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# Gospel Herald

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### VISION CANADA 2007

**Top photos—left to right:**  
Peter Morphy, Don Rose,  
Thayer Salisbury, Art Ford,  
Kevin Vance, Shirley Straker

**Bottom photo—**  
**Front row, left to right:**  
David Dunn, Craig Ford,  
Murray Ververda,  
Benny Stephens, Andy Clausen  
**Back row left to right:**  
Norm Weir, Geoffrey Ellis,  
Wayne Turner, David Knutson,  
Walter Straker,  
Michael Mazzalongo,  
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# A Theology of Doublethink

Dave Knutson

In 1949, George Orwell invented a new term that he called 'doublethink'. In the novel 'Nineteen Eighty Four' Orwell defined doublethink as:

The power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them... To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient, and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just so long as it is needed, to deny the existence of objective reality and all the while to take account of the reality which one denies—all this is indispensably necessary. Even in using

the word doublethink it is necessary to exercise doublethink. For by using the word one admits that one is tampering with reality; by a fresh act of doublethink one erases this knowledge; and so on indefinitely, with the lie always one leap ahead of the truth.

In the world of 'Nineteen Eighty Four' doublethink served the leaders of society who knew that they were perpetrating lies by providing a way for them to believe that they were not really lying. Doublethink relieved the tension created by believing two contradictory things at the same time.

Now the book was fiction, but doublethink lives on. It is emerging as a theological construct within the church. It begins by permitting one to hold mutually contradictory beliefs. It ends with the conclusion that such contradiction is actually a 'higher' view of who God really is.

There is on the one hand the God of the Bible who is true to His own nature. He is a God who means what He says and always says what he means. But in the world of doublethink, this god is for novices. He is the god of 'little' faith. The real god has gone one better. He is not limited by anything, least of all by his own word. He is a god who saves not only those who believe and obey, but also those who merely believe. Who knows what else he can do?

Doublethink invites us to believe in a god who is whatever we imagine him to be. To suppose that in some unexplained way, it is not really up to God at all. Maybe God is waiting for his people to set Him free. It takes a particular kind of faith to do that, but when it arrives, our god will be free indeed. Doublethink demands that the god of our imagination is greater than the God of the Bible. If we can conceive it, then our god can achieve it. He is the quintessential god of ecumenical Christendom.

There is a name for this kind of theology. It is called idolatry. It is belief in a god of our own making; a god who like ourselves can abide contradiction. A god who says one thing and then does another. He is friendly enough,

though you can hardly count on him. At the end of the day, He is however quite powerless to save those who have created him.

On Tuesday July 10, 2007, the Vatican came out and very clearly stated that the Roman Catholic Church is the only true church. This statement which was ratified, confirmed and published by the authority of Pope Benedict XVI calls other churches defective. In the case of Protestant denominations, it goes on to insist that these are not even churches "in the proper sense."

This is one of the most refreshing statements issued in recent times by anyone within Christendom. One does not have to agree with it to appreciate it for what it is; a clear and concise claim to truth. If Roman Catholicism is right, then all other religions are wrong. This is the theological equivalent of saying that 'the emperor is wearing no clothes'. It is what we have known all along but were too embarrassed to say. His right to make such a claim has nothing to do with being the pope and everything to do with the nature of truth. It comes then as no surprise that the pope really is catholic. What is surprising is to find a catholic who believes that only catholics are going to heaven. This marks a return to the view, that doctrine, practice and truth actually count for something with God. May the church return to this view of truth and take its stand upon the word of God.

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## Witnessing – # 4

Donald Perry

**B**ut in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” 1 Peter 3:15, 16

Jesus did wonderful things for many people. There is a record in the Gospels of how some of these people witnessed to others about what Jesus had done for them. Some of them could not keep themselves from telling even though Jesus had asked them not to.

In John chapter 9 we find a story of a blind beggar on whose eyes Jesus applied clay, and told him to go to the pool of Siloam to wash. He went and washed and came back seeing. Since this was done on the Sabbath day the Pharisees questioned him about what had taken place.

He testified, saying, “He (the man called Jesus) applied clay to my eyes, I washed, and I see.” When further questioned about who he thought Jesus was, he responded, “He is a prophet.” A second time they called the man and said, “Give glory to God; we know this man is a sinner.”

The courageous blind beggar who could now see, bluntly testified, “Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.” After some further exchange with the Pharisees, he boldly witnessed of his convictions: “If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” He did not win his case with the unbelieving Pharisees but he witnessed.

In John chapter 4 we find a record of Jesus and a woman of Samaria. This is an extraordinary story. Jesus’ disciples had gone into town to buy

food. Of a woman who came to draw water, Jesus said, “Give Me a drink.” She was surprised that he would even speak to her. “How is it that you being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?” After a conversation in which Jesus spoke with authority about being able to give “living water” to her, showed that he knew of her past marriages and her present status with a man not her husband, and a wonderful lesson on the worship of God, he revealed to her that he was the Messiah who was to come. The disciples came back and the woman left her water pot and went into the city, and said to the men, “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is He?” Many of the Samaritans believed on Him because of the word of the woman. They came out to Him and asked Him to stay with them. He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word. And they said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.”

We can be witnessing for Christ in a number of ways. If I were giving my personal testimony to someone, I might enthusiastically tell of the significance to me of some prophecy of scripture clearly fulfilled many years later. I might relate some promises of God that are very precious to me. I might tell of what Jesus means to me personally. I might tell of my faith in the call of God to go to India with a young family of seven children to tell the story of Jesus and his love to people of that country. Each of us would have his, or her own story of what Jesus means to them or has done for them. If I am telling to others the “reason for my hope” I will need to be a person of integrity. I

would need to be living out the moral teachings of Christianity, and doing the good works that Jesus and his inspired apostles taught. Jesus said to his disciples, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father

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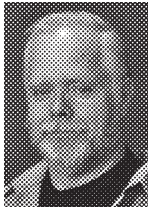
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## Have We Outgrown the Bible?

Wayne Turner



After the Israelites had conquered Canaan, they settled down to enjoy their God-given inheritance. According to Judges 2:10, that generation died off and a new one took its place. Unfortunately, this next generation neither “knew the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.” As a nation of freed slaves, their forefathers had received God’s covenant at Sinai. Their fathers, living under that covenant, had wandered in the wilderness and conquered the land. As the first generation to fully live in the land, they abandoned the covenant and faith of their fathers and adopted the thinking and ways of the inhabitants of the land.

Why would Israel abandon God for the Baals and Ashtoreths of Canaan? Hadn’t the Lord promised the land to their ancestor Abraham? Hadn’t he freed them from slavery in Egypt and through the wilderness? Hadn’t he helped them conquer the land?

To Israel, the Lord was the god of their past. He was the god of slaves and wanderers and deserts. The Baals and Ashtoreths were the fertility gods of a land that flowed with milk and honey. The Israelites thought they had outgrown their old-fashioned beliefs and needed to create a more “enlightened” future for themselves that was in tune with contemporary society—without God or His word.

What is it about human beings that causes us to become discontented with what we have and long for something else—something different? We become tired and bored with the familiar. The number of adages we have about this tendency suggests how common this is: “The grass is always greener...” “Don’t switch horses...” “Dance with the one...” “Familiarity breeds...”

The Bible has many examples of this type of change. Israel desired to have a king. Paul admonished the Galatians for having begun with the Spirit (the Gospel, grace, faith) and switching to works and legalism. There were some at Rome who wanted to switch from a personal responsibility for righteousness to a wide open concept of grace. The Ephesians left their first love. If this happened in Biblical times, we should not be surprised when it happens today.

By its very nature, restoration is about going “back to the Bible.” It is based on the conviction that the Bible writers revealed God’s truth for the ages – that historically, human religion had drifted (and sometimes even jumped) from its original moorings. This resulted in a conflicted and badly divided Christendom. It came from the persistent notion that humankind had outgrown scripture.

The writers of *The Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery* identified how this conviction should be seen in the church. They renounced their role of mak-

ing laws for the church to allow people “free course to the Bible.” Candidates for ministry should be those who have studied “the holy scriptures with fervent prayer... without any mixture of philosophy, vain deceit, traditions of men, the rudiments of the world” so that it could be seen that Christ was “speaking in them”. And ultimately, they expressed the desire that “the people henceforth take the Bible as the only sure guide to heaven; and as many as are offended with other books, which stand in competition with it, may cast them into the fire if they choose: for it is better to enter into life having one book, than having many to be cast into hell.” What appears to have been a harsh judgmentalism was intended as a clear demonstration of their conviction that Christ’s church had not outgrown its need for the Bible, nor would it ever do so.

Doesn’t it seem ironic that a movement with such convictions should be continually troubled, time and again, by those who hold the view that they have outgrown the Bible and who reject Biblical teaching. Today, we hear of those who question Biblical concepts of baptism, worship, the nature and mode of music in the assembly, gender roles in the church, sexual morality, etc. No matter how well intentioned these people may be in trying to make the church more “relevant” to our times through such assertions, they need to understand that by claiming that the church today has “grown beyond” scripture, they are maintaining that the Bible is wrong or not relevant to the church today. Moving beyond core beliefs that were affirmed by the historical practice of the early church has huge implications for the concept of the authority of scripture and is a step towards the path taken by those religious bodies who have largely rejected the concept of inspiration of Scripture. We are reminded of the proverbs about “a way that seems right to a man...”

The claim is often made that such changes are culturally

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### GOSPEL HERALD

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CO-EDITORS

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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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## Wasted Effort?

Vision Canada 2007 is now history. At least in the sense of setting up the auditorium/gym, displays, travel of people from across Canada to Great Lakes Christian College, meal preparation, serving and clean up and, most important of all, the presentation of thirty eight inspiring, informative, challenging and instructive lessons. The times of devotion and worship were inspirational, the instruction useful and the fellowship sweet. But, was it wasted effort?

There were presentations emphasizing the personal responsibility and opportunity for teaching the gospel to Christ to people who need to come to know Jesus as Lord. For example, the "Fishers of Men" material on how to seek out and personally share one's faith, reminded us of the need and privilege of preparing and personally leading a person from the darkness of sin into the light of relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The best evangelistic work that can be done by the "Church" is accomplished when individual members share the love of God with family, friends and any who they can influence with the Good News of salvation.

There were lessons focusing on congregational needs. Congregations that have been around for a while will sometimes become complacent and stuck in their ways, needing to rethink and reenergize. "Revive Us Again" needs to be the theme song of such congregations, catching again the "fire of enthusiasm" for evangelism. The needed changes in attitude and practice do not happen

overnight and, most likely, cannot be made all at once. However, taken logically and with patience, congregations can be "reborn" in respect to their focus on sharing the gospel with their community and the world.

Sadly, because of our human side, congregations sometimes experience crippling conflict which may end, at worst, in the division or death of the congregation or, at best, a reduction in the congregations desire and ability to serve. People in the world are often affected by conflicts of one kind or another in their life. They aren't going to be eager to become a member of a congregation of a church that is filled with the same kind of conflict and backbiting they have to deal with in the world. Conflict will happen. However, conflict does not need to destroy the work if the congregation will get busy working out "Biblical solutions" to the conflict. It may involve one step forward followed by two steps back, but in time, the forward steps will win the battle when hearts are right. No congregation can fulfill it's potential when conflict continues. Jesus himself reminded us that internal conflict brings destruction.

If you were not able to attend Vision Canada 2007, you can obtain the outlines/notes/manuscripts of the presentations by going to:  
**www.strathmorecofc.ca**  
click on **Vision Canada** where you can download the lesson files  
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**Bruce Robinson**  
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At Vision Canada we were reminded that when people get older, they do not need to "go out to pasture" and let the young folks do the work. While it is desirable that younger Christians become more involved in the leadership and work of the Church, this does not mean that senior members are free to quit serving. Thought needs to be given by congregations to ways that those who are "old but still able" can remain active and fruitful in service.

The importance of our history... who we really are in relation to the plan of God to make known his manifold wisdom... was emphasized. Our roots go back to Pentecost and the birthday of the Church and every effort must be made to preserve the truth of the gospel, "the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). The world is hearing the messages being given by denominationalism of a cheap grace and self serving spirituality, rather than the "faith once delivered" that saves mankind. The Lord's Church cannot afford to allow itself to be influenced by the call of the world for a gospel that seeks to please those who "...will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths" (2 Timothy 4:3, 4).

So, wasted effort or blessed reminder? We pray Vision Canada 2007 will prove to have been worth the effort. We pray that individuals and congregations across this great land will take encouragement from this seminar to "revive us again" to greater commitment to the task of sharing the soul saving message with a lost mankind. With our commitment and God's blessing, the effort will not be wasted!

# Works For Me

Don Hipwell

When I began this column, a reader suggested that hearing one's personal story and how God has worked in his/her life might be beneficial. We encouraged people to testify, to share their experiences. Ernie Stirrup is the first to take up the challenge. Following is his story...

I am responding to the article in the March issue of the Gospel Herald, in which you invited people to send their individual stories. This year marks the fortieth year that I have attended the local congregation of the Church of Christ in Ottawa. If I was asked to indicate a title for my experiences, I would suggest "40 Years in the Wilderness".

Approximately 40 years ago, my wife, Rose, and I were wondering and discussing whether we should attend a local church of our choice. (Billy Graham's famous suggestion) Rose was brought up in the Catholic faith and I was raised in the Anglican tradition and later in the Baptist church. Because of a major problem within the local church in Dauphin, Manitoba, involving priests, Rose's parents and most of her siblings elected to attend

and be committed to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

While we were 'sitting on the fence' as the saying goes, my mother-in-law passed away in Manitoba. Rose and my son, Paul, attended the funeral. Upon their return, I was greeted with the startling statement, "I am now a Christian in the true sense of the word." My initial response was, "You already are a Christian, just as I am."

Rose's story was that her older sister from the United States was in attendance at the funeral and on Sunday invited her to attend worship at the Church of Christ in Dauphin. My wife was encouraged to study and read the Bible for the first time in her life. The end result, over a period of time, was that Rose accepted Jesus as her Saviour and was baptized.

During the early years, I attended meetings, worship and social events, mainly because I did not want to upset my wife. She was, and still is, the one person I respect the most for her faith, determination and resolve to remain in God's kingdom. I also wanted my children to have both parents involved in school, recreation and religion. I probably was also influenced by the

fact that my father returned from the last war a very sick man and was unable to attend family activities. He died when I was 18.

It took me a few years to acknowledge that I even had faith in God. Unfortunately my concept of faith was one of trust only. Trust without obedience. When I finally realized that I had my part to play it changed my life, spiritually speaking.

There have been many examples of encouragement, but unfortunately, a few discouraging times during my growth and the growth of the local congregation. A few of these times were when people spoke eloquently about the need to study and uphold the truth of the Bible and then left the church for a denomination whose teaching they formerly could not accept. Three of the seven ministers I've experienced in the last 40 years are among them. Two are now identified as reverend. They worship with and accept a denomination as their church.

Prior to their departures, I noticed the following statements on a regular basis: "We should not judge denominations. Too much emphasis on baptism. Newspaper ads advertising the church in Ottawa are too costly. Campaigns do not work." I frequently heard that the only way to teach the Bible is one on one with family, neighbours and co-workers. My understanding is that there is no one way to spread the Gospel. When I questioned this and even offered to pay for newspaper advertising I heard for the first time, but not the last, that I was a troublemaker.

The person who baptized my son at Camp Omagh now claims the Bible is not inspired and that baptism is not necessary. This change of heart, thankfully, has not affected my son's commitment to doing God's will. Paul is a deacon and very involved in the work at the West Chicago Church of Christ.

In the 40 years I had 8 to 10 people tell me that because I attended regularly

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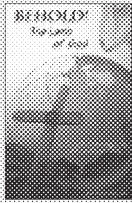
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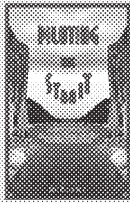
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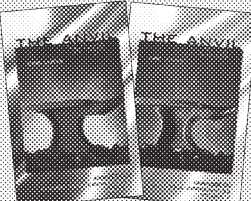
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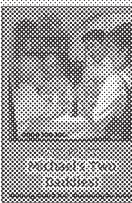


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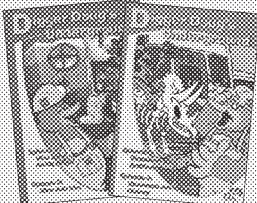
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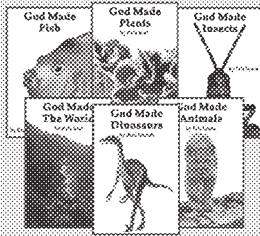
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# THE PATH BEATEN HARD

Carolyn McMillan and Shelley Jacobs

## Pacifism in Canada, Part II Conscientious Objectors in Churches of Christ

Carl E. Johnson

*Conscientious objectors in Churches of Christ in Canada suffered the same fate as conscientious objectors from other groups. They were placed in prisons or work camps, and they endured persecution from the population at large. They paid a heavy price for remaining true to their Christian convictions.*

*In the following, Carl Johnson relates, in his own words, his experience as a conscientious objector during World War II.*

### I Was a C.O. in World War Two

Enclosed is a copy of what the Church of Christ, where I grew up, had decided to draw up and give to each of the teenagers in the congregation.

I grew up in the Church of Christ at

Knoxville, which was a school district ten miles south, and two miles west of Bromhead, Sask. The church here was started in 1918 by Bro. H.A. Rogers, and my parents were charter members when I was the age of about six months. I obeyed the Gospel June 21, 1930. Emma Bakken obeyed the Gospel June 21st, 1936. On Nov. 20, 1940, Emma and I were married. Four months later I received my army call! Being armed with the document from the church, I visited the recruiting office in Estevan, Sask., stating my refusal to bear arms. The result was that the officer in charge laughed in my face and pretended not to know what a conscientious objector meant!

Not giving up, I returned by army call to the mailing address, stating my position as a Christian, the result being

that I was called to appear in Court in Moose Jaw, May 5, 1941.

My stand and reasoning as a C.O. was this—if I go and carry a rifle to the front, and there come face to face with an enemy soldier, if I do not shoot him, he will shoot me. So I kill him and if he is not a Christian, I (no one else) cut off his chances of ever hearing the Gospel! On the other hand, If I as a Christian, have the right, because of Government orders, to bear arms in war, then the enemy soldier also being a Christian, has the same right, and the result would be that we would have Christians killing one another.

Despite the consequences, I was ready to stand my ground. When the day came for my trial, Cecil Bailey took us to Moose Jaw in his Model A. Ford, Here we found Ed Elford had taken the same stand as I had, along with about 100 others made up of Mennonites and J.W.'s.

When my turn before the judge came up, I tried to quote John 18:36 and Romans 12:18f, each time the judge would say, "We know the Bible says that, but who taught you these things?" My answer was "The Bible."

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He was trying to get evidence against someone to charge them with treason! The result of the trial was that they sent Bro. Ed Elford to a sort of concentration work in Northern Sask. They sent me home with a \$25.00 a month fine to be paid to the Red Cross, saying they would deal with me later. A year later, my brother-in-law who also returned his army call, being a C.O., went through the same trial as I had, but they sent him to prison. After sixteen months in prison I got Bro. Wilfred Orr to go with me to see this same judge, that had placed a fine on me and sent my brother-in-law to prison. The first question the judge asked me was "What are you doing? Why are you not in prison?" I said, "I have been farming, as you told me to do in Moose Jaw!" Bro. Orr and I were successful in that we obtained the release of my brother-in-law, on the terms that he must work on my farm, with the stipulation that I would pay him \$40 per month, of which he would receive \$15 a month and the other \$25.00 would be paid to the Red Cross.

We were farming at that time a half section of land on which only 165 acres were under cultivation. Besides the living expenses of two families, we had to raise \$65.00 cash each month? On this 165 acres we had a wheat quota of 35 acres, and wheat was bringing less than a dollar a bushel! But the Lord was with us, we both found extra work. We did some custom work with our old 1918 Fordson tractor, we borrowed from my Uncle John Fonstad, we sold eggs, we used cream cheques. Much credit goes to my new wife, Edna, and my sister, Ina who, as new brides, stood with us in our convictions as well as the hard times we were forced to face because of our stand for Christ.

I must relate an incident that happened while Johnie was in prison. My sister was allowed to visit him once a week. One time, as she was asking the Guard to see her husband, the guard said to her, "Oh! By the way, we shot your husband this morning!" I suppose he thought it was a good joke! But my sister, never knowing what might happen next, and who is the kind of person to take things seriously, did suffer a terrible shock by this announcement.

In those years I was very angry at the Red Cross, but later I realized

it was not the Red Cross. It was the judicial system that was causing this hardship which was based of course on the stand we took for the Lord. Then, as years went by, our oldest son was diagnosed as having anemia, and in the following years, received at least 1000 pints of "cost free" blood from the Red Cross. I repented and asked God to forgive me for my resentment which I had previously been ordered to pay to the Red Cross.

I am thankful for the training we received from that country congregation, the foresight of those brethren to give us something on which to stand. I am thankful to God that in this stand, we were also being prepared for the

faith it took to face the hardships of ten and a half years in Western Samoa. I am afraid that today, we older members of the Lord's body are not teaching our teenagers what it really means to be a C.O.

In Christ,  
Carl E. Johnson

*Note: the writer is collecting stories of Conscientious Objectors during the two world wars. If you or a member of your family have documents, photos or stories relating to this, please contact Shelley Jacobs at the following:  
100 - 4400 Fourth Avenue  
Regina, Sask. S4T 0H8  
306-545-1515 x 236  
sjacobs@westernchristian.ca*



**Career Opportunities**  
**August, 2007**  
**Contact: Dorothy Davis**

**We are seeking to fill the following positions:**

**High School Recruiting Officer:** The primary function of this position is relationship development of new students for Western Christian High School. Student retention is an important part of this position. You will identify and document prospective students, utilize a contact management strategy for contacting and recruiting students, provide regular reports related to contacting the prospective students, help identify and implement relationship development events and be responsible for recruiting and managing a defined number of students per year.

- This is a full time or part time position, depending upon the candidate's qualifications.
- Start date is September 4, 2007.

**Application for High School Recruiting Officer:** For full consideration, submit your application including your resume, cover letter and references to the Human Resources department immediately at: email: [business@westernchristian.ca](mailto:business@westernchristian.ca), drop off/mail: 100 - 4400-Fourth Avenue, Regina, SK S4T 0H8, phone: Dorothy at (306)545-1515 x 223, or fax (306) 352-2198.

**Director of Development:** The primary function of this position is to serve as the lead fund-raising officer, have responsibility for all fund-raising and development and will assist the President with alumni and public relations, planned giving, donor relations and other advancement functions. Applicant must have a significant profile and service record within Churches of Christ. Applicant will need to be available to travel up to 50% of the time.

- This is a full time position.
- Start date is July 1, 2008.

**Vice President:** The primary function of this position is to serve as the Chief Operating Officer of the institution, and have responsibility for all campus affairs. You will serve as acting President, should the President become unable to perform the duties of the office. Applicant must have a significant profile and service record within Churches of Christ.

- This is a full time position.
- Start date is ideally for the fall of 2007. Application Deadline is open until a suitable candidate is found.

**Applications for Director of Development & Vice President:** For full consideration, submit your application including your curriculum vitae, cover letter and references to Kevin Vance, President immediately at: email: [kvance@westernchristian.ca](mailto:kvance@westernchristian.ca), drop off/mail: 100 - 4400-Fourth Avenue, Regina, SK, S4T 0H8 Cell: (306)529-4409, or fax (306) 352-2198.

**All applicants must be a committed Christian and an active member of a local church. Benefits are provided according to board policy. Job descriptions and qualifications are available at our website: [www.westernchristian.ca](http://www.westernchristian.ca).**  
All information received will be kept in strict confidence and only for employment-related purposes.

Witnessing – # 4... continued from page 3  
in heaven.”

Jesus calls us to be a new creation in him. We may have been dead in our transgressions and sins, in which we used to live when we followed the ways of this world... gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature, and following its desires and thoughts. But now because of his great love, God, who is rich in mercy, has made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace we are saved. We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:1-10). We have a new life and a new story to tell others.

When the apostle Paul wrote to Philemon he said, “I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, and I pray that the shar-

ing of your faith may promote the knowledge of all the good that is ours in Christ” (Philemon 4-6). It is somewhat difficult to know just how Philemon may have been “sharing his faith.” In the context of the letter Paul is commending Philemon for his love and his faith which produces good works: providing a home for the church to meet in; for refreshing the hearts of the saints; and receiving back Onesimus, his runaway slave, as a brother in Christ. The latter could well have been a very difficult thing to do in a culture which did not accept slaves as equals and therefore persons who could be considered brothers in a church fellowship situation. Philemon may have shared his faith in teaching others about Christ and giving reasons for his own faith in the congregation in his home.

Priscilla and Aquilla, Jews who were put out of Rome under Claudius, went to Corinth. There they worked as tentmakers. When Paul came

from Athens he worked with them for he was of the same trade. When he left Corinth, Priscilla and Aquilla went with him to Ephesus. Paul left them there and went on to Antioch. A man, named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquilla heard him they were able to “take him aside and explain the way of the Lord more accurately” (Acts 18:26 NASB). Paul wrote of them as fellow-workers in Christ Jesus. He sent his greetings to the church that was in their house” (Romans 16:3-5). Paul wrote also that he and Apollos were God’s fellow-workers: “What then is Apollos? What is Paul? I planted, Apollos

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Ontario Men’s Retreat September 14-15<sup>th</sup>, 2007

With Jerry Tallman

**Friday Night 6:00** BBQ – Sausage, Burgers & Hotdogs  
**7:00** Registration  
**8:30** Campfire and devotional

**Saturday 7:30** Morning snack  
**8:30** **Session 1 – Jerry Tallman**  
**9:15** Break out session  
**10:00** Brunch  
**11:00** Singing  
**11:15** **Session 2 – Jerry Tallman**  
**12:00** Depart for home  
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watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:5, 6).

Here we have in Aquila and Priscilla a couple who faithfully served the Lord and were able to witness to Apollos, a man who evidently outstripped them in education and communication skills. They wisely communicated to him in a quiet private way their knowledge of the teaching of the apostles of Christ about baptism into Christ. Priscilla and Aquilla had a more up-to-date and accurate knowledge of Jesus than did Apollos and they shared it with him. The approach, and the attitude involved, seems to be that of trying to help rather than one of confrontation and argumentation to prove that they were right and Apollos was wrong.

If Jesus means a lot to me, I want to tell others about it. If I have a love of the word of God, I will want to share that word with others. If I am thrilled by some new insight into the truth of God’s grace for me, I will want to tell others about that. If I have a living faith and a living hope, I will overflow to others. If the promises of God are precious to me, I will want to tell others about that, hoping that those promises may become precious to them. Some one has said, “Christian witnessing is merely sharing heart felt faith in Christ—what He’s personally done to change our individual lives. We are not called to argue or debate anyone into heaven. We’re merely called to share.” Let us always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give a reason for the hope that we have, with gentleness and respect. And besides, as I prepare myself and tell others I will reinforce my own confidence in those things that are at the heart of my faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord.

Beamsville, ON

*Works for Me... continued from page 6*

and made sure my children were in Sunday school, summer camps, Great Lakes and Harding University, God would accept me as one of His own. They spoke in a spirit of love, but in error.

On the other hand, I can recall only three people who encouraged me to accept Christ as my Saviour and to make a commitment by obeying God’s will in baptism. One man asked, “What can I do to encourage you to become a Christian?” My sarcastic reply was, “By showing up on Sunday evenings, Wednesday classes or whenever the congregation decides to hold meetings.” It was about this time that my 12-year-old daughter asked, “Why do I have to go to the church building so

often when most of the men only attend the worship hour?” My wife, Rose, had the right answer for her as usual.

A very important lesson is the realization that one has to serve rather than be served. In the early days of my attendance, I was always conscious of some people who never even spoke a word to me. I eventually initiated an introduction and it quickly dawned on me how friendly the response was. It is very important to acknowledge strangers in our midst. Our friendly greeting may be influential in their decision to return for a second visit. Notice how friendly people are when you are away on vacation. It is because you are in a friendly mood and that attitude is contagious. Just another thing I learned from my wife. (To be continued)

You are invited to join the  
**Beamsville Church of Christ**  
For their  
**Mission Emphasis Sunday**  
**August 19, 2007**

- Goal: Educating the whole family on mission work being done by Beamsville church and other area Christians
- 9:30 Childrens class on Papua New Guinea work—Ruth Zimmerman  
Adults visit mission displays in building
- 10:30 Worship. Max Dauner of Marseilles, France speaking.
- 12:00 Pot Luck Lunch
- 1:00 Mission Reports/visit displays

# Great Lakes Lecture Series 2007

RENEWING THE  
CHRISTIAN FAMILY



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Come back each month  
until October to read a  
new article from each  
one of the Great Lakes  
Lecture Series speakers.  
Next month: Jeanie Johnson

## Marriage Mentoring: 12 Conversations for Building Strong Marriages

*Dr. Ed Gray*

When you learn to drive a car, you get an instructor. You get a permit and your first experiences driving are with an experienced driver. When you plan a vacation, you consult a travel agent to help you know what is available. You may get a map drawn by someone who knows the route, or book the reservations with professionals to get you there.

When you pursue a career, you receive training from experts. You earn a degree and have teachers to educate you. When you want to improve your golf games you hire a pro to help you... and you practice. When you design a house you employ an architect. When you build the house you hire a contractor to get it done.

When you get married, you invite a minister to perform the ceremony... but who helps you build the marriage? Marriage mentors can help you do that! Practical wisdom from mentors can help you learn to do the tasks of marriage right the first time.

Which would you rather do—keep making the first-year mistakes of marriage for ten years or learn the first-year skills and lessons of marriage in year one and move forward with growing a successful marriage in subsequent years?

### Building a Marriage for a Lifetime of Love

Falling in love seems so easy. Building a solid marriage that will last a lifetime is a more involved task. Mentor couples who share their love and experiences with a younger couple have helpful stories to share from lessons they have learned. Their stories are like roadmaps of experience to help you find your way in dealing with many topics such as communication, couple friendship

and dating, finances, in-laws, problem solving, recreation, intimacy and healthy marriage habits.

A frequent lament of church leadership is, “We wish we could do something for couples before they develop marriage troubles.” Unfortunately, we often hear of couples’ marital troubles when they give up hope and have contacted attorneys.

When these couples surface, a flurry of concern occurs for the health of marriages in our church. Months pass, yet nothing substantial changes in our ministry approach to strengthening marriages and families. For many, it is almost a taboo in our culture to ask how a husband and wife are doing in their marriage.

### Proactive Efforts to Strengthen Marriages

Our ministry efforts need to be more proactive, not primarily reactive to marital crises that occur. There are predictable marital stress points across the stages of our life: the engagement and newlywed years; the newborn and toddler years; the empty nest years; retirement and aging concerns. A healthy focus on continuing to nurture the marriage relationship is vital at each of these stages.

The Marriage Mentoring: 12 Conversations program is intended to be this proactive effort. This mentoring program is not about fixing, repairing or counseling broken marriages. It is about growing and keeping marriages healthy and strong by sharing wisdom, stories and building encouraging relationships. This proactive support for husbands and wives helps them navigate the changes and adjustments that all couples make through the different stages of marriage.

When we think back to critical times of adjustment in our lives, it is often a friend or role model that comes to mind who provided us with encouragement, hope and wisdom to help us in our journey. Good mentors are like a travel guide for marriage. They have “...been there, done that..” and have lessons to share that they have learned.

This is a simple ministry of training mentors to facilitate conversations to keep marriage intentionally focused on growing. Some have called mentoring the vitamins and nutrition for healthy marriage. Good diet and exercise habits help us to be healthier individuals. Mentoring helps us do this for our marriage.

### Friendships for Marriage

Couples get together once a month for a year and develop a friendship over guided conversations. They meet in a relaxed atmosphere that they choose, perhaps enjoying snacks, a meal or dessert together. They discuss an important topic about marriage with a corresponding list of suggested questions from the mentoring conversations guide. Both couples share their stories that bring out marriage strengths, joys, memories, differences, challenges and problem-solving skills. Marriage mentoring offers practical support to couples as they face new stages in married life.

The power of mentoring comes out of the “textbook” of life experiences, not marriage books on a shelf. It is a living history written in our hearts and on the pages of our minds. In the development of the program, one wife responded, “You mean to tell me that my husband does not have to read a marriage book... He just shows up, eats and tells stories. Count us in! This is something he would enjoy doing with me. “...

like a double date with a special purpose.

Although mentors and mentored couples do not have to be a full generation apart, this program encourages older and younger couples to communicate and learn from one another. Instead of a "marriage counseling" type of mentoring, this program simply uses a successful, healthy couple as a role model. They share their experience through their stories. Their stories are a great resource of encouragement and wisdom about marriage.

**12 Mentoring  
Topics  
of Conversation**

- Thankfulness
- Healthy Marriage Habits: Showing Our Love for Each Other
- Leaving and Cleaving: Making Our Life Together
- Recreation and Playfulness
- Money in Marriage
- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Balancing Acts: God, Marriage, Family, Community and Work
- Children
- Friendship, Closeness and Intimacy
- Planning for Our Future
- Celebrating the Holidays

# 2007 GREAT LAKES LECTURE SERIES

FRIDAY NOV. 2 - SUNDAY NOV. 4



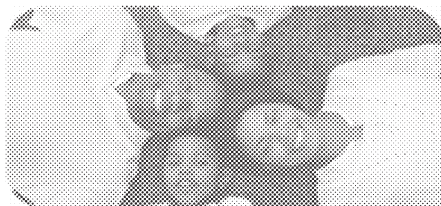
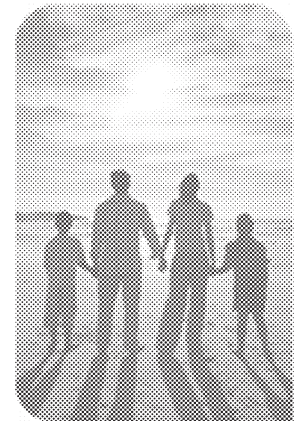
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**Reminder:** To be published in the following month's Gospel Herald, each congregation's information should be sent to Walter Straker before the third last Tuesday of the month. Please clearly mark the email or the envelope: "NewsEast."

### NEW BRUNSWICK

**Moncton:** The congregation celebrates two recent baptisms, Austin and Mary Anne Dicks.

### ONTARIO

**Beamsville:** On June 8, a questionnaire was mailed to everyone in the congregation asking them to share their views on "The Role of Women in the Church." On June 10, "His Hands Puppet Ministry" from Charlotte, North Carolina, performed for the congregation. Craig Ford reported his work in New Guinea on June 24. On July 7, the congregation helped Florence Lumley celebrate her 90th birthday at an open house.

**Bramalea:** The congregation rejoices with Olive Hall, from the Philippines (recently married to Tom Hall from the US), in her baptism into Christ on July 6. On July 15, Marion McPherson was baptized by her husband, David.

**Brantford:** Morning worship speakers in June and July were Ralph Perry, Wayne Whitfield, Shawn LeBlanc and Robert Moore.

**Fenwick:** The church held a yard-sale style give-away on July 7. It was an opportunity meet several people from the area, to distribute literature and to promote "Kids for Christ." \$170 was donated to "Healing Hands International." The congregation looks forward to the Historical Society meeting in Fenwick on August 25. Other upcoming events include a neighbourhood barbeque, the Farmer's Market in Fonthill, and "Kids for Christ" beginning in September.

**Hamilton:** Those remaining and still meeting at Mohawk College have unanimously agreed for unity with the Fennell Avenue congregation. On July 8, 2007, we discontinued meeting at Mohawk College and joined with the Fennell Avenue congregation in their Worship Service as one body.  
- Ed Van Alstine

**Toronto (Scarborough):** A fellowship meal was held in honour of the J. Bell family, who moved to Sarnia at the end of July. Youth group meetings

are held at 5 p.m. every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.

**Toronto (Strathmore Blvd.):** Vision Canada 2007 is now history. Many good lessons were presented and the fellowship of the week was wonderful. Many members of the congregation were involved in preparing for and making the programme a success. No one has spoken for the next Vision Canada programme so hopefully someone will do so in the near future. Ron White of Healing Hands International was a guest speaker on July 1. Lurlene Thompson was baptized on July 15.

**Tintern:** 24 volunteers from Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Arkansas, joined about 28 members at Tintern to host Bible Day Camp 2007. 130 kids spent at least one day with us and our daily attendance peaked at 104 on Thursday, 175 kids and parents came for our Friday night wrap-up programme and three families in the community expressed an interest in knowing more about the congregation. Praise God! Ryan Smith, youth minister of the Pleasant Valley congregation, spoke on July 1. On July 15, Craig Ford shared an update on his work in Papua New Guinea and Rayburn Lansdell spoke on July 22.

### QUEBEC

**Montreal (Verdun):** Two souls were added to the congregation recently: a single man, Pierre, and a woman from the Lachine congregation. Worship continues with the simultaneous translation and now also translates in Spanish every week. Men's retreat was held June 1-2 with 24 men participating. Some were from Quebec City, Baie Comeau and Jonquière. 54 persons (4 of them visitors) participated in a "pizza and games' night." The congregation has sold its building and purchased another property in order to meet its growing needs. The new address of the church is Ville-Émard Church of Christ, 6259 Monk Blvd., Montreal, QC, H4E 3H8, 514-765-8919, [www.villeemardchurchofchrist.org](http://www.villeemardchurchofchrist.org). During the last week the church met in Verdun, four people put on the Lord in baptism: Phillip and Suzy Rico, Brittany Dupras, and her brother, C.J. Dupras.

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(BC news supplied by Barbara Lewis)

### ALBERTA

**Camrose:** This is the first year to have a VBS here. A very economical advertising campaign ran to announce the VBS. Flyers were delivered to the four elementary schools and handed out to the students to take home. Notices were put in school newsletters, local events magazines and newspapers. The local Television Cable Network gave time to run an ad. They also offered to come and record some of the VBS and run it on their network. A team from Waterview, Texas, came to help with the VBS. Dianne Friesen has begun a Ladies Bible Study on the Bad and Good Girls of the Bible. The Friesens attended the annual Jaywalkers Jamboree on Main Street in June. As well as participating in the activities it was an opportunity for them to meet people. Plans for next year are being made to hand out balloons and information about the church and the 2nd annual VBS at Jamboree. – Dave Friesen

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Abbotsford (Central Valley):** Central Valley is furnishing the materials for a VBS being conducted in Kelowna this month. Norm Weir's participation in the Vision Canada 2007 lectures promoted interest in reaching the aboriginal peoples across Canada with the gospel message. The next trip to B.C.'s tribes in Fort Ware and Tsey Key will be made next month. The rough roads from Prince George mean that the motor home they must use in order to have facilities on the trip is always in need of repairs before another trip can be made. The Weirs and Wedlers hope to spend a week in each location.

**Burnaby:** Led by Garnet Andrews, a group of some 50

people made the trip to Zorrillo, Mexico, to build a three-room schoolhouse for the children living in the area of one of the churches of Christ. In addition to about 30 from this congregation, there were a number from several other places, including Delta, Calgary, WCC, etc. The school was furnished with desks that Patty (Jacobs) Kunkle, (Vanc., WA.) was able to obtain in Calgary, and took down by truck. Other necessities, such as blackboards, erasers and school supplies were taken in another truck from Vanc., BC, by her sister, Marilyn Jacobs. Preparation for the school were laid in March when Garnet and Patty arranged to oversee the laying of foundations.

**City Church (Vancouver):** A few months ago, one of my daytime students wrote me an e-mail. Here it is: "Hi, Steve, I am Richard. Knowing you is my best treasure in my life. You let me know the Jesus christ, I worship the God in my heart at least, although I am not a Christian, I hope we would be friend during our rest of life. Thank you!!!!!" In June, Richard left for Shen Zhen, China, his hometown. This is the fastest growing city in the world, situated not far from Hong Kong and not far from Shanghai. Upon arriving home, Richard sent this email to me. "hi, my dear friend Steve I have arrived in Shenzhen on last Friday. So much thank your English

and Bible teaching. I am very glad to have a friend like you. I hope you could have a chance to be China, I am waiting for you and your wife's coming. Steve, although I am not a Christian now, but what the bible teaches is exact the real world existing now, I believe it since you let me know it and learnt it, it will affect my daily life in future. thank you again" While you may smile at the English mistakes, the heart of the person shines through. Richard is middle-aged, struck by the tragedy of divorce many years ago, has a son studying at Purdue, and was very lonely when I met him. Jesus is now extremely important in his life. He hasn't obeyed the gospel yet, but I feel confident he will find the way to come to obedience to our Lord. Let's remember that our job is to sow the seed. We will not always see the harvest, nor will we necessarily swell the numbers in our local churches. But God is working and we are sending men and women back to China with a knowledge of the Word of God. Let's rejoice in what God has allowed us to be a part of." – Steve Hasbrouck, Sr.

**Delta:** We rejoiced with the Waddell family when their son, Jonathan, became a Christian on July 8. The special service was held in the Burnaby building on Sunday afternoon.

**Kelowna:** Accompanied by their daughter, Laurie Velthuisen and her two children, Norm and Jen Weir from Abbotsford will help the Spring Valley church of Christ in Kelowna, BC, for a VBS July 16-19. It will be held in the home of one of the members by using the basement and car port. Located in an area of about 130 homes with lots of children, they are hoping for an enrolment of at least 30. It is being advertised by newspaper ads and the distribution of brochures in the neighbourhood. Children from ages four to 12 will be targeted. Parents are invited to stay for coffee, and Charlie McKnight and Norm plan to be available to meet and talk with them while classes are being conducted.

**Nanaimo:** Derek and Jennifer King, along with their three children, settled in to work with the congregation immediately upon their arrival from Arkansas in June. The children, DeVon, (13), Chante (11) and Zion (7) are already involved in activities for their age groups. Our Children's Summer Sessions are being directed by the Kings, with the theme of

*continued on page 20*

## Full Time Ministry Position

**Tintern Church of Christ** is a congregation of 160 + with elders, deacons, well established ministries and a fulltime involvement minister. The Tintern family consists of a blend of all ages (including 60 children). Tintern is located one hour from Toronto and Buffalo in the Niagara Peninsula.

The Tintern Church of Christ is looking for a second minister who is a family oriented individual with good personal and relational skills. The successful candidate will have a passion for the Scriptures and demonstrated abilities in preaching and teaching.

Other assets include:

- A commitment to children's, youth, family and seniors ministries
- An evangelistic orientation
- The ability to work co-operatively with the established ministry team
- Ability to turn ideas into action plans and programs

Interested applicants should apply to [tinterncofc@gmail.com](mailto:tinterncofc@gmail.com)

Tintern Church of Christ  
4539 Spring Creek Road  
Vineland, ON L0R 2C0 905-562-6311  
Attn: Search Committee

Applications must be received by July 15, 2007

# MISSION NEWS

Barbara Lewis  
4920 N. Penn Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99206-4475  
e-mail: ray-bjl@comcast.net



**ECUADOR:** A young man from Texas was shot a week after his arrival to do mission work for three months in the area of Manta. As he and a friend slept in the yard of a church member, they were awakened by someone rattling their tent. When Daniel Stinson stood up to yell at them, a bullet pierced his abdomen. The friend, a young medical student named Ross Baldwin who had just completed a month doing surgery in Cambodia, was able to get him to the nearest hospital, then transferred to a better one when he determined the first did not have adequate facilities to care for Daniel's wounds. The bullet had shattered, requiring a six-hour operation to repair five holes in his intestines. Daniel's father, Eddie, who was doing mission work in Tanzania, and his mother, Marilyn, a psychological consultant in Arlington, TX, who had been scheduled to leave on a mission trip to Maine, were finally able to reach him after a week of juggling airline tickets. Their hopes of bringing him back to Texas immediately were dashed upon arrival to find that surgeons felt a further operation to remove the bullet was necessary.

**CAMBODIA:** The "Ship of Life" is bringing new hope to millions of people who live on Cambodia's waterways. Many spend their entire lives on small boats and skiffs on rivers and lakes. They were born on the water, raised on the water, marry and raise families on the water, seldom going on land. Others live on the banks and depend on the water for transportation, markets and their livelihood. The vast majority of these river dwellers are among the most neglected people in the world, having no schools to attend or hospitals where they can obtain medical care. Most are not registered with any government,

being water nomads, following the fish they catch for a meager living. For centuries they have been abused and misused by most of the outside world: armies, seekers of fortune and feuding warlords. The first team of specialists arrived from the U.S. last month. It consisted of four doctors, two nurses, a lab technician, pharmacist and four assistants, including a young medical student from Dublin, Ireland. Hundreds of people came aboard at every village where the ship anchored. More than 4000 prescriptions were filled during the week. This team also was involved in helping the local staff hone their skills, while organizing the pharmacy better, training a laboratory technician and sharing valuable information with the local physician. They were also very helpful in teaching the crew how to better prepare and work with other teams and individuals scheduled to come in the weeks ahead. The impact they had is immeasurable.

**ETHIOPIA:** Training preachers has been the focus of the gospel outreach in Ethiopia. Following each graduation, a minimum of 20 new congregations are established. Many of the men being trained today are sons of former graduates. At one school, two of the instructors are the sons of preachers who were trained more than 30 years ago. The other major focus has been the establishment of schools for the deaf. There are more than 800 students attending the five schools and two kindergartens that have been established in Ethiopia. A young man named Dawit Gosaye, grew up on the compound of a school for the deaf in Addis Ababa. Both of his parents were deaf graduates of the school. His father abandoned the family while Dawit was a small boy, but his mother has been a custodian at the school all of his life. Although all her children are hearing, they have graduated from the deaf school. Dawit works in the program by teaching sign language to the parents and siblings of the deaf students. He also serves in the Addis congregation as one of the interpreters for the deaf members.

He attends nursing school at night and will graduate in two years as a registered nurse.

**INDIA:** A denominational preacher who was baptized in 2002 and his family gave up a comfortable life-style to become Christians. A leader in the New Apostolic Faith church in Andhra Pradesh, he was responsible for more than 300 churches and 100 preachers. He was well-supported by being furnished with a car and driver, housekeeper and cook, free medical care, free education for his children and a good salary. After attending a 3-day seminar for denominational preachers in Guntar, he was so troubled that he arranged for his preachers to attend a similar one in Rajahmundry, which resulted in his rejecting the beliefs he had held and being baptized. His wife was baptized a week later, and within two months, V.S. Rao had baptized 148 people, six of them preachers. To support the family, the wife, who was a nurse, went back to work. As there were no openings in the town in which they lived, she must take a train all night to another city, where she works from Monday through Friday. Then she takes another all-night train home to her husband and children for the week-end. Her sacrifice means her husband can preach full-time, which, in India, means several times a day seven days a week. He is also a teacher in one of the local preacher-training schools. An effort is being made to secure support for him, since both he and his wife are such valuable workers for the Kingdom.

**JAPAN (Sendai): Osamu and Yuko (Mawatari) Suzuki** celebrated the birth of a son, Yoshiko, on June 22. The Chinese characters in the baby's name represent "Joy" and "Prayer." **Let's Start Talking:** The four Sendai LST workers did an outstanding job (as reported by the Sendai team), with each person hosting one-on-one reading sessions with about 16 different Japanese students. Another LST team of three worked in Hachinohe and also did an excellent job, according to church members there. **MAP interns:** This summer the Sendai



congregation hosted A Thao and Kao Lee, two Masters apprentice Program students from York College, who worked tirelessly helping “with everything from LST reading sessions to trimming the grass in the church yard,” Ben said. English Playmates: Debi Hobelman, with help from Erica Towell and one of the MAP interns, began a class this summer called “English Playmates” for children that come to the building when their parents have Let’s Start Reading sessions. They start with a short English lesson, make a craft, then go to a nearby park to play and read some Bible stories together in Japanese. **Cell Groups:** The team recently had a combined cell group night with three Japanese Christians and five Japanese non-Christians worshipping together in song. Jonathan Straker shared a lesson on the background of the Old Testament and God’s covenant promises to his people. “A highlight was Gaku (non-Christian) explaining to

Michiaki (non-Christian) that believing in God is really the best way to go.” \***FriendsCamp, July 27-29, 2007.** Around 45 individuals registered for FriendsCamp, which was held at a camp near Sendai. Christians from Bramalea church of Christ, Brampton, Ontario, and East Hill church of Christ in York, Nebraska, the team’s sponsoring churches, assisted in this camp. \***Asia Mission Forum, August 4-8, 2007,** was scheduled to be held in Bali, Indonesia. The theme was: “If My People, Who are Called by My Name...” – reflecting on the character of missionaries as the people of God in the Asian community. **Prayer requests** for God to strengthen: 1) **Yuko, Rumiko, Akiko, Osamu and Yuko,** new Christians, to remain faithful to the Lord, even after most of the Sendai team leaves; 2) **LST Readers/contacts** to continue studying; 3) **Sendai congregation** to be committed to serving God. Especially pray for those members who still

cling to Buddhist/Shinto practices; 4) **Sendai team** as several of them leave Sendai temporarily, but with determination to serve God in Japan more effectively if He allows them to return, as they now plan to do.

*Thank you for your faithful support of the Sendai work. Our prayer is that we will all continue to encourage – in whatever way we can – the spreading of the gospel in this difficult country. “In the entire nation of Japan,” Ben Berry reports, “there are only about 1,000 members of the Church of Christ. How we long and pray for this number to grow. Especially this month, will you get on your knees with us and pray for God to make His word burn in the hearts of the Japanese Christians like a fire, that it may spread and consume a lost people, and that the darkness will be overcome with light?”*

## Western Christian College ENCOUNTER program

**W**estern Christian College is launching a new program for the fall of 2007. ENCOUNTER is an experiential year of self-evaluation and growth in a community setting with a spiritual formation focus. ENCOUNTER will prepare students to live a life of faith in a professional career, the workplace, family or marriage. This program combines high quality courses with personal spiritual formation, and it is open-ended so students can follow several options at the end of the first year of college.

Rolland Bouchard, an alumnus and former minister in western Canada, will be the director of the ENCOUNTER program. Bouchard’s words exemplify his excitement about this program. “ENCOUNTER is a residential program focused on life and academics, [and] I will



*Rolland Bouchard*



*Darrell Buchanan*

have the joy of focusing on the living side of the program. With my experience in working closely with young folks in Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Lloydminster, helping the young adults toward growth will be my goal... To help students become better people personally, spiritually and emotionally is my primary focus.”

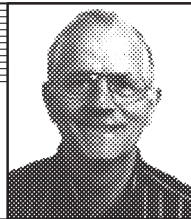
Western Christian College is continually exploring ways to re-tool programs to make them relevant to the needs of young adults in a North American context. Young adults with

vibrant faith that can strengthen churches are a vital part of the mission of Western Christian College. College Dean Stan Helton has been integral in the design of this new program and he leads his staff in this vision.

Western Christian also announces the addition of Darrell Buchanan to the college faculty. Born and raised in Canada, Buchanan has a Bachelor of Biblical Studies from Canadian Bible College and a Master of Divinity from Canadian Theological Seminary. Buchanan, a dedicated scholar, also brings 18 years of ministry experience in Canadian churches of Christ. He is “humbled and excited to have a part in preparing leaders who will embody Christ and communicate the biblical story faithfully while having an awareness of the needs and hopes of a post-Christian culture.”

# BOOK REVIEWS

Books to be reviewed in this column should be sent to  
**Keith Thompson**, Editor, 348 Dixon Blvd., Newmarket, ON L3Y 5C4  
(Books may be ordered from the Gospel Herald)  
email:bookreviews@gospelherald.org



***Pure Religion, A Study of James, Gospel Advocate, Nashville, TN. 128 Pages \$10.50 (Cdn.)***

The Gospel Advocate has recently blessed us with several outstanding new books. As we rightly expect, they are firmly based on the Word of God. Also, when compared to other publishers, their books are reasonably priced.

James is well described as the “How-To-Book of the New Testament.” The book challenges the reader on to greater spiritual growth. Unfortunately, some like Martin Luther, called it “a really dangerous book.” This was probably due to his “faith only” view.

We are warned about the great danger in judging our brother. Boasting about the future is totally vain. We must live for Christ today and not just talk about what we intend to do in the future. Also, Christians must recognize the high cost of low living. We must continually pray for those in need.

The author served more than 17 years as a minister in Missouri. Due to multiple sclerosis he spends much of his time studying the Word and encouraging others. We thank God for such a man and for his sharing this excellent book with us.

***New Perspectives on Breaking the 200 Barrier by Bill M. Sullivan, Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 128 pages, \$15.00 (Cdn.) Reviewed by Jim Holston, teacher at Great Lakes Bible College***

Many church growth authorities describe a relational and organizational barrier to growth that occurs when a church reaches 150 to 350 in attendance. This barrier is called the 200 Barrier. Very often at that range a church’s growth plateaus and most churches never rise above that level. *New Perspectives on Breaking the 200 Barrier* by Bill

Sullivan, a revision of his earlier work *Ten Steps to Breaking the 200 Barrier*, offers insights and strategies that can help your congregation move beyond the 200 Barrier into extraordinary growth.

Sullivan’s book addresses “choice points”—occasions when people make decisions about factors that determine their congregation’s size. These decisions may be formal or informal, conscious or unconscious and reflect values, preferences, attitudes and responses to situations. Sullivan says these choices we make, whether we realize it or not, determine our ability to grow. Some common choice points involve action vs. inertia, comfort vs. discomfort, control vs. release and participant vs. spectator. Sullivan advocates confronting growth-restricting choice points through education, modeling better choices, mentoring, structuring for growth and implementing new actions.

Sullivan then provides ten practical steps to break the 200 Barrier. The steps include the following.

- Examine your motive.
- Intensify your praying.
- Increase your faith.
- Set a barrier-breaking goal.
- Think through your plan.
- Focus on the crucial few.
- Create excitement.
- Lead the change.

I found the book filled with good information and wise counsel. I believe the principles discussed here can help any church of any size grow in response to the Great Commission.

\*\*\*\*\*

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FOR **70** YEARS

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**Join The Celebration**

The McMillan Family invites you  
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of faith and family.

**TEA & PROGRAM**  
**2:00 - 4:00 PM**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 12, 2007**  
**COMMUNITY HALL, KENNEDY SK**

*Please join us for an afternoon of songs, memories  
and inspiration! Gifts gratefully declined.*

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# WE'VE MOVED!

The **VERDUN CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Formerly located at 503, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Verdun, Quebec

**IS NOW IN MONTREAL**

Église du Christ à

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Church of Christ

6259 MONK BOULEVARD  
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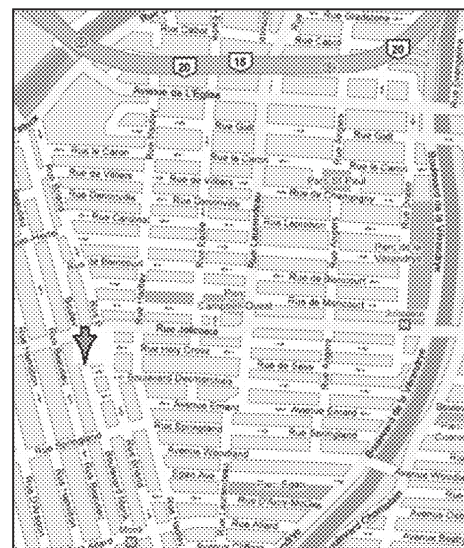
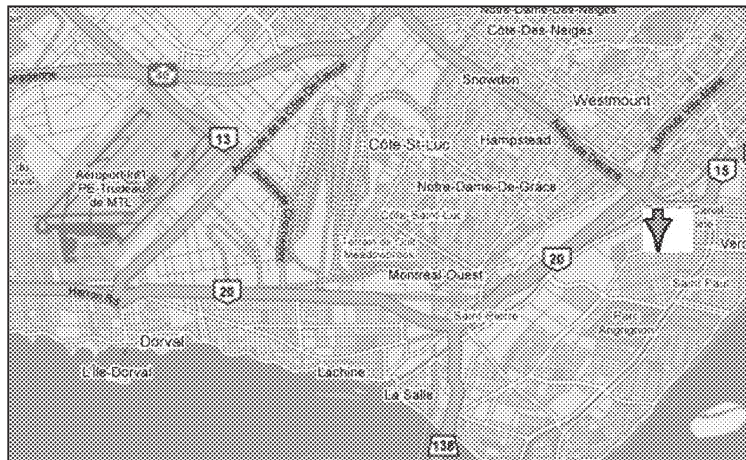
[www.villeemardchurchofchrist.org](http://www.villeemardchurchofchrist.org)  
[www.bibletalk.ca](http://www.bibletalk.ca)

Sunday service: 10:00 AM  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

Simultaneous electronic translation  
(English/French/Spanish)

Mike Mazzalongo, Ev.     [mazzalongo@videotron.ca](mailto:mazzalongo@videotron.ca)  
Roger Saumur, Ev.        [rogersaumur@sympatico.ca](mailto:rogersaumur@sympatico.ca)

## DIRECTIONS



Take **exit 62** on **highway 15** (Verdun, **de la Vérendrye**) to Jolicoeur Street (third light). Turn **right on Jolicoeur** and continue straight until **Monk Boulevard**, turn **left**. We are located on the right at **6259 Monk Boulevard**.



Metro (subway) station **MONK**

News West... continued from page 15

"Bible Exploration: Discovering God". Pam Pady has taken on the project of putting together a history of Spruston Rd. Bible Camp. This will go back as far as the camps at the Morton farm and Mt. Benson when young people who wanted to become Christians were baptized in the ocean, often with whales as spectators.

**Oakridge:** Our young people did an outstanding job of producing and putting on a play about "The Prodigal Son" for the church last month. Canada Day was celebrated with an all-day picnic at the beach. Two of our members returned to their homes in July: Wendy Casio, returned to Cancun, Mexico, and Joel Borjarski, from Cornwall, Ont., who participated in our services regularly, and preached for us one Sunday. Both are greatly missed.

**Salmon Arm:** The Salmon Arm 50th Anniversary Celebration weekend of July 13-15 wrapped up with a "Praise and Worship" session after the noon meal and a sermon by Lynn Anderson, well-known author and preacher whose first full-time job was here. His subject concluded the general theme of "Middle Age" with a sermon on "Paul: Middle Age Change" Activities started Friday evening with a devotional led by Dave Astin from Portland, OR., and "50 Years in Song" with long-time song leader Ron Beckett, preacher for the Surrey, BC congregation. A continental breakfast on Saturday gave participants an hour in which to embrace old friends and meet new ones. The morning address was given by Blair Roberts, teacher at WCC from Sandy Bay, Sask., who introduced "Moses: Middle Age Preparation". Following an afternoon recess, "The Story: 50 Years in One Hour" was presented by Sam Tumlinson, Coldstream, B. C. A supper of Baron of Beef was served prior to a song service at 6:30. Lynn Anderson gave the Saturday evening address on "David: Middle Age Trials". Coffee and lingering fellowship followed.

**Summer Wedding Anniversary Celebrations:** Congratulations go out to Stuart and Frances Dunlop of Winnipeg – 55 years Leonard and Janet Johnson of Winnipeg – 53 years Margaret and Walter Johnson of Winnipeg. The celebration took place in Edmonton, Alberta. – 50 years William and Marie McMillan of Kennedy, SK - 70 years

#### MANITOBA

**Winnipeg (Central):** The annual Bible Class presentation was held June 24th. The pre-school through grade 6 classes did a short presentation to show some of the lessons they had learned and a short video highlighting events and activities over the past year was viewed. Michaela Kazuk was baptized. Eleven team members from Central went to Weyburn, SK, to participate in the VBS. Our

theme was based on 2 Corinthians 4:18 'The things which are seen are temporary but the things which are not seen are eternal.' We taught over 100 children from age 4 to grade 6 how to look beneath the surface of outward appearance to find the true value of inner beauty and spiritual depths. August 27-31 Paul Birston will be teaching on "Contemporary Religion in Canada" for Great Lakes Bible College at Camp Omagh near Milton, Ontario. The goals of the course include understanding our religious neighbours so we can better communicate the gospel and love of God to them. Friend Speak Seminar will be held September 14 & 15 with Andrea Muirhead as guest speaker.

**Carman:** John Clayton's visit to Carman will be October 26-28 when he will be presenting lessons related to science and the Bible.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

**Clearview Camp:** Camps started July 1 and will run for six weeks. They included grade two to high school age. New this year was family camp from July 15-20.

**Regina:** Western Christian held College Graduation Ceremonies on April 21. Faculty, staff, students, family, and friends celebrated the achievements of five certificate graduates and four degree graduates. The 6-member college singing group Panim toured for nine days following graduation, stopping at Calgary, Salmon Arm, Burnaby, Victoria, Woodinville (a suburb of Seattle), Three Forks, Bozeman, and Great Falls, Montana. Jennifer Kerr (College Registrar) Carolyn Trimp (Development Officer) and Stan Helton (College Dean) accompanied the students. Stan Helton presented two papers at the Scholar's Conference at Rochester College in June. The college faculty will have a full summer as they prepare for the fall and serve in numerous camp, Bible school and ministry activities. – Carolyn McMillan

**Weyburn:** Annual VBS was held July 9 to 13. The theme was "Can You Dig It?" There are treasures to be discovered based on value through the eyes of Jesus. He wants us to dig deeper to discover the treasures of inner beauty and spiritual depth not outward appearances and physical value. Scott Wade taught the adult class. His theme was "Building Stronger Families". Parents of the children were invited to the adult class. Afternoon & evening activities included singing at the Special Care Home and at Tatagwa View, visiting a buffalo jump, bowling, service projects at the Weyburn Youth Centre and for church members and at our building. The VBS concluded at Lowell and Darla Peterson's with a barbecue supper. A special collection was taken for Clearview Camp on Sunday, June 24.

Editorial... continued from page 4

necessary. Jesus and the early church did not hesitate to act counter-culturally at times; for example, treating women with respect, decrying materialism and crossing social and economic class structures to reach the despised and vulnerable. At other times, Jesus and the inspired writers said things that we today, surrounded by a post-Christian Western culture that believes it has found a more enlightened way, may find difficult to accept. God did not put the Church in the world to bend to culture. The Israelites lost favour with God for conforming with the practices of the land. We are called to be the light to those around, a beacon shining God's word. We are shaped both by the Cross and the Word.

Have we outgrown the Bible? Perhaps the better question is, do we commit ourselves to deep study and prayerful submission to the challenging teachings? To be truly God's people, we can never outgrow His word.

## Great Lakes Bible College Summer Short Course at Camp Omagh, August 27-31 Contemporary Religion in Canada Instructor: Paul Birston

This study is specific to the Canadian religious scene with its particular set of doctrines and practices. An examination will be made of the contemporary three 'idols': individualism, pluralism and relativism. The intent of the course is an understanding from an evangelical perspective of the Canadian religious mind.

Contact: Joe Woodford  
905-563-5374 Ext 235



## Speakers and Workshop Leaders:

Brenda Snow .....	Canada	Delores Mitchell .....	USA
Mariam Starks .....	USA	Alma Darroux .....	Dominica
Rosina Adu .....	Ghana	Tula Nisbett .....	Nevis
Pat Knutson .....	Canada	Chan Kissun Ali .....	Trinidad
Julie Hryniewicz-Hache .....	Canada	Ruth Etienne .....	Canada
Sandra Clark .....	USA	Shirley Straker .....	Canada

Theme: *A Beautiful Life* 1 Thes. 2:12

**August 11, 13 & 14, 2007**

Contact: <coc\_ill@yahoo.ca> or 416-244-9152

Website: [www.cocharding.com](http://www.cocharding.com)

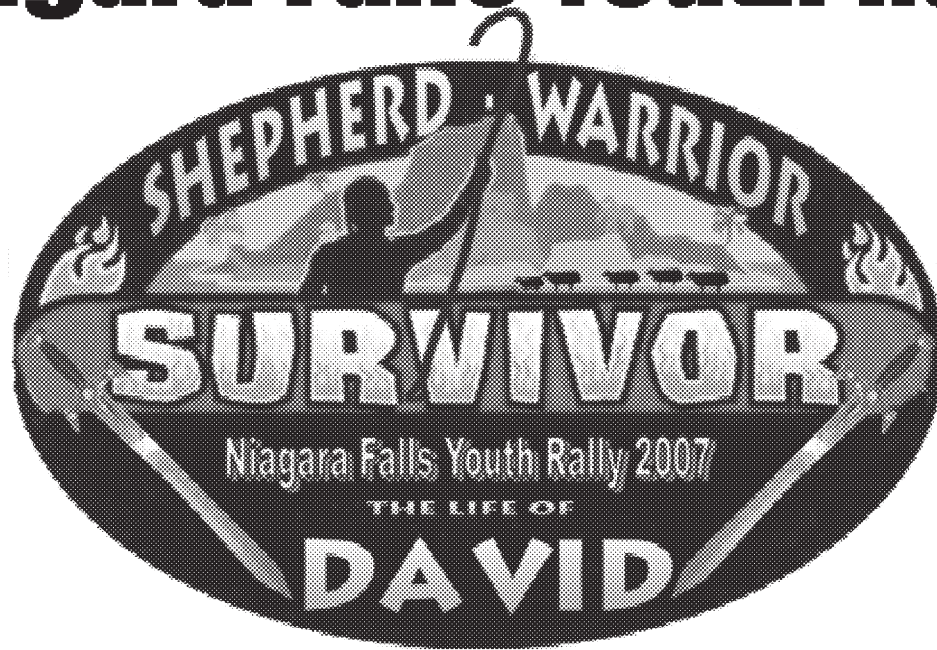
### Location:

Westwood Banquet Hall, 90 Woodbine Downs Blvd., Rexdale, Ontario





# Niagara Falls Youth Rally



**Grades 7 & up**

**September 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>**

**(Friday registration starts at 6:30pm)**

**Stamford Lions Hall  
3846 Portage Rd. N.F**

**Grades 7 & up**

**Theme: SHEPHERD, WARRIOR, SURVIVOR**

**Based on the life and times of DAVID**

**1 Samuel 16 - 2 Samuel 12**

**(We ask that you study this portion of scripture to be ready for the activities planned)**

**Cost: \$20.<sup>00</sup> If registered before Sept. 15th/07  
\$25.<sup>00</sup> After Sept. 15th/07**

**We have a variety of events planned throughout the weekend including a Bible Bowl on the Life of David (please study 1 Samuel 16 - 2 Samuel 12) and a Survivor challenge at a nearby park**

**Join us for a spiritual, bible based, fulfilled weekend in Niagara**

**For more information please contact Dave & Elke Blain at 905-295-1912**