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THIS ISSUE'S THEME:
God the Son

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Jesus the Living Word of God

Richard Kruse

John, who knew Jesus more intimately than anyone else (John 19:26), introduced him to those living outside of Palestine using the Greek word “Logos” (Word), which was familiar to both the Gentiles and Jews (John 1:1-18). The Greek readers understood “logos” as a mediating principle of God communicating with his creation. The Jews would hear the opening words of Genesis echoed in the beginning verses of John (1:1-14).

In Jewish thought a word was more than a sound expressing a meaning; a word actually did things. In the creation story God’s **word** creates (Gen 1:3). “*By the word of the Lord were the heavens made....For he spoke, and it came to be...*” (Psalms 33:6,9). “*He sent forth his word and healed them*” (Psalm 107:20). “*So my word...will accomplish what I desire*” (Isaiah 55:11).

John guided their thinking beyond the familiar idea of Greeks and presented the Logos, not simply as a mediating principle, but as a personal being. He presented Jesus, not simply as a prophet, but as the very Word of God in the flesh. Jesus, therefore, was presented as being fully human, but was also, in some unique manner, God-made-known, God-come-near to bring humanity back to God.

The Eternal Word – “In the beginning...”

Jesus, as the Word of God, didn’t come into existence in Bethlehem. The Word existed before the beginning of time itself. The Psalmist declared, “*Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.*” (Psalm 119:89. The book

of Hebrews reminds the believers to avoid being carried away by strange teachings because Jesus is “*the same yesterday, today and forever*” (Hebrews 1:10; 13:8-9). John also reminded believers that the result of following the eternal Word is eternity. “*The one who does the word of God lives forever*” (1 John 2:17).

The Communicating Word – “was with God....was God”.

(Usually, the human concept is either/or; sometimes it can be both. Is it a “light bulb” or a “light”? We speak of a light bulb as a “light” – even though the bulb is material and the light is not material because of the relationship between the light and the bulb.) John wrote that Jesus was both with God and was God because he was both the messenger and the message. It wasn’t that Jesus just taught well, or that he was wise: “*... the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority...*” (Matthew 7:28-29). There was an authority clearly revealed in Jesus himself. His teaching was as different as the author of his book speaking and a student of the book speaking. Are the scriptures the word of God? Yes, in that the central message of the scriptures is the Messenger and his eternal message. Jesus told the Pharisees to “*Search the scriptures*” (John 5:39) because the scriptures tell about and look forward to Jesus.

The “logos” was a spoken message, something communicated from person to person. Calling Jesus “the Word” implies that he is “God-Communicating-Himself in

the world.” “*The message* (literally the logos) *of the cross*” (1 Corinthians 1:18) is the story of one who died for all; it is a story of love which went to the very limit of sacrifice. The heart of the Christian logos is the cross, which communicated there was nothing that God would not suffer and sacrifice for the world. “Christian”, meaning “belonging to Christ,” was given, because the disciples were communicating by word and deed the message of Christ (Acts 11:19-26).

The Creative Word – “Through him all things were made...”

“Creator” is the first word that comes to mind when thinking about God. God is the Creator of all except God himself, who has been in existence for all of eternity. “*Through him (Jesus) all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made*” (John 1:3). He spoke and it was! He stood on the edge of nothing and spoke this universe, including our earth into existence. “*By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth*” (Psalm 33:6).

However, the Lord’s creative activity did not end with the creation of the worlds. Paul declares that he continues to be creative: “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation*” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Word, through whom the world was created at the beginning of time, is the Word through whom believers are re-created today, and the world will be re-created at the end of time (2 Peter 3:7-13).

The Logos is a word of life (Philippians 2:16). The Christian message

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is that the Word enables people to stop existing and to begin living. It gives them life with a capital L.

**The Light Giving - Living Word –
“In him was life ...that was the
light of men”**

Light is basic to life – both physical and spiritual. The first thing created was light; then God separated light and dark (Genesis 1:3-5). All life originates in the Word because he is the Creator of all things. John wrote of the Word as light shining in the darkness. Notice the contrast: The physical qualities of Genesis are now seen in the Word as spiritual qualities: *light* – the positive qualities of God and *darkness* – the negative qualities of evil. The Word entered into human history, the events of world. Jesus entered the world as an expression of God’s love, not judgment (John 3:16-19). The world judged itself by rejecting the light (John 1:10-11) and faces the final judgment of him who “judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12-13; John 12:48).

The logos is a word of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:19). At the very heart of the message is that God is not our enemy but our friend. It is not that God needed to be reconciled to us; it is we who needed to be reconciled to God. The Word makes possible the greatest friendships of all. When we are reconciled to God, we also begin to be reconciled with one another.

The Living Word gives light that guides life: “Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (Genesis 1:3; 2 Corinthians 4:6). Peter acknowl-

edged Jesus as having the “words of eternal life” (John 6:68). Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). The literal translation of John 8:31, 51, is: “If you remain in my word... the truth will free you.” “...if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” Thus Jesus as the message is not simply information for the mind; he is direction for life, calling for action. “For in him we live and move and have our being...” (Acts 17:28).

“The word” is often used as a synonym for the Christian message; the heart of that message is Jesus. In the parable of the Sower, the seed was “the word” (Mark 4:14). The apostles considered “the ministry of the word” to be very important (Acts 6:4). Paul “preached the word” (Acts 14:25) and exhorted Timothy to “preach the word” (2 Timothy 4:2).

Jesus, the Word (Logos), was not simply a personification of God’s revelation as the Jews thought, but was indeed God’s perfect revelation of himself in the flesh, so much so that John would record Jesus’ own words to Philip: “Jesus said unto him, ‘Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how do you say, “Show us the Father?”’” (John 14:9). What makes Christianity unique is that the messenger, Jesus, is the message. It is all about knowing him and accepting what he has done in our place. His words, why he came and what he did, as well as what he continues to do as the Living Word of God, are important.

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Who Is This Jesus?

Wayne Turner



Since Old Testament times, people have tried to answer the question, “Who is Jesus?” Was He simply a good man, a teacher, a prophet, a myth or something else? Based on His claims, people have suggested He was either a liar, a lunatic or exactly what He claimed to be.

Before His birth, the Jewish people anticipated the coming of the Messiah—the king who would sit on the throne of David. Some even thought there might be as many as three different Messiahs: a prophet, a priest and a king. During His ministry, some people asked if He was a prophet, while some of the religious leaders said Jesus was a blasphemer because He claimed to be able to forgive sins. His miracles evoked wonder about His identity. After Jesus stilled the storm, His disciples asked, “Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey him?” For those who saw and experienced Him, there was no easy way to understand or pigeonhole Jesus.

After the New Testament era, religious leaders debated and argued about His identity, leading to the Christological controversies of the following centuries. Was Jesus man, angelic being or God? Was He really God incarnate or did he just seem to be human? Was he begotten or made? Was He of the same nature as God or different? Similarly, was Mary the “mother of God” or was she the “God-bearer?” For us, many of these questions seem strange and even troubling, but they remind us that our faith, literally all of Christianity, hinges on the answer to the question, “Who is Jesus?”

The challenge of understanding the identity of Jesus is not because the Bible is ambiguous or contradictory. It is that there are so many facets of Christ’s identity that our minds are stretched trying to grasp all the ideas. It is little wonder that those closest to Him and who saw and heard Him were often puzzled and even confused. Peter’s confession of Jesus as Christ and Son of God in Matthew 16 may have easily come out of his mouth; yet, his subsequent actions indicate his uncertainty of what this really meant. Years later, when Peter, and John, wrote their letters, they had come to know and understand clearly who Jesus is and why He came.

The message about the identity of Jesus comes historically through one of Christianity’s earliest confessions, “Jesus is Lord” and one of its earliest symbols, the fish (ICHTHUS). Paul said that the confession of the Lordship of Jesus Christ would be the climax and culmination of human history – every knee will bow, and every tongue, everywhere, will make this confession. From his Jewish background, Paul could not have helped but associate the acknowledgement of Jesus as Lord (kurios) with

the use of that same term for the name of God, YHWH, in the Greek Septuagint. Historians suggest that the symbol of the acrostic fish predates the use of a cross as a symbol for Christ and Christianity. (The letters of the Greek word for fish represented the words “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Saviour.”) Perhaps one of the earliest uses of the letters known today was scratched into the stone pavement in Ephesus as the spokes in a wheel. Later, the fish symbol represented the letters. Whether as letters or symbol, it represented an additional confession of the identity of Jesus.

John warns that to misunderstand or deny the identity of Jesus has very serious consequences. Yet, throughout history there have been many who have denied Christ’s deity. We need to know and to always be ready to teach others the truth about Christ. It is with this in mind this issue of the Gospel Herald focuses on the theme “God the Son.” Richard Kruse writes about “Jesus the Living Word of God” showing that Jesus “was not simply a personification of God’s revelation..., but was indeed God’s perfect revelation of himself in the flesh...” Roy Davison, in “The Deity of Christ, Part 1” shows that the “deity of the Messiah is assumed and expressly taught in both the Old and New Testaments.” In “Jesus Is Lord,” Geoffrey Ellis explores this great confession of our faith, noting that the “Scriptures are very clear why Jesus Christ deserves to be honoured as Lord of all.” Peter Morphy explores “Jesus Through Peter’s Eyes” noting that “While his faith at times wavered, he had a radical commitment to his Master.” We are indebted to Paul Birston, one of our associate editors, for his work in planning, organizing and co-ordinating this issue. And, we should note that due to an abundance of articles received, we will be continuing this theme in our next themed issue in September.

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The Deity of Christ, Part 1

Roy Davison

Deity' refers to godship, the nature and essence of the Supreme Being, the infinite, transcendent, self-existing Spirit.

'Christ' is from the Greek word for the Hebrew 'Messiah', the 'Anointed One', the Great King promised in Jewish Scripture.

The deity of the Messiah is assumed and expressly taught in both the Old and New Testaments.

From Everlasting

When Herod asked the chief priests and scribes about the birthplace of the Christ, they quoted Micah 5:2.

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting."

Although the Messiah (as the son of man) would "come forth" from Bethlehem, His "goings forth" (as the Son of God) are from everlasting. Only deity is "from everlasting" (1 Chronicles 16:36; Psalm 41:13; 90:2; 93:2; 103:17; 106:48; Proverbs 8:22-25; Habakkuk 1:12).

Mighty God

The Messiah's birth is announced in Isaiah 9:6, 7. The Child would reign on "the throne of David" ... "from that time forward, even forever." The eternity of the Messianic reign was believed by the Jews: "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how *can* You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up?'" (John 12:34; see Daniel 2:44).

"For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of *His* government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this"
(Isaiah 9:6, 7).

Isaiah had written: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

'Immanuel' means 'God with us'. The Messiah is 'Mighty God' (Isaiah 9:6), a designation used for Jehovah in Isaiah 10:20, 21. The remnant will "depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God."

The Child is called, 'Wonderful, Counselor'. Isaiah 28:29 says: "This also comes from the LORD of hosts, *Who* is wonderful in counsel *and* excellent in guidance."

Eternal Father

The Child is called 'Eternal Father'. How can the Messiah be a 'Father'? God made Joseph a father to Pharaoh (Genesis 45:8). Eliakim, Hezekiah's steward, was "a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah" (Isaiah 22:21). The Messiah would be a Father to His followers. In Hebrews 2:13, Isaiah 8:18 is applied to the Messiah: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." They are 'His seed' (Isaiah 53:10). Jesus calls His followers 'children' (Mark 10:24; John 21:5) and 'little children' (John 13:33).

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“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions” (Psalm 45:6, 7; see Hebrews 1:8, 9).

The Word Became Flesh

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14; see also: Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 2:14-17). Christ existed before He was born as Jesus.

The Word Existed in the Beginning

“In the beginning was the Word” (John 1:1). It does not say the Word *came into being* in the beginning, but that the Word *was* in the beginning. “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us” (1 John 1:1,2). “I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning” (1 John 2:13).

Paul says of Christ, “He is before all things”

(Colossians 1:17). “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

Jesus says, “I am the First and the Last” (Revelation 1:17) and “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last” (Revelation 22:13). He explained to the Jews: “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58).

Christ Created All Things

“He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:2,3). No exceptions! “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist” (Colossians 1:15-17).

Christ is the Son of God

Jesus is the ‘only begotten’ Son of God (John 1:14,18; 3:16). No one else is ‘Son of God’ as He is. At His baptism the Father declared: “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mark 1:11). At His transfiguration, the Father declared: “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” (Mark 9:7).

By calling God His Father, Jesus made himself equal with God (John 5:18). His enemies understood this: “We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God” (John 19:7; see Luke 22:66-71).

Christ is God

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

What did Thomas believe when he saw the risen Lord? “Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed’” (John 20:27-29).

We should be “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

To the Son it is said, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your Kingdom” (Hebrews 1:8).

Peter directs his second letter, “To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:1).

Alken, Belgium. To be continued.



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“Jesus Is Lord”

Geoffrey Ellis

“...if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

The dynamics of Christianity are two directional in their impact. To the believer Christ delivers salvation. To Christ the believer directs obeisance.

In the former, the believer is the passive receiver. In the latter, the believer is the active agent. We must resist our inclination to place greater emphasis on the receiving than on the doing. Indeed, history has developed a strange theology that any kind of doing may threaten the potency of grace and its free gift of salvation!

Confessing “with your mouth” in the above text has a broader significance than just the verbal confession of faith in Christ at the time of baptism. It implies a public affirmation throughout ones life as a faithful Christian that Christ is one’s Lord and, as well, the Lord of all. The early Christians understood this. They preferred death by the gladiator’s sword or at the lion’s mouth than to exchange Caesar for Jesus as their Lord!

“Obeisance” is from the Old French, “obeissance,” that meant “obey.” In current usage it denotes “homage, submission, deference,” and includes “respectful or submissive posture.” Thus in the context of obedience it is an excellent word to describe our response to the Lord. We obey Christ because he is Lord and because he has saved us. Honour Christ! Obey him!

“Lord” in the Bible translates *kurios* in the Greek language. It was the word chosen by the translators of the Hebrew Bible into Greek (the Septuagint, also known as the LXX) to render the Hebrew word for God, *Yahweh*, and is found more than 6,000 times. In New Testament times, “lord” was commonly used

as a respectful title, cf. “Mister” or “Sir” of today. But “Lord” was also applied to kings and gods in in the ancient world. As applied to Jesus, its meaning to the disciples strengthened as their increasing awareness of Christ’s true identity grew: cf. at the foot washing, “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’ and rightly so, for that is what I am” (John 13:14), culminating in Thomas’ confession, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). “Lord” in Acts through Revelation occurs 434 times mainly in reference to Christ, echoing the Old Testament designation for God.

The great need of this age, indeed in every age, is to confess “Jesus is Lord” with passion, understanding, reverence and obedience. This is at the heart of Christianity in action.

This confession is the faithful Christian’s great proclamation: “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God

the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11).

The Scriptures are very clear why Jesus Christ deserves to be honoured as Lord of all. There are several dimensions of Christ’s lordship that must be understood and appreciated. (1) As the eternal Word, he is the Ruler of the universe he created. (2) As the victorious Messiah, he is the King of the kingdom of heaven come to earth. (3) As Son of man, he is the incarnate Saviour. (4) As Head of the body, he is Lord of the church. And (5) as our personal Saviour, he is Lord of our lives.

(1) God the Son, as the Word of God, was the divine agent by which God spoke the universe into existence (John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:2; Colossians 1:16). This includes the billions of galaxies and the myriads of living creatures. As well, the Son “sustains,” “holds together all things” of the dynamic universe “by his powerful word” (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews. 1:3). Not only were “all things created by him” but they were created “for him” (Colossians 1:16). And he is the “first born over all creation”: the word rendered “firstborn,” i.e. *prōtotokos*, conveys

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the idea of pre-eminence (Colossians 1:15). All beings possessing the gift of intelligence will acknowledge the eternal Word's supremacy as Creator and honour him as Lord.

(2) With the death, resurrection and exaltation of Jesus Christ and the "outpouring" of the Spirit of God upon the entire world, reality was forever and radically altered. The Scriptures refer to this sea-change as the coming of the "New Age" (Matthew 19:28) and the "New Creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). These are neither poetic nor figurative but literal references. They identify the creative act of God that transcends and surpasses the first creation. They refer to the climactic breaking into the original creation of the reign of God through which his gracious solution to humankind's sin problem is introduced (cf. Daniel 7:13-14). The shape of this new realm of God is the kingdom of God over which Jesus the Christ is king (Colossians 1:12-14). The entirety of God's dealings with his creation is now directed through this "Lord of Lords and King of Kings" (Revelation 19:16) "...for God 'has put everything under his feet'" (2 Corinthians 15: 27; cf. Psalm 8:6). This is "the kingdom of heaven come to earth" (Hebrews 12:22-24), wherein the future has merged with the present. Thus believers call him Lord who was the promised Messiah of ancient Israel and who has now become their victorious King in the new Israel.

3) The Word took on flesh and became one with his creation. In the incarnation is the marvel and the meaning of divinity engaging humanity. Because of Jesus' total surrender to the Father's will during his earthly ministry, God was well pleased with

him and stated his pleasure at his baptism (Matthew 3:17) and at his transfiguration (Matthew 17:5). God also showed his pleasure in Jesus' resurrection: "God has raised this Jesus to life...exalted [him] to the right hand of God...made [him] both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:32, 33, 36). It is the Incarnate Son that rules today from heaven's throne (Revelation 5:12-14). All creatures, whether angelic or human, will acknowledge the incarnate Son's majesty and revere him as Lord.

4) The "church" and the "kingdom" refer to the same spiritual entity that serves under the rule of Christ. The former is from the perspective of the people and the latter is from the perspective of the king. This inter-relationship is well captured in the imagery of the church as a body over which Christ is Head: "And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn [*prōtotokos* again!] from among the dead, so that in everything he might

have the supremacy" (Colossians 1:18). Because he was "made like his brothers in every way" and was "tempted in every way, just as we are—yet without sin" (Hebrews 2:12; 4:15), Jesus is the perfect model and teacher for the church. The objective of the Christian life is to "in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is Christ" and "become mature, attaining to the full measure of the perfection found in Christ" (Ephesians 4:16, 13). Those who are members of Christ's body will reverence him as Lord by responding to their Head's every direction.

5) As elder brother to his brothers and sisters in the family of God, Jesus, who lives in our hearts, is a personal and present Saviour: "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God... Christ, who is your life" (Colossians 3:3). "Since then, just as you received Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (Colossians 2:6-7). Paul speaks of "the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8). Believers celebrate the lordship of Christ their Saviour because they know that nothing "in all creation will be able to separate [them] from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus [their] Lord" (Romans 8:39).

May it be said of each one, "If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord...[for truly] As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God" (Romans 14:8, 11; cf. Isaiah 45:23).

Waterloo, Ontario

MINISTER WANTED: Moose Jaw Church of Christ

Is seeking a full time minister to work with our church family as well as to work in the community to share the gospel with those around us. Moose Jaw is a vibrant community of 35,000 with a full compliment of recreation, education, health services, and is situated 40 minutes west of Regina. Specific responsibilities include but not limited to: Sunday morning service/bible study, Wednesday evening classes, visitation with members, and community involvement. We may also entertain candidates that wish to work on a part time basis (<20hr/week) as they approach or are considering retirement.

For further information or to submit resume, please contact us at mjchurchofchrist@gmail.com or by mail care of **Search Committee: Moose Jaw Church of Christ 901 James Street, Moose Jaw SK S6H 3H5.**

Submission deadline: June 15, 2011. Sorry, but only successful applicants will be contacted.

Jesus Through Peter's Eyes

Peter Morphy

“Don't you wish that you were alive when Jesus walked on the earth?” is a question that has been discussed many times through the years. We may think it would be easier to believe, follow and obey if we were there to see the hungry fed, the sick healed, the demons cast out and the dead raised. However, we would have the same doubts and questions that the disciples had about Jesus' teaching, methods, associates and plans. Today it would be like reading the first 27 chapters of Matthew and wondering what in the world happened.

How did Peter see Jesus? How much did he comprehend when Jesus taught publicly and privately? We typically like reading about Peter's understanding, ministry and boldness in the book of Acts, but consider him a vacillating, unstable and unreliable disciple in the gospels. While his faith at times wavered, he had a radical commitment to his Master.

If actions speak louder than words, let's look at how Peter lived his faith, commitment and love for Jesus before we read what he said about it.

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, Peter knew that Jesus was worth following. He was all in. Peter left his family, home and career behind to be a disciple of Jesus, taking on the ministry and mission of his Master (Mark 1:16-18). Surely he had questions, but his was wholly devoted. He and the other apostles had left everything to follow Jesus (Mark 10:28). Peter soon recognized that Jesus was divine and after a miraculous catch of fish thought that sinners were not to be in His presence (Luke 5:8-9). When seeing Jesus walk on water, Peter believed that if Jesus just said the word, he also could walk on water (Matthew 14:27-29). His trust didn't last long

on the waves, but all the other disciples were still in the boat.

He took upon himself the role of being Jesus' personal bodyguard. At one point Peter told Jesus that He would never be tortured and killed by the rulers in Jerusalem (Matthew 16:21-22). He promised Jesus, “Even if all fall away on account of You, I never will” and “Even if I have to die with You, I will never disown You.” (Matthew 26:33-35). Peter was the one who started swinging the sword the night Jesus was arrested. He was willing to stand, fight and even die for his Lord (John 18:10). That same night Peter denied three times that he knew Jesus, even with curses. After the resurrection Peter accepted forgiveness and a new commission from his Master (John 21:15-17).

After the Holy Spirit filled the apostles, Peter went from denying Jesus to boldly proclaiming to everyone that he knew Jesus, that He was the promised Messiah and that the people were guilty of murdering the Son of God (Acts 2). Peter's faith and trust in Jesus allowed him to endure being mocked, threatened, jailed, beaten and persecuted. Even those hostile to Jesus recognized the courage and confidence of Peter (Acts 4:13). They were changed people.

Even when Jesus was still alive Peter expressed his faith in Jesus. After Jesus taught some difficult things to understand, many left. He asked the disciples if they would go away too. Peter said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of eternal life. We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:68-69)

After being a disciple for three years he knew that Jesus was holy, from God and was the way to heaven, just as Jesus declared in John 14:6. On another occasion Jesus asked the disciples who they believed Him to be. Peter spoke up, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:15-17). Jesus declared that Peter didn't say this by his own understanding but it was revealed to him from the Father in heaven.

Through word and action, Peter demonstrated that Jesus was the Messiah, Son of God, Saviour, and Lord. He knew that Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life (1 Peter 2:22), bore our sins in His body at the crucifixion (1 Peter 2:24), through Him we received forgiveness (1 Peter 3:18) and eagerly wait to be united with Him in the eternal home (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Today we are so blessed that we can read about the resurrection in Matthew 28, the establishment of the church in Acts, and have a better understanding of God's eternal plan in the letters of Paul, John and Peter (Ephesians 3:7-12). Since we have greater knowledge, we also have an increased responsibility and accountability to live faithful lives in an ungodly world. Do we have greater and growing obedience, zeal, commitment, sacrifice, and love?

Royal Oak, Michigan

Evangelist Needed

The South Edmonton church of Christ is seeking an evangelist.

The position will be available May 2011. For full details go to

www.southedmontonchurchofchrist.org/preacher-search_18.html

How Jesus Saved Us

Dave Knutson

The scriptures make it very clear that Jesus came to earth to save sinners. But there are two questions that we ought to ask about each of the things that Jesus did and said:

1. “Did it have to happen—was it necessary... in order for Jesus to save me?”

2. “When I find an event that was necessary, was it also sufficient to save me?”

Let’s start with the incarnation. The apostle Paul has some things to say about that in (Phil 2:6-8) as does the prologue to John’s gospel. But the writer of Hebrews explains why it was necessary (2:14-18).

“Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. Therefore, He *had to be made like His brethren* in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.”

In order to save us, Jesus had to become one of us. It seems that Jesus could not save what he had not become. He did not become an angel to save angels. It was necessary for God to come in the flesh in order to save those who were flesh. The sacrifice for human sins, had to be human. But it had to be more than human in order to be suffi-

cient. It had to be of infinite value; It had to be divine. Jesus was both.

So, the incarnation was necessary, but was it sufficient? What if Jesus had showed up on earth as a man, taken a good look around and then caught the next flight back to heaven? Would that have saved us? Not according to the scriptures. Coming in the flesh was necessary...but not enough. It was necessary—but not sufficient

Now when God became a human, it was a package deal. He exercised freedom of choice. The writer of Hebrews says that he was ‘tempted in all points like as we are’. He was perhaps tempted as we have never been. He was the only man in history that had never sinned and came to the attention of Satan in a singular way. It is an understatement to say that he was tempted as we are.

Matthew tells us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Temptation was a necessary part of God’s plan. It was part of the human experience. But when Jesus was tempted, he chose life over death and obedience over sin. He was tempted as we are, yet without sin. No sinner could ever purchase our salvation. But the sinless life of Jesus was not sufficient. Had he checked out before the cross, you and I would not be saved.

Now during his ministry, Jesus obeyed the Father. His life was not just defined by the absence of sin, it was filled with righteousness and goodness. Jesus came to fulfil the law. He came to keep all of God’s promises. He was the son of Abraham, the son of David. He was the prophet like Moses who established a new covenant... in his blood. Which is why the apostle Paul said ... “For as many as are

the promises of God, in Him (Christ) they are yes”.

God has said “yes” to each one of His promises because Jesus fulfilled the scriptures. Jesus had an itinerary. He *did* what he saw the Father doing and *said*, what he heard the Father saying. He did not come to do his own will. There were things that Jesus did in order to ‘fulfil all righteousness’. Jesus did not make it up as he went along. Was this necessary? Of course it was. Jesus was no freelance saviour. He always did the will of his heavenly Father. But was it sufficient? Was it enough for Jesus to persist in ministry...but not in the cross? No: it was not.

Then there was that terrible scene in Gethsemane. His hour had come. He was beaten down with sorrow and alone among men... who slept.

Mark writes:

Jesus... went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. And He was saying, “Abba! Father! *All things are possible* for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.”

Jesus prayed to the God with whom all things are possible. What He wanted to know, was if it was possible for God with whom all things are possible... to let the cup pass. The answer was... no... not possible. It was not possible for the God with whom all things are possible...to save Jesus from the cross and also to save us from sin. God could not save the world by just trying a little harder. He could not simply speak and make it so. There are some things that are not possible...for the God with whom all things are possible. The salvation of the world could become a reality in no other way. There simply were

no alternatives. There was only one way... and it excluded all others.

The cross was necessary. All of the events leading to the cross were necessary. But piled one on top of the other, they were still not sufficient. Not even the cross—by itself was enough. An impure sacrifice would not do. An incomplete ministry—would not have fulfilled the scriptures. The cross was necessary... but by itself... not sufficient.

Later that night, Jesus said to Peter,

“Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. “Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? “How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it *must happen this way?*”

As Jesus hung on the cross, His enemies insulted him... They said:

“You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him and saying, “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him.”

Satan was back. The stakes had never been higher. The last thing that Satan wanted Jesus to do were the last things that Jesus still needed to do. So the people cried out “If you are the Son of God... prove it!” They believed that God would never let his son die on a cross. In fact, the real Son of God would come down and stomp on his enemies. So they mocked him with their theology. They said: “Come down and we will believe”. Satan said; “it’s over. It’s finished”... but Jesus knew it was not. Satan tried to pull him down from the cross

with bad theology. And Satan didn’t just use the enemies of Jesus. His disciples didn’t want him there either. They tried to talk him out of it... they tried to stop the soldiers with a sword.

What if Jesus had come down from the cross? He could have shut them up and blown them away. And if he had, I think that the disciples would have loved it. They would have loved it... until Jesus explained to them just what had been lost.

Jesus had every right to come down. But if he had, not one of us would be saved today. Because it wasn’t finished until it was finished. Our salvation was not actually finished until Jesus came out of the tomb. Had Jesus failed to rise again, all would have been lost. Rising from the dead, proved that he was the Son of God. It fulfilled the promises of God. It opened a door from death to eternal life where none existed before.

All these events were necessary and *all together*, they were enough. This is how Jesus has secured for us...a salvation that endures to eternal life. This is the truth that sets us free... and there is no other. There is therefore no other name given among men by which you must be saved.

He is the son of God who came in human flesh in order to redeem those who are flesh

Who was tempted in every way that we are, yet without sin.

Who lived a life of positive righteousness and always obeyed his heavenly father

He died on the cross – to purchase our salvation

And he rose again so that we might join him in life eternal

All these things were necessary for God to make salvation available to us. It ought not surprise us then that God asks us to do

more than one thing in order to be saved. Each of the things that God requires of us is necessary... and all together they too are sufficient. In God’s wisdom, we accept salvation in much the same way that it was purchased for us.

Waterloo, ON



Original building at Jordan, Ontario

Canadian Churches of Christ
**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 20, 2011

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

at

Cedar Park Church of Christ

566 Simcoe St. N

OSHAWA, ON L1G 4V3

Featured Speaker

GEORGE MANSFIELD

“The Plea of the Restoration”

Meeting in the land of
Joseph Ash, George Barclay
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“Fellowship, discussions,
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Meetings are free and
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NEWS

- EAST -

by Don Hipwell and Harold Bruggen
Church of Christ, Box 416
Fenwick, ON L0S 1G0
Email: donhipwell@aol.com
or Harold Bruggen at hbruggen@gmail.com

NEW YORK

Sardinia: Bro. Ray Cox (Gadsden, Al. C. of C.) contacted Bro. Glen Mueller regarding an Attica Prison inmate taking their Bible correspondence course, and is at the point of baptism. Gloria Zachery (Amherst) was contacted because she has done Prison Ministry there. She, in turn contacted Bro. Jon Bolland (Varysburg C. of C.) because of the close travel to the prison... and it is being "pursued" to baptize the man. His name is Donnell Blash, and we need to pray that the prison system will allow their procedure to change... "no one can go in and baptize except the prison chaplain and there is a waiting list to be named chaplain, and only one a year is allowed."

ONTARIO

Barrie: A Young Adult Weekend was held May 27-29 with the theme: Rock Solid-The fundamentals of Christianity. Guest speakers were Kevin Cleary and Jamie Azzoparde.

Brantford (North Park): Speakers

The SUNDRIDGE

congregation of the Church of Christ is seeking to hire a preacher. This is due to our preachers much deserved and upcoming retirement. We own our building and have a wonderful group of approximately 50 people.

To those wishing more information please respond to:

**Search Committee,
Sundridge Church
of Christ, Box 927,
Sundridge, ON.
POA 1Z0**

You may also respond via
e-mail to

don@gfpreston.com

for March were Curtis Thompson, Greg Toohey, Robert Moore and Paul Dale. Following the morning lesson on March 20, Paul Dale spoke to the congregation about Great Lakes Christian High School. A Sunday afternoon devotional is held the last Sunday of each month.

Bramalea: Good Friday's Training for Service, April 22, was well attended with 497 registering. Positive comments were received about lessons presented by Earl Lavender and Jackie Halstead from Lipscomb University and Jonathan Straker from Abilene Christian University. Donations from Bramalea to the Haitian orphanage mission totalled \$468, and to Key to the Kingdom \$1535. Marc Mulligan, of the Omagh congregation, was baptized on May 1, 2011. Guest speaker on April 24 was Jonathan Straker in the a.m. who also gave an up-to-date Japan Relief report that evening. Bible class teachers were Earl Lavender to the men and Jackie (Straker) Halstead to the ladies. She also gave a report the next Monday on the results of her doctoral thesis—a study of how ministers perceive their treatment by the congregations they serve—and how those perceptions compare to the congregation's view.

Fenwick: While we did not get exact numbers, we know that over 60 invitations to the Ladies' Day were distributed and over 40 invitations for the Kid's For Christ Fun Fair were handed out at the Pelham Home and Leisure Show. Two people showed some interest in the church but follow-up proved fruitless. The road clean-up program has been renewed with the town of Pelham and the first clean-up of the year was held April 21. Nine members came out to help. A special collection was taken for the relief effort in Japan. \$1726 was collected. The congregation is also participating in the baby bottle campaign for Elisha House (Pregnancy & Family Support Centre in Welland). Spare change is collected in baby bottles from Mother's Day to Father's Day and given to the Centre. A new study has begun on Wednesday night. Ralph Perry and others will be leading us through the book of James. The men's class has begun a study from a book entitled "The Indwelling Life of Christ". The 6th annual Ladies' Day was held May 28 with Beth Hibbard as guest speaker. Fenwick will also be participating in the area hymn sing this year and hosting it the evening of June 26. Ruth Zimmerman's father passed away April 28. Pat Cooper left April 29, as scheduled, to spend time in PNG with Ruth. Pat returned

to Fenwick on May 12. Ruth came home May 13 for a memorial for her father, to be with her family and to have some R & R before returning to PNG. Many thanks to those who have contributed to Ruth's unexpected but very necessary flight home.

Hamilton (Fennell): We are excited that Sarah Gardner and Gilford Joseph were baptized in April. The congregation is struggling at the moment to make decisions about the future that have been brought on by financial limitations.

Stoney Creek: Vera Clarke, who had been a member of the Stoney Creek church since it began on Ivon Avenue some sixty-four years ago, passed away April 18, 2011, less than three months after her ninetieth birthday. Funeral services were conducted in Hamilton April 21 by Blake Gieg and Keith Wallace. We continue to strive to be creative in ministry. For some time, it was noticeable that our children and youth are excited to express faith through worship so we started a child and youth group with gatherings on a Friday night and a Sunday night a month. The Sunday night is a youth worship where 2 youth leaders plan and design the worship with a theme for the night—and all the youth participate in directing worship for the rest of us—parents, seniors and others that attend. There were also a couple of skits that were done - one that involved being within the biblical story and another centered on a biblical idea or value. These were practised at the Friday night event. It's a start. And it attempts to incorporate the enthusiasm of youth within the larger context and encouragement of the whole church—an intergenerational church. And more important, it engages our youth in a journey of faith with God.

Tintern: On Sunday, April 24, Tintern rejoiced with the baptism of Caleb Ramey (son of Erin Ramey). May 20 was the last KNO (Kids Night Out) for the current session. The kids and adults alike had a good time. It was also good to see several kids from the community. Once again, Sunday evenings in June various congregations in the Niagara region will be hosting evening services. June 5 is Tintern; June 12 is Beamsville; June 19 is Grimsby; and June 26 is Fenwick. BDC is set for July 4 to 8. The theme is Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid. We are looking forward to Kingsport Church of Christ from Tennessee coming to join us this year. On July 30-August 5, Tintern Church of Christ's youth group, T.R.U.T.H. (Teens Reaching for

continued on page 16



by Marion Waugh
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E-mail: waughr1@shaw.ca

(BC news supplied by Barbara Lewis)

ALBERTA

Edmonton Northside: The theme of the Alberta Spring Fellowship was "Free Indeed! A Re-evaluation of our walk with Christ" based on John 8:36. Keynote speakers were David Spiece of Columbus, GA, and John Smith of Charleston, SC. Chad Cellaire of Winnipeg, Manitoba led congregational singing and taught a teen class. The fellowship was well attended. At the end of the ASF, Thomas Hoddinott was baptized. He is the son of Bruce and Linda Hoddinott.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Abbotsford (Central Valley): Our congregation had a surplus of Dutchmen—rather Dutch women—in early May, when Jen Weir's 93-year-old aunt and three cousins came to visit them and her mother from Holland. Jen's mother, Anje Blaak, who is in an assisted living home here, had not seen her sister in 30 years. As she is 96, it took her awhile to realize who the visitors were, but she remembered walking with her sister in their childhood. Jen's mother and her two sisters were born and raised on a fuel freight boat, which maneuverer the canals to go from place to place selling and distributing fuel. At that time in The Netherlands, fuel for warming homes and cooking were peat and coal. Anje's marriage gave her the name, "Blaak", which originated in Rotterdam, where there are still streets, a train station, a business tower etc. using that name as identification. With the weather not very cooperative while they were in Canada, it was fortunate that view points are plentiful in Abbotsford, since much of it is built on Sumas Mountain. They were also taken to a Mexican café

in Bellingham, WA. As one of the cousins had a birthday coming up, she was chosen for a serenade in both Spanish and English, and was delighted by the presentation of a sombrero. As she laughed, she marvelled, "Here we are—Dutchmen, who came to Canada, now in the US, in a Mexican restaurant where they are singing to me in two languages that I don't understand!" For Mothers' Day there was dinner with Jen's mom at the care home. It would be the last time the sisters would see each other, as their flight was the following day.

Burnaby: Mike Parker, assistant minister and youth coordinator here for 10 years, was our guest speaker on May 1, also teaching the adult Bible class the following week. Mike and his family are now living in Saskatoon, SK, where he preaches for the church.

Delta: Most of the congregation assembled at the Burnaby building to give Alex Popov, Jr. a warm welcome as he was baptized into Christ by his father, Alex, Sr., on Monday evening, April 25. Norm Weir was invited to be our guest speaker on May 15.

Salmon Arm: Our new preacher's children are becoming adjusted to Canadian

schools, with one daughter, Olivia, celebrating her 15th birthday a few days after their arrival. The family is already a delightful addition to our fellowship. There was a Ladies' Day on May 28. It featured a video on the lives of Peter and Paul to give us courage and inspiration to trust God more fully. Lillian Brown and Marlene Krebs have been making hygiene kits for teen-age girls in Ghana. They will be taken to Ghana by Jennifer and Rolland House on their Ghana Mission Trip in July. By mid-May, 20 kits had been made and another 10 were planned. Provision of such a kit to young African girls has increased school attendance by 40%. Ten people have signed up to be on the Footprints team in the "Relay for Life" in an effort to raise \$1,000 to contribute to the Cancer drive.

Vernon: A new Life Group called "Marriage Maintenance" was started in May. Parents of Sunday School children are encouraged to attend a Discipleship Group meeting on June 2 to help with planning classes for next fall.

MANITOBA

Carman: the Lectureship theme was "Sir, We Wish to See Jesus" and guest speaker was John Bailey.

Winnipeg (Central): Sue Fleming was baptized into Christ. She is Scott Kowalson's mother. The West Winnipeg Bible Talk group is viewing a video series titled "Just a Walk Across the Room". It's tagged as, "a four week experience to equip your church for evangelism in today's world." The youth group watched the movie "Soul Surfer". After the movie, they had dessert and discussed the movie. A fundraising dinner was held to raise support for Russ and Val's work in Salvador, Brazil.

SASKATCHEWAN

Clearview Christian Camp: the 50th Anniversary Celebration will be held on the July 1-3 weekend. Bonnie Goud of Moose Jaw is compiling a history of the Clearview Christian Camp.

Weyburn: the Western Christian College Chorus gave a presentation. A Get Dirty Party with the kids helping to plant flower beds and clean the yard was held.

Brothers in Ontario...

Mark your calendars now for the

32nd Annual Ontario Men's Retreat

Dates: September 09 & 10, 2011

Place:

CAMP OMAGH

Time: Starts Friday evening, stay overnight & enjoy the fellowship, program continues Saturday morning & concludes Saturday afternoon.

Theme: Rise Up Oh Men of God!

What to Bring: your Bible, baseball glove, and overnight gear.

Bring your son & Dad and make it a time of family devotion!

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



UNITED STATES: In the wake of the April 27 tornadoes that wreaked havoc on Southern States, comparable to Japan's disaster, minus the Tsunami, Christians across the US quickly responded with concern and practical help. With over 300 people killed, and only debris left behind, within 24 hours, Mike Baumgartner with Disaster Assistance had driven from the Lake Jackson church of Christ near Houston with a portable kitchen to Tuscaloosa, Al., and started cooking. Not prepared when a hurricane hit them several years ago, this church had determined to be ready to go any time disasters strike. While theirs is primarily a feeding ministry, other disaster relief organizations associated with churches of Christ have rushed resources to storm-ravaged communities in each of the hardest hit states: Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia and Tennessee. The churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort in Nashville (www.disasterrelieffort.org) had shipped nine semi-truck loads of bottled water, canned goods, cleaning materials and other essential items to victims, whether church members or not, to hard-hit communities in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee within the first 10 days. In keeping with its practice after wildfires, floods, hurricanes, etc., the Tennessee-based ministry works with local churches within the disaster area to see that supplies are distributed. "We're just thrilled about the response of our brethren," Hackleburg, AL. minister Mike Lane said. "Our phone has rung constantly. ... I cannot express enough our love and appreciation for our brethren." The churches of Christ Disaster Response Team (www.churchesofchristdrt.org), sponsored by the Melbourne congregation in West Melbourne, Fla., set up a command center in Tuscaloosa. WFR Relief (www.wfrchurch.org/relief), a ministry of the White's Ferry Road church of Christ in West Monroe, La., sent money, members and equipment with plans to "do more

as the Lord provides," church member Royce Ogle said.

CAMBODIA: The "Fabulous Five" as the eye team from Denver became known along the Mekong River in Cambodia, treated 1109 patients the first week of May, fitted over 2000 pairs of glasses and diagnosed 63 patients who needed eye surgery. The latter were referred to a local eye hospital and by the time the team left, eight had received surgery and had returned home, with the others were scheduled to go during the following two weeks. Leader of the surgeons was Cindy Beeks of Denver, who had recruited four friends she had worked with in clinics there. One from Australia joined the group when they met in Phnom Penh to change lives by helping countless people see. One patient's response was, "I have never met such kind people that treated me like this. My religion doesn't." Eye surgery requires \$50, plus an additional \$25 per patient for food and transportation. If you would like to give sight to some of the poorest people in the world, PIP requests that cheques may be sent to Partners In Progress, PO Box 13989, Maumelle, AR 72113, U.S.A. or by making a donation on line at web site www.partnersinprogress.org.

CAMBODIA'S SHIP OF LIFE: At 5 o'clock each evening, one of our crew members, a young man named Piseth, spreads a canvas on the bank for dozens

of children to sit on while he tells them a Bible story. Scores have been waiting for the arrival of the Ship of Life on the Mekong River. Piseth was baptized three years ago. With a deep desire to teach others, he is thrilled to be able to introduce Christ to the Buddhist children. About 7 o'clock the audience changes in age to adults as they come to watch a Bible film he will have ready to present.

MEXICO: Patty (Jacobs) Kunkle and people who are venturing with her into Southern California (Mexico) are learning a lot about government, education, and the Mexican people on their twice-a-year trips to assist them by building homes, schools and daycare centres. It seems that anything done to establish Mexican schools must start by parents organizing into a parents' association to petition the government for property on which to build and money to pay salaries to teachers. This is a two-year process. Patty's first meeting with government people, at the planning level, was fall of 2007. They slate where the schools go and start the process. One of the first places in which volunteers went after becoming an accredited Canadian Charity under the name of "True North Helping Hands" to build a school and playground was Zorrillo. They were told by the government that in six years they would review the situation in Zorrillo where six new classrooms were put in. So it will be two more years before they look to see what the status of this school is. What the government does well are two things: Paying the teachers. If a designated school has been started and there are too many children for the classes, they seem to hire more teachers immediately. The other is that once classrooms and washrooms are put up, there is never any question that they will pay for electricity and water. Patty writes that "I am impressed with the people I have met. I believe they are people who care and are trying. I am told that nothing will get in the way of what we are doing, as they will remove all roadblocks. I continue to be amazed".

JAPAN: Re. Japan Relief funds: A special collection of \$2,910.74 was taken for Japan Relief at Ontario's Good Friday meeting. Including the total given that day, as of May 10, 2011, donations from Canadian Christians since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami totalled \$94,860.75. The money is being sent to the Mito, Japan, Church of Christ. Sasha



Ingle reports: "A committee of 10 individuals from several churches in Japan has been formed to oversee and help to guide the relief work, as well as the use of the gathered funds. We, of course, are keeping detailed records of how this money is spent; for purposes of accountability those records will be reviewed by the committee and members of the leadership of Mito Church... To share how God is working in our relief efforts, which are supported by brothers and sisters all over the world, we have set up a blog to share short reports as we go along. (Please visit <http://east-japanrelief.wordpress.com/>.)" Canadians can donate to the Japan Relief fund by sending money to Bramalea church of Christ, 750 Clark Boulevard, Brampton ON L6T 3Y2. Cheques should be made out to "Bramalea church of Christ" with the notation: "For Japan Relief." We praise God for the concern shown thus far. Please remember our Japanese brethren and others who are suffering from the Japan tragedy both through your prayers as well as donations. The Park Ave. Church of Christ, 5295 Park Avenue, Memphis Tennessee, USA, 38119-3543, is collect-

ing US funds to be sent to Mito. Dwight Albright, former missionary to Japan, is the minister there. That congregation had received over \$450,000 by last week. Ben and Erica Berry recently arrived in Mito, Japan, to teach English for the American English Teachers' Association, and to serve as vocational missionaries. His April 15 Facebook entry reads: "Made it safely into Narita Airport yesterday at 3pm, and met up with the other AETs. Took the bus and arrived in Mito at about 7 pm, where we were enthusiastically greeted by the rest of the AET crew, as well as by Joel and Sasha. From there we ate ramen and then went to bed. Very thankful for safe travel and to be back in Japan!! Thanks for all your prayers!" Sasha Ingle, intern to Mito, Japan, is traveling to Sendai and other affected areas with Joel Osborne and others helping distressed and hurting people. She is also assisting with the accounting of funds received by Mito's relief committee. Joel Osborne, in addition to his other missionary work in Mito, is also involved with Japan Relief. His April 27 report states re: East Japan Disaster Relief: "This month has been incredibly

busy for those within Japan and also for those outside of Japan lending support in various ways to meet the challenge of the March 11 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear plant disaster. Through several meetings and lots of prayer, a committee has been formed and shape/focus to our work is coming together. We'll work alongside the Be One house church network that has worked tirelessly for several weeks. A truck has been purchased for taking supplies, and we sent our first (of many!) teams from Mito Church to serve from April 29—May 7 in the town of Ishinomaki. Last Sunday, we had an orientation time, and we've been collecting supplies at the church that will be packed into vehicles tomorrow. We leave early Friday morning. A blog has been set up online to share with others what we are doing and how funds are being used, and including ongoing needs as we discover them. As you have a chance, I encourage you to look at the blog at least once a week to keep up to date, and to guide your prayers for this effort. The blog address is: <http://eastjapanrelief.wordpress.com>.



CENTRAL AMERICA MISSION TRIP 2011

Dear brethren in Christ:

Greetings from the Central America Missions on behalf of the Spanish Ministry at Strathmore Blvd. Church of Christ. We have been blessed by your support and prayers in the past years. This year our mission trip is going to the City of **DIRIAMBÁ** in **NICARAGUA**.

The primary goal is to preach the GOSPEL, 42 souls have been added to the kingdom of the Lord in the past 10 years. We encourage the Canadian Churches & brotherhood to share in our vision and help in evangelizing and share some of your blessings with the church in Central America.



Come with us or Financially Support Our Trip To Nicaragua on July 25 to August 3

Please send your support before July 15, 2011

To: Strathmore Blvd. Church of Christ 346 Strathmore Blvd. Toronto, ON. M4C 1N3

Memo on your check: "C.A.M."

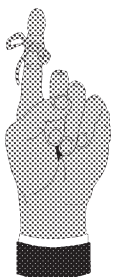
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Santiago & Marlon (416) 751-6879 Isaac Persaud (416) 416-286-5094

e-mail: smolina@iglesiadecristo.ca

OR VISIT OUR WEB PAGE: www.iglesiadecristo.ca (click Central America mission trip)

REMEMBER : JAMES 2:14-26



Clarke, Vera

Vera Clarke was born on January 6, 1921 in Leigh, Lancashire, England, the first child of John and Rachael Clarke. The family moved to Hamilton, ON, when Vera was two years and ten months old. Vera's brother, Arthur, was born two years later. Vera was only 11 years old when their mother passed away. Her father, John, worked at Stelco and purchased a small house on Ivon Avenue where Vera lived until approximately 11 years ago when she was hospitalized and then began her long residence at St. Peter's Hospital. She passed away peacefully at the hospital April 18, 2011.

When Vera was a young woman, she began attending Ivon Avenue Church of Christ in Hamilton. This began a significant and life-long relationship with her God and her church family. For the last 30 years, Vera has been a loving and much loved part of the Stoney Creek Church of Christ family.

After Vera's hospitalization, members of the Stoney Creek church visited Vera every Sunday and took communion with her. Vera looked forward to these visits and so did the visitors, who always commented on Vera's remarkably optimistic and cheerful attitude. Many of the staff at St. Peter's also grew to love and appreciate Vera's determination to remain positive in her outlook on life, despite her debilitating health problems.

We are thankful that we were able to celebrate Vera's 90th birthday with her a little over three months ago. It was such a happy occasion for Vera who remarked that it was the best birthday she ever had. We loved Vera and will miss her. But, we are thankful that she is no longer in pain and is no longer confined. We are assured that we will see Vera again, whole and in a better place.

JoAnne Toews,
Stoney Creek Church of Christ

Zimmerman, William J. "Bill"

Bill Zimmerman, son of the late Calvin and Ethel Zimmerman, passed away suddenly at home on Thursday, April 28, 2011. He leaves to mourn, his wife of 47 years, Helen (Warner) and his daughters, Ruth Zimmerman, a missionary in Papua New Guinea, Grace and Doug McQuarrie of Beamsville and one precious granddaughter Ann McQuarrie, who will miss Poppa's teasing every morning! Survived by brothers and sisters-in-law, Craig and Cecilia Warner, Ian and Jean Warner, Heather and Bill Wilson, Jean and Ed Romagnoli, Andy and Marilyn Warner and Robin Warner and their families. Predeceased by grandson Henry Michael McQuarrie.

Bill's passions were genealogy, history and Dinky toys. He was involved with the West Lincoln Historical Society and their restoration of the Smithville Train Station. Bill was well known throughout Canada, the USA and overseas as a member of the Canadian Toy Collectors Society.

If desired, memorial donations may be sent to West Lincoln Historical Society, Box 797, Smithville, ON, L0R 2A0 for restoration of the train station, or to Church of Christ, Box 416, Fenwick, ON, L0S 1C0 marked Missionary Fund. (For Ruth and her work in PNG)

Information supplied
by Don Hipwell

LISTINGS OF INTEREST

Great Lakes Christian High School Alumni Association

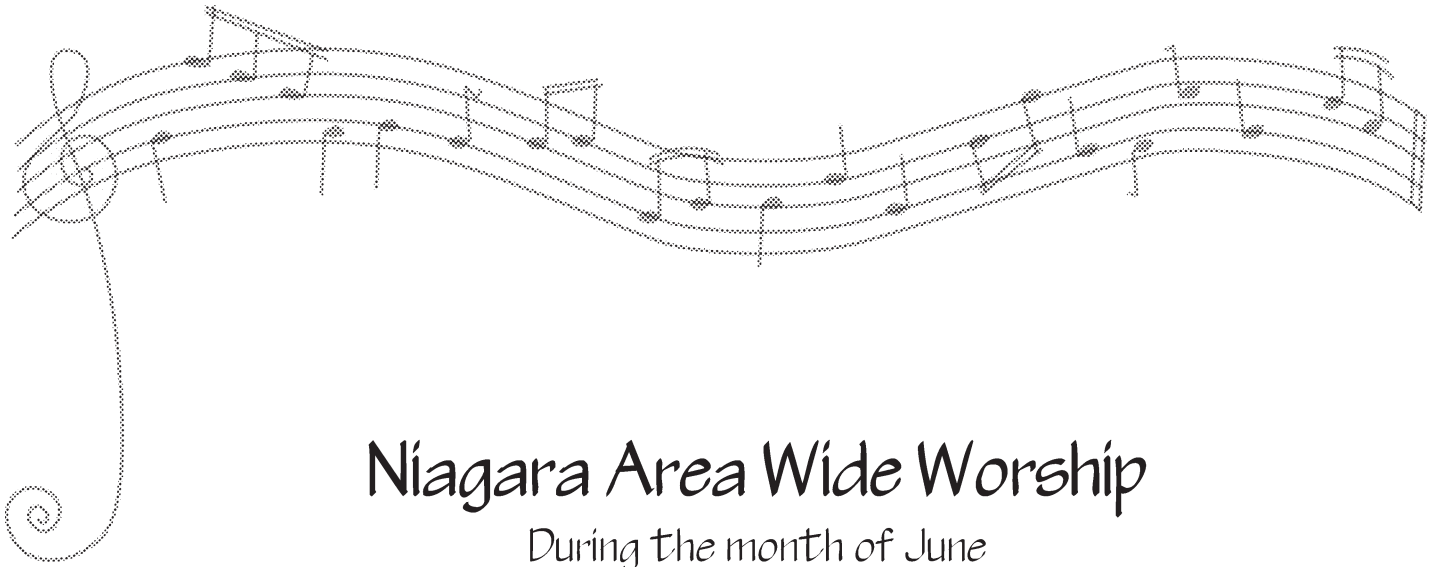
4875 King Street
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B6
School: 905-563-5374
Alumni contact:
Jodie (Codling) Cook '90—
905-563-9433
Email: alumni@glchs.on.ca

and Understanding the Hope) will be going on a mission trip to Jinotega, Nicaragua. We will be partnering with the Mission Para Christo in Jinotega, a church plant led by Benny Baker from Highway Church of Christ in Judsonia, Arkansas. Our teens will participate with members from the church in building houses, construction of community buildings, painting, as well as volunteering at hospitals, parks, and maternity houses. We will also be working with the church and teaching children's classes. This is a great opportunity for several of our teens to experience the mission of Christ and serve those in Nicaragua. We appreciate your prayers as we prepare for this adventure! Plans are also underway for another mission trip to BC with Norm and Jen Weir. Further details will follow.

Toronto (Strathmore): Several men, including Ike Etienne, Steve Gill, Jean Volcy, Marvin Johnson, Marlon Molina and Peter Dwomoh, filled in for Max Craddock while he recuperated from his eye problem. Greg Walcien passed away April 23 in the Philippines. Brother Greg and his wife Priscilla went to the Philippines in December to help in the establishing of a new congregation there. The Philippine brethren at Strathmore have been supporting some new works in the Philippines over the last few years.

Waterloo: On March 27, we thoroughly enjoyed the presentations of our mission work in New Brunswick, Cambridge, Nicaragua and Montreal. For several years we have been supporting Jackson Sanchez and several other workers at the church in Diriamba, Nicaragua. One thousand, four hundred and forty five dollars was collected and will be forwarded to the congregation to help them finish their building. There are plans to send representatives from our congregation to meet with Jackson and the Diriamba congregation in the next year. Heather Nash will be spending the month of June in South Africa on a mission trip

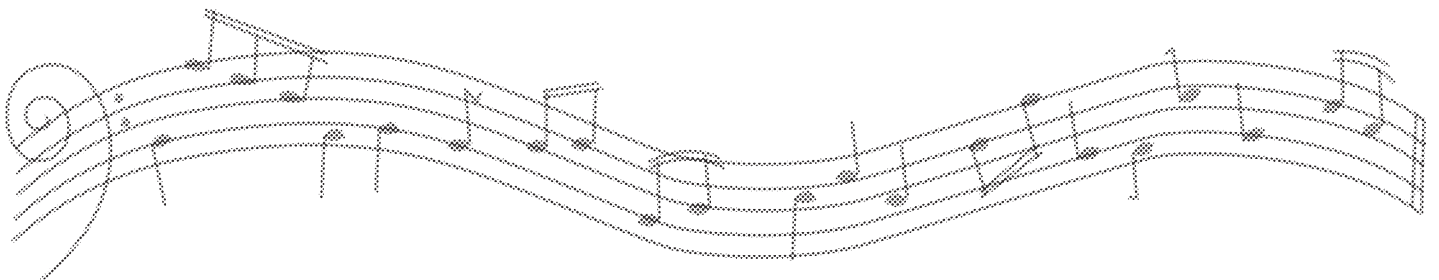
Windsor: On Wednesday nights we have been looking at the subject that Jesus spoke most about—the kingdom of God and its Old Testament expectations as well as what the New Testament has to say about it. An important part of our church family are the people, who for some reason or another, are no longer able to attend the public services of the church. We are in the process of setting up a ministry where each of them are actively being visited and attended to physically and spiritually.



Niagara Area Wide Worship

During the month of June
(at 6:00 p.m.)

- June 5th - Tintern Church of Christ
4359 Spring Creek Road, Tintern
- June 12th - Beamsville Church of Christ
4900 John Street, Beamsville
- June 19th - Grimsby Church of Christ
63 Casablanca Blvd., Grimsby
- June 26th - Fenwick Church of Christ
765 Welland Ave., Fenwick



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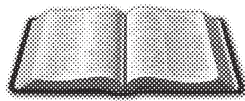
VISIONTV
On the Vision Network
Friday at 8:30 AM
(Eastern Time)

Key to the Kingdom is a weekly television program produced by the Churches of Christ in Canada. The program is hosted by Max Craddock, Evangelist with the Strathmore Blvd. Church of Christ in Toronto, Ontario.



The format of the program is a Bible study in which listeners are encouraged to open their Bibles and join the study Churches of Christ believe the Bible to be the word of God for mankind and encourage every person to become a regular student of the Bible. We pray that Key to the Kingdom can be helpful to you in your desire to know and do the will of God.

Please visit the Key website at www.keytothekingdom.ca. There you will find an archive of the last 60 weeks of programs. These are available for listening or viewing and are downloadable in an audio MP3 or a video WMV format. Outlines of the lessons are available as Word documents. Please contact us with any questions or comments at:
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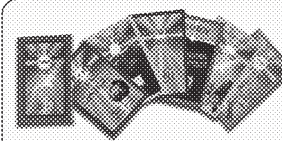
THE ANVIL OF GOD'S WORD

*"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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ebsite:
thekingdom.ca

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INSIDE PANELS

Advertise **Key To The Kingdom** and your local congregation with this brochure. Details of the Key ministry are contained in the brochure, with a blank space on the back panel for listing information regarding your local congregation and its activities. Contact us to obtain a PDF that you can print yourself or for other options.

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