

# Gospel

# Herald

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*The earth is the Lord's,  
and everything in it,...*

PSALM 24: 1 (NIV)



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*This little girl is showing the caterpillar that she loves it by giving it a big kiss. See editorial, "God's Handiwork", on page 4.*



FROM:

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# “The Renewing of Your Mind”

## Romans 12:1-2 and Research in Brain/Mind Science, Part 1

Paul Birston

Jesus tells us God’s greatest commandment is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30). At a key point in his letter to the Romans, Paul the Apostle commands them to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). The relationships of the mind, brain, body, soul and spirit have fascinated people for thousands of years. In the fifth century B.C., Empedocles thought that the intelligence of mind lived in the blood and heart (the cardiovascular theory). Hippocrates believed that the soul resided in the brain, the source of intellectual powers (the encephalic theory). Plato had a hybrid view that the immortal soul resided in the head’s “marrow” while the passions resided in the torso. Aristotle thought the rational soul was centred in the heart. Galen was a second century A.D. anatomist who believed that the life-giving spirits resided in the ventricles of the brain (the ventricular theory). In the fourth century A.D., Nemesius, a philosopher and bishop of Emesa, believed the brain had three basic sets of mental faculties—

- 1) sensation and imagination,
- 2) intellect/thought and judgement, and
- 3) memory, the storehouse of thought.

These ideas about the brain and mind shaped people’s thinking until the A.D. 1500’s. It was then that Andreas Vesalius, considered the “father of modern anatomy,” dissected different mammal brains and made the first anatomically accurate descriptions of the brain. Unlike Aristotle who thought that the heart was the centre of the rational soul, Vesalius saw the brain and the nervous system as the centre of the mind and emotions. In the 1600’s, Rene Descarte made a

distinction between mind and body that lead to an understanding of the brain as essentially a physical machine and the mind as an immaterial holistic entity that controls the brain.

By the 1800’s, scientists and physicians such as Jean-Baptiste Bouillaud and Paul Broca began to identify

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### *The mind/brain complex... can change and re-pattern itself*

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localized functions within the brain. Broca correctly identified the brain’s speech centre. In his ground breaking neurological research and surgery on epileptics in the twentieth century, Dr. Wilder Penfield, located many more of the specific functions of the brain. Scientific research has discovered the organization in the brain’s structure beginning with the basic building blocks of molecules which go together to form synapses, 15 to 30+ billion neurons and axons, networks, maps and the central nervous system.

Following Penfield and Descartes, most experts in neurology today make a distinction between brain and mind. As a complex organ, the brain makes consciousness and the process of thought possible much like a computer makes computation possible. In essence, the brain is the computer hardware and the mind is the software that controls, directs and draws upon its resources. The mind is not so much an object as a process. The mind works through a stream of consciousness within the brain that integrates and employs its information organizing and directing power, a type of collective of all the amazing brain has to offer. The brain stores memories of events and thoughts through anatomical changes in its structure called “engrams.” These are physical chemical changes in the brain’s networks

which store and recall the things and events which the brain remembers. The “self” is the collective of mind, brain and soul, which experiences life and structures memories for recall and gives each individual their own unique identity and ability to make choices. The identification of the mind localized in the brain and how different parts of the brain support various functions of benefit to the whole person are enormous breakthroughs.

Scientists have gone on to make discoveries that are highly relevant to God’s command to love Him with all of our minds and Paul’s exhortation for the renewal of the mind. The mind/brain complex does not only change anatomically as it assimilates and remembers new experiences and information, it can change and re-pattern itself, even when injured. As John Dowling observes, “the view that the brain becomes hard-wired once we become adults is a common one, but not a correct one, and recent research on the mammalian cortex has shown that it is considerably more modifiable in adults than anyone believed just a few decades ago” (vs. 83). Norman Doidge uses case studies to show that the mind/brain complex is plastic and can indeed “change its own structure and function through thought and activity” (xix).

Science thus affirms what God says through Paul in Romans 12:2. The human mind is capable of change, growth and renewal. As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:16, “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.” While the mind can learn bad behaviours, it can overwrite these with new thoughts and motives and choose good behaviours. Traces of the old are still there but the new can become dominant. The highest sources of inspiration and

*continued on page 3*

**NOTICE:** All materials for publication must be in the hands of the editors **by the tenth (10) day of the month** preceding the date of issue. Date of issue is the first of each month.

# Gift Wrapped

Les Cramp

**Y**ou have probably been faced with trying to buy a gift for the one who has everything. Or perhaps you have come to the point in life where you have everything and you tell friends and relatives not to buy you gifts.

It is not that someone really has everything. It is more a case where we cannot identify something a person does not already have. Or, on the other hand, it is an issue where we do not want anything more or need anything more or maybe even have room for anything more.

But what do you give to the one who has everything? In contrast to humanity, God really does have everything. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else" Acts 17:24-26.

This passage indicates, in terms of gifts that we could give, God does not need anything from us to enhance His existence. God has everything. In fact God has no need to be a recipient because He is the ultimate giver. It is He who supplies everything we need.

This is not to say that God does not want our gifts. He cherishes our gifts and has made it clear that He desires to receive them. So what do we give to the One who has everything?

The gift we can give God is the same gift that God has said that He wants to receive from us. It boils down to our full devotion. God wants our gift of putting Him first. The gift of making Him the priority in our lives.

That gift can be packaged in many ways. It can be wrapped in our obedience. When we obey God we can be showing our devotion to God. God does

not want our obedience because we feel we have to obey. God wants our obedience because we are devoted to Him and want to do what pleases Him.

The gift of devotion can be wrapped in a package of worship. Worship can be an expression of devotion to God. We worship the things that have the highest priority in our lives. Therefore our daily worship of God tells Him that He is our All in all.

The gift of devotion can be packaged in submission. Submission is very close to obedience. But in our present time obedience is most often thought of as being related to an action or activity. Submission is a condition of the heart. It is an attitude. It is giving ourselves over to the direction and guidance of someone else. Submission to God is a huge compliment to Him and an indicator of our devotion to God.

We could go on to talk of several ways that devotion to God is wrapped

or packaged in our lives. There are lots of beautiful wrappings that we can put on our devotion. But the wrapping does not make the gift. It is quite amazing how quickly the wrapping is discarded by the recipient of the gift.

The same is true with God. It is the gift that He cherishes and holds most dear to His heart. It is the devotion that means everything to Him. However we wrap it may make it more attractive but the real significance is in the gift itself.

In fact, have you ever received a beautifully wrapped gift and when you opened it, it was not what you wanted? Did the attractive wrapping make the gift any more acceptable?

In giving our gift to the One who has everything our devotion is really the most important thing. It is what He asks for. It is what He wants. It is what He gave us the ability and capacity to give. No need to look for an exotic gift for God. Give Him your full devotion and He will be eternally pleased.

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"The Renewing of Your Mind"...  
continued from page 2

motivation for these changes are God, His Word, and His Spirit. In Part 2 we'll look at the important and positive spiritual implications of being "transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Further reading:

Norman Doidge—*The Brain that Changes Itself*.

John E. Dowling—*The Great Brain Debate: Nature or Nurture?*

Malcolm Jeeves—*Mind Fields: Reflections on the Science of Mind and Brain*.

David Gareth Jones—*Our Fragile Brains: A Christian Perspective on Brain Research*.

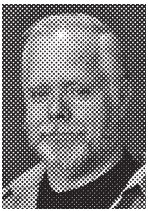
John H. Kaas, ed—*The Mutable Brain: Dynamic and Plastic Features of the Developing and Mature Brain*.

Wilder Penfield—*The Mystery of the Mind*.

Winnipeg, MB

## God's Handiwork

Wayne Turner



The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has been an unprecedented ecological disaster. At the time of this writing, it has been 84 days since oil started spilling into the Gulf. According to CBS affiliate, WKRG.com, at this time, over 210 million gallons (U.S.) of oil have poured into and spread across the Gulf. We cannot even begin to imagine the extent of this event, how much damage it will have caused, or when the effects of it will finally end.

This is only the latest in a series of a wide range of man-made crises and disasters that have struck various parts of the world. There have been oil spills, nuclear disasters, pollution, acid rain, ozone depletion and global warming/arctic ice melting. We may only just be beginning to see the spin-off effects of these on global food and water supplies. Overall, it seems that humankind has done a poor job caring for this planet. We might wonder how much longer we can reasonably expect this planet to be able to support life and humanity as it has.

Countless numbers of people and organizations have become involved in various aspects of the attempts to save Planet Earth. Concern for ecology has moved, in public perception, from a fringe group of "tree huggers" into the mainstream. Most Canadians are now aware of at least some of the ecological issues and are participating, if only in a somewhat nominal way, through things like curb side recycling programmes. However, the extent of one disaster like the oil spill makes so many efforts seem very insignificant.

What does this have to do with Christians and the church? As the people around us are increasingly becoming involved in these concerns, do they see that Christians are aware or even care about them? Do they see us as responsible global citizens or are we among those who are helping to pollute and despoil the earth?

Certainly, we have a different "earth-view" from those around us. We do not see the earth as our permanent home. We know that it is perishable and will eventually cease to exist. Similarly, this planet does not embody our hopes for the future. We long for our eternal, spiritual home. Neither flesh and blood, nor dirt and oil will be part of it. So, why should we bother with the world today?

Underlying our "earth-view" is the understanding that the world is part of God's creation. On one hand,

it is through the creation that we see the existence and nature of God—his majesty, power, wisdom and love. As we value our heavenly Father, we also respect His works. On the other, we recognize that we have been entrusted with a stewardship from Him. As Adam and Eve were given responsibility to care for the garden, we too have a similar work—to care for, not help to destroy, God's handiwork.

This is not to suggest that Christians be diverted from our spiritual priorities. It is all too easy to allow oneself to be side-tracked by more temporal things. However, there are many people around us (including possibly even some of our own young people) who will be unwilling to listen to us if they feel they are seeing a callous and irresponsible example of global citizenship.

This may be demonstrated in many ways. For example, does a Christian (or a congregation) make a genuine effort to reduce the amount of waste it generates? Have you ever considered how much we consume or how much landfill space our waste requires? How much usable food do we throw out after a potluck because people take more than they could eat? Do we regularly throw out bags and bags of Styrofoam which is not biodegradable rather than choosing products which are environmentally sound? Do we just blindly participate in the high-consumption world which increasingly demands more and more of the depleting resources of the earth (and more and more oil)?

These are just a few questions but hopefully they will raise awareness of some of the practical concerns we need to address. We need to keep in mind, as the Psalmist wrote, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it..."

### GOSPEL HERALD

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## God WILL Be Glorified

**E**vents of the Old Testament are strong reminders of the truth that, “God WILL Be Glorified.” When the people of God did as they were commanded, they received the rich blessings and support of God. When they failed to honour Him they paid the price. When they did His will, they felt the pleasure of His provision. It is no different for those of us living in the post Old Testament age. Surely this is true in reference to the matter of how we worship and serve Him.

The appointment of the first priests of the nation of Israel is an interesting case in point. Moses followed God’s command and anointed Aaron as High Priest and his sons, Nadab and Abihu, as priests. “The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments and the anointing oil and the bull of the sin offering and the two rams and the basket of unleavened bread. And assemble all the congregation at the entrance of the tent of meeting.’ And Moses did as the LORD commanded him, and the congregation was assembled at the entrance of the tent of meeting. And Moses said to the congregation, ‘This is the thing that the LORD has commanded to be done.’ And Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water. And he put the coat on him and tied the sash around his waist and clothed him with the robe and put the ephod on him and tied the skilfully woven band of the ephod around him, binding it to him with the band. And he placed the breastpiece on him, and in the breastpiece he put the Urim and the Thummim. And he set the turban on his head, and on the turban, in front, he set the golden plate, the holy crown, as the LORD commanded Moses” (Leviticus

8:1–9). So Aaron and his sons are set apart, consecrated, made holy, to do the work of priests of God.

Holiness is very important in the life of any person who would be the child of God because He expects it. “You shall therefore keep all my statutes and all my rules and do them, that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. And you shall not walk in the customs of the nation that I am driving out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I detested them... You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine” (Leviticus 20:22, 23, 26).

When God’s people do what is right—worship in the spirit and truth and serve God by sharing the gospel and serving their fellowman—God is glorified. When God’s people fail to do so, the glory is taken away and a price must be paid.

Let us go back to the example of the first High Priest and family. According to Moses, things got off to a great start. Leviticus 9 records the beginning of Aaron’s leadership in the preparation of the sacrifice and the offering of it to God. In the early part of that chapter, under the guidance of Aaron the High Priest, working along with his sons, they prepared themselves and the sacrifices according to God’s instruction and offered them to God. Everything went well! Moses records, “Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all

the people. And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces” (Leviticus 9:22–24).

Had the story ended here, wonderful! However, there is Leviticus 10:1, 2—“Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.”

Why God’s strong reaction to this failure on the part of Aaron’s sons? Again, hear the words of Moses to Aaron, “This is what the LORD has said, ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’ “And Aaron held his peace” (Leviticus 10:3).

An interesting story, but so what? Do you suppose God requires any less of His people today? Nadab and Abihu made a change; some would say a slight one, in the plan of God for worship in honouring Him. They paid the price. We don’t know why they did so. Perhaps they just “liked” the different fire better? It was what they wanted and use, and after all, were not they the ones who needed to be pleased?

Today, do we have the right to do what pleases us in matters of worship and doctrine if we cannot justify it by command, example or biblical inference? Peter says (1 Peter 1:14–16) we are called to be holy and does that holiness come without making every effort to submit to the spoken will of God (Scripture) and walk in obedience as Jesus did? John says, “If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:6–7).

Make no mistake...God WILL Be Glorified!

# Kingdom Expectations

Thayer Salisbury

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old” (Matthew 13:47-52).

The parable draws on a familiar scene from their daily life. Many of those who heard Jesus had cast the nets or helped the fishermen to sort the fish once the nets were landed. Those who had not been involved in fishing, had at least seen it done. They understood that a large net cast into Galilee would normally land a number of fish. Some suitable for consumption, and some not suitable.

This parable of the dragnet repeats the same basic theme as the parable of the weeds given earlier in Matthew 13. Jesus tells two stories to address this matter, and Matthew is inspired to record them both. Clearly the Lord considers it an important theme.

The Lord sees that we have unrealistic expectations about the kingdom,

and that those unrealistic expectations lead us into trouble. The Lord wants us to correct these expectations.

## Expect a diversity of people

*“the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind”*

The parable should cause us to expect a diversity of people in the kingdom. All kinds of fish would be caught in the net cast into the sea. Rarely would one find only one or two varieties. That is true with the literal net in the literal sea, and that is true with the gospel net cast into the world. So it was, and so it should be.

It has been claimed that eleven o'clock on Sunday morning may or may not be the most segregated hour of the week. I am not so sure

that the accusation is true, but it certainly should not be true. The kingdom should include people of all races, all tribes, all colors, all languages. That is the expectation of both testaments, and it ought to be our expectation today.

“It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and **all the nations** shall flow to it, and **many peoples** shall come, and say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:2-3).

“Go therefore and make disciples of **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and **in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth**” (Acts 1:8).

“Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language” (Acts 2:5-6).

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, **from every nation, from**



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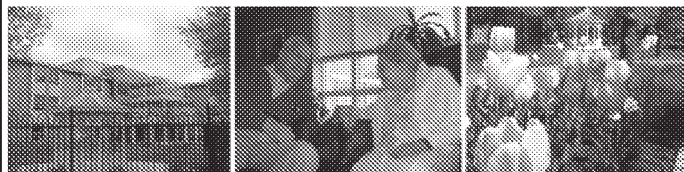
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**all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands” (Rev. 7:9).

Ideally, a church should reflect its community ethnically, chronologically and economically. We should not just wish for it to be so, we should do something to make it a reality. We should honestly look at what we do and try to change things that might be standing in the way of reaching those who are different from us. We should be reaching across ethnic barriers, and chronological barriers. It sometimes seems that we have abandoned racial segregation only to embrace chronological segregation. It should not be so. The church is to be a unity of people of all nations and all ages. And we should take steps to make it so.

**Expect some problem people.  
vs. 48-49**

*“When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age.”*

The earlier parable, the parable of the weeds, indicated that Satan will see to it that there will be false brothers among us. This parable does not say why it is that there are false believers, but it just presents it as a fact.

Not only would a large net cast into Galilee bring up every kind of edible fish, it would also bring up “unclean” fish that could not be consumed, or even kept. Sorting was necessary at the end of fishing operations, and it will take place in the kingdom as well.

We must learn to think aright about the sinners in the church, the hypocrites in the church, the mental cases in the church. We are to discipline them (Mt 7:15-16; 18:17-18; 1 Cor 5:12-13; 2 Thess

3:14). Even more importantly, we are to self-discipline and grow out of our problems (2 Tim 2:19). Yet we have to realize that casting the net to save people will bring problem people into the church, and that we will never completely eliminate their problems.

One of the early influences in my life was a brother named Grady McKnight. Brother McKnight earned his living as a sheet metal worker, but he did a lot of preaching as well. Whenever someone apologized for a baby that had interrupted the sermon, he would say that he liked the sound of crying babies during his sermon. He saw it as an indication that the church has a future.

Problem people, if they be new converts, are an indication of progress. It is natural that new converts will have problems, and

create problems in the church. Of course, they should grow out of some of this over time, but the only church without such problems is a dead church.

The final sorting of the kingdom will be at the end (vs. 49). That is both a comforting and a sobering thought. It is comforting to know that, although we cannot perfectly discipline the church, the Lord will perfectly sort things at the end. No one He has chosen will be accidentally cast aside, that is a comfort. It is a sobering thought to realize that none who has remained unrepentant will be accidentally included in the victorious kingdom.

**Expect to be able to share  
treasures old and new.**

*“Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of*

*continued on page 16*

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# A Personal Relationship with God

(from the book of Psalms)

*Brian Thompson*

Certainly God knew what He was doing when He created the world and had His inspired word written through His Holy Spirit. Without a doubt the earth and the heavens reveal a designer but in that design little is said about the personality of the Creator.

The Bible, on the other hand, reveals that side of God. So when

reading the Bible one needs to understand that it is not just a history book containing the records of good and bad people since the beginning of time but it's something so wonderfully applicable and beneficial to our lives today. It enables us to know God personally by reading about the lives of others who experienced a personal relationship with Him. And, unlike any other book, it enables us to understand ourselves; see ourselves as we really are and then offer direction and meaning to our life. The end result of heeding its content is genuine happiness as one copes through the difficulties and challenges of everyday life.

But how does one have a relationship with someone they cannot see? After hearing Jesus mention to Thomas that no one could come to the Father except through Him Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us" (John 14:6-8). But Jesus' reply was interesting. He said, "Have I been so long with you Philip and yet you have not come to know Me? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father?'" In other words He was saying to Philip that to see Him was to see God.

However, since Jesus many years ago ascended to the Father and is no longer visibly present on earth how can anyone today ever see God? Well, to see what Jesus did and know why He did those things is to see and understand God. The apostle John and the apostle Paul encourage us to see God in Jesus by what Jesus did in these familiar words found in I John 3:1, "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God; and such we are;" in I Jn.4:10, "In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the

propitiation for our sins;" in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life;" and in Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Everyone should want to have a relationship with a God that loves this much. David did even before Jesus appeared on earth.

The book of Psalms is about relationships between the writer and God and quite often that writer was King David. In all of his Psalms we find David talking to God openly about everything and anything. Whether it was to thank Him, praise Him or even spend time complaining, David had a relationship with God that was real, open and respectful. Even though David never saw God he had a relationship with Him. He saw how God worked in his life; how God blessed him and how God disciplined him when he deserved it. As a child of God he knew he was not alone even when he felt alone so he spent a lot of time talking to God through Psalms (songs where he sung what he felt). If you've never read or studied the Psalms then you've really missed out on something. It is not difficult to understand and you'll see yourself in David and connect to his feelings and relationship with God.

If you're relationship with God is limited to the "blessings of going to church" then you're really missing out on many other blessings. Why not challenge yourself to read and meditate on a chapter each night from Psalms and see if it will encourage you into a greater relationship with your heavenly Father that's more than Sunday morning, one that's 24/7.

Owen Sound, ON

## Owen Sound Ladies Renewal

**Date:** September 17, 18, 19, 2010

**Theme:**  
In Everything By Prayer

**Speakers:**  
MJune Heuston – Tillsonburg  
Margaret Hibbard – Thessalon  
Michelle Toohey – Waterloo

**Location:** Riverview Bible Camp  
Near Chesley

**Cost:** \$35 per person  
\$10 per daughter  
in high school

**Optional:**  
5 km walk/run with funds  
going to support  
Ruth Zimmerman

**Registration Deadline:**  
September 8  
Accommodations are limited

**Contact:** Mary Zavitz  
(519) 363-6952



# GREAT LAKES BIBLE COLLEGE

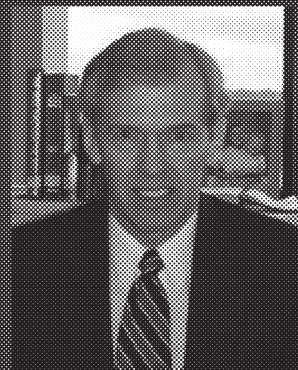
**2010 Summer Short Course at Camp Omagh**  
**August 30 - September 03**

## **1 and 2 Corinthians**

This close textual examination of 1 and 2 Corinthians will explore the historical, social, and religious contexts of Paul's Corinthian letters. For a detailed syllabus, please visit:

[www.greatlakesbiblecollege.ca/corinthysyllabus.pdf](http://www.greatlakesbiblecollege.ca/corinthysyllabus.pdf)

Tuition: \$312 Credit  
\$156 Audit  
Room & Board: \$100



### **Instructor**

**Paul Birston**  
M.A. and M.Div.  
Winnipeg, MB

To register contact Dave Knutson at  
[daknutson@gmail.com](mailto:daknutson@gmail.com) or (519) 342-3040





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

**Reminder:** To be published in the following month's Gospel Herald, each congregation's information should be sent to Walter Straker by the **10th of the month preceding the date of issue**, which is the first of each month. Please clearly mark the email or the envelope: "NewsEast."

### NEW BRUNSWICK

**Saint John:** In April, a fellowship meal was enjoyed with members from the Moncton congregation who traveled to Saint John. In June, a phone call was received from the Agyare family, members of the church who recently moved to northern New Brunswick (2 hours and 45 minutes away) from Saskatoon, SK, who state that they plan to meet with the Saint John church occasionally. The congregation's second mail drop was scheduled for April 12 and members hoped to reach 1,245 residents in three mailing routes. However, due to illnesses and other problems, the

mail drop was done in June.

### ONTARIO

**Beamsville:** Congratulations were extended to Nancy McCall who was baptized in June. A play about Esther was presented on May 29 with over 40 children from the congregation's youth group participating. The Great Lakes Christian High School Chorus presented a program on June 2, 2010. Sunday, June 20, the congregation held a children's dedication service. Max and Prisca Dauner, from France, are scheduled to be with the congregation from August 5-12. The breakfast programme hosted by the congregation had 37 children from Senator Gibson School registered. Nine to 22 children attended on any given morning.

**Bramalea:** Matilda Ducreay of the Dominican Republic returned to Canada and Bramalea recently. Ladies' retreat at Camp Omagh on June 26 was attended by 13 ladies. Speakers were Vivian Osei-Cobbina, Esther Asamoah and Daphne Williams (who sent a tape as she had just been diagnosed with shingles.) Six members of the congregation attended the Ghanaian lectureship in Maryland in July.

**Brantford:** The congregation welcomed a new brother in Christ: Khalil recently made the decision to dedicate his life to God through baptism. A yard "work bee" was held on May 24. Ladies' Bible class continues its study, "God's Names." Muriel

Thompson celebrated her 90th birthday on July 6. An invitation was issued to participate in a card shower for her. Cards can be sent to Mrs. H.F. Thompson, 15 Hepburn Avenue, St. Thomas, Ontario, N5R 4J4.

**Fenwick:** The recent ladies' day went well with 68 women hearing Ruth Etienne present an excellent lesson. Ruth Zimmerman has safely returned to Papua New Guinea. Avril Keoughan, who is with the church in Fenwick for a couple of months, taught the ladies' class in June and also gave a presentation about the work she is doing in Ghana. "Kids for Christ" concluded another successful year with over 20 students registered. June also brought the annual lawn sale "give away" and Friends Day. Canada Day celebrations were scheduled at Dandelion Acres, and "Singing on the Lawn" was set for July 16.

**Fennell (Hamilton):** The congregation recently said goodbye to Alicia Moore on June 13, who just finished her schooling at McMaster University. A youth activity was scheduled for June 25 for all teens. Prayers were requested for Tim Paek who returned to Korea at the end of June. He did arrive there safely and his student visa was being issued. On June 27, a joint evening song service with Niagara churches was held in Grimsby. An activity for elementary age children was scheduled for Friday, July 9, at Eastmount Park.

**Mississauga:** Congratulations are extended to Vanessa Lawrence, daughter of Cecilyn Lawrence, who was baptized Friday, July 9, by Tony Lourenco, in the Bramalea baptistery in the presence of a dozen Mississauga members.

**Owen Sound:** In the spring the congregation hosted the Georgian Bay area hymn sing. Recently the church enjoyed its annual congregational retreat at Riverview Bible Camp. The congregation also broadcasted a gospel meeting on four consecutive Sunday morning worship services in May and June over the local radio station CFOS AM. On August 8-11 a gospel meeting is scheduled with David Srygley of Corpus Christi, Texas. Taken from the book of Romans, the topic is: "There is Power in the Blood: A Christian Walk down the Roman Road." September 17-19 are the dates for the 2010 Owen Sound Ladies' Renewal at Riverview Bible Camp, Chesley, Ontario. New this year: Registration deadline is September 1, 2010.

**St. Catharines:** Roy and Nelle Merritt recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

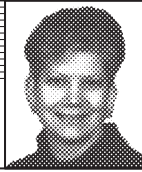
*continued on page 13*

**GREAT LAKES PARTNERSHIP DINNER**  
September 25, 2010

Please join us in honouring  
**Brian and Mary Boden for 40 years of service to GLCC** at our major fundraising event of the year.

Reception: 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner: 5:30 p.m.  
Tickets: \$20.00

Tickets must be purchased by September 20 and can be purchased by calling 905-563-5374 Extension 210.



by Marion Waugh  
3427-82 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6K 0G7  
Phone: (780) 637-0867  
E-mail: [waughr1@shaw.ca](mailto:waughr1@shaw.ca)

(BC news supplied by Barbara Lewis)

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Abbotsford (Central Valley):** Just before the Weirs left for the First Nations villages, our congregation received a notice that our landlord had found a group willing to pay more than twice as much for our space, so we were given a month's notice. The moment they returned, they hit the pavement to look for another rental space in which the church could meet. One of our ladies remembered that "Big Brothers/Big Sisters" had just completed a new building. Norm dropped in to check possibilities, and the first Sunday in July, the church began meeting in a nice room that will be serviceable until we find just the right permanent place. The ground-level room has lots of windows, great lighting, a bathroom, counter and sink which accommodates preparation of the Lord's supper and potlucks. We may have the ladies' classes there and any other meetings we like. The address of our new meeting place is: Suite 200- 2445 West Railway Street, Abbotsford, BC. Our phone number and mailing address remain the same, as do all our meeting times. As the Weirs traveled north and into the Rocky Mountain Trench where Fort Ware and Tsay Keh are, it was dry and dusty. Lake Williston was very low, and when the wind kicks up, Tsay Key gets smothered in dust to the point of not being able to see the mountains on their doorstep. They have been meeting with BC Hydro to find a solution to the problem. Sixteen worshipped with the Weirs on Sunday morning in Tsay Keh, and nine met for the evening service in Fort Ware. Norm accomplished a lot on the addition to the Tsay Keh building by repairing leaks under the building caused during the winter, finishing the showers, putting insulation in the bathroom and wall-boarded the kitchenette. It is now usable for our team as

a residence when the Bible Day Camp takes place in August. The new church building in Fort Ware, (replacing the one that had burned before the Weirs made their first trip,) lacked only finishing touches, such as hooking up appliances, putting in doors, placing the pews, etc. It was not entirely financed by the "chip-pity" store (to which we took items to be sold on each trip) that was started to get money to rebuild, but Hydro also contributed, enabling the hiring of a contractor, who is constructing houses in the village, to build it. They lack the money to put living accommodations in the upper story. However, they do have a kitchenette, washer and dryer, and a small room in addition to the auditorium. Our Bible camp team will make do, as the pews are padded, and the fellows may be able to sleep on them.

**Burnaby:** Teachers were requested for an English-language Bible study for children during the Sunday afternoon Korean assembly. Area women have been invited to a Retreat September 24, 25, at the Zajac Ranch in Mission, which will be hosted by our congregation.

**Delta:** A family from Kiev, Ukraine, arrived in July to worship with us. They have two children with pronounceable names, Sophia and Emily. The Ikponmwo's were invited to stay at the Jim Hawkins' home until a place of their own is found. Those in the Vancouver area who have known Don and Mary Lee Rogers were invited to be part of a special potluck in their honour last month.

**Nanaimo:** A Spruston Road Bible Camp Reunion to celebrate over 40 years of Christian camping in this location took place July 30-August 2.

**Salmon Arm:** Ray Fisher and his wife, Laurie, are leaving us to move back east at the end of August. They have been industrious and inspirational workers in the two years they have served the church in this locality and it is with sorrow that we see them leave. Their concern that we keep on with the various works in the community that they have started was expressed in a letter to the church from Ray stating that he will not leave until a sufficient number have signed up to help with both our booth and the extra cleaning detail afterward for Salmon Arm's Fall Fair. He said that would be a wonderful gift to them and a nice "exclamation mark" to their Salmon Arm experience. The current issue of "House to House, Heart

to Heart" was mailed the first week of July with an insert about our VBS placed inside. A number of people are coming from Oregon to help with it, so we are praying there will be no complications in moving a large group of people across an international border. Some of our congregation are going to Merritt to do service work under the oversight of Kevin Ward. During our July potluck, ideas on what our priorities should be in the preacher search we will be undertaking were discussed, along with a list submitted by our elders. They include:

1. Preaching and teaching
2. Modeling Christian life
3. Contact with members and accessibility
4. Community Involvement
5. Working relationship with elders
6. Personal Christian Growth and Development

## MANITOBA

**Winnipeg (Central):** Scott Kowalson has placed membership with the congregation here. "Under the Radar" Youth Summer Camp programme was held over the summer. Justin Gauthier has begun his internship which continues through until September 1. As part of his internship, he will be teaching Bible studies to the teens and to the college age young adults. July 25-30, was the grade 6-8 week at the Clearview Camp Kenosee Lake, SK. This was Winnipeg's week to direct the camp under the leadership of Chad, Charity and Justin.

## Moncton, NB

Preacher/evangelist needed for the Riverview Church of Christ in Moncton, New Brunswick. Congregation is small but we have our own building. We can help a bit with support. Moncton is a booming town, full of souls to save. We pray that God will bless us with who He deems we need. For information contact:  
Roger Leger (506) 852-4143 or  
Christian Maillet (506) 860-6177

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



**Mexico:** With the ongoing cartel drug wars playing out near the U.S. border, Patty Kunkle, organizer of a group of workers from Western Canada called True North Helping Hands Society, asked for prayers for their safety as they made a trip to build a campus in Los Pinos. Patty, from the Vancouver, WA. congregation, and her sister, Marilyn Jacobs, from the South Burnaby church in B.C., drove trucks filled with donated playground equipment, desks and school supplies down to meet up with the summer crew on-site July 5. Buildings were built and the playground was beginning to take shape by the end of the week.

**Papua New Guinea:** “Four couples and one single young man were honoured at the Melanesian Bible College graduation for those students completing their three year programme. Dogo has been teaching the young children at MBC five mornings a week this year. We had a little

lunch for them a couple of weeks ago and they watched one of the Vegi-tale DVD’s. Melanesian Bible College had a one week break. Basic students will complete their studies in September and our health classes will be continuing Wednesdays. The local government schools have a two-week break, so some families were able to send their kids to the villages for a holiday. The children were delighted to receive a parcel of bags to hold their school supplies from the “Please Mom” store by the ladies in North Bend, BC. Dogo, her family and I, are still hoping to attend the annual church camp being held in Alotau in September. We will travel there by small ship, spending two nights on board. A group of visitors coming from Brisbane, Australia, for three weeks in August means our house will be busy. A former clinic employee’s mother-in-law was able to have cataract surgery done with our help. She had been completely blind since March, but after an implant, was able to see her grandchildren a couple of days later. She expected to have the other eye done in about six weeks. That’s just a smorgasbord of our last month.” –Report from Velma Forman in PNG

**Japan:** Polina, a three-year-old Russian girl, who was flown into Sapporo to undergo treatment for leukemia since it was the closest hospital to her home. Help has come from Georgia, Vancouver, BC, and Hitachi City in Ibaraki Prefecture. The initial indebtedness was \$110,000.00 (U.S.) The family had raised approximately 60% of this amount by June. Polina is in the first stage of remission, which is a good sign according to the Japanese medical world. Funds are still being accepted by the Crosstown church of Christ, 3400 E. Admiral Place, Tulsa, OK, 74115, or may be sent to Stephen Hasbrouck, 8-12, 3 Jo 6 Chome, Inaho, Teine-ku, Sapporo 006-0033, Japan. U.S. funds must be directed through his account in Oklahoma, but Canadian funds can be sent through the Hasbrouck’s account in Vancouver and should be in yen. June was especially busy for Steve, since he is frequently asked to do weddings for Japanese couples who want a Western style marriage. In July, he performed 23 weddings, had six Bible classes, 11 English classes, and preached four sermons for chapel at the Care and Intermediate Care Homes. Those who work at chapels especially for weddings, (as well as hotel chapels) hear something of the love of God when Steve is the preacher. “A staff

photographer for one company pulled me aside between weddings to ask me about how I became a preacher, what training I had, etc. He was interrupted when he needed to take care of other chores, but came back a few minutes later, grabbed me by the arm a second time (Japanese folks do not normally touch others, even shaking hands) and took me aside to continue the conversation. Basically, I preached a gospel sermon to this man of 39 and since then, every time he sees me he pats me on the back and can’t wait to have a conversation....He wanted to know how I approach people with the gospel! I told him that I first try to listen to the other person’s story. “What story?” he wanted to know. I told him that every person has a story of their own life, the joys, the hurts, the physical pains, the discouragement, the loss of loved ones, etc. I told him it was important to first listen to the other person’s story before trying to reach out with Jesus Christ. If we read the pages of the New Testament, we will find that this is the way the Lord approached people, as did his disciples. If we take so much time deciding what we are going to say and how we are going to win the argument, we may win the conversation, but lose the opportunity to help someone find Christ,” Steve wrote. He continued by telling about two ladies from the Watch Tower Society who knocked on their door. “I told them that I was a preacher and that we had basic differences in belief, namely, we believe that Jesus is the Son of God and they do not. We talked freely about different Bible verses, about things they believed, that countered what the Bible actually taught. At the end of the conversation, one lady said, “Thank you for explaining the scriptures to us. No one has ever taken the time to tell us how they believe that these scriptures we use could have a different meaning.” Will they come to Christ as the Son of God? I don’t know. Perhaps I was able to plant a seed.” –Report from Stephen Hasbrouck, Sr in Japan

**Mito:** Sasha Ingle, intern in Mito reports that, due to a drop in June donations, she was scheduled to receive only 65% of her full budget in July. If you can assist her financially or in your prayers, let her know at sashainsendai@yahoo.com. Also, please check <http://sashainsendai.blogspot.com> for her encouraging blog report and prayer requests.

**Sendai:** Please continue to pray for this small struggling church.

## MINISTER WANTED

The church in

### Carman Manitoba

is seeking a full time minister to work with the elders and deacons, to serve our church family as well as to work in the community to share the gospel with those around us. Dale Elford is retiring in 2010. Carman is a community of 3,000 with a full complement of health, recreation and education facilities. We are a 1 hour drive from Winnipeg. Interested applicants please forward resume to:  
**Carman Church of Christ**  
**Box 955, Carman,**  
**Manitoba R0G 0J0**

**Tintern:** The Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society's 2010 annual meeting, entitled "A Virtual Tour of Restoration Sites in Southwestern Ontario," is scheduled for Saturday, August 14, 2010.

**Toronto (Bayview Ave):** The Ladies' Class hosted a Women's Spiritual Renewal Weekend which was a great success. The event was held on May 21-22 at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls. Thirty-nine women attended representing six congregations. The guest speaker, Marian Starks, presented inspiring lessons on the theme, "Bloom where you are planted" using John 13 as her text. There has been a very positive response and the women look forward to similar events in the future. The class also held their luncheon and wrap-up session on June 13th. This meeting was well attended including several visitors. The class has concluded its study on prayer using Casandra Martin's book—Our Father in Heaven...Teach us to Pray.

**Toronto (Scarborough):** The congregation had its Gospel Revival from July 23-25 with speakers, Earl Green of Newark, New York, and Christopher Landrum of Dayton, Ohio. The church is studying "The Second Coming" at their mid-week Thursday

Bible study. Following the youth group's meeting on Saturday, June 12, there was a congregational singing.

**Toronto (Strathmore):** The 2010 Mission Trip to Costa Rica was scheduled for July 26 to August 4 in Grecia, Costa Rica. Santiago Molina at Strathmore semolina@sympatico.ca, headed up this effort. Las Conferencias de los Grandes Lagos/Great Lakes Conference was held June 25-27, 2010 at Strathmore. Melvin Gonzalez was baptized in the early AM on June 27.

**Waterloo:** Congratulations are extended to Joe and Doris Kippax, who celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary recently. Summer Vacation Bible School began July 5 and was entitled: "Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace." Camp Omagh's 20s' weekend, entitled "The Christian Mission," was held July 2-4, with Gregory Toohey as the speaker. Several participated in the recent "Relay for Life" and raised over \$1,000 – part of the total \$100,000 raised by the community. The 31st Annual Ontario Men's Retreat is scheduled for September 10-11, 2010, and is entitled "Rediscovering Our Roots: Looking Back, Moving Forward." Speakers will be Geoff Ellis, past principal and teacher for Great

Lakes Bible College, and Glen Robins, presently serving as English speaking minister with the Ville-Émard church of Christ in Montreal, PQ.

**Windsor:** The evening apologetics' class resumed on June 27. A delivery of summer clothing was given to a group of young single mothers from Drouillard Place in June. On July 4 the congregation participated in a song service followed by a summer dessert special. Beginning on July 11, a new sermon series is entitled "Absurdities of Life" with lessons from the book of Ecclesiastes. A couple of inspirational baskets were given to Elaine McRae and Leigh Anne Smith who are being treated for breast cancer. On July 18 the congregation held a BBQ in the evening.

**Camp Omagh:** Singspiration—the first of two special times this summer—was held July 4 at Camp Omagh and was combined with a picnic and activities. The camp's swimming pool (which dates back to 1952) is being renovated and donations are requested. \$50,000 is needed for the project. Donations and pledges toward this project can be sent to Camp Omagh, c/o Dianne Gardner, 539 East 25th Street, Hamilton. A tree will be planted at Camp Omagh in honour of Fern White.

**The Salmon Arm congregation** is praying for a full-time minister to teach, preach, continue community outreach, and work with God's people in British Columbia. Although not required, it is desirable that the candidate have several years of committed experience as a minister. The successful candidate's wife will also be committed to the work of advancing the Kingdom. We would like a family that is ready to put down roots and "stay a while." Is this your family?

Average attendance is in the 55+ range and has a good distribution of ages. We are a self supporting congregation that has been in the community for well over 50 years and we have an established Eldership. Salmon Arm is surrounded by outstanding natural beauty, clean waterways, provincial parks and an abundance of green space. There are many people in this area that need to know about Jesus and His church. Will you come and help us tell them about the Saviour?

More information is available by visiting our website: [sa4Christ.com](http://sa4Christ.com)

Please send a resume, cover letter, and references to:

**"Minister Search" P.O. Box 51, Salmon Arm, BC, V1E 4N2**

OR e-mail [sacofc@jetstream.net](mailto:sacofc@jetstream.net)

May God bless you as you seek His will.

# Accessibility Issues

A RETHINKING THE ISSUES ARTICLE FROM THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

People with disabilities play tennis and basketball, and they bicycle too. They sky dive and compete in the Paralympics. They go to the opera, the beach, the mall and the office. And many of them want to go to church. Some of them want to go to your church.

Additionally, 1 in 8 Canadians are over 65, a number that is expected to double within the next 35 years. There is an increasing number who will continue to be active beyond their 85th birthday. Couple this with the number of individuals who use a wheelchair and we have a significant proportion of the Canadian population who face barriers accessing buildings.

Perhaps this would be a good time to ask the question "Is our ministry available to all?" If your church building was designed prior to the 1960's then you are likely well aware of the barriers it presents to the elderly and people with disabilities who have mobility impairments.

These older church buildings generally have many stairs along with narrow hallways and doors. Washrooms that are satisfactory for most people are challenging for the elderly and for those in wheelchairs. Are there

things your congregation could do to make your building more accessible to members of your congregation and those wanting to come for the first time?

## What does the Code Require?

Although building codes will vary from province to province ground floor accessibility is generally required in all new construction. This could also become a requirement in a major renovation. At this point, access to the basement or to upper floors has not been mandated unless the building use is for people with physical disabilities.

## Building Priority

But this is not simply about the building code, or what the law for buildings dictates what must be done. Ministry asks not what must I do, but rather what can I do?

- Our cause is nothing short of the cause of Christ.
- Our ministry is guided by the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all people.

• People with physical challenges need to be given the same access to ministry as able bodied people.

Consider the single largest age group of people are passing through middle age and will be hitting the turnstiles of senior citizenship in record numbers over the next two decades. How will your church building accommodate their needs as they look to the church to answer some of life's most pressing questions?

Our buildings are the servants of our ministry. Does your building serve your ministry or hinder your ministry? Does access to your building prevent your ministry from reaching elderly people and people with disabilities? Ask yourself the following questions.

## A Beginning Checklist

- Do you expect to have people with physical disabilities involved in your congregation?
- Do you have designated handi-

capped parking spaces (minimum 8ft. wide) close to the main entrance?

- Is the pathway smooth from leaving their car to the front entry?

- Do you have ground level entrance, a ramp, or lift to the main floor entry?

- If another entry is required is it attractive and welcoming to the disabled attendee?

- If you have a basement or a second level is there a lift for those who cannot handle the stairs? Remember that ministry also occurs in classrooms, kitchens and fellowship areas.

- Can the lift be used without assistance? If not is a call button provided? Are there places for wheelchairs to fit comfortably in the auditorium and in a choice of locations?

- Is the pathway from the main entry to the other areas easily accessible?

- Is there a washroom on each level to accommodate people in wheelchairs?

## Resource for Restoration Churches in Canada

If the answer to some of the questions on the checklist is "No" and your congregation is considering one or more projects to make your building more accessible then Church of Christ Development Company Ltd. may be able to help. We provide low interest loans for capital projects including renovations to improve accessibility. Please contact us at [info@churchdevelopment.ca](mailto:info@churchdevelopment.ca) or call 780-406-1045 to learn about our loan process and consultation which is offered at no charge to your congregation.

Additional *ReThinking* the Issues, addressing a variety of facility planning themes, are available from: Church of Christ Development Company Ltd.

8621 – 104 Street, Edmonton, AB T6E 4G6

Phone: 780-406-1045

Fax: 780-406-1030

Web: [www.churchdevelopment.ca](http://www.churchdevelopment.ca)

E-mail: [info@churchdevelopment.ca](mailto:info@churchdevelopment.ca)

## EVANGELIST WANTED

The congregation in

### Prince Rupert BC

is seeking a full-time evangelist.

Must be a capable preacher, teacher and personal worker.

The congregation is stable with no real problems. We have a new building in a prime location (that is paid for) and are seeking a family that is willing to make a long term commitment. Our current evangelist has been with us for 20 years.

Please reply by e-mail at

[prchhofch@citytel.net](mailto:prchhofch@citytel.net)

Darrell Buchanan & Bill Schwarz

**Healthy churches, like healthy bodies, do not happen by accident or chance. Care and attention must be given to ensure both are properly nourished and abuses avoided. This seminar explores how healthy theology and practices in congregations can bless members and the communities in which they are situated. Drawing on theological, biblical, and social science resources, this seminar is designed to raise questions, challenge assumptions and offer practical insights to elevate the sustained health of the local church.**

## PROPOSED SEMINAR STRUCTURE:

Session One	Healthy Churches, Healthy Theology
Session Two	Memory, Myth and Make Up
Session Three	High Roads and Cross Roads
Session Four	Understanding Boundaries
Session Five	Unity and Diversity*
Session Six	The Other Side of the Jordan*

\*Can be done as a Bible Class or Sermon

## Other Sessions:

(these can be in addition to, or in place of, the above sessions)

The Geometry of Relationships  
Overcoming Church Pathologies  
Being Missional

## SEMINAR ABSTRACTS:

### Session One: Healthy Churches, Healthy Theology

Healthy Churches, Healthy Theology will encourage churches to explore their theological roots and advance to a greater appreciation and wider application of their theological convictions.

### Session Two: *Memory, Myth and Make Up*

In Memory, Myth and Make Up we explore how each of these three aspects influence and affect what it means to be a "congregation."

### Session Three: *High Roads and Cross Roads*

High Roads and Cross Roads explores how the biblical story, which the church lives out, challenges the modern story that has shaped Western culture.

### Session Four: *Understanding Boundaries*

Understanding Boundaries demonstrates why healthy churches promote healthy boundaries, and offers insight into how healthy boundaries can be God-honouring in their application.

### Session Five: *Unity and Diversity*

Unity and Diversity considers how churches might embrace Paul's admonition to "Accept one another, just as Christ has accepted you" (Rom. 15:7).

### Session Six: *The Other Side of the Jordan*

The Other Side of the Jordan acknowledges the challenges associated with various ministries within the church, and yet provides insight into how God uses those same struggles to become blessings for us and others.

## OPTIONAL SESSIONS:

### The Geometry of Relationships

The Geometry of Relationships covers three different "triangles" inherent within the relational life of every congregation.

### Overcoming Church Pathologies

In Overcoming Church Pathologies we identify three challenges which can affect the spiritual and psycho-social wellbeing of a church as a whole, and illustrate how to remedy these situations.

### Being Missional

The Bible is a single great story – a drama in which we are all invited to play a part. Scripture invites God's people to join God's mission of reconciling and redeeming the whole of creation to himself.

**If you are interested in hosting a seminar, call (306) 545-1515, ext. 500 or e-mail [registrar@westernchristian.ca](mailto:registrar@westernchristian.ca).**

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



**Darrell Buchanan** brings eighteen years of congregational ministry experience with Churches of Christ in Saskatchewan and Ontario to his position as Assistant Professor of Bible and Theology at Western Christian College. Darrell earned his Master of Divinity degree from Canadian Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Biblical Studies from Canadian Bible College (now Ambrose University-College) and is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature. His objective is to prepare leaders who humbly and authentically embody the story of Jesus and who communicate the story with faithfulness to Scripture.



**Bill Schwarz** is the Academic Dean at Western Christian College. Currently he is completing a Doctor of Theology degree with the University of St. Michael's College, at the University of Toronto. Bill has fourteen years of congregational ministry experience in both rural and urban settings. His teaching and research interests include Clergy and Congregational Health, Pastoral Care, and Ministry formation. Bill is a member of the Society for Pastoral Counselling Research, and the Association of Practical Theology.

heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The disciples of Jesus were mostly unschooled fishermen, yet the expectation is that by listening to Jesus they will be equipped to share timeless truths and make timely application of those truths.

The key is not formal schooling. The key is to be trained in the kingdom (vs. 52). Too often, we are training ourselves & our children right out of the kingdom. Too much of our thought comes from the wrong kingdom. The training of the twelve came from time spent with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

But our low expectations are a bigger problem than the problem of where to get training. Many Christians simply do not expect to grow. Historically, this has always been a problem in the church, and has become more of a problem in recent years. We do not seem to feel, as the Lord and his apostles did, that every Christian should be equipped to share the gospel with their neighbors.

In commenting on 2 Corinthians 4, R.V.G. Tasker had this to say, “He [Paul] cannot envisage the possibility of an inarticulate believer. As Denney well comments, ‘Not all the believing are to be teach-

ers and preachers, but all are to be confessors. Everyone who has faith has a witness to bear to God.” (Tasker, 2 Cor., p. 75)

James says that we are not all to be known as teachers (James 3:1), but this does not mean that any of us can escape the responsibility of sharing the gospel with others. Jesus said, “So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33). Every Christian ought to be learning to be a teacher, at least in the informal sense of the term. When we are not growing to that point, something is seriously wrong. As the Hebrew writer says, “About

this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil” (Heb 5:11-14).

### Conclusion

These are things we should expect: diversity, including some problem people, and growth to the point of being able to teach others. These are valid kingdom expectations. If you have been one of those problem people, or have been standing in the way of God-ordained diversity, or have just refused to grow, there is a need for repentance. The kingdom is not a welfare state, where a few work and the rest exist on handouts. It is a kingdom of willing, active, workers from all walks of life, from every nation and ethnic group. Let’s get to work casting the net and hauling it ashore.

Toledo, OH

## LISTINGS OF INTEREST

### Great Lakes Christian High School Alumni Association

4875 King Street  
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B6  
School: 905-563-5374  
Alumni contact:  
Jodie (Codling) Cook '90—  
905-563-9433  
Email: [alumni@glchs.on.ca](mailto:alumni@glchs.on.ca)

### For getting materials some sources are:

**Gospel Advocate**, Nashville, TN  
[www.gospeladvocate.com](http://www.gospeladvocate.com)

**21st Century Christian**,  
Nashville, TN  
[www.21stcc.com](http://www.21stcc.com)

**Lambert Book House**,  
Florence, AL  
[www.lambertbookhouse.com](http://www.lambertbookhouse.com)

**The Bible House, Inc.**, Searcy, AR  
[www.biblehousesupply.com](http://www.biblehousesupply.com)

**Foundation Distributing, Inc.**  
Orono, ON  
Bibles, books, Standard Publishing  
Sunday School materials, communion  
cups, etc.  
Call Sarah at 1-877-368-3600-ext 255  
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# 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Ontario Men's Retreat

September 10-11<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Rediscovering Our Roots: Looking Back, Moving Forward

With – Geoff Ellis & Glen Robins

<b><u>Friday Night</u></b>	<b>6:00</b>	BBQ –Sausage, Burgers & Hotdogs
	<b>7:00</b>	Registration
Session	<b>8:00</b>	<b><i>Keynote: Rediscovering Our Roots</i></b> <i>Geoff Ellis &amp; Glen Robins</i>
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	<b>8:00</b>	Continental Breakfast
Session	<b>8:30</b>	<b><i>A Look Back to Our Roots – Geoff Ellis</i></b>
	<b>9:30</b>	Singing
	<b>10:00</b>	Brunch
Session	<b>11:00</b>	<b><i>Interactive Workshop</i></b> <i>Geoff Ellis &amp; Glen Robins</i>
	<b>12:00</b>	Baseball Game
	<b>1:00</b>	<b><i>Looking &amp; Moving Forward – Glen Robins</i></b>

### CAMP OMAGH

**Place:** Camp Omagh

**Fees:** \$25.00 with Friday BBQ, \$20.00 without BBQ  
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To register contact **Paul Craig**

**Phone:** 519-725-0687

**e-mail:** [fellowshipministry@gmail.com](mailto:fellowshipministry@gmail.com)

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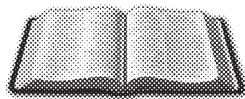
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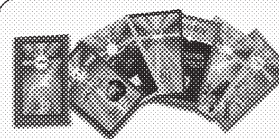
## THE ANVIL OF GOD'S WORD

*"Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith's door,  
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;  
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,  
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.*

*"How many anvils have you had," said I,  
'To wear and batter all these hammers so?'  
'Just one,' said he, and then with twinkling eye,  
'The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.'*

*"And so, I thought, the Anvil of God's Word  
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;  
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,  
The Anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone."*

---Attributed to John Clifford



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Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24



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