garth Hilton made a trip to California in July to meet with several congregations which might be interested in helping with the work in Prince George. He

also visited with those trying to raise support for him in Vancouver for a couple of days. We are grateful to the Burnaby congregation which took up a special collection in June to help toward our expenses.

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Nutt from Waterloo, Beth Hibbard from Hamilton, and Marlon Molina from Toronto. They will hold a campaign and gospel meeting, and build a church building. Geoff Ellis reported that the Manzina Bible School in Swaziland held an evangelistic effort in which 21 were baptized, with 4 others since then. Eldred Echols, who founded the school in Swaziland, passed away recently.

**Windsor (Westside):** An evening Vacation Bible School was held July 14-18. The Men4Jesus Bible study was held Saturday, July 26, at 9 a.m. They are studying "Leadership in the Kingdom."

### QUEBEC

**Verdun:** In the English group Wei Dong and his wife, Chen, were baptized recently. They have a daughter, Yu Chen. Roger and Dianne Saumur, who have worked with the French group in Verdun since the late 1980s, will spend a month in July and August traveling to Texas and Oklahoma visiting supporters and elders. Some of the Verdun teenagers - both French and English - will attend Camp Omagh in August. The congregation invites anyone visiting Montreal to visit them at Fifth Avenue in Verdun.

## CHURCH OF CHRIST Thessalon ONTARIO

Is seeking a full time evangelist to work with this congregation. Sound preaching and teaching as well as a deep respect for the authority of the Bible is a prerequisite.

Thessalon is located in Northern Ontario, approximately one hour from the Ontario/Michigan border.

Please send resume and if possible a video/audio tape to  
**Eric White,**  
RR 2, Thessalon, ON P0R 1L0  
att. preacher search committee.



# MISSION NEWS

Barbara Lewis  
1478 Mary Hill Lane  
Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 4C3  
E-mail: rayel@compuserve.com

**China:** We plan to return to China, as hopefully the new building for the orphans will soon be completed. It is a project by the Agape Foundation of the Hillsboro church of Christ in Nashville. They take care of the very poor and orphans, about 250, in Southwest China. Many families cannot even send their children to schools because they cannot afford the fee of less than five Canadian dollars a month. With the help of many Canadians and readers we hope to have funds for adopting a one-classroom school in the village. We were inspired and blessed by our American friends, Dr. Tom Pryor, his mother Pauline Klahre, a nurse, and Ron Brown of Nashville, who was ceaselessly on the move, speaking to churches and friends about the needs for China, and taking Medical teams to China. We find that in bigger towns and cities in China, many younger generations are eager to learn English. Doors are opened for Christians of all ages to come evangelize. (Ed. Note: Ming Paul and Suwana returned to Vancouver Island the first week of June. For more information on his work, contact Ming Paul Lee, 2635 Island Highway, Nanose, B.C. V9P 9E5, Canada, OR by e-mail to: mingpaul@uniserve.com OR by Phone: 1-250 648-7976 – Condensed from reports by Ming Paul)

**Donetsk, Ukraine:** We have successfully completed the 2003 school year, finished with classes and tests, had luncheons and a beautiful graduation ceremony. Natasha, the cleaning lady mentioned in April, had her prayers answered when she succeeded in finding an apartment for her family. We saw, Lily, the little girl who needed surgery that we provided for her, when she and her family came back through Donetsk on their way home. In spite of all she had been through and the fact that she will have to have several more surgeries in the future, she was all smiles, and her family very grateful for our (your) help. The first week of June, Doug Reeves was here. Someone had promised him \$200 a month for an orphanage here and he

wanted our advice on where to use it. We felt the one where the babies with aids are would be a wise choice. They need so much formula and baby food, plus food for the toddlers, that their need is always great. We also visited the Children's Hospital the school helps monthly, taking a car load of food and medicines. They could hardly wait to tell us how much they were enjoying the use of the pool of plastic balls you provided which give these children remarkable therapy. The hospital also helps children with downs syndrome. In Ukraine and Russia it seems to be the norm to "hide" them, so we are thankful to have found a hospital willing to help instead. A group of Texans were here the second week of June to see the school and what it does. They want Jay Don to undertake taping classes to send out to remote places that have no resources of their own so that people may have the opportunity of hearing in-depth Bible lessons. Since Rhett is now a graduate of UBI and can help, this project may be undertaken in time. (Ed: Mary Lee concluded her report with a story written by a news reporter in Donetsk who had found out from their landlord that they had provided the money for the little girl's heart surgery she has mentioned before. It told the complete story of Lilya's salvation from sure death by the Rogers with funds provided by members of churches of Christ in Canada and the U. S. It ended with a bitter castigation of the Ukrainian government for failing to provide health care for the poor, as well as the newly-rich who could easily afford to do this kind of benevolent work rather than rely on foreigners.) – Condensed from a report from Mary Lee Rogers

**India:** A gang of "goondas" (thugs) scaled the wall surrounding the office of the team under the leadership of Ron and Karen Clayton in Hyderabad, attacking the two native secretaries and two children. They held Kumari's daughters, ages 10 and 4, at knifepoint while they ransacked and trashed the office. They destroyed the computers, a TV, broke all the glass bookcases and filing closets, finally taking Kumari's gold chains and money she had brought with her to take care of a family need after working hours. They also took all of the funds on hand to send workers on campaigns and pay medical bills for preachers. Because native Indians were vic-

tims, this time the melee had to be reported to the police (something the Claytons avoid doing as much as possible since they are not citizens of India and many political and religious groups oppose the work being done).

**Kiev, Ukraine:** A Slavic Evangelism Ministry Medical Clinic in Ivanofrankivsk is scheduled to open with the arrival of a shipment of medical equipment and supplies from the States. Dr. Dana Sheremeta has been hired to be the first director, and plans are being coordinated with the nearby Ternopil congregation to establish a church here in the near future. As a result of a robbery which took place in our Shevchenko parking lot in the fall of 2002, the SEM was given an opportunity to supply the local police station with Bibles and a full medical First Aid Kit. – Condensed from a report from Rick Pinczuck.

**Papua New Guinea:** The group of seven young people visited several areas in Papua New Guinea where they led singing, taught children's, men's and women's Bible classes and VBS, were a traveling chorus, conducted youth camps and gospel meetings, answered questions and had several baptism. (Jordan Wall baptized a woman after his Lae sermon – his first baptism.). Some mornings and afternoons they visited elementary and primary schools and conducted a program at the village market. Their work also involved treks inland. Several members of the team had various ailments but seem to have recovered.

**Sao Jose Dos Campos, Brazil:** An employee for a major Brazilian television station noticed an article about the church's Christian camp offered for young people during an annual Carnival. Wanting to show an alternative way to celebrate the holiday, the network called to ask permission to film camp activities. It was shown on national television, and included footage of a worship service and interviews with several camp participants. – report from missionary Randal Matheny

**Sendai, Japan:** Yuko Kawamura was baptized into Christ on Sunday, June 29. The team has now celebrated its first anniversary with the work in Sendai. The Let's Start Talking program this year registered 109 individuals (including several men) to learn English using the book of Luke.



# Organization of the Church (A Study)

Bill Craddock

## Introduction

- A. Everything must have organization to be successful.
- B. The Lord's church is no exception and the bible gives us the organization God wants for the church.
- C. Any religious group which is organized in any way other than that which is found in the bible can not be the Lord's church.
- D. The first drift away from the New Testament pattern for the church was in its organization.

## I. Christ is the Only Head of the Church!

- A. One of the designations of the church is the "body" of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:12-27).
- B. Every body must have a head and Christ is the head of his body (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18).
- C. It is from the head that the body receives its directions and instructions.
- D. A body with more than one head would be considered a "freak." (Unnatural)
- E. A church with a man or men claiming "headship" of the church can not be the Lord's church.
  - 1. Jesus is the one and only head or authority of the church (Matt. 28:18; Heb. 1:1-3).
- F. The first part of the organization of the church is Christ as head.

## II. God Gave Elders to Lead and Oversee the Church!

- A. God knew that men would need leaders here on the earth, as Christ is in heaven and does not deal in a direct way with the church.
- B. There are various names for these men who are to have the leadership of the Lord's church:
  - 1. Elders (1 Peter 5:1-4)
  - 2. Bishops (1 Tim. 3:1)
  - 3. Pastors (Eph. 4:11)
  - 4. Overseers (Acts 20:28)
  - 5. Shepherds (1 Peter 5:2)
- C. These men are to meet the qualifications set down by God himself (1 Timothy 3:1-7).
  - 1. This does not mean that a man must be perfect (no man is perfect), but must be a mature Christian able to lead and watch for the souls of fellow Christians.
- D. These men are not law makers, but are to uphold the authority of Jesus Christ and help people walk in the Lord's way.
  - 1. Any time an Eldership makes laws not found in the New Testament, these men are not to be followed and must be removed from this responsibility.
- E. Christians have a responsibility to cooperate with the Elders as they watch for our souls (Heb. 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13).
- F. Elders are not our bosses, but our overseers who watch for the welfare of our souls.

## III. God Gave Deacons as Special Servants!

- A. Deacons are "special servants" who are to take leadership in seeing that the ministry of the Lord is carried out.
- B. These men are to meet the qualifications set down by the Lord (1 Timothy 3:8-13).
- C. Their work is different than that of the Elders in that they do not have the same responsibility as overseers.
  - 1. The work of the Deacon is to serve the congregation in leading in various ministries.
  - 2. God does not expect these men to do all the work themselves, but lead others in carrying out the various works.

- D. The work of the Deacon is very important as it relieves the Elders in many areas that they may give more time to the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

## IV. God Sent Men to Preach the Gospel!

- A. In bible times there were those who gave their time and effort to preaching the gospel.
- B. Paul commanded Timothy to "preach the word" (2 Timothy 4:1-5).
- C. Paul also commanded Timothy to commit what he had learned to faithful men that they may teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2).
- D. Others, besides the evangelists, taught the gospel (Acts 8:4).
  - 1. However, there were some who spent their time in this effort.

## V. God Wants Others to Be Teachers of His Word!

- A. Paul spoke of teachers in the organization of the church (Eph. 4:11).
- B. Throughout the New Testament we read of people teaching other the truth of God (Acts 8:26-39).
- C. It seems there was more teaching done person to person than from the pulpit in New Testament times (Acts 2:44-47).
- D. The term teacher here is not having reference to "classroom" teachers, as they did not have classroom teaching in those days.
  - 1. Much of this teaching was in their way of life, showing Christ to the world.
- E. Jesus told his apostles that he would make them "fishers of men" (Matt. 4:18-19).
  - 1. They did "net fishing" in those days, not rod and reel.
  - 2. Pulpit preaching is "rod and reel fishing" and the church can not grow with only this type of teaching going on.
  - 3. We must all cast the "net of the gospel" out into the sea of life and help pull in the lost.

## VI. The Reason for God's Organization of the Church! (Eph. 4:12-16)

- A. To equip the saints for the work of ministry (v. 12).
- B. For the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ (v. 12).
- C. Unite the faith of Christians in Jesus Christ and help each Christian mature (vv 13-14).
- D. Help all Christians recognize and honor Christ as the head of the body (v. 15).
- E. Bring the body of Christ together into one unit, each member doing his part to help the church to grow (v. 16).

## Conclusion

- A. Without organization there is no direction.
- B. God has organized His Church and we must adhere to the authority of the Lord in this matter.

Plantation, Florida

Acapella  
Ad

continued from page 3

The church at Troas ate the Lord's supper at night. They gathered in an upstairs room to do so. The preacher preached until midnight. They gathered on the first day of the week.

Are these details all important? Do we sin if we break bread on the ground floor? Must the preacher always preach until midnight? Is it wrong to break bread on a Thursday or during the daylight hours of a Sunday?

Are any of these examples repeated enough to show that they may have been practised in most churches? Are these items related to the Gospel? Surely we can see that some of these are merely details from the local situation. They are not meant to be followed by the church everywhere.

The time of day when the church at Troas took the Supper may have been chosen because of the work of the members. Servants would not have been given the day off for Christian worship. They would have to meet at night, after everyone finished work.

The nature of house construction in those days seems to have placed the larger rooms on the upper floors. So they had to meet in an upper room. All the ground floor rooms would have been too small.



Paul's preaching until midnight may have been because they started late in the day. He was leaving early the next day. He had a lot to say, so he preached until midnight. These things were done that way at Troas. They may be done that way elsewhere, but there is no indication that they must be done that way everywhere.

Only one of these details has any connection to a major item of the gospel. The major items of the gospel are listed as the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor 15:1-3). Second Timothy 2:8 also indicates that the resurrection was a central gospel teaching. The resurrection happened on the first day of the week. So perhaps their meeting on the first day is significant. Having the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week may indicate that the early Christians wanted to serve the Supper at a time that would remind them of the victory of the Gospel.

Meeting on the first day of the week was repeated in other churches. Paul expects the Corinthian church to be meeting on the first day. He tells them to take up a collection on that day (1 Cor 16:20). His instruction to the Galatian churches was similar. They must have been meeting on that day also.

We follow the example of meeting on the first day because of the combination of examples and because of the significance of that day. First, we note that the church at Troas met that day. Then we note that the church at Corinth did also, and that the churches of Galatia may have done so.

Having seen that this was a widespread practise of the church, we then ask, "Might there be any theological significance to this?" The connection of the first day of the week to the central Christian teaching of the resurrection seems to give a significance to meeting on that day. So we follow that example from Acts 20:7-9, while ignoring the other things mentioned there.

When thinking about an example, we must consider whether the inspired writer indicates approval, but we must also ask, "What does this have to do with the gospel?" For it is the gospel that saves, and it is the gospel we must present to the world. We might teach people to follow the actions of the early church in every detail. We might get people to follow every example. Yet, they would still be lost, if they are not trusting in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

### **Beyond Examples**

Our most noticeable difficulty with narrative may be in the area of examples, but there is another difficulty that is perhaps more serious. We need to understand the purpose for which biblical narrative was written, and our purpose in reading it. This question applies to the Bible as a whole, not just to the narrative sections, but we are especially prone to lose sight of it while reading narrative.

What is the purpose of the Bible? Why should we study the Bible?

There is no one answer to either of these questions. There are several answers that are partly correct. Next month we will consider some of the common answers before we consider which answers are best.

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# OBITUARIES

## Linda Rose Tallman

Linda Rose Tallman passed away on Monday, June 16, 2003 following a long battle with cancer. She was born in Vineland, ON 54 years ago and died at West Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Grimsby.

Linda is survived by her husband Ron, sons Rob and wife Wenonah and Jamie and wife Stacey all of Beamsville. She is "sweetie" grandma to Brendan, Joshua, and Aidan. She is also survived by her mother, Jean Martin (nee Ecker) of Beamsville, siblings Al and wife Cathy Martin of Vineland, Sharon and husband Malcolm Campbell of Campbell's Cross, Melanie and husband Tom Pilkington of Holland Landing, and Heather Toderick of St. Catharines.

Linda received her A.R.C.T. in 1971 and taught piano and music theory in her home for 36 years. She was a member of the Ontario Registered Music Teacher Association.

Linda along with her husband was a faithful member of the Tintern Congregation. For many years she was involved in the annual VBS program at Tintern. She used her landscaping abilities to help keep the grounds around the church building looking superb. She will be greatly missed by her church family.

A funeral service was held on Friday, June 20 with internment following at the Mount Osborne Cemetery. We pray God will bless those who mourn her passing. Information from the Lincoln Post Express and Eugene Perry

## Katherine Buckingham

On May 30, 2003, Katherine Buckingham went to be with the Lord, 1 week short of her 91st birthday.

Katherine Gladys Mitton was born June 6, 1912, on her parents

homestead at Milestone, SK. The Mitton family later moved to the Bristol district, 6 miles North of Gray, SK and it was here that Katherine received her early education. She attended High School in Gray and later took her Teacher's Training in Regina in 1933-34.

In the fall of 1935 Katherine met Maurice Buckingham. In July of 1936 they were married at the Mitton farm at Gray. Katherine and Maurice lived at Harptree, SK until November of 1944 when they moved to Moose Jaw.

Katherine was a lover of music and her talent of playing the piano and organ by ear was well known. During her early years at Harptree, neighbours would often gather at the Buckingham home for an evening of music. She was also blessed with a beautiful voice and while attending Teacher's Training in Regina was chosen as the Leading Lady, in the Operetta, "Joan of the Nancy Lee", an honour of which she was very proud. She was also proud of the fact that she was a shirt tale relative of Don Messer, and was thrilled when she had the opportunity to meet him face to face.

Katherine was a devoted and loving mother and wife. When her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, she became his caregiver. A few weeks after her husband's death in 1990, she was involved in a serious car accident, which left her with a broken neck. During the next several months she suffered terribly, both physically and mentally, with the pain from this accident, and with the thought of maybe being left paralysed. With great determination she had a slow and difficult recovery. However, while struggling to understand why things happened the way they did, she never lost her faith in the Lord.

In 1935 Katherine was introduced for the first time to the teaching of the Church of Christ, while

visiting her future in-laws, George and Ethel Buckingham. In the following months, Katherine studied with the Buckingham family and in 1936 she was baptized by J.C. Bailey. For the next 67 years, she was a faithful member of the Lord's Church. Katherine loved the Lord and his word...at the time of her death she had read her Bible from front to back over 15 times. She often quoted scriptures while conversing with people and she enjoyed her daily "bread of life".

Katherine was always concerned about the souls of others. For years she taught Sunday School. In the late 50s and early 60s, she also took the time to write the following articles for the Gospel Herald: Mother's Love for Her Children, Brotherly Love, Take Heed Lest Ye Fall and Forgiveness.

In recent years Katherine's health deteriorated and she was unable to attend worship services as she was confined to a Nursing Home. She looked forward to the brethren in Moose Jaw bringing the Lord's Supper to her, so through their acts of kindness she was able to faithfully have communion with the Lord, something she considered an honour.

Katherine was predeceased by her husband, Maurice, in 1990, her infant daughter, June, in 1938, and her twin brother, John. She leaves to mourn 4 children: Gladys Buckingham, Gwyn Witte, Jean Bailey, and Ken Buckingham.

Katherine's life was centered on serving her Lord. I, her great nephew, have been blessed to have seen Christ in the life of Aunt Katherine.

Barry Kemp

## Harvey Peter Mashinter

Harvey Mashinter, born March 21, 1922 passed away peacefully at the Grove Park Home, Barrie, ON, on



# 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

Monday April 14 at the age of 81 years. A funeral service was held at the Barrie Church of Christ, Saturday April 19 with burial in the Aurora cemetery May 2.

He was the beloved husband of Betty. Loving father of Ken, Don, Rose Bailey, Lois Macfarlane and Peter, who preceded him. Beloved grandfather of 16 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. Dear brother of Thomas, Effie, Ed, Isabel, Irene, Charlie and Frank.

Harvey spent most of his life in the Newmarket area. He was a well known and respected realtor with Robert Armstrong Limited and later Jack Blyth Real Estate. Before this he worked as a market Gardner in Oak Ridges.

Harvey and his friend, Bert Thompson, attended Richmond Hill High School. Bert and his father taught Harvey the gospel and he was baptized at the Fern Avenue Church of Christ. At a young people's meeting he met Betty Byne and the two were married Nov. 27, 1952.

Following God and doing what was right in His eyes was always of prime importance to him. Harvey was a faithful Christian and served as an elder of the Newmarket Church for many years. The congregation had many corn roasts and New Year's Day parties at his home. He was very kind and generous. He always had lots of thoughts to share in Bible classes.

Harvey lost his sight around 1990 but never complained about it. He identified people by their voice. Even when he got cancer, he put his faith in the Lord, believing that He would look after him. When their health began to fail Harvey and Betty moved into Grove Park Home in Barrie. He had a good, sharp, independent mind. The Christian leadership he provided influenced many people. Harvey will be greatly missed.

Keith Thompson

***Giving for All It's Worth***  
by **Melissa Lester**, *Gospel Advocate Company, Nashville, Tn. 160 pages, \$8.99 (U.S.)*

This excellent book demonstrates the great importance of giving. The author has written many articles for the Christian Woman magazine.

In 2 Corinthians 8:7 she sees giving as a grace that is commanded, expresses gratitude, ministers to those in need, glorifies God and encourages others to give and blesses the giver.

The other chapters in the book centre on great Bible women who were also great givers. Although written by a woman, this book applies to men just as much.

***HEAVEN; My Father's House***  
by **Dan Winkler**, *A Study of Heaven, 40 pages, \$3.99 (U.S.)*

This is one of a series of booklets by Wendell, Dan and Mike Winkler. They have already released some of them and promise more in the future.

The lessons are ideal for personal or group studies. This one deals with such questions as "What is it Like Inside My Father's House", "Will We Know Each Other in My Father's House?", "What If I Miss My Father's House?", "Who Will Live Inside my Father's House?" These are excellent studies.

***The Bible Doctrine of Jesus Christ***  
by **Robert R. Taylor, Jr.**, *Quality Publications, 221 pages, \$10.74 (U.S.)*

Robert R. Taylor has written a number of books over the years. Previously he has written on Jehovah God and the Holy Spirit.

He writes, "Like Moses at Sinai, we tread on holy ground in writing and reading about the Second Person of the Godhead, God's only begotten Son. Hundreds and hundreds of hours have gone into the research and the actual writing of this volume.

Each of the chapters has various exercises for class or private study.

***The Third Day by Hank Hanegraaff***,  
*W Publishing Group, A Division of Thomas Nelson, Inc. 115 pages, \$9.99 (U.S.)*

Islam and Judaism claim that the resurrection never happened. Jehovah's Witnesses claim there was no bodily resurrection. Hanegraaff is the host of the "Bible Answer Man", heard daily throughout the U.S. and Canada. He refutes the baseless theories that men have introduced and uses the Scriptures to set forth the truth.

The author demonstrates that "The Empty Tomb" gives solid evidence for the resurrection. The many appearances of the Lord following His resurrection add weighty evidence to the truth. Also the amazing transformation of the apostles is the nail in the coffin of all who deny this great truth.

***Praying God's Word by Beth Moore***,  
*Broadman & Holman Publishers, 344 pages \$16.99 (U.S.)*

How do you "pray God's Word"? The author suggests that you quote verses to God and ask Him to fulfill the promises He has made. However, many of the Bible's promises were made to specific people and do not apply (as the author thinks) to all believers. However there are many promises that apply to all Christians. These would include prayers to overcome idolatry, unbelief, deception, rejection, addiction, guilt, despair, sexual problems, etc. Used with proper caution this can be a helpful book.

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