

Gospel Herald

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BEAMSVILLE, ONTARIO

August 2004



Grove Park Home Newly Expanded and Renovated

Pictured is part of the completed additions and improvements to the Grove Park Home in Barrie, Ontario. Grove Park has served seniors in both the Christian and non-Christian communities for many years, providing excellent residential and health care.

See the story inside on page 5.

Body Building

Peter Morphy

The form and function of the church is described as a family of believers, the children of God, the bride of Christ, a kingdom of priests, and a working, coordinated body. As we look at the portrait of God's people, we see variety, diversity, and uniqueness in every individual. On the other hand, we also see togetherness, respect, unity, humility, and love.

We can illustrate our relationship to each other by looking to the world of music. While we may listen to a soloist perform a favorite song, we may be more inspired when a second person sings tenor or baritone, adding rich harmony. Add a couple of more people to compose a quartet, which infuses a wide variety of parts and a broad range of notes. However, if the singers are not on key and performing together they will not produce harmony, but discord. By the time they reach the refrain, we wish they would. What could have been a beautiful and attractive ballad is now repulsive to all who hear.

Paul describes the church as the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12. "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ." (12:12) Paul continues to illustrate that each part of the body is extremely valuable. We cannot say that we do not need another member of the body simply because they don't look like us or they have a different function or role (12:21-26). In the same way we must not consider ourselves unimportant or irrelevant in the body, because we do not have the same gifts and talents as other members (12:14-20). If we were all the same, where would the body be? (12:19)

It is sometimes tempting to acknowledge and applaud those who have talents and gifts that are publicly visible and make a significant contribution. Similarly, we may appreciate the range and clarity of a singer's voice or the skillful fingers of the member of the orchestra. However, the entire body

makes a contribution for the end result that you see or hear – the heart, lungs, brain, nerves, etc. have all worked together. It is essential that every part does the work that it was created do. Thus, when one part receives honor or recognition because of a work well done or a ministry that has been extremely successful, we all rejoice with it, for we are one (1 Corinthians 12:26).

God has created us in a special, unique way so that He can accomplish His plan. Our salvation comes as a free gift by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Since we have been saved, there

God has created us in a special, unique way so that He can accomplish His plan.

is a great plan and purpose for our lives. "For we are now God's new creation, His handiwork, His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (2:10) Ultimately, the work well done or the successful ministry mentioned earlier is God's doing, not ours. He must always be glorified and praised, for without Him we could do nothing (John 15:5).

The gifts, abilities and talents that

we possess are not our own. We did not earn or deserve them. We are stewards or managers of all that we have (Matthew 25:14-30). Each one has been given talents based upon the individual's ability to use and manage them. God didn't give one person too many or another too few. He knows what we are capable of and expects us to be faithful with all that we have. One day we will give an account to God regarding how we have used the things He has given us.

In one verse, Peter gives us detailed instructions regarding our spiritual gifts (1 Peter 4:10). First, I acknowledge that we have all been given gifts. Secondly, I remember that my gifts are not for my own pleasure, benefit, and advancement. My gifts are not for me, they are for others. I don't serve myself with my gifts, but I am committed to serving you. Thirdly, I am commissioned to faithfully administer God's grace to others. God has entrusted the work of His kingdom to us and He will provide the opportunity for it to be fulfilled. The New Living Translation says it this way, "God has given gifts to each of you from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you." (1 Peter 4:10 – NLT).

Paul's reference in 2 Cor. 14 is of a conquering General and his troops who have returned from a victorious battle. The army would traditionally parade through their hometown streets with their trophies of possessions, riches, and captives for all to see and admire. Jesus defeated Satan's power of sin on the cross and the power of death at His resurrection. Instead of keeping all the plunder for Himself, Jesus distributes it to His faithful followers. These are the gifts that we have received to be used for the building up of His kingdom.

God has organized the body for optimal maturity, strength and growth. He has given the gift of leadership to men who would serve as evangelists, teachers and shepherds (Ephesians 4:11-16). Their responsibility is to

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Preacher/Evangelist Wanted

Well established, self supporting congregation of 80 – 100 people requires evangelist dedicated to sound gospel preaching and teaching and able to relate to all age groups. Starting time is negotiable.

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Mark: Attention of elders
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Leadership (#2): The Commissioning of Joshua

Thayer Salisbury

Moses is the leader who towers over Old Testament history. There were other great leaders, but none quite measure up to the dominant position of Moses. For the generation that came out of Egypt, and the generation born in the wilderness, he was the only leader they had ever known. Leadership and Moses were, for them, synonymous terms.

The transfer of leadership from Moses to Joshua was, therefore, a moment of incredible significance. People often have trouble transferring their allegiance to a new leader. It is good to have long-term leaders, but long-term leadership has the disadvantage of making the transfer process more difficult. This transfer must be carefully handled.

Moses prepares for it

Moses is held up as an ideal leader. He is not perfect, but is ideal in most respects. One way in which Moses models ideal leadership is the way in which he approaches his retirement. He makes the transition easy on Joshua and the people.

Deuteronomy records the final speeches of Moses. Nine times Deuteronomy speaks of Joshua (1:38; 3:21,28; 31:3,7,14,23; 32:44; 34:9). All nine references are positive. Moses is not totally accepting of the fact that he is not going to lead the people into the land (1:37; 3:37), but he is accepting the choice of Joshua to lead the people. He prepares Joshua for the role, and he prepares the people for the transition.

The book confirms it

The Book of Joshua confirms that a good choice has been made. Joshua is presented as a leader like Moses in many respects. God parts the waters for both Moses and Joshua (Jos 4:23 // Ex 14). Both are shown commanding the people to sanctify themselves in preparation for a great event (3:5

// Ex 19:10). Both encounter God on "Holy Ground" (5:13 // Ex 3:1ff). Both intercede for the sinful nation (7:6ff // Dt 9:25). Both exhort the people just before they die (23:1 // Dt 31:2ff).

This emphasis on the similarity of Joshua and Moses must be seen as an indication of God's nature. The reader is not just being told about two men in the past. The reader is being told that God will regularly provide the right kind of leader for his people. Leadership does not die with Moses, because the same God who empowered Moses empowered Joshua as well.

We must speak more of God's word, if we expect people to follow us as people who will lead them to God.

The right kind of leader (Jos 1:1-9)

The Book of Joshua tells us that Joshua is the right kind of leader. It

tells us what characteristics make him that kind of leader, and it seems clear that we are supposed to seek those characteristics in our leadership. The commissioning of Joshua is particularly instructive.

When Joshua was commissioned there were two primary aspects of the charge God gave him: Courage and reliance on God's word. He was instructed to be courageous. The word is used three times in this passage. It will come up again in verse 18 and again in 10:25. Courage is much needed by leaders, but what is to be the source of our courage? Joshua was also instructed to rely on God's word. That reliance will be the source of his courage.

Verse eight sums up the commission in a sentence. It says, "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful" (Josh 1:8).

Reliance on the word of God is an absolutely essential characteristic of godly leadership.

Speak the word

The first phrase tells us that Joshua was to have the word constantly in his mouth. He is told, "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth." Joshua was not to lead this people on his own. He was to be God's representative to them. If he failed to speak of God's word he would quickly be seen as a worldly leader. It was critical for Joshua that he show that he held to the same source of authority that Moses had followed: God's word.

Too often church leaders seem to lead with their own opinions. Their conversation, and even their teaching, may lack firm biblical grounding. We must speak more of God's word, if we expect people to follow us as people who will lead them to God. Even in "ordinary"

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**"The Message of Acts"
in the 21st Century**

November 7 - 9, 2004



Keynote Speakers:
Michael Mazzalongo, Pointe Claire, QC
David Owens, Liverpool, NY
Scott Roberts, Brandon, MB

Hosted by: Great Lakes Bible College &
Great Lakes Christian College

For more info, contact Walter Hart 519-579-9064
walter.hart@sympatico.ca

Happy Bicentennial!

Wayne Turner



Bicentennial? You are likely asking yourself, "What bicentennial?" Canada isn't due for its 200th anniversary celebration for over 60 years. The United States celebrated its bicentennial several years ago. So what could possibly be marking its 200th year?

If you look elsewhere in this issue of the Gospel Herald, you will find a reprint of the "Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery" signed on June 28, 1804. Just over 200 years ago, Barton W. Stone and five associates took the very decisive action of dissolving the religious organization they had founded only a short time before. Near the beginning of the third century from this signing, it would be good for us to take a thoughtful look at our past, our present and our future.

Whenever we speak of the "Restoration Movement" which resulted from the thought and work of men like Stone and Thomas and Alexander Campbell, there are some people who naively want to deny or ignore the role these men and their contemporaries played. "We are the result of the New Testament, not history." The sentiment is noble, but inaccurate. Throughout the Bible, the story of the people through whom God worked is an important part. Israel was God's chosen people. God used men like Moses and Joshua to move the nation out of Egypt and into Canaan. Were it not for the work of restoring the temple, King Josiah would never have been able to bring about his reformation of the people back to the covenant. Whether we like it or not, we are products of history. We need to know and appreciate the work of those who came before us.

Barton Stone was raised in poverty by his widowed mother. He determined to escape his past through education and a degree in law. While he was pursuing his studies, a great religious revival was happening around him. Initially, he ignored it, but in time found its message difficult to resist. After listening to many sermons about the judgment of God, he heard William Hodge speak about God's love. Stone was transformed and decided to enter the ministry, ultimately being ordained by the Presbyterian Church. Even at this early stage, he began to see uncomfortable differences between scripture and human religion. At his ordination, when asked if he subscribed to the "Westminster Confession of Faith", the defining creed of Presbyterianism, Stone replied that he did, "as far as it was consistent with" the Word of God.

Two years after the famed Cane Ridge Revival which occurred where Stone lived, church synod officials brought up one of his associates, Robert McNemar, on charges for his views. In September 1803, Stone, McNemar, and three other associates withdrew themselves from the Synod of Kentucky and formed the Springfield Presbytery. Ten months later, they came to the realization that despite the apparent success

of their new organization, they existed outside any Biblical authority. According to John Marshall, one of the signers, Robert McNemar wrote and presented the "Last Will and Testament" to the other five.

Written with an obvious tongue-in-cheek humour, the "Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery" declares the death of the organization, "We will, that this body die, be dissolved, and sink into union with the Body of Christ at large..." The death of the presbytery was not the result of poor health, or lack of soundness of composure of mind. It was based on the conviction that people needed to take the "Bible as the only sure guide to heaven" and that the lives of believers should be based on the freedom to determine one's conscience based on their own study of the Bible.

It was a declaration of independence and of spiritual freedom. This was not a freedom from scripture, but rather one based on God's word. The presbytery was turning away from the religious laws, philosophies, traditions, opinions, rudiments of the world and even books of men, "for it is better to enter into life having one book, than having many to be cast into hell."

Based on their own experience, the signers realized that despite the best intentions and wisdom, human beings are fallible. When left to our own devices, we make our own kings and create unnecessary division in the body of Christ. People are more loyal to their parties and traditions than they are to Christ or His people. In this document, the signers identified the two great principles that shaped the Restoration Movement: the unity of all believers based on a common submission to the authority of scripture. They understood that these two values form the bedrock of who the church is and what it should teach and do. The New Testament presents a mandate, even demand, for unity in the body of Christ. Jesus prayed for the unity of all who believe in Him. In response to the division at Corinth, the apostle Paul asked, "Is Christ divided?" Then, in the context of division in the church, he asked, "Do

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Grove Park Home Celebrates

On Sunday, September 12 residents, families, friends, staff, and volunteers will celebrate the grand opening of the expanded and revitalized Grove Park Home, Barrie, Ontario. Our day will start with a celebratory church service at the Barrie Church of Christ at 11:00 am and will be followed at Grove Park Home by the official ceremonies and open house at 2:00 pm.

This \$14 Million and multi-year project continues to keep Grove Park Home at the forefront in senior's care in this region of Ontario.

The first phase, a 54,000 sq. ft. expansion, which doubled the square footage of the Home and includes the GPH Centre for Excellence, opened in October 2003. The new facility provides spacious rooms and living space for our long term care residents and many state of the art technological supports that are unseen to the residents.

Phase two, which is a major renovation to the current building, will be completed in August. The renovations include the addition of a Worship Centre, Café, expanded Senior Encounter Day Program facility, Family Dining Room, Wellness Centre, and even a Physician's Family Practice clinic. The renovations also include an individual heating/cooling system for each resident room and modern life-safety systems.

Much of this has been made available through the support of our generous friends and families with our Above & Beyond Capital Campaign. Their support has ensured that Grove Park Home remains the most desired Home in the county and one that truly serves the needs of our seniors.

A first for Ontario, Grove Park Home has been successful in establishing a Nurse Practitioner primary care program, in addition to the clinical Nurse Practitioner already serving the Home. The Primary Care Nurse Practitioner provides a clinic for those in the community without a family physician.

The final phase will be 14 new independent living retirement suites opening in September 2004. Grove Park

Home is now accepting applications for these suites.

Grove Park Home has been blessed with the Christian leadership of Marvin Johnson (chair person) of Toronto, who has been on the Board of Directors since 1972, Robert Hunter (secretary) of Milton (since 1975), Stephen Gill of Toronto (since 1980), Terry Codling of Oshawa (since 1985), Clark Hannah of Beamsville (since 1996), Russell Cosby of Barrie (since 1997), and Beverly Gignac of Ajax (since 2000).

The Home is served by 165 caring staff and 257 dedicated volunteers who truly make Grove Park Home above and beyond.

Please come and join us September 12.

For more information on this exciting Christian ministry please contact Darryl Culley, Administrator at dculley@groveparkhome.on.ca or (705) 792-7393.

Some interesting GPH facts:

- Grove Park Home serves more than 200,000 meals per year, many of them special diets.
- More than 100,000 lbs of laundry are done each year.
- In 2003 Grove Park Home provided 10,000 nursing hours above Ministry of Health funding.
- Our Life Enrichment staffing is double the Ministry standard and we provide 50% more dietary staffing hours than required.
- Grove Park Home has been Home to more than 800 seniors since opening in 1968 and served hundreds more in our Senior Encounter Adult Day program.
- Claude Cox has multiple Bible studies at the Home each Wednesday with more than 50 seniors attending.
- Grove Park Home has had 9 residents who have lived in excess of 100 years with two residents living/passing in their 107th year, one of whom moved in from her own apartment just before her 104th birthday.
- Volunteers contribute more than 20,000 hours per year.

Western Christian High School

is looking for a dedicated Christian to teach Math and Science this fall. We are located in Regina and have an exciting year planned. A teaching certificate is required. Contact Christine Eggar, principal at Western by phone at 306-545-1515 ext 234 or on the web at principal@westernchristian.ca

Convoy Avenue Church of Christ,

a congregation of approximately 22, needs a preacher/evangelist.

We are located within the picturesque City of **Halifax, Nova Scotia**, Canada. Halifax is a community of approximately 343,000 bordering on the Atlantic Ocean. Several colleges and universities offering a variety of disciplines are within close proximity to our church building.

Resumes should include: leadership qualities, experience in preaching, teaching, work with youth, outreach and general congregational involvement. The candidate should be mission-minded and interested in promoting growth within the congregation. The congregation will provide partial support and a three-bedroom house.

Interested parties should submit their resumes to:

Convoy Avenue Church of Christ
48 Convoy Avenue
Halifax, N.S. B3N 2L5
c/o Dennis Peters
or e-mail to
hfxpeters@yahoo.com

Last Will and Testament of Springfield Presbytery

For where a testament is, there must of necessity be the death of the testator; for a testament is of force after men are dead, otherwise it is of no strength at all, while the testator liveth. Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened except it die. Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground, and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. Whose voice then shook the earth; but now he hath promised saying, yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, yet once more, signifies the removing of those things that are shaken as of things that are made, that those things which can not be shaken may remain. – Scripture

The Presbytery of Springfield sitting at Cane Ridge, in the county of Bourbon, being, through a gracious Providence, in more than ordinary bodily health, growing in strength and size daily; and in perfect soundness and composure of mind; but knowing that it is appointed for all delegated bodies once to die; and considering that the life of every such body is very uncertain, do make and ordain this our last Will and Testament, in manner and form following, viz.:

Imprimis. We will, that this body die, be dissolved, and sink into union with the Body of Christ at large; for there is but one body, and one Spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling.

Item. We will that our name of distinction, with its Reverend title, be forgotten, that there be but one Lord over God's heritage, and his name one.

Item. We will, that our power of making laws for the government of the church, and executing them by delegated authority, forever cease; that the people may have free course to the Bible, and adopt the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

Item. We will, that candidates for the Gospel ministry henceforth study the Holy Scriptures with fervent prayer, and obtain license from God to preach the simple Gospel, with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, without any mixture of philosophy, vain deceit, traditions of men, or the rudiments of the world. And let none henceforth take this honor to himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

Item. We will, that the church of Christ resume her native right of internal government, – try her candidates for the ministry, as to their soundness in the faith, acquaintance with experimental religion, gravity and aptness to teach; and admit no other proof of their authority but Christ speaking in them. We will, that the church of Christ look up to the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest; and that she resume her primitive right of trying those who say they are apostles, and are not.

Item. We will, that each particular church, as a body, actuated by the same spirit, choose her own preacher, and support him by a free-will offering, without a written call or subscription – admit members – remove offenses; and never henceforth delegate her right of government to any man or set of men whatever.

Item. We will, that the people henceforth take the Bible as the only sure guide to heaven; and as many as are offended with other books, which stand in competition with it, may cast them into the fire if they choose; for it is better to enter into life having one book, than having many to be cast into hell.

Item. We will, that preachers and people cultivate a spirit of mutual forbearance; pray more and dispute less; and while they behold the signs of the times, look up, and confidently expect that redemption draweth nigh.

Item. We will, that our weak brethren, who may have been wishing to make the Presbytery of Springfield their king, and wot not what is now become of it, betake themselves to the Rock of Ages, and follow Jesus for the future.

Item. We will, the Synod of Kentucky examine every member who may be suspected of having departed from the Confession of Faith, and suspend every such suspected heretic immediately, in order that the oppressed may go free, and taste the sweets of Gospel liberty.

Item. We will, that Ja--- ----, the author of two letters lately published in Lexington, be encouraged in his zeal to destroy partyism. We will, moreover, that our past conduct be examined into by all who may have correct information; but let foreigners beware of speaking

evil of things which they know not.

Item. Finally we will, that all our sister bodies read their Bibles carefully, that they may see their fate there determined, and prepare for death before it is too late.

Springfield Presbytery, June 28th, 1804

Robert Marshall, }

John Dunlavy, }

Richard M'Nemar,} – Witnesses.

B. W. Stone, }

John Thompson, }

.....
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you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16). Though sounding almost identical to 6:19, which speaks of our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit, the "you" in 3:16 is plural, indicating that Paul is talking about the church collectively. In verse 17, he warns those who are creating divisions, "If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are."

Sadly, over the last two centuries, the Restoration ideal has been bogged down in bickering, fighting, and division. In some places, the concept of Biblical authority has been almost totally rejected, and human opinion and preference have replaced God's word and His unity. Some people are more interested in pushing the limits of personal rights and freedoms than in building unity. Perhaps we should spend more time in Romans 14-15 and 1 Corinthians 8-10.

It is time for us to look back at the courage of men like Stone and the Campbells. Their faith and convictions lit a fire that has truly burned around the world and has stirred the hearts of countless believers to a simple, powerful, Biblical faith. They did not found the church nor did they create something new. They did not even initiate the cause of restoration. They did create excitement and interest in the Bible. They influenced people to turn away from the division of denominationalism and sectarianism, to love and unity in Christ. They have passed the torch of restoration on to us. Will we carry it, extinguish it or drop it?

Acts in the 21st Century

The Message of Acts in the 21st Century” is the theme of the 2004 Great Lakes Lectures, scheduled for November 7-9 on the campus of Great Lakes Christian College, Beamsville, Ontario. The Book of Acts is a record of how the commission of Jesus to evangelize the world was carried out in the first century. Without it we would know very little about how the church began and grew in that period of time. Here we have detailed accounts of how men and women were converted and how churches were planted throughout the Roman world. “Once this book was well known in our fellowship. That is not so true in our day, to our loss,” noted Walter Hart, lectureship director. “We believe the Book of Acts has much to teach the church in the 21st century and that we will be challenged during the lectureship as we look anew at the message of Acts.”

The lectureship begins Sunday evening with the first keynote lecture,

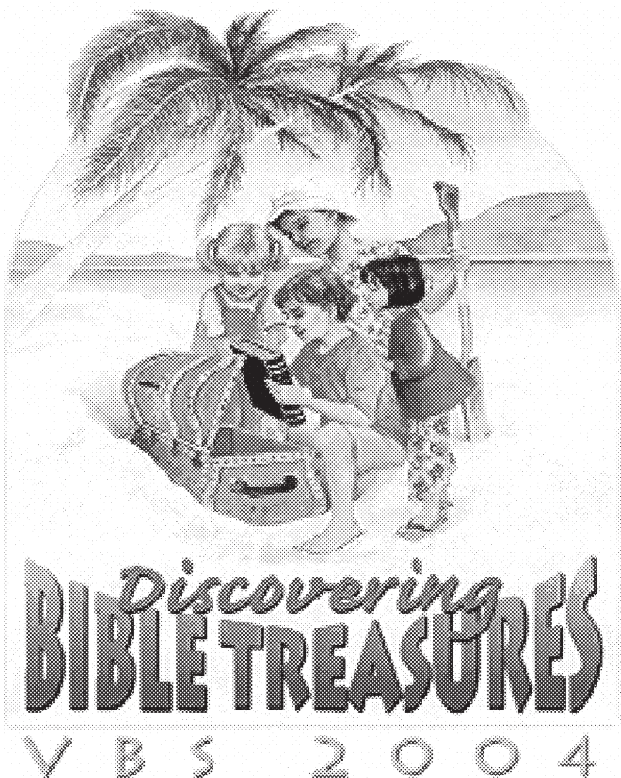
“In No One Else,” presented by Scott Roberts of Brandon, Manitoba. The keynote Monday evening will be delivered by David Owens of Liverpool, New York, on the subject, “To the Ends of the Earth.” Michael Mazzalongo of Pointe Claire, Quebec, will conclude the lectureship on Tuesday evening with the topic, “Speaking the Word with Boldness.”

There will be lectures and classes throughout Monday and Tuesday, including ladies’ classes taught by Cindy Roberts, Brandon; Manitoba, Dianne Perry, Beamsville, Ontario; and Nelle Merritt, St. Catherines, Ontario.

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



Art and Emily Jackson celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary at Grove Park Home, Barrie, ON, on June 29. They were married at the Bathurst St. Church of Christ in Toronto in 1935. Art was on the Board of Directors at Grove Park Home for 20 years and was a long time elder at the Newmarket congregation. Emily is in her 103rd year. Both worship weekly with the Barrie congregation.



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danieldegarmo@yahoo.com

Who is Going to Heaven?

Steve Cordle

Going to heaven is something all people who believe there is a God want to do. When we talk about heaven, a question that often arises is who is going there? Many people believe they have as good a chance as anybody else of going to heaven and as a gospel preacher, I want as many people as possible going to heaven, hence the reason I am in the ministry. As a proclaimer of God's Word, I take great delight in teaching people how to become a child of God according to what the Bible says. It is only the Bible that provides us with the directions for our journey to an eternal home with God.

When it comes to answering the question of who is going to heaven, many times, we in the church of Christ are accused of claiming that we are the only ones going to heaven. The fact is, humans have no say in who goes to heaven; rather it is up to God to decide who will spend eternity in heaven. Through His Word, God tells the individual how to know if he is going to heaven. With that in mind, let us ask, "what does the Bible say about that matter?"

First, we must acknowledge the fact that heaven and salvation are not something humans deserve. Ephesians 2:8-9 states: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Our salvation is a gift from God. A gift is something given by someone with no expectation of receiving anything in return from the recipient. A wage is something earned. When you work, you earn a paycheck after a certain period of time

and it is not a gift. The apostle Paul told the Romans in 3:23-24: all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus... All have sinned, but the grace of God makes it possible to have redemption through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Later in the same letter, Paul states: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God

***Through His Word,
God tells the individual
how to know if he is
going to heaven***

is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23). Because all people sin, all people deserve the wages for sin, which is death or eternal separation from God. Because of Christ, we have a

gift from God, which is eternal life with Him. How do we get this gift of God? Again the Bible tells us.

Hebrews 5:9 tells us that Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him... Notice that it is those who obey Jesus who will be saved. What does it mean to obey Jesus? Not long before His arrest, Jesus stated: "If you love Me, keep My commandments... He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." (John 14:15 and 21)

To obey Jesus is to keep his commandments, it is by His authority that the apostles took the gospel into the world (cf. Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus wants us to first believe on Him. In his prologue to his biography of the Lord, the Apostle John states: "He [Jesus] was

in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:10-13 New King James Version).

Notice, those who receive Jesus and believe on Him, now have the right to become a child of God. Simply believing on Jesus does not make you a child of God; it gives you the right to become a child of God. The word translated right in John 1:12 is the Greek word *exousia*, which according to Strong's Concordance means: (in the sense of ability); privilege,

Notice Concerning News East & West

The purpose of the Gospel Herald is "For the promotion of New Testament Christianity" in Canada and wherever the paper is read. To accomplish this goal the paper publishes editorial comment, articles, book reviews, obituaries, church directory, advertising, and news.

News East and West allows the sharing of spiritual activities of the brethren from coast to coast. It is encouraging to read of the successful efforts of other congregations and is also helpful to know of those activities that were not as useful as hoped.

What not to send:

While there are many things happening in congregations that are of interest to that congregation or those directly connected (i.e. social activities like annual picnics, weddings, travel of members for recreation and/or family visitation, etc.) they do not fit the purpose of the news pages. If all these items were included in News East & West, we could fill 3 or 4 pages every month. While interesting, we do not feel this is the purpose of these pages.

Please do send:

We do want the news that fits the criteria stated above and thank those who take the time to send it to Marion or Walter. We hope you will understand why the social type items are not carried and that you will support our desire to make the news pages a place to share spiritual activities across Canada.

The Editors

i.e. (subjectively) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) mastery (concretely, magistrate, super-human, potentate, token of control), delegated influence. The word is also translated as authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength. Thus, we see that believing in Christ sets you up to become a child of God, but does not make you one.

Again, we go back to John 14:15 where Jesus said to keep His commandments. Those who do that, will go to heaven. The commandments of Jesus are not difficult, in fact they are quite simple, once someone believes in Christ and makes that confession of faith in Christ (Matthew 10:31-32 and Philippians 2:5) that person is closer to becoming a child of God and being on the path to heaven. The only thing that remains in order to accept the gift of God is to obediently submit to immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins. Mark 16:16 states: He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. This statement is as simple as 2+2=4. Belief plus baptism equals salvation.

Baptism is an act of belief according to Galatians 3:22-29:

But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek,

there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Notice, during a discussion on belief, Paul brings in baptism. Baptism is an act of faith out of an obedient heart. Baptism is NOT a work of merit one does to earn salvation. Simply obeying God is not a work of merit, it is what we do out of love for God and His gift to sinful man. Once we become a child of God, then we must continue in the path of righteousness. Again, the apostle John states: "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one

another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:5-7).

To walk in the light means we live faithfully to God. Commenting on this verse, Albert Barnes notes: Walking in the light may include the three following things:

1. Leading lives of holiness and purity; that is, the Christian must be characteristically a holy man, a light in the world, by his example.

2. Walking in the truth; that is, embracing the truth in opposition to all error of paganism and infidelity, and having clear, spiritual views of truth, such as the unrenewed never have.

3. Enjoying the comforts of religion; that is, having the joy which religion is fitted to impart, and which it does impart to its true friends (from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by Biblesoft).

To sum up, it is those who, out of faith and trust in God, obey Him, will be the ones who go to heaven. They are the ones added to the church that Christ established (Acts 2:47). These are not the ones who join a man made denomination like someone joins a club or civic organization, but are added to the community of believers by God's grace.

St. Catharines, ON

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Mark your calendars!

Upcoming Great Lakes Events

August 2 - 6	Bible College short course: <i>Religious and Theological Internet Resources</i> - Beamsville campus
September 7	Registration Day at Bible College, High School and Preschool
September 18	Partnership Dinner
October 2	Corporation Annual Meeting <i>*note revised date</i>
October 16	Homecoming Weekend
November 1 - 5	Bible College short course ~ <i>The Spiritual Disciplines</i> - Waterloo
November 7 - 9	Great Lakes Lectures ~ <i>The Message of Acts in the 21st Century</i>



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Reminder: To be published in the following months' Gospel Herald, each congregation's information should be sent to Walter Straker before the third last Tuesday of the month. Please clearly mark the email or the envelope: "NewsEast."

ONTARIO

Barrie: Florence Turpin, mother of Dolph Turpin, passed away at the end of June in Trenton, Ontario.

Beamsville: The congregation held its annual meeting on June 27.

Bramalea: A congregational pig roast was held at Evan and Debbie Whittington's on Canada Day. Under Derek Czeban's guidance, the young people have a meeting and/or activity every Saturday. The congregation had a special contribution on June 4 to further reduce the debt on their building.

Brantford: Carli English, whose family lives in Brantford, was baptized June 3 in Beamsville.

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1708 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, ON
M4G 3C4

Email:
mhilborn@rogers.com

Cornwall: Christine Piette was baptized Tuesday, June 8.

Grimsbey: Tim Halls, who was recently baptized, is from this congregation.

Hamilton (West): Marc Stevens was baptized on June 13. Katharine Henley is going on a short mission trip to Nicaragua at the end of July. The congregation is involved in baseball through which they have contacted several non-Christian players who have shown interest in Christianity.

Meaford: Dorothy Ellis had a 90th birthday party June 5, hosted by Brenda Snow. Brother Bonthu from India visited on July 4.

Newmarket: On June 6 the congregation welcomed Nathan and Katie Pickard to begin working full-time with the congregation. On June 7 the ladies said goodbye to Gayna Johnson and welcomed Katie Pickard at their dinner.

Scarborough: The congregation conducted a gospel meeting July 11-18 in the Civic Centre. This was kicked off by a gospel concert, performed by the Greene family.

Sundridge: Henry (Harry) Meakes, Pauline Frost's 93-year-old brother-in-law, passed away on July 9 in Medicine Hat, Alberta. His son, Al Meakes, works with the Plymouth, Michigan, congregation. Gerry Welch, Effie Thorne and Ralph Russell were baptized on May 18. Haleigh Raeburn was baptized on Mother's Day. Laura Verzijenberg was baptized in February in the Dimmick's outdoor hot tub. Jeremy and Jacinthe Frost were recently in Guinea, West Africa working with a group called "Pioneer Bible Translators."

Tintern: On Father's Day the congregation organized a canoe trip for the "young at heart." On June 28-July 2, the congregation conducted a Bible day camp for JK-Grade 6, as a community outreach. Over 100 different children attended.

Toronto (Strathmore): Key To The Kingdom continues to receive good response from viewers, though the number of calls is, as usual, down somewhat in the summer months. The congregation is looking forward to hosting the Canadian churches of Christ Historical Society Annual Meeting on August 28. (See ad on this page.) A lectureship is being planned for September 24 - 26 on the theme, "Fan Into Flame the Gift of God". (See ad on page 15 of this issue.)

Waterloo: The ladies of the congregation have been cataloguing books into the computer catalogue for Great Lakes Bible College, with the goal of completing 2,000 of the 5,000+ books by the end of the summer. The congregation recently

held a 3-part series on: "Revisit Baptism: Effective, Comprehensive and Instructive," by Geoff Ellis. Wilma (Johnstone) Moore has written a book entitled "Omagh Bible School - Early Years." These sell for \$20 a copy.

Windsor: The brethren held their first ever spiritual growth campaign, "40 Days of Purpose" from April 25 - June 7. VBS was planned for July 20-23 in the evening.

QUEBEC

Verdun: A nurse, Pernella Pollard, was baptized in July on the first anniversary of the Mazzalongo's return to work in Verdun.



Members and Guests
are invited to the
**ANNUAL MEETING
&
WORKSHOP**

—
**Canadian Churches of Christ
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

—
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by Marion Waugh
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Phone: (306) 545-0550
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(The help of Barbara Lewis in gathering news is appreciated.)

ALBERTA

Calgary: A 40 Days of Purpose Campaign was held. Through the use of small groups the congregation explored each of the five purposes God has for our lives more deeply. High School students attended the "Tsunami" youth rally at the Alberta Bible College. "Building Marriages of Integrity" seminar was held. This was in conjunction with the ongoing "His Needs, Her Needs" course. Faith Quest was held in March. Harding Students were here as well as guest speaker Phil Callaway. Congratulations to Brandi McLauchlan and Megan Vatcher who were recently baptized. Got Faith Youth Rally Camp in Hope, B.C. was attended by some here. A clothing exchange was participated in as well as a collection of warm winter clothing has begun for the Mustard Seed. VBS for age 5 to grade 6 was July 19-21.

Edmonton: Kayla Kater was baptized on March 7, Dorota Pilat on May 19, and Bao Yu on June 5. (He has since moved back to Beijing, China and plans on spreading the gospel there.) Dierdra Friesen was baptized on July 9. We still have 12 one on one studies with non Christians in progress. For the third consecutive year, the Waterview Church of Christ teens visited us for a VBS. They spent several days in Edmonton, and then together with our teens, they travelled to Medicine Hat and did a three-day VBS with the church there. Danny Hawk, one of the elders from Waterview, preached in the evenings. Two of the Waterview teens along with Robert Ashmore from Edmonton were baptized July 6. Kevin Carson has resumed his mission work in Lithuania. Tim Johnson, currently in Moncton, is moving to work with the church here in mid September. Dr. Howard Norton from Harding University and Tex Williams from World Bible School were the speakers for the annual ASF in April. The

annual Youth Retreat was May 28-30 at Ross Haven Camp. Paul Hillier, our intern, put together a great camp that was enjoyed by all. Bob and Diedre Norris have moved back to Edmonton after 3 years of preaching in Pocatello Idaho and Carman Manitoba. Lois Lefevre has moved to Edmonton from Florence Alabama. Sandi McKee and her daughter moved here from Ontario. - Dave Friesen

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Abbotsford (Central Valley): Four ladies who have desired to be baptized in the remote First Nations village of Fort Ware are now Christians. The Weirs and Wedlers, who had renovated a 1974 mobile home, travelled there over 250 miles of logging roads. They received a warm welcome by the village, and met many of their "Key to the Kingdom" correspondence students. A number of studies were held with others who have been taking the correspondence course both in Fort Ware and the neighbouring village of Tsay Keh. Tentative plans are to make a return trip in mid-September to teach the new converts and others who are interested.

Burnaby: Garnet Andrews and his daughter, Courtney, along with Elizabeth Jacobs, were part of a mission trip to Mexico with people from the Vancouver, WA, church the first week of July. Erol and Debrah Dogan have had some trouble in re-adjusting to

Canada with health problems for several weeks after their return from Israel. They were urged to return for a full year of work in Jerusalem next year. Erol has been sharing their experiences with several congregations in the Vancouver/Vancouver Island areas.

East Vancouver (City Church): The Sprouls have returned to their home in Lynden, WA following their two-year tenure of study at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas. They are working with the church here at the present time. Steve Hasbrouck, Sr. returned from his five-week trip to Japan on July 8 with news of new contacts made in that country as he revisited congregations he had established several years ago.

Deep Cove: The Keerans had a special luncheon and prayer session with a Jewish woman who responded to their ad in the West Vancouver community newspaper. Already a believer in Jesus as God's son, she has continued to have regular phone contact for prayer on specific topics. The ads were discontinued for awhile until a system can be set up to keep track of the call-backs: from whom, the frequency of contact, and topics prayed about. As of July, the Keerans were working with five people in different parts of BC. They plan a different approach in the next group of ads that will run. Their website is at <http://www.prayerhomes.com>. Tell your friends about it anywhere in Canada if there are Christians close enough to their vicinity to get in touch with them.

Delta: The deacons have been in charge of locating a new preacher to take the place of Darren Williamson, who leaves this month to teach at Cascade College in Portland. Questionnaires as to the type of preacher needed were submitted to each member of the congregation. These were returned in July and are being assessed. In the meantime, men from our own congregation, with occasional invited speakers, are bringing the worship period lessons.

Oakridge: We continue to have monthly Bible studies in various homes. A special meeting for all church members was held on July 7, with emphasis on those involved in some work in the congregation. The purpose was to inform all on what is being done and how effectively. It also allowed those who are actively working to let the church know how others can help in serving God at Oakridge. We received a letter from

continued on page 13

Are you the one Great Lakes Bible College is seeking?

If you are:

- interested in promoting Bible study and training
- interested in helping GLBC grow
- able to make presentations to churches
- a self-starter
- looking for a meaningful and satisfying work,

the answer might be "yes!"

A fulltime position is to be created effective January 1, 2005 for someone to work with the President to take the College to the next level of service to churches of Christ.

**Contact: Art Ford, President
Great Lakes Bible College
905-563-5374, X211 AFord@glcc.on.ca**

MISSION NEWS

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

China: Urgently needed to finish up four schools being converted into children's homes are plumbers to get the buildings ready for occupancy. The Chinese government will furnish housing, food, and transportation for six months. It is uncertain whether or not air fare to these cities would be paid also. It is \$1200 Can.

Tanzania: Mission Printing in Arlington, Tx., has received a letter of thanks from the director of the Arusha Bible School and the Andrew Connally School of Preaching. He reports that there are 28 students in the Bible School, and 24 in the School of Preaching to whom he will distribute a box of publications that were sent to him by Mission Printing. He says that he will also take some of the supply to Uganda, where he is working with four congregations. Ten people were baptized during a one-week meeting he conducted recently for one of these churches.

Ethiopia: Doyle Gilliam, instructor at Sunset International Bible Institute, arrived on July 2 to teach courses on the Islam religion, and 1st & 2nd Thessalonians. Gerald Paden came in mid-July for two additional courses at the Level Two Bible Training School in Addis. The teaching staff of the Level One schools comes from the graduates of this program. Brother Behailu and his wife, Alem, left on July 14 for Seattle to be with their daughter at the birth of their first grandchild. Curt King, well driller for the Ethiopian work, is recovering from a neck disc repair in Seattle, and expects to be able to return to his work here by mid-September.

Kiev: Rick and Carol Pinczuk work with two enterprises in Kiev: the Shevchenko church of Christ, and the Slavic Evangelism Ministry. The work of the latter is primarily to provide Ukrainian and Russian Bibles along with other Christian literature all over Ukraine. They have set up over 60 "church libraries" for churches, School of Preaching, Bible schools, and other church-related ministries. With the help of Healing Hands International in Nashville, they have given humanitarian aid to churches, hospitals, schools, and orphanages all over the country. The last project involved the establishment

of a Christian Medical Clinic in Ivanofrankivsk in Western Ukraine, which will serve as a starting point to establish the first church of our Lord in this city of 300,000. As part of his work with the Schevchenko church, Rick has completed a hymn book of 100 songs which have been translated into the language, and includes a variety of traditional Ukrainian songs. It is the first songbook that Ukrainians have had in their own tongue, and will be available for use by all the churches as it becomes available in print.

Donetsk: Jay Don and Mary Lee Rogers returned to Portland on July 4 for a brief holiday from their work at the Sunset International Bible Institute satellite in Donetsk. On May 22 they witnessed their third graduation as 14 men and women completed two years of very difficult Biblical training. The theme this year was, "Serve with Christ's Love", which each of the speakers drew upon to challenge the graduates to serve with Christ's love continually. "A time again when the Ukrainian students thank you, by name, for leaving your country and your family to come and teach them God's Word – a very humbling experience", Mary Lee wrote. They accompanied their son and his wife to Warsaw, Poland, where their daughter-in-law had to go to get a U.S. visa. It was a long hard trip by train, but successful. Brett and Julia Rogers arrived in Vancouver, WA on July 2nd, where they expect to live.

India: NM Marick Rao was asked to go to Bangalore to speak to the Methodist Council of Churches about the church of Christ. He told them that the church and the Kingdom were the same thing, and the truth of the New Testament pattern. He spoke of spiritual blindness, and, like Paul's experience, they were astonished at his boldness. Seven of the Methodist bishops have since requested him to come to their congregations to speak. Brother Rao has also been teaching in several Mormon churches west of Hyderabad the past four months.

Sendai, Japan: David Moon, former ESL teacher in Sendai, was accepted by the East Hill Church of Christ in York, Nebraska, to be under its sponsorship. David recently completed the Abilene Christian University Summer Mission Seminar. Please pray for him as he continues preparing – and raising funds – for this new venture. 86 students registered for this summer's Let's Start Talking project. New projects: As many as 18 individuals have visited the new "Coffee Shop" conducted by Jon Straker to help new Christians, LST readers, and the Sendai congregation get better acquainted. Joel Osborne and Crimsen Ruhnke teach a cooking class to several non-Christian ladies. Three Christian women from the congregation also attend to make contact with the non-Christians. "Guys' Night Out," led by Joel Osborne and Ben Berry, involves as many as 12 young men each week. Ben, Joel, and Jon teach lessons each Sunday night in Japanese and/or English on Christian basics of the Bible, the gospels, and the book of Acts. Crimsen Ruhnke continues to lead a growing children's ministry. Formal conversational language training is now ended, although Japanese language learning is ongoing as team members converse in Japanese. Team Furlough: Please pray for Ben Berry, Joel Osborne, Crimsen Ruhnke, and Jonathan and Michiko Straker as they come to North America from August to October on their furlough. They will report to sponsoring congregations (East Hill, York, Nebraska, and Bramalea, Brampton, Ontario) and supporting congregations and individuals, visit family and friends, and raise funds for their next three years in Japan. In addition, team members will participate in team counselling at Abilene Christian University. Should you wish to donate toward the team's furlough expenses, please contact the Sendai Mission Committee at Bramalea Church of Christ. – Walter Straker



*You are invited to attend our
Partnership Dinner
September 18
at 6:00 p.m.*

*our Annual Fund kick-off
honouring*

*Bethel and Blanche Bailey
for their Christian service*

Hosted by Great Lakes Christian College and
Great Lakes Bible College

Tickets - \$15 must be purchased by Sept. 12
from a seller in your congregation or
905-563-5374, X210 NPage@glcc.on.ca



continued from page 11

one of our summer visitors thanking us for an uplifting service and commending us for providing a place of worship for those traveling through Vancouver.

Vancouver/Vancouver Island: As in past years, three camp sessions were held at the Spruston Road facility on Vancouver Island this summer. The second week of July saw 50 children, ages 9 to 12 gathered for the Junior camp under the direction of Al Prystupa, a member of the Surrey church. Bernard Krogsgaard and Dave Patterson brought a group of 10 young people from Saskatoon, SK. to help out. Carolyn Hawkins and Bev McClure served as cooks. Teens were there the following week to face the "Pirates of the Caribbean" as put together by Burnaby's youth director, Mike Parker. The enrolment for Teen week was 52+ with a staff of 12. Cooks were Shannon Smale, Karen Mann, and Wendy Zonneveld. Families took advantage of the first weekend in August to use the camp facilities.

Surrey: Our morning worship service on Sunday, May 30, will go on in our collective memories as a very joyful time together. One of the teens of our congregation, Michelle Hemanowski, was baptized. Instead of our "regular" routine worship, we had the baptism first then together we shared with our new sister, her first time of remembering Christ by taking the Lord's Supper with the whole congregation. We had a visiting preacher from Western Christian College, Brother Larry Boswell. Brother Larry has a professional singing and acting background in Branston, MO and along with speaking about recruits for the college, he preached and led our singing. The entire day was such a spiritual feast. We have several families who have returned to Surrey after moving away a number of years ago. Our congregation now has 40 families with A LOT of young children. It is wonderful. It is such a blessing to be a part of God's family and, in particular, a member of the church Family in Surrey. Come and visit when you are out our way. - P. McLure

MANITOBA

Winnipeg: A special brunch was prepared for the ladies on June 5. This was followed by the prayer sister program, singing and a devotional "It's not about me." Robert Daoust was baptized recently. A letter of thanks was received from the San Fernando Church in Trinidad for the reusable Bible class material and the song books. These materials are difficult to obtain in Trinidad. The annual Bible Class presentation was held June 27. This was an opportunity for the children to show what they have been learning in Bible Class throughout the year. The sermon that day featured the 200th anniversary of Barton Stone and five others who signed The Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery, an important and courageous step. (See the editorial this month for more on this subject.) Congratulations to Leonard and Janet Johnson who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 19.

SASKATCHEWAN

Glentworth: Lynn Anderson spoke at the 4th annual Grasslands Men's Retreat on "Get Back to the Basics of Longing for a Homeland". "Longing for a Homeland" is Lynn's new book and a copy was given to those in attendance. Trail Riders traveled back in time to a simpler more basic way of life while traveling on horseback to new destinations into the grasslands. A variety of activities from horse shoes to the range land golf classic were also provided.

Gravelbourg: On June 27 the congregation celebrated as Lisa Bandura was baptized. At the time of this writing we are busy preparing for our Vacation Bible School Program (July 26-30). Members of the congregation are working diligently to pre-enrol 50 children. At the beginning of July we were half way to that objective."

Please help the Sendai team in God's work to make

THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

A LAND OF THE RISEN SON

Joel Osborne and Jonathan Straker are still in need of support for the mission work in Sendai, Japan. If you would like to find out more about this work and how you can help, you can check out their website at www.sendaimissions.com, or contact the

Bramalea church of Christ:
750 Clark Blvd. / Brampton, ON / L6T 3Y2.
(905)792-2297

Or you can help by cutting-out and mailing-in the form below.

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I would like to support:
(Circle) Joel / Jonathan / Both
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Make cheques payable to the Bramalea church of Christ.

Cooperation and Unity in Evangelism

Tim Johnson

The New Testament story of the spread of the gospel is both thrilling to read, and instructive about unity in the pressing work of evangelism.

As events unfold in the first ten chapters of the book of Acts, new congregations had been established in Jerusalem, Samaria and all over Judea. Like a raging forest fire, the gospel then jumped the border into Phoenicia, Cyprus and on up to Antioch in Syria. Despite the conversion of the Roman centurion, Cornelius, in chapter 10, the early evangelists were preaching only to Jews as they reached Gentile countries. All that changed in Antioch where large numbers of non-Jews obeyed the gospel.

As news of the Syrian breakthrough reached the church in Jerusalem, they sent the graceful Barnabas to Antioch to encourage the flourishing, new gentile congregation. Acts 11 records his work, and how he involved the brand-new apostle Saul whom he brought in from Tarsus. Wonderful things resulted from Jerusalem's direct cooperation and interest in Antioch.

Soon the Holy Spirit directed Barnabas and Saul to leave for Cyprus and Asia Minor, with the blessings and help of the Antioch church. Acts records two additional preaching trips out of Antioch for these heralds of the gospel. During the second, the Philippian church was established in Europe. This church would function in a similar role to Macedonia and Greece as Antioch had been to them: ongoing concern for Paul's work in new areas, including financial help. Later on Paul would express his gratefulness to the Philippian brethren for this support: "And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs." Phil. 4:15-16

In similar fashion, other congregations would cooperate with Paul, and no doubt some of the other apostles,

as they traveled to new areas of the Mediterranean world preaching and organizing new congregations of the Lord's church. In advance of his intended visit to Rome, he sent a letter and spoke of his desire to spend time with them on his way to Spain. He hoped that they would help him financially to reach that new mission field. (Romans 15:22-25) Of course, the Lord had other plans for a visit to Rome, as the record reveals.

Such unity and cooperation between Jewish and Gentile Christians is not only admirable, but is absolutely necessary for the expansion of the Kingdom and to ensure its depth and maturity. A chain of concern and practical care can

***...unity and cooperation ...
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is absolutely necessary
for the expansion of the
Kingdom and to ensure
its depth and maturity.***

be traced through the inspired story: Jerusalem helped Antioch, Antioch helped the work in Asia Minor and eastern Europe, Philippi helped Paul through Macedonia and Greece, and Rome intended to help the new work in Spain. While their cooperation is not fully disclosed in the New Testament, nor can we assume it was always consistent and smooth, we can certainly see congregations taking responsibility to pray for, contribute to, and encourage new works as the gospel spread.

It has been a blessing to experience similar unity and cooperation from supporters over the years in the New Brunswick work. We came to Moncton in 1976 with the intention of beginning a new congregation, and hopefully take steps to expand into other communities across the province. We have been engaged in this effort for 28 years. While we had hoped for a larger harvest of souls not only in Moncton, but in other cities also, we thank our Lord for the precious good fruit He has granted. A fine congregation has developed in

Moncton with 35 souls. They have a small church building in a growing area of the city and land for a larger facility in the future. A second congregation is working hard in Saint John.

These results could not have taken place without the love, support, prayers and concern of many supporters. At first there were 28 American congregations supporting us, most with smaller monthly contributions. Many people have remarked over the years that this is not an ideal situation for a missionary to receive his support. However, these 28 churches worked together in marvelous unity and faithfulness for at least 10 years. Since then some of the larger congregations among them have assumed most of the financial load, with the notable help of the South Green Street congregation in Glasgow, Kentucky.

In the mid-1990's six Ontario congregations began supporting the New Brunswick work and have continued to do so until the present time. They have been consistent, encouraging, responsive to special needs, and faithful in prayer about the work. Members of their congregations have visited Moncton and encouraged the church, and ongoing relationships continue.

Sixteen Canadian congregations contributed funds to help us purchase and renovate our first church building, and later buy more land for a parking lot and expansion. With a few gaps in between, these churches ranged from British Columbia to Nova Scotia. Twelve American congregations also took part in these projects.

As my wife and I leave New Brunswick for another area of Canada, we are humbled by the wonderful unity and cooperation we have experienced from the congregations I've mentioned. They have exhibited the high quality ways first used by our early brethren who encourage us through the pages of the New Testament. We are very grateful for all the help they have been, and without which little progress could be made. We can cooperate, and do it well. Let it continue as the Kingdom spreads in Canada and around the world.

Moncton, N.B.

Annual Lectureship

Hosted by Strathmore's young adults

FAN INTO FLAME

THE GIFT OF GOD

2 TIMOTHY 1:6

Location: 346 Strathmore Boulevard, Toronto

Dates/Times: Friday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 25, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, September 26, 9:45 a.m.

Speakers: Bro. Ike Etienne, Toronto
Bro. Dominic Dos Santos, Trinidad

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train, equip, prepare, and empower every member in the church to use their gifts and talents for the works of service so that the body would be built up. Then we will have unity in the faith, know more of Jesus, become mature, expose false teaching, and continue to grow up in Christ. The body will only grow and build up itself in love, when each part does its work (4:16).

The ministers, deacons, teachers and elders are not selected or hired to do all the work in the kingdom. Their key responsibility is to train, equip, mentor, and empower each member to identify and utilize their gifts and talents for the building up of the church. While it may be much easier and more comfortable for members to sit in the pew on Sundays and critique and criticize the work of the leadership, God has called each of us to be a participating servant not a passive spectator.

God has blessed us individually with unique gifts, talents, and opportunities so that His Church would be strengthened, mature and growing. Have you identified the gifts and talents that have been entrusted to you? Are you using them for the building up of the body? Next month we will look at the different talents that God has for His people. Jesus' life of love and service, His sacrificial death and His victorious resurrection is God's gift to us. How we live as faithful children of God with our time, talents, and treasure is our gift to Him!

Mesa, AZ

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conversation God's word will come up, if we are really leading as God would have us to lead. It should never be long out of our mouths.

Jesus gives us the great example. He answered Satan with scripture (Mt 4). We must learn to do the same.

Meditate on the word

The second phrase of verse eight tells us that Joshua was to meditate on the word. Joshua was not just to speak about God's word to the Israelites, he was to study it constantly and deeply. To meditate means to think deeply (Oxford Learner's Dict. 728). Joshua's study was not just to be a surface study or a memorising of facts, Joshua was to think deeply about God's word. He was to think about God's word constantly, day and night.

Should we not do the same today? How will we speak constantly of God's word if we are not thinking constantly about it? Would not our speech betray a shallow understanding and an inability to apply the word to life?

All of those called to leadership must diligently think on God's word. Luke had to carefully investigate (Lk 1:1-3). Timothy is told to work diligently with God's word (1 Tim 3:15 & 2 Tim 2:15). Paul desired to continue his study even in the closing days of his life (2 Tim 4:13). We must demonstrate this same attitude. Leaders who fail to spend time meditating on God's word will not effectively speak that word.

Do the word

The final phrase indicates that Joshua is to put the word into action. He is to "do everything written in it."

No matter how much he spoke of God's word or how often he studied it, Joshua could not be successful as a leader without doing what God commanded. But if he will be careful to obey, the Lord will make his leadership successful. Verse seven says it plainly, "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go."

Throughout history there have been hypocritical leaders among God's people. Sometimes they accomplish good despite their wrongs (Phil 1:15-18; Mt 23:2ff). But the greater good comes when our lives agrees with our teaching. We need leaders who do the word.

In a nutshell

There are many qualities desirable in a leader, but these must never be neglected. A leader must be someone who constantly speaks of God's word, who thinks deeply on it, and who consistently obeys it.

The command comes with a promise of success. (Josh 1:8). "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

Regina, SK

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Notice Concerning Book & Errata

Readers are reminded that the 320 page book, "A History of Periodicals in the Restoration Movement in Canada" by Eugene C. Perry, an interesting story of valiant efforts to encourage Christians and spread the gospel starting over 150 years ago, is still available for **\$21.95** plus tax and postage. Those interested in the history of the Restoration Movement in Canada will find this book especially enjoyable.

We are somewhat embarrassed to acknowledge that several errors got past our proof reading efforts. An ERRATA sheet has been compiled and is offered free of charge to all those possessing the book who inform us that they wish to receive it. Just communicate your request along with your address and it will be supplied.

Gospel Herald Bookstore

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OBITUARIES

Parker, Linda Jean Fly

Linda Parker passed away on June 1, 2004 at the Vanderbilt Hospital in Tennessee. She was 71 years of age. She had been living in Smyrna, Tennessee at the time of her death.

Sister Parker was the daughter of the late Fritz and Gladys Lucille McCandless Fly. She was a member of the Leeville Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband, Harold Holt Parker. (She died four months short of

their 50th wedding anniversary.) She is also survived by a son, Holt Neumon and his wife Barbara of Cincinnati, TN; daughters, Jo Linn Denman of Cleburne, TX, Jo Dee (David) Kelley of Smyrna, Rebecca (Stephen) Shaffer of Abilene, TX., and 8 grandchildren and 2 sisters. She was predeceased by one brother and 2 sisters.

Linda and her husband Harold worked with churches in Canada and the United States for many years. After graduating from Abilene Christian they worked with the Osborne St Church in Winnipeg, MB. They also served with the Bible Chair in Laramie, WY, University Church of Christ of

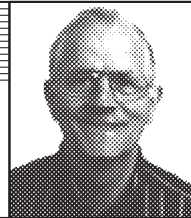
Albuquerque, NM, Western Christian College in Weyburn, SK, Great Lakes Christian College in Beamsville, ON, Stoney Creek Church of Christ in Stoney Creek, ON, and most recently with the Leeville Church of Christ. Linda taught Bible class in all these places and supported Harold as a loving wife for nearly 50 years.

A funeral service in her memory was conducted at the Leeville Church building with Stephen Shaffer officiating. May God bless those who mourn and give them strength and encouragement.

From information supplied
by Jo Dee Parker Kelley

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



Unleashing God's Word In Your Life, by John MacArthur, 178 pages, Nelson, \$21.99.

The author is well known for his radio preaching and his many books. He is very forceful in his teaching and does not hesitate to reject liberal and modernistic ideas. He says that his "only compelling factor is a burning desire to understand God's Word accurately and to teach it with precision." Our major disagreements with him would concern such issues as baptism and apostasy.

MacArthur believes, as we do, in the inspiration and infallibility of the Scriptures. He writes, "It is easier for the entire universe to fold up than for the smallest mark in the Bible to be altered. God's Word is eternal." He believes that the Scriptures are infallible, inerrant (without error), complete, authoritative, sufficient, and effective. We say "Amen" to that!

He is not afraid to disagree with those he considers false teachers. The writer, Ernest Renan says in his book that Jesus never really healed anyone but his gentleness made them feel better. Renan tries to explain away miracles in a naturalistic way. MacArthur easily refutes such nonsense.

One chapter is titled "A Word You Can Count On." He writes in this chapter about the Word being infallible, inerrant, authoritative, and effective. He proves all this in the chapter "A Pipeline To The Source." Here he gives evidence of the inspiration of the Bible. Also, he shows the certain belief of Jesus in the Old Testament. How can we claim to be Christians if we disagree with what our Lord says about His Word? MacArthur convincingly refutes the claims of the cults in their attempts to make their writings equal (or even ahead of) the Word of God. However we

cannot accept his beliefs regarding Christ's future reign on earth.

The author highly recommends faithful, daily reading of the Bible itself. Too often we read what men say about it rather than reading the Word itself.

Another very important point from this book regards "the importance of cutting it straight" (2 Tim. 2:15).

"The Word Stimulates Growth" emphasizes the need for all Christians to grow through continual study of the Word. This will stimulate spiritual growth which all of us must practice. This book will definitely lead us in that direction.

The Case for Easter by Lee Strobel, Zondervan, 95 pages, \$4.99 (Cdn.)

A friend gave me this little book and am I glad he did! It is only 95 pages but is packed with spiritual dynamite!

The author was educated at Yale Law School, was the award-winning legal editor of the Chicago Tribune and a spiritual sceptic until 1981. He has previously written, The Case for Christ, The Case for Faith, and The Case for a Creator.

Strobel writes in such a way as to hold the reader's total attention. He covers "The Medical Evidence: Was Jesus' Death a Sham and His Resurrection a Hoax? The Evidence of the Missing Body: Was Jesus' Body Really Absent from His Tomb? The Evidence of Appearance: Was Jesus Seen Alive After His Death on the Cross?"

There has been a lot of controversy over the treatment of Jesus before and during His death on the cross. The movie directed by Mel Gibson has intensified that discussion. Strobel believes that the beatings, etc. inflicted on the Lord were just as bad as those seen in

the film. All of the beatings plus the agony of hanging on the cross, etc. show how greatly Jesus suffered and demonstrated the certainty of His death.

Strobel deals with other questions relative to the resurrection and shows that our faith is based on a solid foundation.

The Case For A Creator by Lee Strobel, Zondervan, 340 pages, \$20.99 Cdn

Lee Strobel has written a number of outstanding books. These include The Case for Christ and The Case for Faith. He is a legally trained investigative reporter and writes in a most interesting way. Also he was a spiritual sceptic until 1981.

Strobel investigated a case where there was great controversy. It took place in West Virginia and concerned the teaching of evolution in school. He titled his chapter "White-Coated Scientists Versus Black-Robed Preachers". He has met many spiritual skeptics who told him that their seeds of doubt were planted in high school or college when they studied Darwinism.

This is a hard book to put down. It is much more exciting than fiction. It will strengthen the faith of any person, be they believer or sceptic. The author covers the evidence from physics, astronomy, biochemistry, and biology. He sums things up with "The Cumulative Case for a Creator."

In the end of the book he summarizes "The Case For Christ" which is another of his outstanding books.

I'm Not The Boss, I just work here by Howard Jonas, founder and chairman of IDT Corp., Leviathan Press, 126 pages, Price not given.

The author is a successful businessman. He tells how reading the Bible (Old Testament) has greatly influenced his life. The laws about proper treatment of neighbours and other great principles that help people to get along are found in this part of the Bible.

One cannot totally agree with everything in this book but it does contain many good insights.



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