

Gospel Herald

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BEAMSVILLE, ONTARIO

October 2005



One of the exciting results of the Key To The Kingdom program is the work being done in Northern BC, led by Norm and Jen Weir. Folks responding to the Key broadcast from Fort Ware has resulted in this outreach there and to the sister village of Tsay Keh Dene. Read the report on this work on page 2.

Following Key's Signal

Norm Weir

It was curious when Bible correspondence course requests came from a place in BC that was very difficult to find on the map! Indeed, after much searching, the Tourist Information Bureau helped locate it through the use of their web links where they termed it 'the most remote village in BC'. The Key to the Kingdom broadcast had found its way in, however, through the satellite dish that Fort Ware has in their village. It is seen soon after crossing the fortieth bridge at the end of the long dusty logging road. Situated a few mountain ranges south of the Yukon border, many years ago it was the gathering place for the hunting parties that sustained the First Nations People in Watson Lake. Over time, some started staying there and gradually it became a permanent settlement.

Faye was the first to request a Bible Correspondence course, then Lena and Cathy. They sent names of others and some came from Tsay Keh Dene, a sister village 72 km to the south. In time 75 names were referred to us for Bible studies. By the fall of 2003, two were requesting baptism and we began to plan how we could follow up on these contacts.

After much consideration and prayer, wishing to go in the most cost effective way, an old motor home was purchased and we, along with John and Willodene Wedler, made our first trip into Fort Ware in June of 2004, totally self contained. To fly in is very expensive. There is no place to stay except for a house where rent for a bed is \$65 a night per person (that is all one gets, nothing to eat or to eat with, and milk is \$8/gal) if available.

Following an afternoon Bible study with 8 women, three said that they were ready to obey so we walked to the Finley River where they were clothed with Christ in baptism. Several days were spent visiting other contacts, more Bible studies, praying with some and assessing opportunities for ministry. One afternoon was spent in Tsay Keh visiting contacts and considering possibilities in that village.

September 2004, we made a return trip after receiving requests to conduct two wedding ceremonies in Tsay Keh. We continued to follow up on contacts and talked with leaders of the village on ways we could minister in areas of need. In both villages we led Sunday worship services, teaching the importance of observing the Lords supper every Sunday, answered many Bible related questions, had some in for meals or coffee in our (mobile) home. In Fort Ware, we had a Sunday school for the kids. We evaluated other opportunities where perhaps John Wedler might work with some of the young men in the areas of welding and mechanics, whetting their appetites and aptitudes to see if they might wish to develop further skills.

June 2005, we made a third trip, accompanied by Ray and Merle Fillion and Willodene. Our outreach was expanded by including a VBS in each village for the kids and having nightly prayer/singing meetings in Tsay Keh. This trip underscored an important truth, and that is the need of developing deep personal relationships, to take a personal interest in them, their families, their past and their dreams "personal evangelism", if you will. As within our own circles, this takes time. Trust is earned, love must be experienced, friendships are tested and acceptance must be unconditional. We were given a gift from several on this last trip - the gift of sharing their inner lives with us. We treasure these gifts from their hearts and feel that it is through developing special relationships that we can influence these precious people with Gods love and His gift to us, salva-

tion through His Son, Jesus.

Gentle reader, we have no illusions about the ease of this mission effort. For all the wonderful events that we are part of, we are well aware of the dark and looming problems that beset the villages. Drug and alcohol use is rampant along with the devastation it brings. The rate of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in children is very high, as is the number of teen pregnancies. We find that after we get back home, our minds are somewhat disconsolate as well as elated by all that we have experienced. But this is, after all, why Jesus came, isn't it? To love, to heal, to bring back to the Father what was His.

Most of the cost of these trips has been made possible by the generosity of many Christian brethren. Other items have been donated, such as Easy-to-Read bibles, Sunday school materials, baby quilts to be distributed to new moms, refreshments for the VBS kids, shoe boxes of goodies for Sunday school kids. We gratefully thank all. Lord willing, we will go again in a few weeks. It is our desire to make two yearly trips, perhaps for a month at a time. There is much involved with this work, as many hours are spent with correspondence courses, writing personal letters of encouragement, providing support to those who come to Vancouver hospitals for medical reasons, visiting those who may be incarcerated in various places and trip preparation.

Our personal financial situation is facing a challenge as we are losing \$1265 of support at the end of November. Any long term commitment of financial support would be greatly appreciated. Our overall ministry has expanded to include any place in the province where members are needing encouragement, preaching or teaching, special meetings or classes and other services such as weddings or funerals.

As always, any questions or correspondence can be addressed to us at 3292 Elmwood Dr., Abbotsford, BC V2S 6B2, or by email: normjen@shaw.ca

Abbotsford, BC

PLEASE NOTE

Early Deadline

For December, 2005 issue

November 8, 2005

For January, 2006 issue

December 6, 2005

Unconscious Slavery (JOHN 8:30-47)

Thayer Salisbury

There are so many negatives in our world today. It is discouraging to have our children growing up without real heroes – finding out that our political leaders are liars and that the athletes they looked up to accomplished their feats by the use of drugs.

Yet there is a lesson to be learned here. Today we are in a good position to understand what Jesus is saying about unconscious slavery. The drug addict is an unconscious slave. He thinks that he is gaining from his drug use, and for a time it appears to be true. In the end he faces shame, ill health and early death. When we think of slavery, we assume that slaves resent their bondage, but it is not always so, for many are unconsciously enslaved. They are enslaved without realizing it.

Jesus is talking about unconscious slavery to sin, and he is talking not to derelicts in the street, hardened criminals, or outspoken atheists, but to people who have expressed some degree of faith in him. Verse 31 indicates that it was to the Jews who had believed in him that Jesus spoke. The drug addict may be the most obvious example of a person enslaved by his sins, but the drug addict is hardly the only, or even the most common, example.

In fact, the danger of becoming an unconscious slave to sin may be greater for the lukewarm believer than it is for the total unbeliever. Jesus is addressing believers here. Paul is addressing believers in Romans when he speaks of slavery to sin (Rom 7:14ff). The warnings of Hebrews 6:4-8 and 2 Peter 2:21-22 are both addressed to believers. In both Hebrews and 2 Peter it is indicated that the danger of wandering back into sin and somehow losing the ability to be saved is very real even for believers – especially for believ-

ers. We must realize that sin slavery has serious consequences, even for those who think that they are believers.

No future

The sin slave has no future. Jesus tells us that, “The slave does not remain in the house forever” (verse 38). The lack of a future is fundamental to most forms of slavery. The slave works not for his own good, but for the good of his owner. In most situations, the slave has little hope of a better future.

In the grosser forms of sin slavery (like alcoholism or sexual perversion) this lack of a future becomes fairly obvious – at least to those not ‘under the influence.’ But many forms of sin slavery rob us of our future while leaving us under the illusion that we are moving toward a desirable goal. As Proverbs 14:12 warns us, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.” Sin normally manages to look attractive, but in reality, “the

evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out” (Pr 24:20).

Yes, there are times when the evil person seems to prosper. We may even be tempted to envy the wicked, but we must remember: “I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree. But he passed away, and behold, he was no more; though I sought him, he could not be found. Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace. But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off” (Psalm 37:35-38).

Inability to think

One of the reasons that the sinner has no future is that sin distorts our thinking. The sin slave eventually loses the ability to think. Jesus goes on to tell these sin slaves, “Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word” (John 8:43). Their sinfulness is harming their ability to listen.

Once again, this is fundamental to the idea of slavery. The literal slave often feels that he might as well not think for himself, since he will not be able to carry out his thoughts. Many, placed in this situation for a long time, actually lose the ability to think.

We, in our fallen state, have suffered damage to our thinking ability. Our reason is flawed by virtue of sin. As sin gains mastery over us, we reach the point that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 2:14, “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” The “deceitfulness of sin” (Heb 3:13) eventually robs the sin slave of the ability to think.

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The Christian Channel:



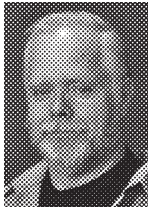
Vision TV is going to launch the first digital Christian Television Network in Canada on October 1, 2005. They have invited Key to the Kingdom

to be a part of this network with the program being broadcast on Thursday mornings at 7:30 (Eastern Time), beginning on October 6, 2005. Vision TV is giving us this time period free of charge through January 26, 2006. The number of homes this new channel will reach at the beginning is about 1,000,000 with a potential viewing audience of 2.5 million. The broadcast area will be mostly in Ontario and eastern Canada, but they plan to expand across the country as quickly as possible. Pray for this new opportunity that new people will be reached.



Finding God in the Ruins

Wayne Turner



For what sins would God destroy a city? The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities of the plain is the ultimate example of God's wrath being poured out on a city for its evil. We could add the fall of other cities like Babylon, Samaria, Jerusalem and Rome to the list. There are times when God allows evil to continue in a city, hoping its residents will repent and turn to Him. And there are times when God chooses to act in a decisive way to cut off the sin and the sinners.

When a city faces some form of cataclysmic disaster, thoughts of these divine judgments in the Bible are often evoked. The recent calamity caused by Hurricane Katrina – the devastation of coastal communities in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana and the virtual loss of the city of New Orleans – is an example.

The city of New Orleans has long called to mind romantic and exotic images. Once dubbed the "Paris of America," the city has been a place where cultures merged to produce a unique result.

The city's reputation for excess and debauchery is epitomized by its annual Mardi Gras. In the face of the devastation of Katrina, that reputation has not been missed by countless news writers and even a few religious leaders who have drawn parallels to divine judgments like the flood or Sodom and Gomorrah. A Muslim cleric and a Jewish rabbi have reportedly proclaimed Katrina's devastation to be divine judgment against the United States for its sins.

It is only natural for people to reach the same conclusions. Given its reputation, why wouldn't God destroy New Orleans? Many believe that "everything happens for a reason." They conclude that given the sovereignty of God, such devastation must have been a deliberate act of His punishment.

But what of other cities with similar reputations? Is there a place for seeing a random act of nature or of human failure to adequately prepare or respond? What of the good and righteous people of New Orleans who may have suffered beside or even instead of their godless neighbours?

Jesus faced a similar, and ancient, line of thinking. For many centuries, people had assumed that those favoured by God would be blessed and prosperous. Therefore, those who suffer must be sinners. Jesus spoke of some Galileans who were slaughtered by Pilate while offering their sacrifices and a group of eighteen who died when a tower in Siloam fell on them. These people were not any worse sinners than those who were listening to him.

Many centuries earlier, Job's friends viewed his suffering in the same terms. He must have done something terrible to deserve his suffering. He was being punished by God. Eliphaz asked, "Who, being innocent, has ever perished?" Of suffering and hardship, Bildad observed, "Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes the hope of the godless." On the surface,

the views of Job's friends seemed to uphold the sovereignty and righteousness of God.

Job maintained that he had done nothing to deserve this fate, that he was no worse than anyone else. He observed that sometimes the righteous suffer and evildoers seem to go unpunished. One cannot tell what a person's relationship with God is by the good or bad that happens to them. In the words of the preacher in Ecclesiastes, "Time and chance happen to all." Ultimately, God does not hedge his people in from the disasters of life. Rather, he offers refuge and hope for all in the face of their tragedy. In the end, God was angry with the friends because they had not "spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has." They had misrepresented His love and justice.

Hurricanes, like earthquakes, tornados, volcanoes, tsunamis, forest fires, and lightning are part of the natural order of the world. They have been shown to be part of the natural cycle of renewal and life on this planet. They may cause incredible hardship and suffering for those who live in their path. Rather than being like Job's friends and trying to accuse and lay blame on those who suffer as a result, we need to see these events as opportunities to share God's love and mercy—not a time to misrepresent God, but rather a time to represent Him to those who need to know Him and be aware of His care and concern for them.

A letter that came from one of the areas devastated by Katrina quietly appeared on the website of some of our brethren in the southern U.S. It mentioned the observation of one local official that in that area, the churches of Christ were among the first to arrive on the scene providing assistance. We need to support and encourage such brethren and to follow their example. One cannot help but wonder in the years of recovery that lie ahead, how many new souls will be won for Christ through these efforts and how many new congregations will be started because Christians shared the message of Jesus Christ, by word and action.

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A Good Audience

I don't like to use the word "audience" in reference to those who make up the congregation of people who come to worship and Bible study. However, for the sake of this article, let me use audience to identify those who attend and take part. Webster's dictionary gives the following for audience: "the act or state of hearing; a group of listeners."

Using both of these ideas, we know there are different kinds of audiences. There are those who are rebellious against a message they do not want to accept. For example, in Acts 7 we read of Stephen, the first of the Christians to die for his faith. He speaks very strongly about those who were hearing him (in verse 51) and their forefathers. "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!" Their reaction was quick and violent. "...they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him...dragged him out of the city and began to stone him" (54, 58).

Others are not outwardly rebellious; rather they simply ignore the message of God. Over the years we have known people who attended worship services and Bible study, perhaps with a husband or wife/girlfriend or boyfriend, who did not have much to say against the message but were indifferent to it. Perhaps thinking they "might" get serious about it some day. Felix is an example of such thinking. "As Paul

discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, 'That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you'" Acts 24:25. As far as the Bible record is concerned, Felix never seemed to find that "convenient" time. Not rebellious in the way those who opposed Stephen were, just indifferent.

Another possibility is that hearers will be truly interested in the message of God and will give good, soul saving attention when it is presented. Consider the life changing response of those who heard on Pentecost. "When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit... Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day'" (Acts 2:37, 38, 41). What a wonderful day of response as the gospel message began to be delivered to the world for the saving of many souls.

A personal favorite of "A Good Audience" is seen in Acts 10 in the account of the conversion of the household of Cornelius. (Take time to read this chapter to refresh your memory of the events.)

The lead characters were Cornelius

and Peter. Cornelius was a centurion in the Roman army. He was a devout, God fearing person who did acts of service in honouring God.(2, 22) In answer to his prayers, an angel of the Lord told him to send to Joppa for (the apostle) Peter. Peter, in the meantime, had seen a troubling vision concerning the power of God to cleanse the unclean. Under normal circumstances when called to go to see Cornelius (a Gentile), Peter might have been hesitant to do so. However, he was told to go with the men as requested, without hesitation. (20)

Peter did not know what to expect when he was asked to go, but what was ahead of him was a good audience. "The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends...Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people...Now we are here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us" (10:24, 27, 33b). Consider this picture.

"Now we are all here" (33). That is family, neighbours and kinsmen of Cornelius have come at his invitation to meet and hear the message that would be brought by Peter. They recognize that they are in the presence of God as they look forward to the message to be delivered. Psalm 139 teaches the fact that we are never out of the presence of God. However, it seems to me that they have a more specific meaning in their statement. They have come together, believing that God is going to give them a message through this visiting evangelist that is important.

Therefore they say, "...to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us." What a good (GREAT!!!) audience is gathered at the invitation

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BibleTalk.ca

with Michael Mazzalongo

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e-mail: youthpage@gospelherald.org



“Give Thanks In All Circumstances”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In Canada we celebrate Thanksgiving on October 10. My only regret is that Thanksgiving Day comes around only once a year. Once a year just isn't enough! Yes, I do enjoy having a day off, yes I like getting together with family and yes I like the turkey; but I would gladly forgo all those things if it meant we could have thanksgiving more often. You see, I believe that the giving thanks part of Thanksgiving is the important part. We need to give thanks more often! When Christians gather on Sunday, or during the week, giving thanks should be a part of those gatherings; but Christians don't gather as often as we need to be giving thanks. Giving thanks daily would still fall short of our goal. If we are going to give thanks in all circumstances we must constantly be giving thanks, we must always be looking for reasons to be thankful.

Giving thanks will help us to recognize how much we have and we do have a lot. We are tempted to focus on what we don't have; the things that we would like to obtain. Over time we can easily convince ourselves that we have it quite rough. Giving thanks will help us to realize what an abundance God has supplied us with. We look at our bills and our bank accounts and are tempted to ask where the abundance is? When faced with too many bills and too little money we find it increasingly

difficult to see the abundance that God has supplied us. Consider these examples of the abundance we enjoy. We throw out more food each day than many people will ever see and we are finding it increasingly difficult to find storage for all the things we have. Kitchen counter tops are covered with all the latest gadgets and appliances that we thought we couldn't live without but almost never use. Clothes closets are bursting with the latest fashions that we just had to have, we thought they would make us feel better about ourselves, but it hasn't worked yet. We have garages full of things that we just couldn't

throw out, but never use. Each year our houses get bigger, but we have less room, because our possessions are crowding us out.

We have not handled our abundance well because we have not stopped long enough in our busy world to give thanks. We have taken our wealth for granted assuming that it will always be there and should always be there. We have assumed that our good lives have brought us these possessions so we deserve them. We have fallen to the temptation of believing that we have worked harder or smarter than others who do not share in these blessings; so we have, in fact, earned our abundance. We have failed to realize that we enjoy many of these blessings through an accident of birth. Had we been born in a third world country our lives would be much different. Are not those who live in third world countries and struggle to find clean water to drink and enough food to eat also God's children and deserving of his

blessings? Thank God for the things He has given you, for all the physical blessings you enjoy, and take some time this month to list all of your physical blessings. Seek to use what you have to glorify God, not yourself, and be generous with those in need. Thanksgiving that fails to produce generosity is a little more than taking inventory.

Giving thanks for our God given abilities will help us to use what God has so generously blessed us with, instead of dreaming about how much we could do if we had the other abilities that we desire.

Giving thanks for the community we live in, and our church family, will encourage us to bloom where we are planted. Instead of fantasizing about all we could do if we lived some-

EXTREME SPIRITUAL MAKEOVER

A Youth Rally
Sponsored by
Great Lakes Bible College

Saturday November 19th, 2005 9:30 am
Waterloo Church of Christ
470 Glenelm Crescent, Waterloo, ON

Activities will tear down worldly junk,
identify the Bible's spiritual blueprint
and build new Christ-centered lives.

Offered to young people ages 15 through university

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where else, and were part of a church family that was all that we thought it should be. "If only the preacher was more dynamic. If only there were more people my own age. If only the worship was more alive then I could really do something." Give thanks for the church family you are a part of, look for their strengths not their weaknesses, look for what is right not for what is wrong and bloom where you are planted. Paul never found a perfect church and no church became perfect through his teaching and leadership, but Paul bloomed where he was planted. Give thanks for your church family and for the community that you live in and bloom where you are planted.

Giving thanks for the people God has blessed us with, and the relationships that we enjoy, will protect us from taking for granted those who are important to us. We will learn to appreciate those whom God has

blessed us with rather than pointing out the faults of all those around us. Giving thanks for our relationships will help us to grow closer to those God has blessed us with rather than constantly searching for others more to our liking.

Giving thanks leads to a happier and more fulfilled life. We have been conditioned to see the negative in everything. The news each evening seldom points to what worked well today, but rather all the things that didn't work well. When we focus on the negative we can quickly get discouraged and convince ourselves that we really do have it tough. I am not suggesting that you simply ignore all that is wrong with our world, and hide your head in the sand, but giving thanks will help us all to find a healthy balance between the positive and the negative.

Can we truly give thanks in all circumstances? Does God really expect

us to give thanks when we are hurting and discouraged? Yes! Giving thanks is even more important when we are hurting or discouraged. It is only too easy to get feeling sorry for ourselves and convince ourselves that no one cares and that God doesn't care, "after all" we ask in our pain, "what has God ever done for me? If God loved me He wouldn't have allowed this to happen to me." Pain and discouragement can blind us to the strength that God is providing us, and the fact that He is still with us, through even the darkest times. In our pain it is only too easy to convince ourselves that our friends and family have deserted us, and we have no one who really cares, even when we know it isn't true. Give thanks in all circumstance, especially when you struggle, especially when you hurt. He is still there for you and so are all those who love you and there are more of them than you realize. Happy Thanksgiving!



Great Lakes Upcoming Events
Mark your Calendars!


Oct. 1 Annual Corporation Meeting

Oct. 15-17 Homecoming Weekend 2005 - Theme "Celebrating 115 years of Service". Honouring: Brian Boden, Ed Whittington, Art Ford, and Earl Clint

Nov. 5 Partnership Dinner at GLCC (revised date)

Nov. 6 - 8 Great Lakes Lectureships Hosea: A Life of Faith and Fidelity

Dec. 9 - 10 GLCC Drama Production



You are invited to attend our

Partnership Dinner
November 5th, 2005

our Annual Fundraising kick-off
Event honouring

Dr. John and Lorene Smiley
for their Christian service

Hosted by Great Lakes Christian College
and Great Lakes Bible College

Tickets - \$15 must be purchased by October 21st
from a ticket seller in your congregation
or by calling Suanne Whitfield at 905-563-5374
x.210 or by emailing swhitfield@glcc.on.ca

Great Lakes Lectureships are being held
November 6, 7 and 8.

We hope you will make plans to stay and join us.



Restorationists, Evangelicals, and the Quest for a Christian Nation

Edwin Broadus

Christians long for a larger society with Christian values flowing from a Christian worldview, and they are grieved when the culture grows increasingly secular. Since we live in a secular world, how can we influence our secular society in a Christian direction? There are no easy answers, but the means we employ will depend considerably on how we view the relationship of God's kingdom to the kingdoms of this world. Since, as Restorationists, many of our moral values are similar to those of Evangelicals, we are tempted to make common cause with them. But we need to do this warily, for many of them believe the solution is a "Christian nation" achieved through the political process.

This approach is especially evident in the United States, but it is upheld by some Evangelicals in Canada. The more extreme advocates include Dominionists and the Reconstructionalists. The former base their view on Genesis 1:28, where Adam and Eve (and presumably their descendants) were given "dominion" (King James Version) over all other of God's creatures. Although it takes a questionable exegesis to limit this dominion to Christians and to place them in control of human government, this interpretation has gained widespread credence.

Reconstructionalists are fewer in number, but they make up for this with a much more elaborated position that finds the model of government in the Old Testament laws for the nation of Israel, including all those that demand the death penalty. Reconstructionalism has been set out in detail by some conservative Reformed theologians, including John Rushdoony, in his 800-page book, *Institutes of Biblical Law*.

It is safe to say that most Evangelicals who seek a Christian nation envision something much more benign than the Reconstructionalist version. It is also safe to say that most of them are without any kind of well-

thought-out biblical rationale for wanting a Christian nation but see some form of it as the only sensible alternative to the secular society that we live in today.

Before we in Churches of Christ, who historically are Restorationists, gullibly join with them in this quest for a Christian nation, we need to understand a fundamental difference between Restorationists and Evangelicals – a difference identified by Richard Hughes in *Reclaiming Our Heritage* in a chapter partly entitled, "Why Restorationists Don't Fit the Evangelical Mold." Restorationists go back to the apostolic age for their model, while Evangelicals go back to the Protestant Reformation, when state churches were the norm and where the ideal was most fully realized in John Calvin's Geneva, which was a theocracy – an ideal duplicated about a century later in Puritan New England. In these theocracies the government enforced both religious and civil law.

Most Evangelicals today would consider Calvin's Geneva or Puritan New England much too harsh, but yet they yearn for a political system that will enforce Christian values. This explains why in the United States so many Evangelicals accept a revisionist history that maintains their country was founded as a Christian nation. This despite the fact that some of its most prominent founders, like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, were not Christians but Deists, and that their Constitution specifically states that "no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any office or public Trust under the United States" (Article VI). It was only in the 19th century that Protestants, despite the separation of church and state, came to dominate the institutions and culture of the United States, and an idealized version of this is what Evangelicals there yearn for.

Aside from the political and social problems that would arise in multicultural and multireligious societies, like those of Canada and the United States, if the views of one kind of Christians were made the norm, there are serious objections from a Christian standpoint to the Evangelical quest for a Christian nation. It is important that we understand these objections.

1. There is no satisfactory way to decide whose version of a Christian nation to put in place. Wars were fought in Post-Reformation Europe to try to settle this question. Within the lifetime of many of us there were fears among Evangelicals that the Roman Catholic version of a Christian nation would be instituted, and then there were staunch advocates of the separation of church and state. But now that they have greater influence, Evangelicals are less convinced of this principle.

2. Christians have no biblical right to coerce non-Christians to subscribe to their values and practices when these non-Christians do not believe in them.

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Paul eschewed coercion when, after calling for discipline within the church, he said that this did not apply to those outside: "What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? ...God will judge those outside" (1 Corinthians 5:12-13). The Christian approach toward non-Christians is not to coerce but to try to persuade, or convince. Secularism is currently ascendant in our society because of the persuasiveness of secularists who have outthought and out taught Christians for more than a century. Meanwhile, if anything, Christians have become lazier in their thinking, and a vacuous piety has become dominant among Evangelicals and is fast prevailing among Restorationists.

3. History shows that the church sells its soul when it becomes enmeshed with the state. As a persecuted sect, Christianity triumphed over paganism in its first 250 years, but when it became the state religion in the days of the Emperor Constantine, Christianity quickly went into decline. State churches in supposedly Christian nations after the Protestant Reformation were soon filled with the unconverted. Even Puritan New England,

which began with entire communities of people who covenanted together to follow God, found that within a generation or two not everyone shared the original faith. One is hard-pressed to find any historical example of the church being brought closer to God when it becomes enmeshed in politics and the affairs of human government.

What then should Christians do in the face of growing secularism? If "the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world" (2 Corinthians 10:4), what can we do?

1. To begin with, we need to recognize and maintain the difference between the church and culture. Instead of demanding that those in the world live by God's standards, we need to uphold these standards in the church. As it is, Christian families seem to break up about as often as those of non-Christians. Materialistic lifestyles seem as common among Christians as non-Christians.

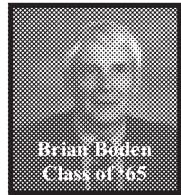
2. We should work to make society better through teaching, example and prayer. These are all godly weapons. Some Christians do this by working within

government to make society better. All of us can use our votes and voices, not to coerce people to do right, but to try to convince them. And we must always pray for those in authority.

3. We must plan for the long haul. It took early Christianity three centuries to defeat paganism. During that time Christian apologists, writers and teachers persisted in setting forth God's truth. Today, Western culture is secular because secular philosophers, thinkers, writers and teachers persisted for centuries to bring this about. We need to believe that if the world lasts long enough, this too can be reversed. But if this happens, it will be because Christians value and exercise scholarship and encourage well-prepared writers, teachers and preachers who live what they profess.

Ultimately God's truth and God's kingdom will prevail. Sometimes the present situation does not seem to support this, and we cry out, "How long? How long?" But Christians know that history is moving toward God's triumph and that eventually we can participate in this victory.

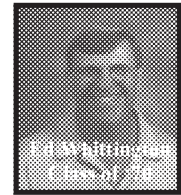
Burlington, Ontario



Brian Boden
Class of '65

GREAT LAKES CHRISTIAN COLLEGE HOMECOMING 2005

October 14, 15 & 16th

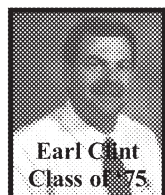


Ed Whittington
Class of '76

2005 Homecoming Theme: "Celebrating 115 years of Service"

Please join us as we celebrate the service of our long-term Alumni Staff:
Brian Boden (35 yrs), Ed Whittington (30 yrs), Earl Clint (25 yrs), and Art Ford (25 yrs).

Make plans to arrive Friday evening for a Badminton Alumni Tournament 7 pm and devotional to follow. Saturday is packed full of events: Saturday Brunch, BBQ lunch, on-site Class reunions, Saturday evening banquet. Stay and worship with us Sunday morning as we close the weekend.



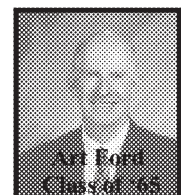
Earl Clint
Class of '75

Watch your mail for more information on activities and how to register.

E-mail: lakers@glccalumni.net to update us on your contact information.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Art Ford
Class of '65



by *Walter R. Straker*
750 Clark Blvd.
Bramalea, ON L6T 3Y2
Fax: 905 792-8623
E-mail: bramaleacof@bellnet.ca

Reminder: To be published in the following month's 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: A ladies day on the topic of "Stress" was scheduled for October 1, with guest speaker Joyce Turpin.

Beamsville: Craig Ford preached for the congregation on August 21. A meeting was held Sunday evening, August 21, to hear about Ruth Zimmerman's work in PNG. She returned to New Guinea on August 23. Dan and Clara Pauls celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on August 28. A special welcoming service for Great Lakes Christian College students was held on September 7.

Bramalea: Sarah Ignacio was baptized September 4 by her father, Alex. Her mother Sonia and brother Andrew were present. Recently placing membership with the congregation were Derrick and Faith Wilson; Grace Aikins, Vivian Osei-Cobbina and children Victoria, Craig and Nancy; Norma and Luke Brown; and Carlos, Cassandra Campbell and children, Carlos, Jr., Crystal and Chantel. Several visitors attended the congregation's "Bring-A-Friend" Sunday September 11.

Brantford: An evening song service was held August 28, followed by a devotional and ice cream social. A fall meeting with Steve and Phyllis May

is scheduled for November 4, 5 and 6.

Grimsby: Congratulations to Micah Jones who won a scholarship in his "Gateway Year" as "Most Promising Student" at Great Lakes Bible College in Waterloo. August 27, 28, Bill Schwarz spoke in a seminar on "finding a Minister." He also spoke the following Sunday morning.

Kingston: The congregation is happy to have college students return for their new school year. The brethren have had more devotionals and prayer meetings recently, adding some nice variation to their usual Bible studies.

Meaford: August 14, Scott Mansfield and Russell McNalty were guest speakers. Randy and Lois Morrity have announced their resignation and will move to Collingwood at the first of November to work with the church there. August 27, Ron Knight made a presentation in Owen Sound at the annual meeting of the Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society about the Restoration Movement in the Georgian Bay area. Jerry Tallman, from Rochester, Michigan, presented a workshop September 11-14 on the theme of reaching out for Christ through service and evangelism. A Young Adult Retreat Weekend was held September 16, 17 and 18 on the theme: "Our Faith, Our Future."

Newmarket: In August the congregation met Wednesday night for Bible study at two different nursing homes. The residents enjoyed the singing and lesson. Nathan Pickard's lessons during the month of September were on giving. Everett Kent has resigned as an elder of the congregation.

Owen Sound: The 2005 Ladies Renewal was on September 23-25 on the topic: "Balance in a Christian Woman's Life." Speakers were Doreen Ellis, Pat Knutson and Phyllis May.

Stratford: The congregation held its 20th anniversary celebration Sunday, September 18.

Sundridge: The congregation's first annual Young Adult weekend was scheduled for September 23-25 at Deer Lake Christian Camp. The topic was "A Faith That is Fun and Lasts Forever." Don Smith, from Beamsville, was guest speaker.

Tintern: Taylor Davison was baptized August 5. The congregation had "Church in the Park" on Sunday morning, September 4, at a local park. Worship was followed by a potluck lunch, fellowship and games for the children. 200 attended and a large number of them were community visitors.

Toronto (Strathmore): Ervin Ballabani and his sister, Klodeta, have recently come to Strathmore from Albania. Olivia Clahar and her children, Ginelle and Kyle, also recently came to Strathmore. The congregation's annual lectureship, hosted by the congregation's young adults, was scheduled from September 23-25 on the topic: "The Whole Duty of Man." Speakers were Ike and Albert Etienne, Ovi Tudor, and Dexter Philip. (See Key To The Kingdom ad for an exciting new opportunity for Key.)

Waterloo: KEENAGERS met September 16

for a devotional, potluck meal and visiting. The first meeting of the Widows' Fellowship Group was scheduled for Sunday afternoon, September 18. The university/college/career group was to meet for a barbeque at the Toohey home. On August 21, Junsheng and Lin Tai were baptized into Christ. Junsheng is Professor of Economics, and Deputy-President at Central University of Finance and Economics, in Beijing. On September 3, he left for China for the fall season. The 26th Annual Ontario Men's Retreat was held September 16 and 17 on the topic of "Give Respect to God." Kevin Hunter, from Bramalea and Greg Smith, from Walkerton, were guest speakers. Bob Rigdon was special guest speaker on August 28.

Windsor: The congregation recently collected \$2,337 (US) for the hurricane disaster relief. A "Check Up from the Neck Up" seminar was scheduled for September 24, with motivational speaker Dr. Jim Kennedy. These seminars are designed to let the community know that the church is there to help.

QUEBEC

Montreal (Verdun): Current prayer requests: A person or couple to begin a "FriendSpeak" or "Let's Start Talking" programme with the large number of immigrants in Verdun; campus ministers to work at the four universities in downtown Montreal; and financial assistance to help with the congregation's building project. (Special Note) - I am writing to inform you that Lise and I are leaving Montreal this Friday (September 16) for Louisiana in order to help out with the disaster relief effort. One of the congregations just north of New Orleans was spared the destruction of the storm and pressed into service by the Red Cross as a distribution point for supplies and assistance for the region that was devastated. While corresponding with brother Doug Hines, who is from that area and helping to direct operations down there, I became aware of the need for persons to provide counselling and other services for the many people seeking not only food and shelter but also spiritual comfort. Brother Hines has made arrangements for Lise and I to travel down and join the brethren already working on the ground. We plan to be there for ten days. Lise will work in the distribution center and office and I will minister where needed. I ask that you remember us in your prayers and also pray for the many brethren who are involved in the disaster relief effort - especially this congregation that is making a great witness for Christ in their community. Also, if you would like to contribute to the efforts being made by the church to supply food, equipment, and ministry to the people in that region you can donate to "Tammany Oaks Church of Christ Disaster Relief, PO Box 22, Manderville, Louisiana, 70470-0022. Please know that your money will be used directly for the purchase of supplies and services by the church for their community. Thank you for remembering us and enabling us to serve. - Fraternally, Mike & Lise

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Tel: (905) 945-3058



by Marion Waugh
6931 Farrell Bay
Regina, SK S4X 3V4
Phone: (306) 545-0550
E-mail: waughr1@sasktel.net

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

ALBERTA

Edmonton: Roberta Curtis was recently baptized. An evangelist search committee has been formed. Kayla Kater and Samantha Goodin traveled to Lloydminster to assist with the VBS there. Kate Clark, Melissa Scott, Zach Jacques, Dan Bartley, Neil McCartan and Bodie Cissell traveled to Medicine Hat and assisted with the VBS there. Several attended the Rocky Mountain Wilderness Camp at Pincher Creek. A barbecue was held to honour Paul Hillier. He has graduated from the intern program and will be working in St. Catharines, Ontario. A farewell was held for the Dave Friesen family. They are presently training in Lubbock for a future mission trip in Australia. At the workshop, Oct. 7-9, Lloyd Deal of Edmond, Oklahoma, will be speaking on "Personal Evangelism." Lesson titles include: Our place in God's Plan to Save Souls, Evangelistic Methods of Jesus, God Makes a Man, Attitudes That Make Soul Winners, Opening Doors and Hearts. A congregational family camp and picnic was held September 16-18.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

(As reported by Barbara Lewis)

Central Valley (Abbotsford): Nurse and jack-of-all-trades Velma Forman arrived in Vancouver September 14 to start her four-month furlough after three years of work in Papua New Guinea. After a brief visit with her family, she will be off to Saskatchewan to speak at several congregations. She plans to visit a number of churches in Central B.C. this month. As the annual PNG Mission Forum is being held in Little Rock, AR. this year, she will be heading south to attend it Oct. 28, 29, following it up with a trip to Memphis, TN. In Nov., she will visit the churches on Vancouver Island to speak about her work, as well as to any of the Greater Vancouver congregations who wish to hear her report.

Burnaby: Allen and Betty Jacobs, along with Marilyn and Elizabeth, returned Sept. 2 from their five-week stay in India, reporting that they believed their trip was worthwhile. The Jacobs showed the video series on Revelation, by Richard Rogers, to mature Indian preachers in three cities. Erol and Debra Dogan left Sept. 6 for Israel, in spite of the precariousness of the situation in that country. They will be working in the Jerusalem area most of their three-month stay.

City Church (E. Vanc): "I have completed the new ESL textbook in September. My daughter, Heather, finished her artwork and we began making copies. The new book, as mentioned in the past, is not a grammar-based ESL text, but rather a book full of typical conversations that English speakers might have. In the stories are direct and indirect references to the Christian life, the problem of anger and swearing, cheating and just doing the right thing. Each text will be about 100 pages in length to be used as a supplement alongside a standard text for the English portion of the class. The Bible is the only text for our Bible study time. Subsequent works of a similar length are planned that will include problems of separation and divorce, gambling, etc. These will not be approached with a "this is what the Bible says," but rather come up as concerns in every day conversations. The solutions will be based on the moral and ethical teachings of Jesus as found in the gospels. We are trying to get these adult students to think about

their own lives and the answers Jesus has for them. Most of the topics I have mentioned here have already come up in our classes."—Part of a report from Steve Hasbrouck

Deep Cove: Even though we are a very small group, we were able to get a sizable check off to the church in Baton Rouge, LA., at once, to aid them in their work with displaced Christians in the New Orleans area. Although Dan and Jennie Keeran have moved into Vancouver, we continue to be in touch with those who have responded to our ads concerning prayer in homes.

Delta: We were happy to welcome our new preacher and his wife, Jeremy and Jacinthe Frost, on September 1. The two did mission work in the country of Guinea, West Africa, most of the summer. Several were able to witness the baptism of Matt Waddell Aug. 11. Matt is the eldest son of Larry and Rose Waddell. Accompanied by his dad, he left for Harding University the next week.

Kamloops: It was with concern and disappointment that Central Valley's Norm and Jen Weir learned that Kamloops Christians are no longer meeting together for a Sunday service. They had to give up the rented building they were using in May, due to lack of funds, but are now getting together on Wednesday evenings for a Bible study in a home.

Maple Ridge: We are doing a series of outreach events, mostly unadvertised things aimed at inviting friends. Henry Kriete is fitting in well and we are "learning again". It has been awhile since we have heard anyone except each other, so his lessons are refreshing.

MANITOBA

Winnipeg (Central): Men are being considered in the process of selecting Elders and Deacons. This will be completed for September. The 10th annual clothing give-away will be held in September. A youth (grades 7-12) camping trip is planned to be at Redden's Camp Ground in Kenora. An Education Workshop: Choosing, Using and Creating Bible Class Curriculum is being held September 17. Areas for discussion will include: How to make the best use of the class material and teachers' guides you order for your Bible classes; What to choose when your class time is not enough for everything in the books; Making an effective class plan and preparing to engage our students; How can I design my own curriculum based on a Bible book, character or theme? The Ladies' Bible Class is resuming with a study on the book of Ephesians. Chad and the mission team will present a report on the July trip to Mexico City September 18.

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MISSION NEWS

Barbara Lewis
1478 Mary Hill Lane
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E-mail: rayel@lightspeed.ca

USA Disaster: Truly, when disaster strikes our globe, it makes people forget their differences, petty jealousies and hatreds, in an outpouring of concern for their fellow man. When the full extent of the effects of Hurricane Katrina that befell three Southern States became known world-wide, it brought offers of help from over 100 countries, among the first being Canada. The response from so many nations was so overwhelming that those trying to deal with the crisis did not have time to acknowledge them. Even those who have considered the U. S. their enemy for decades, such as Cuba, offered assistance. Indonesia, the hardest hit by the Tsunami, offered what financial aid it could. Because of their proximity to the disaster, churches of Christ throughout the affected States, and immediately adjoining them, were among those first on the scene. A number of the larger congregations stay prepared at all times, whether it be to rush to the aid of a hurricane in Mexico, a fire in the Southwest, or an earthquake on the other side of the world, they are ready to move quickly and efficiently with whatever is most needed. All supplies destined for other countries were immediately diverted to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Churches and families opened their doors to house evacuees. Personnel found permanent places to transfer them to as quickly as possible, renting apartments and motel accommodations wherever they could be found. Not only were the evacuees supplied with immediate food, clothing, shelter and basic medical care, but many were linked to the families from whom they had been separated. The good that may come from this tragedy is that many people living in poverty and hopelessness will have been lifted to a new way of life, and taught about the love of God that prompted so many to give them help during this sudden traumatic time in their lives. Though unrecognized by the world, many catastrophes have God's silver linings in their clouds.

Africa (Ethiopia and Sudan): Seattle well-driller Curt King expected to be in Ethiopia early this month to continue drilling water wells. John Ed Clark, who spearheads the Ethiopian work from the Woodward Park church of Christ in Fresno, CA.,

planned to spend a week in Uganda to assess the work being done among the refugees from Sudan, now that a peace agreement has been enacted. Repatriation is scheduled to start by the end of this month. A very unfortunate accident claimed the life of the newly-elected President of South Sudan, Dr. John Garang De Mabior, who was killed in a helicopter crash on July 30, only three weeks after taking office. At a Memorial Service in Vancouver on Sept. 10, several hundred Sudanese and their friends paid tribute to the man they consider to be the saviour of their nation. Through 22 years of Civil war, Dr. Garang pursued his dream of achieving peace and reuniting his country through political means rather than bloodshed. He was finally successful a few months ago when a peace agreement between North and South Sudan was reached, and he was made First Vice President of the Republic of Sudan, and President of the Southern Region. Some rioting occurred when news of his death reached the country, but it was quelled when people were convinced that the crash was due to mechanical problems, rather than terrorist activity.

China: Ultimate allegiance to the Communist party, NOT to God, is the reason millions in China are risking their lives to meet secretly in house churches rather than with the official churches controlled by the government. About 10 to 15 million attend those, but it is estimated that five times that many are participating in

underground groups to study the Bible. In spite of the fact that three people were recently sentenced to death for smuggling Bibles and operating an unauthorized church, Christians are still risking their lives to deliver them to remote villages by packaging them in containers as though they were common consumer items. At predetermined places, an unassuming person, (such as a grandmother) will await the delivery by the side of a road. A Chinese distributor for the World Bible Translation Center in Fort Worth, TX., then returns to the area to verify that the Bibles have been distributed. In big cities, word is spread through an underground church network that 1,000 Bibles are going to be ready by a certain date. Chinese leaders secretly come together at that time, taking them to various underground house churches. As WBTC personnel, who have seen the operation, describe it, "It is like watching water being poured on sand—the Bibles just disappear."

Ukraine (Kiev): The Shevchenko church celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a special banquet last Feb. 26. Through slides, video reports and photographs, the history of the congregation was remembered from the early first days in 1990, when the country was in crisis as the Soviet Union started to unravel and fall apart, to the present. At that time, Christians were not only ignored, but often avoided by Ukrainians because they were afraid to be seen associating with foreigners in any way. From a handful meeting in the Rick Pinczuck apartment, the church has grown to over 70, with a family representation which includes children, pre-teens, teens, young adults, married couples and seniors, and is involved in numerous good works.

Sendai, Japan: Akiko Kawamura, LST reader who studied with Joel Osborne, was baptized into Christ on Sunday, August 21. Akiko immediately had to leave for Uzbekistan for a one-year university project. Please pray for her growth and safety in that country. Akira Mawatari, after being estranged from the Sendai congregation for two years, recently apologized for his action and began attending services again. Akira is now completing his studies at York College in Nebraska. Yuko Kawamura, one of Sendai's first converts, is also back at York College working on a Communications & Bible degree. Paul and Mitsuyo Mawatari are now in North America raising personal support as well as money to build Mt. Zao Christian High School. Earthquake struck Japan in early August. It registered 6 on the Japanese scale in the Miyagi prefecture, and hit hardest in northern

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Sendai. Damage and injuries were minimal. John Osborne, from Oklahoma Christian University, recently visited Japan to help with FriendsCamp after the summer's Let's Start Talking work. In a letter to sponsors and supporters of the Sendai team, John says: "There is great respect (among other Japanese congregations) for what they are doing. The talents of this team provide a good balance of strengths. Their Japanese language skills have increased dramatically, and they are preaching, teaching and worship leading in Japanese." If you would like to receive a copy of the letter, please contact Bramalea. Special Prayer Requests: Brother & Sister Hosoi, who continue to grieve over the death of their daughter, Megumi. Follow-up on the Let's Start Talking programme by the Sendai congregation and team, as well as by other congregations where the LST programme was held. In Sendai, several Bible studies are scheduled as a result of LST and the York College Choir's May visit. To receive information or reports, contact Bramalea Church of Christ - 905-792-2297, or bramaleacofc@bellnet.ca; Joel Osborne - joelosborne@yahoo.com; Jonathan and Michiko Straker - jstrake@yahoo.com; or the Sendai website - www.sendaimissions.com.

SENDAI BIBLE CHALLENGE

October 2005				
1	Saturday	Isaiah	45-46	Hebrews 13
2	Sunday	Isaiah	47-49	Matthew 1
3	Monday	Isaiah	50-52	Matthew 2
4	Tuesday	Isaiah	53-55	Matthew 3
5	Wednesday	Isaiah	56-58	Matthew 4
6	Thursday	Isaiah	59-61	Matthew 5:1-26
7	Friday	Isaiah	62-64	Matthew 5:27-48
8	Saturday	Isaiah	65-66	Matthew 6:1-18
9	Sunday	Psalms	116-118	Matthew 6:19-34
10	Monday	Psalms	119:1-88	Matthew 7
11	Tuesday	Psalms	119:89-176	Matthew 8:1-17
12	Wednesday	Psalms	120-122	Matthew 8:18-34
13	Thursday	Psalms	123-125	Matthew 9:1-17
14	Friday	Psalms	126-128	Matthew 9:18-38
15	Saturday	Psalms	129-131	Matthew 10:1-20
16	Sunday	Psalms	132-134	Matthew 10:21-42
17	Monday	Psalms	135-136	Matthew 11
18	Tuesday	Psalms	137-139	Matthew 12:1-23
19	Wednesday	Psalms	140-142	Matthew 12:24-50
20	Thursday	Psalms	143-145	Matthew 13:1-30
21	Friday	Psalms	146-147	Matthew 13:31-58
22	Saturday	Psalms	148-150	Matthew 14:1-21
23	Sunday	Jeremiah	1-2	Matthew 14:22-36
24	Monday	Jeremiah	3-5	Matthew 15:1-20
25	Tuesday	Jeremiah	6-8	Matthew 15:21-39
26	Wednesday	Jeremiah	9-11	Matthew 16
27	Thursday	Jeremiah	12-14	Matthew 17
28	Friday	Jeremiah	15-17	Matthew 18:1-20
29	Saturday	Jeremiah	18-19	Matthew 18:21-35
30	Sunday	Jeremiah	20-21	Matthew 19
31	Monday	Jeremiah	22-23	Matthew 20:1-16

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

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We must not go on in sin. We must not promise to repent at some point in the future. We may not have a future. Tomorrow may not come, but even if it does come, we might by then have lost the ability to receive the word of Christ. The longer we continue in sin, the less likely it becomes that we will be able to think clearly enough to receive the word of Christ.

The cure

The picture is bleak, but not entirely bleak. Sin slavery has a cure. We may not want to admit it, but the cure is not self-deliverance. Self-deliverance is impossible due to the effects of the slavery on our thinking.

The cure is in the hands of a powerful saviour. We cannot deliver ourselves from sin slavery, but Jesus can set us free. "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Let us take seriously the dangers of sin slavery. Let us not trust in the illusionary future that sin promises, nor rely any longer on our fallen, sin damaged reasoning abilities. Let us instead surrender ourselves to the Saviour.

Toledo, Ohio

Life or Death

Richard Maddeaux

You may have heard about the murder trial that's been in the news recently. The defendant has admitted to fatally stabbing her husband, but claims she acted in self-defense. This particular case catches my interest because one of the couple's sons believes the mother is innocent and another believes that she is guilty. And now 12 strangers will try to determine which brother is correct. Of course, we may never know what really happened because a verdict isn't truth; it's just a decision.

Matters are different with Stephen's trial in Acts 6 and 7 because the story is narrated by a partial witness. Three times it is revealed that the trial is phony. Four times it is revealed that Stephen is full of the Spirit and wisdom, a man of irreproachable character. So, when the high priest asks if the charges against him are true, the question rings hollow.

The question of truth still lingers though, because the charges actually are true. Note the two accusations in 6:13-14: Stephen preaches that Jesus will destroy the temple and change the customs of Moses. Two major no-nos: speaking against the temple and the Law. And if Stephen is speaking by the Spirit, I'm sure that Stephen *has* been saying exactly that. So the charges are true; it's the surrounding set of assumptions that are false. And that's why Stephen can't answer the High Priest's question with a simple "Yes" or "No." He needs a story.

The assumptions that Stephen's accusers are making relate to the temple and the Law and the work of God on the earth. Their ideas are not ridiculous. God did establish both of these institutions and He has worked through them both. The mistake that the Sanhedrin makes here is to suggest that God can *only* work through

these means. Therefore, Stephen's comments about destruction and change stand against the work of God. They are blasphemy.

Stephen's ultimate defense is that he speaks in the name of Jesus, which is an authority higher than either the temple or the Law. But if the Sanhedrin is to understand this, Stephen must first undermine the strength of these assumptions. He does this in two ways. First, he reminds them that God was active in the lives of the Patriarchs long before He gave either the temple or the Law. So, God can work outside these institutions. Second, even when

Whether we live or die is less important than how we live and die.

the people had the Law and the temple, they still committed idolatry and killed the prophets. So, those who have the Law and the temple are not necessarily doing the work of God. In fact, the very men who accuse Stephen stand in a long line of people who were zealous for the traditions of Moses and the city of David, but did not know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Of course, this doesn't save Stephen. He is killed anyway, which is another truth with many assumptions around it. We might think that he must have displeased God in some way. We might think that following Christ isn't worth the possible consequences. We might think that survival is the most important thing. But Stephen again shows us something more true. As he is being stoned, he prays that those who are throwing the rocks would be forgiven this sin, echoing the prayer of Jesus on the cross. In Stephen's death we see that whether we live or die is less important than how we live and die. Survival is not the most important thing. To hold onto the truth of Jesus' teaching and the character of his life is most important.

Kingston, ON

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN **Brantford,** ONTARIO,

a city of 82,000, is looking for a full time evangelist to work with a congregation of 40 members to encourage each other as we work towards outreach. We are currently able to provide partial support.

We are looking for an evangelist with:

- experience
- financial support
- good rapport with people

Resumes should be forwarded to:

Brantford Church of Christ
c/o Roy Cox
267 North Park Street
Brantford, Ontario
N3R 4L2
519-449-3239

Please forward a video or tape if available.



Great Lakes Presidential Search



About Us

Great Lakes Christian College is a residential and day secondary school located in Beamsville, Ontario in the beautiful and historic Niagara Peninsula. Since our founding in 1952, our primary mission has been integrating Christian faith and practice with academic excellence. The school serves a student body of approximately 125 students per year and employs over thirty dedicated and caring staff.

Great Lakes Bible College was established to prepare students for effective spiritual living, Christian service and world evangelism by providing post secondary education in Biblical studies, theology and ministry. The Bible College is a degree granting institution with a student body of ten full time students and growing. The Bible College operates in Waterloo, Ontario, with administrative offices in Beamsville, Ontario.

The Christian and Bible College operate under a Joint Operating Agreement enabling one President to preside over both colleges. Both schools are operated by members of the churches of Christ.

**Great Lakes Christian College and Great Lakes Bible College
invite applications and nominations for the Position of President.**

The Role

The role is comprised of, but not limited to, the following responsibilities:

Reporting to the boards of each school, the successful candidate will serve as CEO of all the Great Lakes operations; High School, Bible College and Preschool. The key responsibility of the President is to direct the public relations program including; publicity, advertising, promotion, fundraising and constituency relations. As a result, the candidate must be prepared to travel.

The president will coordinate the efforts of all administrators in development, business management, recruitment and operation of each education program. The President will establish and implement strategic plans, marketing plans, budgets and operating plans that align with the mission, vision and value statements as established by each school as approved by the boards.

Requirements

- The successful candidate must believe in the mission, vision and values of the schools, with the capability to articulate the mission/vision & values with passion and charisma
- Must have a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and the advancement of His Kingdom by building faith in young people
- Be, or become, a member of the Bible and Christian College Corporations
- Post secondary education — advanced degree considered an asset
- Technical excellence in traditional disciplines i.e. finance, operations, and marketing

As an employee of GLCC you will have the opportunity to participate in the following: Employee benefit package, group RRSP, subsidized cafeteria program and tuition discounts for immediate family members, discounts from other organizations.

To Apply

- **Please submit your resume and covering letter in confidence to search@glcc.on.ca by October 31st, 2005.**
- Target start date: April 2006
- For additional documentation describing the role email search@glcc.on.ca
- Please allow several weeks to receive response to any communication.

OBITUARIES

Bennetts, Ina

January 31 1913 - May 23, 2005.

Generous heart, caring hands, courageous spirit. It is with cherished memories and heartfelt gratitude to her that we announce Ina's journey from this life into the arms of the Lord on May 23, 2005, surrounded by her loving family at the Meaford Long Term Care Centre.

Beloved, devoted and faithful wife to the late Albert Bennetts (60 years married). Much loved and cherished mother to Edythe Williams and her husband Roy, and Frances Groves and her husband Larry. Dear grandmother to Brent Williams (& Denyse), Dwayne Williams (& Janine), Brian Williams, Alex Groves and Jonathon Groves. Loving great-grandmother to 6 admiring young eyes and hearts. Dear Sister to Harry Robertson and his wife Isobel from Kingston, ON.

Ina was loyal and faithful to her family, the Lord and His church. She was a devoted elder's wife for 37 years. She was dedicated to supporting Christian Education and was a member of the WAVES for many years.

She instilled in her family the Christian values necessary for successful living. She was hospitable to all and she will be sorely missed by many friends throughout the region.

A stirring memorial service took place on May 25 at the Gardiner-Wilson Funeral Home in Meaford. Many tributes and words of encouragement were provided by her family. The graveside service was held at the family plot - Prospect Cemetery - Toronto, ON - officiated by Roy Williams and Dwayne Williams

Breadner, Leslie James

Leslie Breadner was born in Euphrasia Township on September 8, 1916. He was the last surviving of six children, two sons and four daughters, born to William Breadner and Henrietta Knott. On June 21, 1941, Les was married to his beloved wife Mary (nee Cann) at Heathcote, Ontario. J. C. Bailey, a relative of Mary's, officiated at the ceremony. Les and Mary shared many happy, fulfilling years together; and had celebrated their sixty-fourth wedding anniversary about a month and half before Les' passing on August 4, 2005, at the Errin Rung Nursing Home in Thornbury at the age of eighty-eight. He would have celebrated his eighty-ninth birthday just a little over a month later.

Seven children, four boys and three girls were born to Les and Mary. Three sons, Ron (Mickey), Dennis (Laura), and Brian (Debbie), and two daughters, Cathy (Gary) and Cindy survive Les. One son, Gary, and one daughter, Margaret preceded him in death.

Besides his loving wife, Mary, and their five remaining children, Les is fondly remembered by fourteen grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren. Les' many nephews, nieces and their families, his neighbours, friends and his church family, the Heathcote (until the time of its closing) and Meaford Churches of Christ, will also have many treasured memories of the times they spent with him and Mary and their family. His twin brother Laverne and four sisters, Mildred Vamplew, Marguerite Wilkinson, Jean Dooks, and Ruth Cooper predeceased Les.

Les will be remembered as a quiet, kind hearted, hard-working man. He was a loving, caring, generous husband, father, uncle and friend. Les was also a man with good insights who could offer sound advice; but who seldom did unless he was asked because he did not wish to seem opinionated or interfering. Les was a man of faith who loved his Lord and the church. He had deep convictions and was active, firm, and steadfast in his commitment and devotion. Over the years, Les made many contributions to the church in various ways. He was also a firm believer and supporter of the work of Great Lakes Christian College.

At Les' funeral, his daughter Cindy brought a fitting tribute on behalf of the family and a granddaughter, Danielle, sang a song for grandpa. Peter McDonald led the congregation in singing three of Les' favourite hymns that spoke of his faith, hope and assurance.

- Randy Morrill

Cameron, Colin Robert

Colin was born in Toronto on March 31, 1915, the eldest son of Colin and Mary Cameron. He passed away on August 23, 2005. There was no question about what the name of the new baby would be. The eldest son of the eldest son was always named "Colin". His parents and paternal grandparents had immigrated to Canada from Scotland a decade earlier. It was a heritage of which the Cameron family was proud. The music of the pipes, Scottish pastries and fern tarts were regular fair at Sunday breakfast. Scottish traditions marked the passing of the old year and Scottish burr-r-r never left the voices.

In the early years of the Depression, Colin was fortunate to find work as a technician at Connaught Laboratories in Toronto. He was blessed to work under the tutelage of Dr. Charles Best, co-developer of insulin. He also worked at Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto with Dr. Nelles Silverthorne who developed a vaccine for whooping cough.

He met Bette Hamilton during this period and they were married on May 29, 1942. Within 2 months he enlisted in the RCAF and was recommended by Dr. Silverthorne for the position of Technical Assistant (Medical). He worked at the RCAF lab in Guelph, developing emergency rations for downed airmen. A

daughter, Carol Anne was born in 1945. Sadly, a year later his wife died of a rare nervous system inflammation. Then in 1950 he married Ainslie Campbell, a cousin of his first wife, and they enjoyed 48 years of marriage until her death in 1998.

Following the war, Colin pursued his education obtaining his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1956. While pursuing his education he worked with Dr. William Mustard, head of cardiology at Sick Kids investigating precise blood typing. Colin spent 12 years teaching and conducting research at Ontario Veterinary College, years he regarded as the most rewarding of his career.

In 1965 several OVC staffers, including Colin, set up the Veterinary Medicine Directorate of Health Canada in Ottawa. A researcher at heart, he fitted uncomfortably into the shoes of an Ottawa bureaucrat.

The writer met Colin and his family in 1961 at Sanford Avenue Church of Christ in Hamilton. Colin was a Sunday School Teacher and also prepared sermons and lessons for other Church activities. Colin was always an encouragement to others and was a valued member of the Sanford congregation and later Ottawa, Barrie and Bramalea.

Colin was also predeceased by his parents and an infant son, Robert. Surviving him are his daughter, Carol MacLeod and his son, Colin, granddaughter, Jennifer, and by sisters Netta Banks, Mary Broome, Betty Cowan. A grave side service at Park Lawn Cemetery in Toronto was conducted by the writer on August 30, 2005.

May God comfort those who mourn.

- Max Craddock

Ellis, Ila Geraldine (Matthews)

Ila Ellis, the oldest of nine children born to Stanley and Emma Matthews, was born on March 10, 1911, in a farming community of Arkansas with the picturesque name of Minnow Creek. She passed away peacefully at the Meaford Long Term Care Centre on Wednesday June 15, at the age of 94.

In 1930, Ila married Frank Ellis of Meaford whom she met while they both were students at Harding College in Arkansas. Ila's parents had been peach farmers, so when she moved to Meaford, along with her husband, at the age of 19 one thing remained familiar to her - orchards. Ila just exchanged peach orchards for the apple orchards with which Frank had been familiar all his life. The Ellis family grew apples for many years and shipped them under the "Beaver Valley" brand. Sadly, Frank passed away in the spring of 1959; and Ila remained a widow for the remainder of her life.

Frank and Ila were both teachers; and it is in this capacity that Ila is best remembered. Following Frank's passing, Ila moved to Beamsville, Ontario, and became one of the teachers at Great Lakes Christian College.

From September 1959, until her retirement in June, 1974, Ila taught English and, for several of those years, served as the school's librarian. Ila cared very deeply about her students. It was not just academic growth about which she was concerned. More importantly, it was their social, emotional and especially, their spiritual development that mattered to her. She wanted the very best for them and did all within her power to help them achieve it. One of Ila's former students commented that while one wouldn't necessarily say that she was technically one of the best teachers one might have had, she was one of the best as to her interest in, and commitment to, the development of one's total being. Following her retirement, Ila moved back home to Meaford where she spent the remainder of her life.

Although her family was widely scattered, Ila kept an active contact with all. She even traveled to Texas to care for a great grandchild when the need arose. Her one trip abroad was to Lausanne, Switzerland, when her daughter's family was serving in religious work there. The church was a very important part of Ila's life and wherever she was, the church was her family.

Ila is survived by their only child, a daughter, Ruby Lee, and her husband, John Paul Hundley, four grandchildren, Luci, Paul, Laurie and Philip, four great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. She is also survived by one brother, Arch, and his wife Barbara Matthews, one sister, Marcie, her husband Paul Martin and by several nieces, nephews and cousins. Ila also leaves behind her beloved church family, the Meaford Church of Christ, her dear friends, the residents, staff, and volunteers at the Meaford Long Term Care Centre and numerous colleagues and students with whom she was associated over the years. Ila will be sorely missed by all that knew and loved her.

- Randy Morritt

Gurel, John Daniel:

On Tuesday, September 6, 2005, John Daniel Gurel, late of Regina, SK., passed away at the age of 60 years. John was born November 7, 1944 in Yorkton, SK, and grew up on the family farm near Ebenezer, SK.

John loved and cared for his family and he spent countless hours watching his children play sports. He loved farming, curling, fishing and lending a helpful hand to friends and neighbours. Some of his greatest joys were coffee with neighbours on the farm, time spent with the Dauphin Agricultural Heritage Committee, afternoon visits with everyone in the Gourmet Bean and his dog, Pugsley.

He will be sadly missed by his loving wife, Mary, son Brian of Regina, daughters Sarah (Jason) Wortman of Rapid City, SD, and Cindy of Regina; his parents, Robert and Edith of Saskatoon, sisters Carol (James) Kearnan, Alice

(Gerald) Kearnan, both of Delisle and Linda (Fred) Milton of Saskatoon and brother Fred of Saskatoon, as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

The Funeral Service was held on Saturday, September 10, 2005 at the Glen Elm Church of Christ with Kevin Vance officiating.

- Information supplied by Marion Waugh

Lock, Florence Marjorie

It is with sadness the family announces the peaceful passing of Florence Marjorie Lock on September 1, 2005 at the age of 77 years. Florence is tenderly remembered by her husband, Elwyn, her six children, Gail (Jim) Church, Glenn (Carol) Lock, Twyla (Ralph) Williams, Heather (Murray) Smith, William (Cindy) Lock, Holly (Jamie) James, her brothers, Harold (Joyce) Doyle and Lorne (Marianne) Doyle and her brothers-in-law, Ray (Elizabeth) Lock and Hugh (Irene) Lock.

Florence has 13 grandchildren; one great-grandchild and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by parents, Lawrence and Marjorie Doyle, brother, Leslie, daughter, Diana, and great-grandson, Nathan.

Florence will always be remembered as a loving wife, a wonderful mom and an awesome grandmother. The Memorial Service was held at the Church of Christ, 134 Cardinal Cres. on September 10, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Tea followed.

On the wings of death the "soul takes flight" into the land where "there is no night". For those who believe what the Saviour said will rise in glory though they be dead... So death comes to us just to open the door to the Kingdom of God and life evermore.

- Bob Parker

Yager, John Frederick (Jack)

Jack Yager was born Nov 3, 1919, in Hamilton, ON and passed away Sept. 4, 2005, at the Meaford Long Term Care Centre in Meaford, ON. Jack was predeceased by his beloved wife, the former Joan Doris Cartwright in 1982.

Jack is survived by his daughter Janine (Allan) Nesbitt, sons Jim and John of Meaford and Lynda Yager of Victoria, BC., daughters Sara and Dylan. Also survived by one brother, Cliff (Sarah), brother-in-law and sister-in-law Jack and Billie Cartwright, sister-in-law Gladys Yager and brother-in-law Ron Murdock.

He is also remembered by a host of Church and community friends both from Hamilton and Meaford, where they moved in 1978. This writer first got to know Jack when my wife and I moved to Hamilton to work with the Sanford Ave. congregation in 1961. He was very involved in working with the Sunday Schools both at Sanford and Fennell Ave. and was known as the 'candy man' since he always had candy in his pocket for the children.

As his daughter Janine wrote, "His greatest joys were church and family. Whether it was

church activities or family get togethers, he always enjoyed being with the children. He stayed a kid himself and would play with the children or organize activities for them. His emphasis was always on having fun together and not the score. On our street he would play with the children and every winter would make a rink in the back yard. The one time my mom wasn't happy about this was when the little boy next door came over and asked her if her son could come out and play. (She felt very old for a while after that!)

Jack worked at Appleford Paper Co. in Hamilton for 37 years. He took great pride in his work, working on the first 8 colour printing press in Canada. He enjoyed explaining how many colours were used to make a chocolate chip on a Dare cookie bag look real. After the company changed hands he found himself unemployed and moved to Meaford, working for a number of years at Towers in Owen Sound and Collingwood. The last several years he worked with his daughter and son-in-law at "Stuff To Read" bookstore in Meaford.

Jack loved to share his faith and bring joy to all he knew. I am thankful that I am one who was so blessed. May God comfort the family and friends at this time.

A funeral service was conducted Sept. 8, 2005, at the Meaford Church building by the writer, assisted by Randy Morritt and Peter McDonald.

- Max Craddock

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Max's Musings... continued from page 5

of Cornelius. They understand the importance of listening to the message they are to receive that day. Jesus had taught many lessons on hearing during his ministry. For example, he says "...he who has an ear, let him hear" Matthew 11:15. However, his teaching does not end there. He says one must be careful "what" he hears, Mark 4:24 and "how" he hears, Luke 8:18. The meaning of these statements is clear when studied in the whole of the teaching of Jesus. What to hear is the word of truth, the Bible. Therein are the words of life. Testing the spirits (1 John 4:1) is directing hearers to make sure the things they hear and believe are the words of God. How refers to the willingness of one to listen and apply the things heard.

What a great audience greeted Peter when he stepped into the "pulpit". Should we not also approach our times of study and worship with enthusiasm for hearing the message that God will give us through his teaching/preaching servants?!

Great Lakes Lectures 2005

“Hosea: A Life of Faith and Fidelity”

Sunday, November 6th			
6:00 pm		Congregational Singing A.D and Tom Fleming	
7:00 pm	Keynote Address	“God’s Faithful Love” Ralph Gilmore, Freed Hardeman	
		Monday, November 7th	Tuesday, November 8th
9:30 am	Chapel	“Who is Wise” Jamie Azzoparde, Waterloo	“Godliness and sin do not mix” Richard Maddeaux, Kingston
10:30 am	Classes Ladies - Men's -	“Faithful love to God” Jan Taylor, Beamsville Ray Johnston, Niagara Falls, NY	“Raising a Family in a Pagan Culture” Diane Stephens, Livonia, Mich. Larry Stephens, Livonia, Mich.
11:30 am	Plenary Session	“A people destroyed for lack of Knowledge” Dave Knutson, Dean, GLBC	“The Hardest Command” Don Smith, Beamsville
12:30 pm	Lunch	GLCC presentation Caley Cramp and Sandy McBay	GLBC presentation Joseph Woodford
2:00 pm	Classes Ladies - Men's -	“Faithful Love to Spouse” Kerry Kennedy, Beamsville Ed Klym, Sudbury	Faithful to the Church” Wilma Smith, Beamsville Chris Blackwell, Waterloo
3:00 pm	Plenary Session	“The DaVinci Code” Jim Holston, Tintern	“The Death of Death” Murray Smith, St. Catharines
5:00 pm	Supper	“Friendspeak” Walter and Shirley Straker, Bramalea	“Media Missions” Michael Mazzalongo, Verdun
7:00 pm	Keynote Address	“Loyalty to the Lord your God” Ralph Gilmore, Freed Hardeman	“Leadership in Crisis” Larry Stephens, Livonia, Mich.

All sessions will take place on the campus of Great Lakes Christian College, Beamsville, Ontario

Free registration to attend the lectures.

Lunch and dinner meals will be made available at a modest cost.

For further details, contact Joseph Woodford at 905-941-4848 or studybible@glbc.on.ca

The Great Lakes Lectures are a joint presentation of Great Lakes Bible College and Great Lakes Christian College.