

# Gospel Herald

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BEAMSVILLE, ONTARIO

October 2006

## Northern Light Mission Trip



A group of teens and adults travelled from Tintern, Ontario to Neskantaga, First Nation, to work with Brian and BonnieLee Cox in a Day Camp program in that community. Read the report of this effort beginning on page 14.

# We Are Soldiers

Peter Morphy

When I was a teenager some of my friends wanted to pursue a career in the military. The work was very physical, the pay wasn't great and moving regularly didn't appeal to many. On the other hand, they could play games with real military equipment, learn to fly and get an early retirement. But that is not what the military is really all about. Its primary function is to protect the homeland, intercede on the behalf of others who are being oppressed and to bring evil tyrants to justice. They are preparing for war.

In a similar way, Christians can easily forget their mission and purpose in the world. Quite often we are oblivious to the spiritual war that is going on around us. Paul was keenly aware of the conflict, the strategy and tactics of Satan. We don't want to be tricked, conned or fooled. Paul put it this way, "... in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes." (2 Corinthians 2:11) Are we informed about, alert to and prepared for the devices of Satan?

The Devil is sly and subtle. Even from the very beginning, his character and intent are obvious. "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made." (Genesis 3:1) The evil one continues to work his magic by deception, trickery and false pretense. Paul said that Satan and his workers are masters of disguise. "It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve." (2 Corinthians 11:15)

One of the most powerful weapons Satan has is deception. When he lies, he is convincing. He has a poker face and you don't know what is in his hand. What does it mean when we refer to a person's

native language? It is the culture they are born into, the first words they spoke, something extremely familiar, their first choice of communicating. Jesus identified Satan's native language when He said, "The devil was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44)

Don't be fooled. Satan's plan is not just to trick, injure or imprison. His final act is to murder. Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy ..." (John 10:10) Peter likened him to a lion. "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

One of the ways that Satan is successful is through overt attacks. He keeps hitting us from all sides over and over again. He plants seeds of doubt about the spiritual reality. He influences our thinking through the

education system, friends, Hollywood, music and the internet. He holds people captive through alcohol, prescription drug abuse, pornography, immoral or abusive relationships.

The Devil also effectively uses covert attacks. These are often subtle and miss the radar. They may start out as a small seed, but they grow into a large thorn, firmly planted in our heart. Attitudes and thoughts, words and actions, like doubt, complacency, materialism, bitterness, mixed priorities, selfishness, unwillingness to forgive and divisiveness.

Paul said that we will overcome when we put Christ in our minds and in our hearts. "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Paul told Timothy to avoid and flee from evil desires (2 Timothy 2:22). Peter tells the Christians to stay away from wicked lusts. "Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul." (1 Peter 2:11)

Here are a few practical suggestions to overcome the evil one.

(1) Don't give the enemy an opportunity. Paul wrote, "... do not give the devil a foothold." (Ephesians 4:27) Do not engage him. Don't open the door. Don't invite the salesman in, because he's not leaving until he gets what he came for.

(2) Submit and resist to the right people. "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist

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# Why Christians Should “Love His Appearing”

Edwin Broadus

Songs about heaven are a significant part of the musical repertoire of most churches. These tend to focus on what we will receive individually. This is important, for this helps sustain us in times of suffering and in the face of death. But we also need to understand what the Lord's return means in the grand scheme of things, for much of the daily news makes it seem that evil has the upper hand and that injustice prevails. Like the prophets of old, we need a grand vision of what God is accomplishing in human history and of the ultimate triumph of God's truth and righteousness.

Peter, in Acts 3:21, referred to what God is doing in Christ, telling us that Jesus “must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything” (NIV). The last two words in this quotation have been variously rendered and interpreted. The verb form of the word translated restore is used in Matthew 12:13 to describe what happened when Jesus made a man's withered hand whole again. In Acts 3, Peter performed a miracle that, as he said, gave a crippled man “complete healing” (v. 16). Although he used a different word from the one translated restore in verse 21, the thought is the same. The man was healed completely. He was not limping around but was “walking and jumping, and praising God” (v. 8). Everything that had been wrong with this man had been made right. For those who were present, these events formed the backdrop for the far greater promise that the time is coming when God will restore everything (v. 21). It will be the time when all things are made right.

In the present time evil often seems in the ascendancy. Justice is all too often denied. Those who ignore or even deny God seem to come out on top. But Peter declares that this is an anomaly; it is temporary; in

the big picture it is an illusion, for God will ultimately make everything right. The conviction that God will do this can sustain us, no matter what happens to us and around us. What this means is spelled out in considerable detail in scripture:

(1) All God's enemies will be vanquished, including death, which is the last and greatest foe. This is the theme of 1 Corinthians 15:23-28, where, after Paul affirmed that those who belong to Christ will be raised from the dead when he returns, he said, “Then the end will come...after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” When this takes place and Christ returns the kingdom to his Father, God will be “all in all.” It totally changes our view of life, history

and death to know that God's victory will be complete and final.

(2) Justice will be upheld and God's holiness will be fully vindicated. This is not only what final Judgment is all about but it is also part of the significance of the cross. In the here and now, persecuted saints cry out, “How long?” (Revelation 6:10). A common complaint is that “life is not fair,” and many think this is ultimate reality. Granted, life often does not seem fair, but in the Judgment all will be called to account (Romans 14:10-12). Those strong enough, clever enough or famous enough to get by with wrongdoing in this life will no longer escape the penalty of sin. Those who do escape are those whose robes have been made white by being washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14), for God's loving forgiveness of those washed in the blood is vindicated by the cross (Romans 3:25-26), enabling God to be just while justifying those with faith in Jesus.

(3) Sin's curse upon this world will be reversed. In Romans 8:9-22, Paul said “creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay.” Isaac Watts echoed this in “Joy to the World”: “No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.” Since fulfillment of this is future, there is much we don't know about it, and it is prudent to speak with care. Jesus stated unequivocally that “heaven and earth will pass away,” while Peter, echoing Isaiah, spoke of “a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13). An analogy with our bodies, now and post-resurrection, is instructive. While “what we will be has not yet been made known” (2 John 3:2), there is continuity between our present body and the one we will

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## VISION CANADA 2007

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\*Benny L. Stephens, Morgantown, IN (Fishers of Men)

Wayne Turner, Winnipeg, MB

Norm Weir, Abbotsford, BC

\*Newly added speakers.

Watch for more information on speakers,  
program and activities. Mark your calendar for  
June 26 – 29 in Beamsville, Ontario.

## The “All” Commission

Wayne Turner



The Great Commission has been called the “marching orders of the church.” It has impelled and compelled generations of Christians to proclaim the message of Jesus to their neighbours, communities and around the world. From the day the apostles first heard these words, shortly before Jesus ascended until He returns, this charge from Jesus stands at the very core of what the church is and what it is to do.

The force of this commission lies in the very inclusive word “all” which appears four times in Matthew 28:18-20. Based on the fact that He has “all authority,” his followers are to preach to and make disciples of “all nations” baptizing them, then teaching them to obey “all things” he commanded, then He promised to be with them “all the days” to the end of the age. The “alls” Jesus used identify the why, who, what and when of His command. This charge comes from the Son of God, the crucified and resurrected Lord whose name is above every name, and who possesses ALL authority in heaven and on earth. The action of the commission (go, preach, make disciples, baptize) is directed to all of the nations, people of the whole of creation. As disciples are made, they are to be grounded and trained in ALL that Jesus had taught his disciples. His presence will remain with the church, and therefore this commission will stand, for ALL time until His return.

John W.R. Stott, well known Anglican author, once stated, “The Church engages in evangelism today, not because it wants to or chooses to or because it likes to, but because it has been told to. Evangelistic inactivity is disobedience.” On one hand this makes evangelism sound very threatening and imposing – somewhat like saying “Evangelize or else!” This seems somewhat negative – joyless and loveless. However, we understand that the commission is not a threat. We understand Stott is emphasizing the need and urgency of Jesus’ command. These are the words of eternal life. It needs to be proclaimed in a spirit of concern and love. Stott has stated that the Great Commission and the Great Commandment (love God and love our neighbor) need to come together.

One of the most significant concepts of the commission is the word we read as simply “go.” Literally, it could be translated as “going.” Different thoughts are suggested. For example, it could be understood by “as you go” which suggests that it should be part of a Christian’s lifestyle to share the Gospel. Acts 8:4 tells us that following Stephen’s death, “those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.” We could see this as a more natural, lifestyle approach.

“Go” can also be taken as an imperative (command) which reaches through any reluctance or reticence on the part of the believer and demands obedience, an active response, something more in line with Stott’s statement about disobedience.

In 1 Corinthians 9:16,17, Paul shows that both motives have a place in our lives. First, he describes his compulsion to preach, “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel” and speaks of “discharging a trust committed to me.” Then, he speaks of his reward of preaching voluntarily and freely. For Paul, ultimately, his joy is that whatever the motive, the gospel is preached. Obviously, though Paul understood that evangelism was commanded, he preached voluntarily.

When Christians obey the Great Commission, souls are saved and congregations grow. We hear much today from people who are telling us that the church is not growing. We hear of congregations that are declining, and in a few cases have even shut their doors. To counter this, some churches are studying about church growth strategies and developing mission statements and marketing plans. While there are many things that can be learned by this, should we not also be refocusing on our prime directive? When was the last time your congregation had some type of personal evangelism workshop – something to encourage and motivate action and teach ways to carry out the commission?

It is encouraging to note that the Great Lakes Christian College Lectureship, planned for early November, is on Evangelism. We might wonder if some church members might even feel that this theme offers nothing new and has no real relevance to them and not even bother to attend. Let us all pray that this program would encourage, inform and motivate those who do come, and that their hearts would be open and eager, ready to go back to their home congregations, challenged, with a new commitment to share Jesus Christ.

Jesus summed up the mission of His life when he said He came to seek and save that which was lost. After His resurrection, Jesus said to the disciples, “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21) The One with all authority in heaven and earth has charged all of us with the responsibility of making disciples. This is the one task we cannot fail. All are depending on it.

### GOSPEL HERALD

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CO-EDITORS

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Walter Straker, Bramalea, ON

Layout/Design - Stephen Gill

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Send teaching articles to Wayne Turner, 45 Millfield Drive, Winnipeg, MB R2M 2N9

(204) 257-7926 E-mail: <editorial@gospelherald.org>

Send advertising and subscription information to

Max Craddock, 5 Lankin Blvd., Toronto, ON M4J 4W7

Phone: 416-461-7406 Fax: 416-424-1850 E-mail: maxc@strathmorecofc.ca

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## The Cloud of Witnesses

The Christian has a goal. He is not a day-tripper who returns to the starting place each night and begins again in light of a new day. Rather, he is a pilgrim who is on a journey with an understood destination and only continued progress toward that destination is acceptable. A very worthy question to be asked of himself at the end of each day is, "Am I closer to my goal?"

The Christian should find inspiration in these words: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV). While these words should be considered as a great inspiration they are often viewed more as a handicap to some because they believe that living for God/Jesus was less difficult in times past than it is today. However, the truth is that living above the call of the world has been a challenge in every age. That these people lived godly lives, in spite of sinful influences, should give new courage to daily run the race.

In view of this we must run with endurance (the determination which goes steadily on and refuses to be deflected) the race before us. As the Hebrew writer says, it will mean laying aside whatever it is that hinders our daily running and those sins that we love and which entangle hinder. This may mean changing habits, pleasures, self-indulgences or associations which hold us back. In Psalm 1 the writer speaks of how careful one must be in choosing where to walk and whom to allow to influence him today. "Blessed

is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers" (Psalms 1:1 ESV). Since the wicked are so ready to give counsel and provide that which appeals to the baser desires of mankind, one must be on guard against those hindering influences.

Remember that the need of man today is the same as that of Adam and Eve following the sin in the garden back in the beginning. (Genesis 3) Because of sin Adam and Eve were separated from the God who created and loved them. Because of their sin when God came walking in the garden in the cool of the day, they tried to hide from him. Sin continues to bring the same situation today. Thankfully the work of Jesus as the "founder and perfecter of our faith" has made it possible for us to get back to the closeness first enjoyed by Adam and Eve. "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV).

Confidence comes by "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith" who finished his work because he kept his eye on the goal of doing that for which he was called. In that, he was not different from those listed in Hebrews 11 who "kept the faith", except that Jesus did it perfectly. Those in Hebrews 11, like us, did not live sin free but did draw near to God in obedience. We have the extra blessing of being able to draw near in confidence because our High Priest, Jesus Christ, paid the price once for

all and stands as our advocate to God. (The importance of keeping our eye on Jesus and not allowing the "winds of sin and evil" to distract is seen in the account of Peter walking on the water in Matthew 14:30.)

The challenge that comes to every Christian is to show himself worthy of the sacrifice that men and God have made for you. A key to accomplishing this is seen in the godly living of Jesus himself. The Hebrew writer points out that Jesus was at least partly motivated by "the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame..." There was nothing pleasant about the death that Jesus died, however, there was joy to come. Paul understood this as well: "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8 ESV).

The men and women of Hebrews 11 are great examples and Jesus our apostle, High Priest and perfecter is our ultimate example. By "looking upon" these examples and, after being born into his kingdom, we can experience the joy of Hebrews 4:16. We can approach God in confidence because we know how much he loves us and the extremes to which he has gone in expressing that love. May the cloud of witnesses be an encouragement and support to our running of the race.

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## CHOOSE TO BE A WINNER, PART II

### Encouragement to Follow Through

Eugene C. Perry

The challenge is for us, with a view of eternity, to live as Paul lived. "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Phil.1:21). Faith in eternity gives us strength, peace and courage, because working, playing and living, we know that, come what may, there is a life, infinitely better than what we know now, waiting for us. We thus have "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding," guarding our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil.4:7)

How do we live with this in view? Although he preferred "to be away from the body and at home with the Lord" (2 Cor.5:8), Paul had decided (made it his goal) to please the Lord, "whether we are at home in the body or away from it." Anticipating the judgement, he stated, "Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men." Again, although he confidently stated that "to die is gain", and that his desire was to "depart and be with Christ" which is "far better", Paul was ready to continue in the flesh - to do God's will. His hope was that he would "in no way be ashamed" and that "Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death" (Phil.1:20). He was willing

to abide, which would mean "fruitful labour" for him which was "more necessary" for the Christians.

As with Paul, as long as we live, we have a useful purpose in life, we are vessels for God's use. This is not meant to be an unwilling but a voluntary service, "faith expressing itself through love" (Gal.5:6). We love Him and want to please Him who loves us so much that He gave his son to restore our relationship and is so patient with us.

Realizing the fate of those who fail to decide for God, we persuade men out of love and concern rather than out of duty. Loving our brothers and sisters in Christ, we work for their well-being, especially the eternal well-being resulting from continued faithfulness.

Involved in all of these matters is the necessity of making decisions regarding both the general trend of our lives and the myriad lesser choices which present themselves to us each day. In Galatians 5, Paul lists the "acts of the sinful nature" which prevent participants from inheriting the kingdom of God, and by way of contrast, "the fruit of the Spirit", which, by implication, make it ours. In the next chapter, he used the sowing and reaping analogy to emphasize the same truth.

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life" (Gal.6:7,8).

"By the 'sowing' the apostle appears to be referring to the whole pattern of our thoughts and habits, our life-style, life direction and life-discipline. It includes the company we keep, the friendships we cultivate, the literature we read and the films we watch..., the kind of pursuits with which we occupy our leisure and everything which engrosses our interest, absorbs our energy and dominates our mind... For by these things we are sowing, sowing, sowing all the time;

and according to what and where we sow, this shall we reap" (John R. Stott, *Baptism and Fullness*, pp. 81,82).

These all involve decisions. By sowing to the Spirit we reap eternal life. Stott describes this life as "a deepening fellowship with the living God now (to know whom is eternal life, John 17:3); together with that fullness of fellowship with him which defies imagination and which awaits us in the last day."

Because we have eternity in mind, we set our "minds on things above, not on earthly things." And, "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Col.3:1-4).

"All through the inspired word the prize set before us, the goal to attain, the motivation to service is always eternal life. Not a phenomenon to be feared but a paradise to be desired." (Gary Beauchamp). If this goal becomes or is unreal or secondary in our thinking, we will tend to make the wrong decisions and consequently fail to glorify God in our lives.

We have been deeply touched by stories or scenes of the emotional welcoming home of POW's or hostages, long separated from their families. This cannot be compared to the reunion with our heavenly Father when we go home. Yet, with many, there remains a dread of this transition instead of it being viewed with anticipation.

We are God's family. He cares for us. We can't lose. In 1990, sister Joan Smith who had patiently endured a valiant but losing 10 year battle with cancer, wrote a series of articles for the Women's Page of this paper. She tells in detail of the way she came to look at and face this affliction. During the time of her battle, including operations, chemotherapy, much suffering and the accompanying mental stress, she was a faithful wife and mother and served with dedication and efficiency at Great Lakes Christian College and in the church. She began the series by quoting, "My help comes from the Lord" (Ps.121:2). She explained her positive attitude and continuing dedicated service beyond "the call of duty" in the following statement: "I am a survivor. I am not a loser. God is allowing me to stay here a while longer. I can be with my family and still work for Christ. If I don't survive, I am still not a loser. I

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have a home in heaven waiting for me.” Sister Smith has since gone on to that eternal home.

All Christians should think of this life as the journey, the preparation for eternal life. We are sojourning here. Like the faithful of old, we must confess by life and word that we are “aliens and strangers on earth. People who... show that they are looking for a country of their own... longing for a better country – a heavenly one.” God is not ashamed to be the God of such. He “has prepared a city for them”(Heb.11:13-16).

Those who become sick and are in hospital look forward to going home. Sometimes it means going home to the joys of reunion with a loving family; sometimes going home to a loving Father in heaven. In either case, they are winners.

The crown of righteousness is, according to 2 Timothy 4:8, “to all who have longed for his appearing”. We long for his appearing only if we are confidently prepared and in the process of fighting “the good fight”, finishing “the race” and keeping “the faith”.

As the Jews journeyed from their various villages on their pilgrimages to Jerusalem, trudging on foot through unfamiliar places, they would sing songs of encouragement. As they approached Jerusalem, the men would sing:

*“I lift up my eyes to the hills –  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord  
The Maker of heaven and earth.”*

The women and children would then reply:

*“He will not let your foot slip –  
He who watches over you will not slumber;  
Indeed, he who watches over Israel  
Will neither slumber nor sleep.”*

Then the men would sing:  
*“The Lord watches over you –  
The Lord is your shade at your right hand;”*

The women and children would reply:

*“The sun will not harm you by day,  
Nor the moon by night.”*

The men would sing:  
*“The Lord will keep you from all harm –  
he will watch over your life:”*

Then everyone would join to affirm”  
*“The Lord will watch over your  
coming and going  
Both now and forevermore.”*

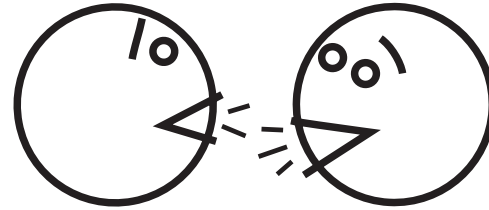
(Psalm 121)

As these people “went out” from their familiar villages and “came in” to a city in which things were strange to them, they moved from one world to another. Heartened by the lines, “The Lord will watch over your coming and

going both now and forevermore”, they pushed on. Surely, these lines have a similar application for us as we journey to our Holy City.

Having in mind a beautiful view of eternity, let us live each day in anticipation, hope and faith, repeating to ourselves the powerful words of Paul, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

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Individuals or congregations should contact Bramalea church Christ by October 15 so materials can be ordered.

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Brian Cox, Lansdowne House, ON  
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## # 3 Makeover Mania: Humility

Individuals in making over their appearance either by makeup, hairstyling or cosmetic surgery often speak of the self-esteem that their new look will bring them. Self-esteem produced by cosmetic changes in one's outward appearance are short lived as more and more cosmetic changes are required in order for one to keep up their appearance and thus their self-esteem. When we build our self-esteem on our outward appearance we build our self-esteem on some really shaky ground. We are our own worst critics when it comes to appearance, we can look in the mirror and easily see every fault. We notice things in our outward appearance that other people would never notice. Individuals who have already had extensive cosmetic surgery will often still have a long list of things that they would like to change in their appearance. They never seem to get the self-esteem they are looking for by these physical changes.

Self-esteem will never be found in our looks or our abilities. Humility is a very misunderstood concept; many see humility as thinking less of ourselves or putting ourselves down. When people put themselves down they will often say that they are just being humble. I have often heard individuals who have never really done much with their lives being described as humble individuals.

Humility will not be found in putdowns either by ourselves or others. Humility is found in looking at ourselves accurately, in looking at ourselves as God sees us. True self-esteem comes from humility and viewing ourselves as God views us.

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgement in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:3-9 NIV)

Humility is not thinking less of ourselves, but rather thinking accurately of ourselves. We are to use sober judgement, our own good sense as well as the faith God has given us to take a good look at ourselves. We may not like what we see as we view our failures in this light, but if we are thinking accurately we will also see our successes. We will notice some areas where our abilities fall short, but we will also notice some areas where our abilities seem to be a good fit with the work. The purpose of this sober judgment or honest evaluation is not just to get to know ourselves better. Viewing ourselves accurately is just the beginning of humility. Humility really blooms when we begin to serve in the areas where our honest evaluation tells us we have some ability.

We don't serve in order to be saved; our salvation is a gift God gives us by His grace. We serve because God created us with a need to work, we will never know true humility until we serve and we will never have true self-esteem until we serve as God has created us to serve. "For it is

by grace you have been saved through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV)

From this scripture we learn:

- That we have been saved not by anything that we have done or will do but by grace through faith.

- Salvation is a gift from God.

- There is no room for boasting or bragging, salvation is not the result of our good works, no matter how good they are.

- We are God's workmanship – He made us.

- God created us to do good works.

- God created the work for us to do.

- In creating us God has given us the ability to do the work that He wants us to do.

We will never know true self-esteem by changing our outward appearance. We must get outside of ourselves and humbly serve as Jesus did.

Do not allow your imperfections to hinder your serving. Learn from your failures and then put them well behind you. You may not have all the abilities necessary for the work you are considering but you can learn while you work. Do not spend your entire life looking for your talents but never quite finding what you are good at, jump in and learn on the job.

The work that is most needed is not always the work that we have planned to do or the work that we feel gifted to do, but it is the work that needs to be done and that makes it significant. I have often found myself busy doing what I consider to be important work (today it is writing for the Gospel Herald) and along come some children that want to visit. I quickly discover that what they need is something to eat and my writing is interrupted by their hunger. Which is more important completing my article for the Gospel Herald or feeding the hungry children? I may not feel like I am gifted for feeding the poor, but I have food and they have hungry stomachs, what more do I need? Later I realize that the most significant work I have done all week or perhaps even all month is feed those hungry children. Please don't allow the work that you have planned to do and the work that you feel gifted to do blind you to the work that needs to be done. You may just be the only one that will do it. May God bless you as you serve Him!

### Full-Time Minister

**Grimsby** is a small but rapidly growing community in the Niagara region on the shore of Lake Ontario. The congregation would welcome a fulltime minister, and offer full funding and the challenge to help us grow.

Please contact Jeff Kennedy  
jeff-Kerri.Kennedy@sympatico.ca  
905-563-4429



*We Are Soldiers... continued from page 2*

the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7) It is easy to get it backwards and we end up submitting to the devil and resisting God. Listen to God’s voice, obey His Word.

(3) Be completely devoted and committed. In the military, most things are not optional. You learn to give it all – heart, mind, soul and strength. When you’re in the bunker surrounded by the enemy, your life is on the line. Paul encourages Timothy to be a faithful warrior. “Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs – he wants to please his commanding officer.” (2 Timothy 2:3-4) Don’t be double-minded.

(4) Rely on God’s Spirit to empower you. Keep on praying that you will be strong and faithful. “I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” (Ephesians 3:16) God will give us the victory.

When the last attack has been launched and the war is over, we are assured victory because Jesus won the battle on the cross. For Paul, the conquest has already taken place and he is in the middle of the soldiers’ victory parade. So he wrote, “But thanks be to God, Who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.” (2 Corinthians 2:14)

Today our prayer could be similar to a commander’s petition thousands of years ago. “Then Asa called to the Lord his God and said, ‘Lord, there is no one like You to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O Lord our God, for we rely on You, and in Your name we have come against this vast army. O Lord, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You.’” (2 Chronicles 14:11) Fight the good fight of faith. (1 Timothy 6:12)

Knoxville, TN

## The Church of Christ Development Company

The Church of Christ Development Company Ltd. (CCDC) was formed in 1957 in response to a need for churches to finance building projects. Many churches were encountering difficulty with the banks when trying to borrow funds to build places of worship. Beginning with loans, totalling about \$4,000 from the new directors, the fund has grown to over the years as churches and parachurch organizations from all three streams of the Restoration Movement have been helped to construct facilities.

From its inception the interest rate charged for loans has been kept as low as possible and all loans are able to be repaid at any time, without penalty. CCDC’s focus is to enable churches and parachurch organizations to be in facilities that are best suited to accomplishing their ministry plan, while retaining a cash flow that enables them to continue to be active in ministry.

Recently CCDC has begun offering a Ministry Planning service, Building Planning advice and workbook, and

information on Stewardship campaigns. Using the Vision Renewal process developed by Outreach Canada, which has been used by over one thousand Canadian churches, CCDC has a certified coach qualified to work with local congregations as they develop a ministry plan to accomplish the vision God has given to them. CCDC also has an engineer on staff who is able to help with the technical requirements of building planning. A planning workbook is also available free of charge to congregations considering how to best maximize their current and future space. CCDC can also provide information regarding stewardship programs that have been used successfully by Canadian churches.

Whether it is a new facility, renovations of an existing structure, refinancing a present loan or help with planning for ministry or buildings; CCDC stands ready to assist churches of Christ to be faithful in the ministry to which they have been called.



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by Walter R. Straker  
750 Clark Blvd.  
Bramalea, ON L6T 3Y2  
Fax: 905 792-8623

E-mail: [bramaleacofc@bellnet.ca](mailto:bramaleacofc@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:** The congregation has set a goal to purchase a lighted sign to take advantage of the high volume of traffic that passes the building daily. Rudy dela Cruz, one of the congregation's deacons, took over the Sunday school program in September. Several members are involved as hosts with the new "Soup and Sandwich" ministry. Another new ministry being put in place is the "Greeters' Ministry," which is committed to making visitors feel welcome. A ladies' day was held on October 14 with the theme: "The Master's Recipe - Dipped in Chocolate." Converted this year were: Tom Tobin, Fiona Pollock, Donna Carey, Phil Larson, and Jocelyn Cureton.

**Beamsville:** Members are being asked to host Great Lakes Christian College students in their homes from time to time for a meal and good wholesome fellowship. A Great Lakes Bible College short course, "Introduction to Contemporary Philosophy," is to be taught by Don Perry at Waterloo from October 10-13. A workshop on "Prayer" conducted by Jim Hawkins from Vancouver, BC, is to be held October 20-22. Eleven individuals were baptized at the Camp Omagh Youth Week. Clara

and Dan Pauls recently celebrated their 63rd anniversary. Donald Perry celebrated his 80th birthday on Saturday, September 2. In August Greg Whitfield and Paul Moore presented their plan to plant a church in Cambridge, ON. The 2006 Great Lakes Christian College lectureship is scheduled for November 5-7 with the theme: "Evangelism and the Life of the Church."

**Bramalea:** Recent baptisms were: Teresita (Tess) Frias, on August 20. Leonora Genobaga was also baptized on August 20. On August 24, Denis Faille was baptized after nearly a year of attending services with a special friend and several months of Bible study. On August 26, Laura Dos Santos, was baptized by her father, Laurence, at Camp Omagh. On September 3 Epifania (Fanny) Frias was baptized. The congregation participated in Brampton's CityReachers' program in September, whose goal was to put New Testaments in 101,000 homes and 14,000 apartments in Brampton. A Marriage Enrichment weekend was held September 29 and 30 with the theme: "We Did; We Still Do." Shaun and Joyce McDonnell were the seminar leaders.

**Brantford:** On Saturday, August 19, the congregation held a clothing giveaway as a community outreach.

**Fenwick:** The congregation erected a booth at the Fonthill Farmer's Market with good response, giving out New Testaments and bottles of water. 100-120 attended the Revival Hymn Sing on the lawn, with many visitors from the community. The event was uplifting and enjoyed by all, and post-event feedback from the community has been encouraging. The annual neighbourhood BBQ saw 18 neighbours in attendance, with a total turnout of about 50. Worship on the lawn was conducted on three Sundays this summer. Paul Moore and Glen Robins served as part-time and full-time interns (respectively) this summer. The congregation has begun a "Kids for Christ" program this fall, and has a booth stationed at the Niagara Regional Exhibition.

**Harding Avenue (Toronto):** A ladies' day was held September 16 with the theme: "Following in His Steps." Tula Nisbett, from New York, was the speaker.

**Newmarket:** For the summer the congregation's Wednesday services were moved into the homes where we ate dinner together and prayed. The members found themselves spending more time in prayer and fellowship with one another. The congregation fed the local youth shelter twice this summer and ministered to two nursing homes and will continue to do so. They feel they are beginning to view themselves as God's sent people who bear witness to the reign of God and are still learning the implications this has.

**Sault Ste. Marie (Pinehill):** Mary Seabrook celebrated her 95th birthday on July 29 at the Davey Home. The Roger Lansdell family has

moved to Troy, Michigan, to work with the church. Rob Whitfield is leading a search committee for a new preacher. Bob Ekman asked to be reconciled to the church and asked to be forgiven for offenses in the 70s while preaching at Pinehill.

**Toronto (Scarborough):** The congregation asks for prayers for their new converts, Nneka, Denecia, Jermaine, Kimberly, Tammy, Alex and Matthew, and for Mathilda, who was restored.

**Toronto (Strathmore Blvd.):** Adrienne Untalasco was baptized on August 20. Sarah Hannon and Christine Witty were baptized at Camp Omagh on August 25. The ladies sewing club is busy making items for an orphanage in China, where they support a child, as well as other areas of need. Marlon Molina has been hired to work as an evangelist, dividing his time between Strathmore and Ajax. Production of Key To The Kingdom continues with new programs every week. Changes to the web site at [www.keytothekingdom.ca](http://www.keytothekingdom.ca) make it possible to obtain last week's program on Audio or Video. Watch the web site for further improvements.

**Stoney Creek:** We are conducting a "test drive" of an altered Sunday schedule until the end of December with Worship at 10 a.m. and Bible Classes following at 11:15 a.m. A review and evaluation will be undertaken before any decision is made on whether or not to continue with the schedule. On Saturday, September 30, a Ladies Brunch featured a time of fellowship as well as planning for monthly studies.

### NEWS ITEMS FOR THE GOSPEL HERALD

We are happy to have the news pages in the Gospel Herald each month. It is encouraging to hear of baptisms and the good works being done by various congregations to reach out with the gospel, programs and events to edify the local church. However, space availability makes it necessary to limit the amount of material that can be included. There are items which are of local interest which, if reported from every congregation, would quickly fill many pages monthly.

Therefore, we are not able to carry news of weddings, wedding anniversaries (except for milestone anniversaries), new babies, birthdays (except milestone birthdays), trips that are not connected to mission or service outreach, general church fellowship potlucks, etc., unless they are being used as outreach efforts, etc. While things such as this are important to the life of a local congregation, if we tried to list all such activities in the news, several pages would be necessary.

We trust that readers of the Gospel Herald will understand these "news reporting guidelines" and continue to provide material to be carried on the monthly news pages.

The editors

Join Us in Celebrating  
**40 Years**  
at  
10th & Walnut Streets  
Collingwood, Ontario  
Sunday, October 15  
11 a.m.  
"By The Grace Of God" - Les Cramp  
3 p.m.  
Hymn Sing  
"Pressing On" - Wayford Smith



by Marion Waugh  
3427-82 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6K 0G7  
Phone: (306) 545-0550  
E-mail: [waughr1@shaw.ca](mailto:waughr1@shaw.ca)

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

### ALBERTA

**Medicine Hat:** It has been a very busy summer here in Medicine Hat. Our Vacation Bible School had an attendance of over 50 in the Jerusalem Marketplace. Many children and parents came to the building to enjoy the week. There were over 30 volunteers that worked on this project. Josie Jacobs did an excellent job of directing. We had a follow up picnic in the beginning of September that was well attended. On Sunday, September 10, Kim Barth and Sherry Hallberg were baptized. Glen Dods will be coming around the end of September and will be speaking on Lifestyles of Grace from the book of Galatians.

Jamie Lobert

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Abbotsford (Central Valley):** After an enforced absence of nearly two years because of political unrest and danger to foreign visitors, Raymond and Merle Fillion were finally able to get back to the mission in Haiti on Sept. 4. The school has had a quiet summer, and had a record enrolment of 553 students. This far exceeds the capacity of the current facilities, and the Fillions may be able to make plans for the much-needed expansion while there, as well as take care of other urgent problems. They expect to return at the end of this month. Norm Weir and John Wedler finally were able to make another trip to Fort Ware to finish their house make-over started in the spring. They again picked up Ernie Ziemer in Prince George, and the three traveled the rough-road distance beyond Mackenzie for another week of work to turn the former washhouse into a home.

**Burnaby:** The baptism of Julia Ruch on August 12 made the Young Adults Retreat at Spruston Road especially meaningful for the 42 people who attended from the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. Organized by Ernie Dixon, worship moments were led by Tim Laing. Mike Parker and Mike Nienhuis each presented two lessons through the course of the weekend.

**City Church (E. Vancouver):** Daikon are

Chinese or Japanese radishes, anywhere from a foot to two feet in length. The Hasbroucks are growing them as a favour to a family from Taiwan who came a few months ago. The pre-teen son asked if he could plant a garden in their backyard. They agreed, so the father and son come from time to time to check on the garden. This gives Steve an opportunity to talk with them and hopefully, start a Bible class with them. One of two teenage children Steve Hasbrouck tutors has said she would like to start studying the Bible with him when school resumes. Also, a college student whose background is Catholic has asked him to teach her the Bible. She says she can't agree with their teachings. God just keeps opening doors, one by one. How long should you wait for someone to come into the Kingdom? A few weeks ago, the wife of a brother in northern Japan asked to be baptized into Christ. She is 86 years young! The Hasbrouck's daughter, Rochelle, (who lives in Japan) also reports that the lady who lives next door to the church building has told her husband that she plans to be baptized, too.

**Delta:** Ron Bailey and Gary and Barb Zorn from Calgary visited the Rogers and the school in Donetsk, Ukraine, in early October. The Delta church sent a special collection for Ron to take with him to use while he is there in whatever benevolent work is needed. He will report reasons for his choice to the congregation upon his return.

**Oakridge:** What the planners hoped would become an even bigger weekend took place here on Sept. 16 with the meeting of about 30 former members of the 12th and Carolina church for their first reunion since their amalgamation with the Blundell church on Lulu Island in 1960. Most of the congregations in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island participated in a two-hour song fest Sunday afternoon. John Dale and Bill Roberts, members of the "Everyday Singers" group from Portland, led both old and new songs. Activities on Saturday included a concert by the group, and various speakers who recalled some of the outstanding events in the history of the 12th Avenue congregation.

**Salmon Arm:** Replicas of the village of Bethlehem were built on a farm just outside of town for a VBS in August. With teachers and helpers in costume, it was complete with a potters wheel, a woodworking shop and other things depicting the life of those who lived in Israel 2,000 years ago. The birth of Christ was made very real to about 30 children who attended.

**Nanaimo:** A special thank-you was given to Grant and Barbara Hannan for their 12 years of work with the congregation. Grant, the longest serving full-time minister the church here has ever had, was thanked for the truths

he had shared and the many ways in which he cared. His wife, Barbara, was appreciated for her wholehearted service in the Ladies' and children's programs over the years.

### MANITOBA

**Winnipeg (Central):** Jason Rawlak was baptized recently. The Youth Rally "Raised for Greatness" was held September 22-24. Marvin Phillips was the featured speaker. He is from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Marvin also preached on Sunday and taught a combined adult/college class entitled "Releasing the Bleachers". At the men's breakfast he spoke on "Rise Up, O Men of God." The program, Friend Speak, is a way to share our faith and our knowledge of English as we read with those who do not have English as their first language. This program continues this fall and began September 6. A songfest will be held October 21-22.

### SASKATCHEWAN

**Weyburn:** Mark your calendars: The Weyburn Church/WCC Reunion will be held July 27-29/07 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our building and 50th anniversary of WCC's move from Radville to Weyburn.

**Regina:** Jordan Szeponski was baptized at camp this summer.

**Regina (Northwest Church):** The Northwest congregation now meets in Roger's chapel at WCC. Services begin at 10:30.

## The NANAIMO

Church of Christ in B.C.

is seeking a  
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the authority of  
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(250) 758-6985

[wjpeckett@shaw.ca](mailto:wjpeckett@shaw.ca)

# MISSION NEWS

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



**Ethiopia:** Ethiopia is accustomed to dealing with drought, but August brought disastrous floods instead. Hundreds were killed, and thousands displaced in large areas of the eastern, southern and northern sections of the country. It has been beyond the government's capacity to aid all of the flood victims, and humanitarian agencies were called on to help. With little shelter or food, people were exposed to terrible weather conditions, and vulnerable to attacks from crocodiles. Over 30,000 were in need of emergency assistance, and one of the native preachers, Behailu, appealed to the churches of Christ to help provide the relief assistance and whatever support possible to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and provide shelter for the displaced, as they deal with the worst flooding in the history of Ethiopia. Donations continue to be received by the Woodward Park church of Christ, 7886 N. Millbrook, Fresno, CA. 93720. Please mark cheques "Help for flood victims, Ethiopia".

**SOUTH PACIFIC:** Tobey Huff, who worked in the South Pacific for 27 years, received the go-ahead to start a Bible

Training school for the islands in that area when he signed a letter of agreement with the church in Missouri, where they have been living for the past five years, to act as their sponsoring congregation. After discussion with brethren in Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua-New Guinea, Australia and American Samoa, it was agreed that not only is there a definite need, but also that the Lord is opening up doors showing that the time is ripe to bring it into operation. Fiji has been chosen as the most desirable location to serve all of the islands. Tobey states that he and his wife are willing to undertake this project, and therefore are in need of urgent prayers and financial fellowship to help them accomplish it. He feels that in these times of high gas prices, it is not feasible to go around the country looking for support, but will appreciate being put in touch with any church or person that might be willing to help make it a reality. The work of Tobey and Kathy in the South Pacific is well-known by Velma Forman, BC nurse who has been at a clinic in Papua New Guinea for over 12 years.

**Philippines:** A little girl was crying beside the road in Butuan City, Philippines, when Salvador Cariaga passed by a few weeks ago. When he asked her mom nearby why, he learned she was heartbroken because she was not permitted to go inside her classroom by her teacher because she was not wearing a uniform. Her family lacked 200 pesos (\$4.00) that she needed to pick up the required dress.

Salvador gave them the money and now Venus Carumba is back in school. He found that she is one of nine siblings whose parents can barely afford to feed them, much less provide needs for their education. "One of the most difficult parts of my work is living with poverty everywhere I go. Most people in Canada and the U.S. see this type of thing only on TV or when they receive a request for help by mail. I see and hear it every day. Thanks to money being provided by the "Tree of Life Children's Fund", 25 are now being helped in the Philippines. I would like us to assist at least 100 children here before the end of the year," Salvador wrote. Bobby Moore of the Altamesa church in Fort Worth, TX, is the founder of the "Tree of Life Children's Fund" to help those in need like Venus around the world. Twenty-five dollars a month in places like Butuan City provides a child's complete education: tuition, books, miscellaneous school supplies and a uniform. The money is given directly to the school to provide for their education and needs. If you wish to know more or would like to help, please write to Bobby at [bobbymoore@altamesa.org](mailto:bobbymoore@altamesa.org); the church at 4600 Altamesa Blvd., Fort Worth 76133; or visit the TOL website at [http://www.altamesa.org/news/tree\\_of\\_life](http://www.altamesa.org/news/tree_of_life). Every \$25 given makes a huge difference in the life of some child. To aid the TOL in making decisions, Walt and Linda Henry have created an album of the children who need sponsors in the Philippines. A specific child someone may wish to sponsor may

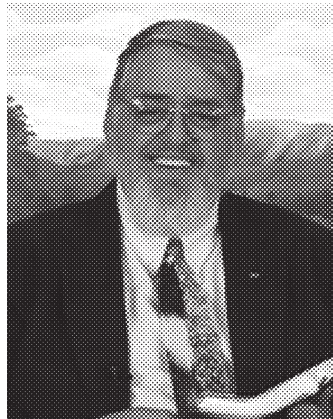
## Key to the Kingdom

**On the Vision Network**  
Friday mornings at 8:30 am (ET)

**The Christian Channel**  
Thursday mornings at 7:30 am (ET)

**also Star Choice channel 399,  
Telus 158 and MTS TV 21**

**website: [keytothekingdom.ca](http://keytothekingdom.ca)**



The program is being produced in Toronto and the speaker is Max Craddock.

Vision TV and its recently launched digital Christian Television Network are carrying the program. We are happy to report that The Christian Channel, available on Rogers Digital channel 396, is now also available on Star Choice channel 399, Telus 158 and MTS TV 21, greatly improving our viewer base.

We pray God will bless the continued outreach of Key.

Your support is needed to carry on this work. Please contact us with questions or comments.

(Questions and/or support can be sent to Elders,  
Strathmore Blvd. Church of Christ, 346 Strathmore Blvd.,  
Toronto, ON M4C 1N3 • phone: 416-461-7406 • e-mail [maxc@strathmorecofc.ca](mailto:maxc@strathmorecofc.ca))

soon be selected from a website which she is now working to create. Linda and her husband have been personally supporting this work in the Philippines for many years. (Some of the early children they helped are now full time school teachers, preachers and church leaders. They are known as "Momsy's Kids". It is suggested that the use of "Momsy's Kids" in the subject line of your first email will avoid its being deleted if you would like to have more information. The address is: [linda.henry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linda.henry@sbcglobal.net).

**North Korea:** If a North Korean citizen is caught with any piece of Scripture, he will either be publicly executed or given a 13-year sentence in a concentration camp where most people do not live longer than three years. Elementary children are told to go through their houses to search for "black books" to bring to school. If they find any, what is a game to them results in the disappearance of their family into a concentration camp and never heard from again. The underground church is so "underground" that many people doubt it even exists, knowing only of their own households. Some bury their Bibles in the mountains, reading them only when they are able to go out to uncover them for a few hours. Faithful North Koreans risk being shot on sight when they sneak across remote places in the heavily guarded border at night to bring back a few Scriptures stuffed into their clothing.

**Japan (Sendai): New Birth!** Yujin Nakano was baptized on August 21 in Tokyo by Jonathan Straker. Yujin was first introduced to Christ when he met Minako (now his wife), formerly a member of the Sendai church of Christ. Over the years he studied with various individuals in Sendai, in York, Nebraska, (when the family spent a year there) and in Tokyo. Please pray for this family's faith journey. Yujin and Minako have three sons who could one day be tremendous leaders for spreading God's kingdom in Japan. **Debut CD:** The team is now in the final stages of production. Hopefully, this will be an encouragement to the Christian family and a tool to open doors through the team's Gospel singing ministry. The team has sung at various events - including concerts for lepers and developmentally challenged individuals in Thailand and for disabled children in Sendai. **Coffee House ministry** continues to be a great place for LST readers to hang out. One of the challenges is to field questions readers come up with but are having problems with because of the language barrier. **LST Retreat/camp** was hosted by the Sendai team, congregation and East Hill church of Christ in York, Nebraska, and was a great time of fellowship for sponsoring church, host Christians, non-Christians, interns and missionary/LST teams.

**Prayer Requests:**

- **Yujin Nakano**, new Christian.
- LST readers as they continue to study the Bible.
- **Debi Hobelman and Erica Towell**, one-year interns.
- **Akiko Kawamura**, who was baptized last year just before heading for Uzbekistan for a year, and now has returned to Sendai.
- **Crimsen Ruhnke**, who is now back in North America to begin a year for rest, renewal, education, and fellowship with the supporters of this ministry before returning to Japan.

For further information - or to receive reports, contact:

- Sendai website <http://sendaimissions.com>;
- Joel Osborne at [joelosborne4@yahoo.com](mailto:joelosborne4@yahoo.com);
- Jon and Michiko Straker at [jstrake@yahoo.com](mailto:jstrake@yahoo.com) or their website <http://missionreport.strakerhouse.com/>; or
- Bramalea Church of Christ, 750 Clark Boulevard, Brampton ON L6T 3Y2, [bramaleacofc@bellnet.ca](mailto:bramaleacofc@bellnet.ca);

We praise God for all of you who so faithfully support the Sendai work.

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

# The Land of the Rising Sun A Land of the Risen Son

**J**oel 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](http://www.sendaimissions.com) or contact the

Bramalea church of Christ  
750 Clark Blvd. / Brampton, ON L6T 3Y2  
(905) 792-2297  
Or you can clip and mail the form below.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Northern Light Mission Trip 2006

## Neskantaga Day Camp

Friday, August 4, at 6:00 a.m. four Tintern teens: Lindsay Davison, Micaela Zila, Maddie Williams and Jenna Williams and seven adults: Judy Dickie, Linda Smith, Dwayne and Janine Williams, Julie Davidson, Eartha Zila and Marcia Cramp departed from Toronto Airport for Neskantaga First Nation.

The vision for such a mission trip was the brainchild of Noel Walker, Involvement Minister with Tintern and BonnieLee and Brian Cox. BonnieLee serves as the Nurse In Charge of the Medical Clinic in Neskantaga. The

a program was forwarded in January 2006. Several months passed with no concrete permission being granted and time was quickly passing. After much prayer and persistence we finally received the necessary permission in early June 2006. This allowed our team to kick into high gear with our fundraising appeals, and our Tintern church family stepped up in a big way. The total cost of our effort was just over \$15,000. Our teens raised \$500 each and the remaining funds were raised through family, friends and the Tintern church family. It was quite clear to the

lesson time. Each day had a bible verse theme and the songs that we used were church camp songs. The first day when we started our singing and actions I believe the kids all thought we were nuts. But they grew to love us and by the middle of the week, they were as crazy as we were. After class time everyone participated in crafts and then on to some games and activities. We wrapped up by 3:30 after a group gathering for a review of the day and a repeat of those crazy songs.

The program ran each day Monday through Friday. We had a total of 26 kids attend day camp with an average of 21 each day. This was a very manageable number for our first experience. These are very active kids with short attention spans and a real need for discipline, structure and routine. Our team did an outstanding job with managing these needs and getting our message across.

After our evening meal we often headed outside for a walk or to sit on the front porch with the kids who were attending the day camp. Our teens were particularly generous with their time and love for these "thirsty" children. Our teens were also the ones that faced some of the most difficult questions



*The whole group*

trip would simply not have been possible without the efforts and interest of BonnieLee and Brian. They were invaluable to our team not only in our preparation but also with all of our onsite efforts.

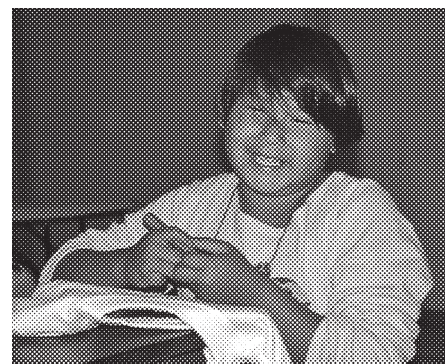
Planning for this trip began in late November 2005. This mission team was quickly formed and tasks assigned. Our plan was to host a day camp for children 5-11 years of age with a focus on building self esteem and friendship as a ground work for dealing with issues of bullying. We spent several months in meetings planning our curriculum and developing the program. Given that four of the team members were teachers and three work in social services there was no shortage of expertise for curriculum and program development. Our teens were invaluable when generating ideas for crafts and activities.

Our first letter seeking permission from Neskantaga First Nation Chief and Council to come on site and host such

mission team that Tintern was really behind our efforts. The financial support, prayers, questions and comments of interest were a tremendous support for all team members as we completed our preparations.

Upon arrival in Neskantaga we spent our first weekend walking about the community talking to the children about our day camp and inviting them to join us. Our first Sunday on site we enjoyed a time of worship with BonnieLee and Brian. It was difficult to look out the front window and not be moved by the obvious need for Jesus in the lives of the children and adults in the community.

Our day camp began on Monday. Each day started with a meal provided by our gourmet chiefs Julie and Linda. After the meal we gathered the children together for some singing and preparation for the theme of the day. This was followed by a Veggie Tale video and then into a class format for



*Klarissa working on crafts*

from these young children. Some of our teens have stayed in touch via email and have continued to deal with difficult circumstances as one young girl shared that she was contemplating suicide that night.

On Saturday at noon the team hosted a hot dog roast and birthday

cake to celebrate the August birthdays and to hand out birthday presents. This was a successful event that allowed the team to interact with some of the children's parents, which we had not had an opportunity to do through the week. Very positive comments were received from some of the parents regarding our week-long day camp. We were told that compliments and positive feedback do not come easily to the people of Neskantaga. Our team graciously accepted this feedback.

The number one question that many on this team have been asked is "Was it worth it?" or "Is it worth doing it again?" Well, you're asking some very bias people. You're asking 11 of us that have had our lives changed as a result of this effort. So you're going

to get a "YES" from us. If you were to ask the kids that were hanging off the side of the bus as the team were leaving town, they would say "YES" too. Some of the parents that attended the birthday celebration asked if we were coming back next year because their kids had such a good time, so they are a "YES" too.

We believe seeds were planted. We believe God was glorified. We believe it was money well spent. We believe a great need exists in Neskantaga and we believe it is worth doing again.

To God be the Glory  
 Marcia Cramp  
 Project Coordinator



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*Why Christians Should "Love His Appearing"... continued from page 3*

receive (1 Corinthians 15:55-58), but there is also a qualitative difference, for the present body is perishable, dishonorable, weak and natural, while the resurrection body will be imperishable, glorious, powerful and spiritual (15:42-44). John, in keeping with the words of Jesus, saw that "the first heaven and the first earth had passed away," followed by "a new heaven and a new earth" and the "new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God" (Revelation 21:1-2). The terminology implies a kind of continuity (both the old and new are called heaven and earth, even as our present and future bodies are both called bodies), but John is emphatic about the qualitative difference between the present creation and the one to come, for in the latter God will dwell with his people, and "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (21:4). Creation will be liberated from its bondage.

(4) The church will be perfected. In Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43, Jesus told and explained a story about weeds

and wheat growing together. This was one of his kingdom parables, and it reminds us of the present reality of a church imperfect in its human aspects, for there are those in it who cause sin and do evil (v. 41). This is a distressing

reality to all those who love God's kingdom. But this is not the ultimate reality, for at the end of the age these will be "weeded out." When we realize this we can see the church, not merely as it is now, with flawed people, but as it will be when Christ presents it to himself "as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless" (Ephesians 5:25-27). Those tempted to give up on God's church can find strength in the fact that not only has Christ not given up on it but that ultimately he will perfect it.

While we live in this world we are aware of the realities of evil, injustice, corruption and failure. We view these with concern and disapproval but not with despair, for we know what God has planned and promised and what he will surely bring to pass. Our confidence is in God who will make all things right through Jesus Christ, and this sustains us, both in life and in death. No wonder, then, that we "love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8).

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# Give the Spirit to Those Who Ask

T. Pierce Brown

We find in Luke 11:13, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” Have you ever asked God for the Holy Spirit? If so, did you get that gift in answer to your prayer? Since we do not recall ever having read any sound scholarly exegesis of this passage, we shall try to make some observations about it from our own limited knowledge and viewpoint. We checked more than a dozen comments from people like Adam Clarke, Albert Barnes, Charles Spurgeon and various others from many denominations, but none of them addressed and answered such questions as these: Who is promised the gift of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:38? Does “those who ask” include everyone, Christian and sinner? If every child of God gets the gift of the Spirit when he becomes a child of God (Romans 8:9), why does he need to pray for it? One commentator suggested that the promise was universal – to all that might ask, whether regenerate or unregenerate. He did not bother to explain how a child of the Devil would receive the Holy Spirit in answer to prayer. Neither H. Leo Boles nor Burton Coffman in their commentaries on Luke give any significant insight into the passage. Coffman says something like, “It is evident that we should pray for that which was promised in Acts 2:38.” But why we should pray for that which is given automatically to every person when he becomes a Christian is not made clear. Some of the most trusted conservative scholars suggest that the admonition was for those of the first century who were given various spiritual gifts, and is not applicable for us

today. However, that still leaves us with the question, “Where do we find any person receiving one of those miraculous gifts as a result of praying for it?” We do find that they were given by the laying on of the apostles’ hands (Acts 8:18; 19:6, 2 Timothy 1:6), but in no case do we find a person praying for one of those miraculous gifts and receiving it.

At the moment, it is my opinion that a more satisfactory solution can be found in an examination and exegesis of Colossians 1:9, Ephesians 5:18-19 and a parallel passage in Colossians 3:16. Paul prayed that they be filled with the knowledge of his will. He admonished the Ephesians to be filled with the Spirit. In the parallel passage in Colossians he said, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” If we can pray for each other that we may be filled with knowledge of his will in all spiritual understanding, and can pray that we can obey the injunction to let the word of Christ dwell in us

richly then it seems logical and proper that we could pray that we be filled with the Spirit. Of course we would not be praying for the miraculous outpouring of the Spirit that was promised to and given to the apostles in Acts 2, nor the miraculous gifts that were given by the laying on of the apostles’ hands. We would recognize that as we studied and meditated on God’s word, admonished each other in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, we would be letting the word dwell in us richly. When the word dwells in us richly, we are being filled with the Spirit. Since the Spirit operates through the word, which is called “the sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17), then it is proper for us to pray that we have more of the word (and therefore the Spirit) in our lives.

We have no information in the Bible that suggests that God will give us the Holy Spirit directly through prayer, nor any example of where or how it was done in the apostolic age. But we do have information that suggests that the Christian may quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). We do have the command to “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). We do know that Paul prayed that the Ephesians might be “filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:19). So it seems beyond question that one may have a greater or lesser degree of the Spirit’s influence in his life. It also seems beyond question that it is proper for us to pray that we might always desire that the Spirit be allowed to have a greater influence in our lives. If it is proper to say, “God help me that I may trust you more completely and follow your will better,” surely it is proper to pray that God will give you the Spirit in the sense we have indicated.

Cookeville, TN

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# OBITUARIES

## Bowen, Icilda

Icilda Bower passed away August 14 in the Trillium Hospital in Mississauga at age 81 years. She was at the Rexdale church of Christ church services on Sunday, apparently healthy, just hours before her heart attack. On August 18, funeral services were led by Rupert Comrey, Derrick Grant, and Walter Straker. Grandson Oneil Wiggans read a scripture and gave words of remembrance. Arthur Regis led a closing prayer.

Icilda was born June 7, 1925, in Jamaica, and in her adult life, after listening to radio sermons by preachers of the church of Christ, obeyed the gospel. Her daughter, Patricia Isaac, followed her mother in baptism as did grandson, Oneil Wiggans. These two made up her family. Patricia settled in Ontario in 1976. Oneil, who now lives in Ft. Collins, Colorado, came to live with her in 1987, and attended services at Bayview church of Christ in Toronto.

In 1992 sister Bowen came to live with Patricia and Oneil and attended Harding church of Christ in Toronto. The last few years she attended the Rexdale congregation. She will be sorely missed.

Walter Straker

## Frias, Alfredo (Eddie) Terrado

Alfredo was born March 22, 1952, in Pangasinan, Philippines. He died May 15, 2006 after a long battle with cancer. The funeral service took place at Scott Funeral Home in Mississauga. Walter Straker officiated and Kevin Hunter led a closing prayer.

In 1989, Eddie's wife, Teresita, migrated to Canada, followed by Eddie and their eight children in 1995. He loved to sing, especially karaoke.

On January 13, 2001, Eddie was baptized. The hour before he died, his long-time best friend, Sam Genobaga, arrived from the Philippines to visit him at the hospital. Partly as a result of his visits with Eddie, Sam was baptized January 1, 2006. On August 20, Eddie's wife, Teresita, and Sam's wife, Leonora, were baptized, and Eddie and Tess's daughter, Epifania (Fanny) Frias was baptized on September 3. Several more of their family have been in home Bible studies.

Eddie is survived by his wife, Teresita, their eight children: Albert (Melissa); Ella; Allan (Anca); Grace (Jacinto) Dioniso; Epifania; Mareanne; Alexander; Cori; and nine grandchildren. He is sorely missed by his immediate family, brothers and sisters and their families, and the Philippine community.

Walter Straker

## Rusk, Joan Elizabeth (Whitty)

Joan Rusk passed away on July 18, 2006, in Peel Memorial Hospital in Brampton, after 3 bouts with cancer. Joan (73) was born in Toronto on December 11, 1932. She was baptized into Christ while in her teens (April 1951). She married Searle Rusk on December 22, 1951. The funeral service was held July 22, 2006 at Bramalea church of Christ. Walter Straker officiated, Bob Hunter led congregational singing, and daughter JoAnne Doggett and granddaughter Melissa Langford gave words of remembrance and eulogies. Cremation took place in Guelph.

The Rusk family lived in Toronto and attended Fern Avenue church of Christ, then Harding Avenue Church of Christ and, since the 80s, drove from Erin, Ontario, to attend Bramalea. Joan retired in 1996 from the Region of Peel after 23 years.

Joan and Searle attended Sunday a.m. worship service regularly and, up till very recently, midweek and Sunday p.m. services, as well. Joan was also involved in the ladies' night out and the Tuesday prayer and project sessions. Joan enjoyed sitting up front for class, asking questions and making comments. She taught Bible class cradle roll with Kay Wood.

Joan and Searle had five daughters: Patricia Rusk, of London, ON; JoAnne Doggett (Brian) of Trenton, ON; Debbie Mae Langford of London, ON; Maureen Roberts (Allen) of Woodstock, ON; and Sheryl Gownlock (Paul) of Brampton, ON. Joan loved her children, 12 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She is missed by Searle, the family and her church family.

Walter Straker

## A Special Prayer Request

*From: Norm Weatherhead, former teacher at Western Christian now with the Pioneer Bible Translators.*

From October 15-November 4, I will be part of a small team from our Morogoro office going on a Prayer Journey to the Southeast area of Tanzania. We ask you to please consider being a special Prayer Partner with us for the next 8 weeks during our preparation for the trip and the actual dates of the journey.

Here is some background for you. We believe that Bible translation is truly being blessed by God in a new approach called the Cluster Model of Translation. Languages which are geographically and linguistically related are clustered together so that a small team of missionaries can train many national men and women to do the work of translation and cross feed the work to multiply the results of translation much faster. This year, in our Morogoro Cluster, we went from two language projects to seven. We also completed the third year of training nationals, and saw 62 students from 23 different languages involved and interested in Bible translation for their own people and language group.

Now we want to look ahead by faith believing that God will open the door to see Bible translation begin among the languages in Southeast Tanzania. This area is a very spiritually dark area, as many groups have very few Christians. Some language groups list less than 1% of the people as Christian. And there are easily 10-12 languages that need the Bible to be translated for them, which we also believe could be the foundation for a second Cluster for us to work in.

The purposes of our Prayer Journey then are the following:

1. to pray for the people of the Southeast that God's truth and freedom would come to those who are bound in their spiritual darkness,
2. to discover what God is already doing in the area through existing churches and missionaries,
3. to discover areas where Bible translation can get off the ground in the various languages there,
4. to identify potential students for next year's training in Bible translation principles.

Would you please consider being a Prayer Partner for this important outreach next month? Together we would like to build a strong foundation of prayer, seeking God's leading in all that we do, and His blessing on what we do for Him.

On behalf of our Prayer Journey team,  
Norm Weatherhead  
Acting Director  
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# Great Lakes Lectures 2006

## “Evangelism and the Life of the Church”

Sunday, November 5th			
6:00 pm		Welcome Address: Don Rose: President GLBC & GLCC Congregational Singing	
7:00 pm	Keynote Address	“Jesus: In No Other Name!” Patrick Mead: Rochester Hills	
		Monday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, November 7 <sup>th</sup>
9:30 am	Chapel	“Do You Know My Jesus?” Mike Mazzalongo: Verdun	“Personal Testimony” Wei Dong Hu: China and Verdun
10:30 am	Classes	Men’s: “God’s Plan Of Redemption” Ken Craig: Alabama Ladies: “Evangelism For Women” Joanne Howe: Nashville	Men’s: Ken Craig Ladies: Joanne Howe
11:30 am	Plenary Session	“Importance Of Church Planting” Patrick Mead: Rochester Hills	“Youth Evangelism” Don English: Johnstown, NY
12:15 pm	Lunch	GLCC: Caley Cramp & Sandy McBay Let’s Start Talking: Andrea Muirhead	Zambia Mission Roy Merritt: Zambia
2:00 pm	Classes	Men’s: Ken Craig Ladies: Joanne Howe	Men’s: Ken Craig Ladies: Joanne Howe
3:00 pm	Plenary Session	Panel: Church Planting Moderator : Dr. Geoffrey Ellis	Panel: Youth Evangelism Moderator: Walter Hart
5:00 pm	Supper	“Vision Canada 2007” Max Craddock: Toronto	“Gospel Herald” Wayne Turner: Winnipeg
7:00 pm	Keynote Address	“Love: The Driving Force” Dan Degarmo: Chillicothe, Ohio	“A Welcoming Church: Giving Love Legs” Al Meakes: Plymouth, Mich.

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

For further details, contact Joseph Woodford at 905-941-4848 or [studybible@glbc.on.ca](mailto:studybible@glbc.on.ca)

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