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Royal Grace

Peter Morphy

The king and his best friend have been killed in battle. Now it is a challenging time for David, who has just been crowned, given the gold key to the kingdom and in the highest position of leadership. There are still some among Saul's house and a few of his devoted soldiers who want to keep the monarchy in the family. That is why, when there is a change in royal leadership, the new king would often execute the descendants of the predecessor. He did not want a rebellion, an uprising or competition in the kingdom.

However, before Jonathan was killed he asked David for a special blessing. In 1 Samuel 20:14-15, Jonathan said, "But show me unflinching kindness like that of the Lord as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth." On another occasion, when King Saul was seeking to kill David, he asked for mercy upon his family. "I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family." So David gave his oath to Saul" (Samuel 24:20-22).

As King David was reminiscing of his friendship and reminded of his commitment, he asked, "Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?" (2 Samuel 9:1, 3). After a search was made Ziba, one of Saul's servants, came forward and said, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet" (2 Samuel 9:3). It isn't until later that we learn that his name is

Mephibosheth. To Ziba, his name is not important, neither is his ability, accomplishments or relationship. He is handicapped. He has nothing to offer the king from his past and nothing to contribute in his future. Sadly, some people still look down on others who aren't as talented, accomplished or reputable. We may be known to some, not by our name, but by our past, our failures or our sins.

Mephibosheth was living in obscurity in a barren land called LoDebar. He was hiding in fear, hoping just to say alive. He doesn't want the Philistines to know where he is and he doesn't want King David to know he is alive. When called to come before King David he may have thought that his time had come ... to be executed in revenge for all that Saul had done to David. (2 Samuel 19:28)

Indeed Mephibosheth's time had come. When brought into the king's presence he heard these words, "Don't be afraid, for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table" (2 Samuel 9:7). In an instant he went from poverty to prosperity, from living in fear to living in security, from living alone to living with family.

Because of a covenant made years earlier, and love for Jonathan's family and the grace of a friend everything that belonged to Saul and his family was given to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:9) along with the provision for a successful future. (2 Samuel 9:10)

It would have been great kindness for David to give great wealth and

possessions as well as a place in the servant's quarters to live. But Mephibosheth received more than stuff, he was brought into the family. He would not only eat regularly at the king's table, but he would be accepted and treated as one of king's sons (2 Samuel 9:11). Mephibosheth didn't have anything to offer David, but because the grace of God stirred the king's heart a young man, crippled in both feet, was welcomed into the family.

Accepting the invitation to feast at the king's table was the greatest blessing for Mephibosheth. Here his appetite was satisfied his need for relationship was filled and every provision was secured. It may have been when he sat down at the King's table even his disability was covered over by the table linens.

While I can hardly imagine what it would be like to be King David, I know just what it is like to be a man crippled by falls, living in barren land, fearful of the future, without hope. But I've been invited by the King to sit at His table, having all my needs met accepted as family, secure forever. "But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus ..." (Ephesians 2:4-6).

Yes, you also are invited to the table. Come as you are, you'll be changed. Don't worry about the past, God has you covered. You don't need to bring anything, all your needs will be supplied. Feeling a little distant, you'll be welcomed as family. And don't forget to bring a friend.

Royal Oak, MI

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Restoring the Boundaries of Love, PART 1

Paul Birston

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). He said, “Let there be light” (1:3) and “He separated the light from the darkness” (1:4). God separated the waters on earth from the waters above it (1:6-8). He separated land and sea (1:9-13). Though the powerful seas cover about 71% of the earth, God gave them limits. Job summarized these realities, “He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness” (Job 26:10). With the essentials of life in place, God made plants, animals and fish after their own separate kinds. He made people distinct from them all (1:11-31).

In His wisdom, God made these physical things different from one another. He established boundaries between them. Even within organisms, He made walls around individual cells so that each can do its unique and important work in sustaining the life of the whole. It is true that essential things cross back and forth through boundaries, such as nutrients through cell walls, but the existence of boundaries is fundamental to how organisms and the universe works. These principles are working all around and within us today.

When His initial work of creation was done, God “planted a garden toward the east in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed” (2:8). God separated this wonderful garden in the region of Eden from the area outside of it (2:8; 3:22-24). It contained “every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food” (1:9). Within the garden, God created boundaries around the two special trees: “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” and the “tree of life” (2:9, 17; 3:22-24). He told Adam not to eat of the first and gave him a choice

about how he would respond. God created Eve and extended to her the same freedom to choose within the boundaries He established.

Over and above all of these physical boundaries are several very important ones that are present but a little harder to see. Through the words of His prophets and Apostles thousands of years later God helps us to look back and see them.

The first boundary is completely in harmony with the core of God’s being: love. Among the splendours of Eden, Adam and Eve lived openly within the presence and fellowship of God and His love. God is love and He chose love as the supreme characteristic of fellowship with Him even before He created Adam and Eve: “He chose us in Him before

the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will” (Ephesians 1:4-5). People were made to live within the sphere of God’s love. Nothing was meant to come between God and His people. Their relationship is special; it is holy in love.

Second, God established a sacred boundary around the marriage union of the man and the woman and within it “they shall become one flesh” (2:24). From the beginning, God meant marriage to be a holy, protected place of love where nothing was to come between a

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What do these churches and schools have in common?

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Dabbling or Digging

Wayne Turner



It's cute to see little children in a wading pool. Typically, among the jumping, splashing and screaming, there will be a few children moving their arms and kicking their legs, mimicking the motions of swimming. There is an impressive show of activity but little actual progress. And, often, the child will call out to a nearby parent, "Look at me! I'm swimming." While the adults understand that the child does not yet know how to swim, they are amused by the actions and desires of the children. There's a big difference between dabbling in the shallow water and swimming in the deep water.

There's a significant realization going through the religious community in North America. Put simply, while many churches have been working to attract people to worship services, they have not developed very many people with any spiritual depth. Gordon MacDonald, editor at large of *Leadership Journal* notes, "...recent church emphasis has valued seekers, young people, and people that reflect diversity—all important elements of a healthy church. But absent a core of deep people, a church is in trouble."

George Barna, in a recently released study of self-described Christians, published in *Maximum Faith*, concludes "while everyone is on a lifelong journey the research revealed that a relatively small proportion of individuals stick with the process long enough to become the mature Christ-followers and world changers that they are meant to be."

Similarly, in August, the *Christian Chronicle* published an article, "Lighting a fire under pew warmers" which reported on a new book by Scott Thumma and Warren Bird. The title identifies the problem and the challenge, *The Other 80 Percent: Turning Your Church's Spectators into Active Participants*. The article quotes Thumma's identification of the problem that one-third to one-half of church members don't attend and only "20 percent of members ever doing anything in service, leadership and commitment to the congregation's life together..."

There are many expressions: pew warmers, pew packers, spectators, immature, inactive or nominal members. (Might we add pew potatoes?) All describe an unfortunate reality for many congregations. Some members do not grow beyond the beginning stages of their spiritual lives, so never mature to become active and effective parts of their congregation's life and ministry.

The problem is not unique to modern times. The writer of Hebrews interrupted his discussion of Jesus as high priest after the order of Melchizedek by noting there were more things that needed to be taught about this but that he could not because his audience was "dull of hearing" and needed basic teaching (milk) instead of digging deeper into God's truth (meat/solid food). That they have only dabbled is evident in the words, "by this time you should be teachers" so, instead, they need to be taught again the basics of God's word. They were immature, shallow in their spiritual development. The implied goal for all Christians is that they would grow to maturity.

This is what MacDonald means by deep. "Deep people are those whose lives are organized around Jesus, his character, his call to a serving life, and his death on the cross for their sins...each has the power to influence others to follow Jesus...are wary of spiritual entrapments. They are known for their wisdom, their compassion for others, and their perseverance in hard times."

Based on his survey, Barna notes four barriers that hinder spiritual growth. We can only briefly summarize his findings. First, only 18% of those who identified themselves as Christians, claimed to be "totally committed to investing in their own spiritual development." Second, "relatively few ... are serious about abandoning the lure of sin" and repenting. Third, while only 39% of "self-identified Christian adults" participated in "normal" religious activities (attending church, praying, Bible reading), fewer than one in ten went further (deeper)

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The Growing Church (5)

The church is about relationship with God through Jesus Christ. God has always wanted a relationship with His creation and it has always been best when this relationship begins early.

One of the concerns of the church in 2011 is that many (most) congregations are graying. What is going to happen in the coming years if the coming generations are not grounded in the truth? We are reminded that the church is only one generation away from apostasy. Teaching and grounding in sound doctrine must be a priority of the church today.

Paul tells us that the Lord has made provision for this to happen in the local congregation. "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes" (Ephesians 4:11-14 ESV). When the church has the leadership as prescribed by the Lord, the work of maturing the body takes place as each part does its work.

In dealing with this concern for the growing church, we must understand the place of the Christian home in this process. The home is the first training ground for building

faithful and committed members for the body of Christ, the Church. It is a team effort and responsibility that must be realized by the Christian family.

Consider the direction given to Israel in reference to the need for teaching and obeying the commands given them by God. Moses wrote, "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the rules that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, **that you may do them** in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, **that you may fear the LORD your God**, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. **Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you**, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers,

has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:1-9 ESV).

Note the bolded thoughts in the passage above. Question: If it was important that Israel, under an inferior law, needed to be careful to obey the Lord's direction for their life and worship, not only for themselves individually, but also to teach them to their children, what about the perfect law of liberty in Christ? Should we be any less diligent in learning, obeying and teaching the law of God's grace in the church family and in our homes? Foolish question!!

The motive for the church to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord is love. In this section from Deuteronomy 6 they were commanded to love the Lord with all their heart, soul and might. The greatest commandment today is the same. This begs the question "is it possible to command someone to love?" Much of our world today seems to think that love is a wonderful emotion that's either there or it isn't there?

In the life of the believer, love is an act of the will. We choose to relate to God and to other persons in a loving way. The truth is that often our love for another becomes stronger as we get to know them. In

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husband and wife living together in His presence. There are things that belong just to them and God.

Third, from godly marriages God sought "godly offspring" (Malachi 2:15). It was God's will that within the bounds of the family, children grow in a nurturing environment of holiness (cf. 1 Corinthians 7:14). Eventually God revealed through Moses, the Law and Jesus and His messengers, that love was to be the hallmark of all human relationships. Sixty percent of the Ten Commandments address consideration of people for others as does the Second Great Commandment, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39).

Fourth, Adam and Eve lived in harmony with the purity and beauty of nature, within the boundary of their environment that could possibly have become the flourishing community of Eden. God's physical provisions and their beauty were a concrete manifestation of His love for them. Everything they needed He lavishly provided within the garden's perimeter. Work came before the Fall and was done in harmony with God, the garden and the animals.

Boundaries Crossed

Adam and Eve's decision in response to God's love and instruction was to cross a boundary He told them to respect. The devil prompted, tempted and deceived them into thinking things were better on the other side. Their decision had profound consequences. Their response placed them and their offspring outside the boundaries of trust and close fellowship with God and brought shame

to their lives and strife to their family (Genesis 3:22-4:16ff). Their relationship with their environment changed: "Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden" (4:16). They had to work outside of Eden's garden. The ground was cursed, weeds came into the soil along with the toil required to harvest its fruit for food (3:17-19). Things were not better on the other side.

Outside of Eden, people's numbers increased into nations (10:32). Their common language and skill enabled them to build a city and begin a tower to reach heaven by their own efforts (11:1-9). Consequently, God multiplied their languages and established boundaries around the families of the nations, including Israel (Exodus 23:21; Acts 17:26). Though Adam and Eve began life in unity in the garden, nations became divided against each other outside of

it. The ultimate crossing of boundaries became war (Genesis 14:1-2ff), the opposite of love.

Boundaries Erased

We live in a world today where boundaries are not only crossed they are being erased. The very thought of personal boundaries is offensive to a self-centred culture of entitlement. This is particularly true of the four invisible boundaries of love highlighted above. The following are observations about them not personal criticisms.

First, the natural worldview has convinced many moderns and post-moderns that God and His love do not exist and, furthermore, there's no spiritual dimension to life. This worldview sees no boundary within which fellowship with God is possible because He doesn't exist. There is no fear of anything coming between one and a God who isn't there. For many people in modern western society, therefore, nothing is sacred. What is there left to do but to get what one can. Contrary to Jesus' teaching in Luke 12:15, commerce says quality of life does consist in the abundance of one's possessions. A modern version of the forbidden tree is the tree of the knowledge of good (evil is an out-dated negative idea). Human knowledge is supreme. The controversial statement of the 5th century BC philosopher Protagoras has become the belief of many, "Man is the measure of all things."

Second, over God's will for the sanctity, security and privacy of marriage and family, millions of people today feel a right and need to peer into the private lives of others

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and to expose themselves to inappropriate levels of self-disclosure through a burgeoning number of reality TV programs, entertainment news, gossip magazines and social networks. Though offering a sense of connectedness, they also create unrealistic expectations, discontentment and insecurities within the hearts of individuals, marriages and families. For men and an alarming number of adolescents, Jesus' boundary around lust and visual adultery is gone (cf. Matthew 5:26-28-30). Excessive amounts of information are obscuring the boundary between what is important and what is not. Everything becomes urgent, even things that are not necessarily important. Stress builds.

Third, worldly pressures have broken about fifty percent of marriages and traumatized countless children of divorce. The sanctity, peace, love and unity of their homes have been removed. Statistics show that their emotional stability and

academic performance are frequently compromised.

Fourth, even setting aside the controversial matter of global warming, humans are clearly impacting the earth's environment in profound ways. Chemical pollution is a known factor in many health concerns including cancer, allergies and respiratory diseases. Animal habitats are being reduced and many species are threatened with extinction. Division between people accompanies environmental change. The powerful minority of people prospering from concentrating the earth's rich resources into capital gain live securely while millions of powerless people live in uncertainty and abject poverty. To the detriment of many, an elite minority hoard the generous provisions that God created for all as an expression of His power, care and love.

To be continued in Part 2, boundaries of love restored.

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Editorial... continued from page 4

in their spiritual activity, including talking about their faith to someone, spending time in reflection or acts of service. Fourth, while most feel "comfortable and connected with their church," only 21% believe that "spiritual maturity requires a vital connection to a community of faith. We might well ask are these people followers of Christ or dabblers?"

It is not our purpose here to make harsh accusations or criticisms. However, we should encourage serious self-examination and reflection. The many "one another" passages of the New Testament tell us to teach, encourage, edify, build up, stir up one another. Our goal, individually and together, is to grow up and mature to become like Christ in every way. We need to deepen our faith and spiritual lives by learning and applying God's Word. This begins with a commitment to investing everything we can to our spiritual growth—to being diggers, not dabblers.



Please join us for Celebration Sunday, October 30, 2011

Theme: *Living as the Family of God*, 1 Timothy 3:14-16 Speaker: Peter Morphy

10:00 Family Matters
11:00 Building to Last
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Spiritual Eyes

Bobby Hibbard

Let us consider a couple of death scenarios:

Scenario 1: A 35 year old man is alone in his home and suddenly experiences a home invasion as four young men break in and roughly bind him in ropes. They rob him of his possessions, and then after they are done, they torture him while he is bound, and then finally kill him.

Scenario 2: A 95 year old woman is at home in her own bed, surrounded by family and friends, and passes away peacefully in her sleep.

How do these two death scenarios make us feel? Our reaction to Scenario 1 may be one of outrage and immense sadness over a death like that ... a senseless violent end. And a life cut way too short. Our reaction to Scenario 2 may be one of comfort. We might think: "Good for her". She had a long life, her loved ones were with her, she wasn't in a cold hospital room and her death wasn't all that painful.

These are usually our reactions to these death scenarios are they not? But what if we learn that the man who suffered the violent home invasion was a faithful Christian, who loved and served God? And what if we learn that the 95 year old woman never gave God a second thought, and was lost?

Whose death was truly more tragic? It depends on what eyes you're looking with ... physical eyes or spiritual eyes.

Those of the world can only see this life; therefore the quality of this life is of prime importance because this is all we get ... and then death brings it all to an end. But the Scriptures reveal that death is not the end. Rather it is a transition to the next life, which, at this moment, we cannot see with our physical eyes.

The apostle Paul spoke of the eternal glory that awaits the faithful child of God, and that the troubles we may be experiencing in this life are only momentary. He emphasizes that we need to fix our eyes, not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. Why? "Because what is unseen, is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:13-18).

In 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Paul speaks of our longing for our heavenly dwelling. He says God has purposed to give us this heavenly dwelling, trading the corruptible for the incorruptible. The Holy Spirit is given to us as a guarantee of this promise (See also Romans 8:22-25). Our eagerness and hope for what we do not have in this life, is living with spiritual sight. The focus of our eyes is upon what is unseen ... eternal.

Consider the man named Stephen (Acts 7:51-60). Stephen met a violent end to his life: rushed at by a mob who hated him, dragged out of the city of Jerusalem and then stoned to death. It's probably not the way most of us would choose to go ... but it didn't last forever. And he is enjoying peace and happiness ... RIGHT NOW. He will forever feel joy. If we look at his life with spiritual eyes, we can share in his joy when we think of Stephen.

In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus told a story of a rich man and a man named Lazarus. From the description, Lazarus had a life of suffering. He was deprived of the basic necessities of life as he longed to eat any scraps of food that fell from the rich man's table. If this pattern of not eating sufficiently continued, we can speculate that Lazarus' body gradually shut down from disease and lack of nutrition. This is not a great way to die either, but thankfully, Jesus provides

a spiritual picture to His listeners so they are able to see the beauty of Lazarus' spiritual comfort. Likewise, Jesus provides a spiritual picture of the rich man's torment following his death. We do not know how this man died, but we do know how he lived. Jesus tells us of the richness of his clothing and that he lived in luxury every day. We might envy such a man. Consider the popularity of lotteries. Is not the purchase of lottery tickets a bid to obtain the lifestyle that this rich man had? Initially, Jesus' audience may have felt a greater connection to the life of the rich man as something desirable, and perhaps their reaction to the description of Lazarus was one of disgust. But Jesus gives them a glimpse of the unseen. The rich man still exists following his death, and he is in state of agony, begging for some relief—much in the same way Lazarus had begged for relief of his condition at the rich man's gate. Jesus reveals an obvious role-reversal in the condition of these two men once they enter into the spiritual realm. Just because the living cannot see it, does not make it unreal. And the unseen is not only real, but it is eternal.

We need to have these eyes ... and see spiritual reality for what it really is.

How do these eyes relate to our Christian mission? How do we see other people?

Consider the story of the healing of the paralytic in Mark 2:1-12. From reading this event, what was the paralyzed man's greatest need? It was forgiveness. Nobody else saw it. Jesus did. This was far more important, far more urgent, than freeing him from paralysis ... although Jesus did indeed free him from his physical impairment. Jesus looked upon the man with spiritual eyes.

Application: How should we see people? We need to see people as having spiritual needs, particularly those who need the Gospel ... those who do not have fellowship with their Creator.

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Despite a great physical threat that pursued the early Christians, (Acts 8:1-4), they shared the gospel message wherever they went. The threat did not close their mouths. The threat did not cause them to renounce their faith. It did not cause the church to stop growing. Quite the opposite in fact. More and more souls were being saved through the spread of the Gospel.

In Acts 20:25-27, Paul makes a very bold statement in saying that he is innocent of the blood of all men. This is due to his not hesitating to preach. It's interesting that he puts it in these terms ... relating it to man's blood. We see that sharing the Gospel has life and death consequences ... spiritually! Too often we probably don't think this way ... but we should ... if we really care about people and see with our spiritual eyes that they really need God.

Challenge:

- This is something to pray about. When we pray, we recognize our spiri-

tual poverty in the sight of God ... our need for His strength. If we ask God ceaselessly to help us view our lives and the lives of others with eternal consequences, He will strengthen our spiritual focus which in turn will help us be more involved in the good works of God. Spiritual vision is of no use if it is not manifested in our conduct.

- Immerse yourself in the Word of God. God is spirit (John 4:24). His message is spiritual. Our destiny is spiritual. He has given us everything we need for life and godliness, which is through our knowledge of him (2 Peter 1:3). To see properly, we need to be people of the Book. We can see how God sees through what He has revealed about Himself. The deeper we search the mind of God, the closer we will get to see what He is really like ... at His heart. And when we marry our knowledge of God with our pattern of behaviour and our own character, we will see the world as God does ... in desperate need of a Saviour.

Consider the Words of the Hymn: Swiftly We're Turning

1. Swiftly we're turning life's daily pages, Swiftly the hours are changing to years; How are we using God's golden moments? Shall we reap glory? Shall we reap tears?

2. Millions are groping without the gospel, Quickly they'll reach eternity's night; Shall we sit idly as they rush onward? Haste, let us hold up Christ the true light.

3. Souls that are precious, souls that are dying, While we rejoice our sins are forgiv'n; Did He not also die for these lost ones? Then let us point the way unto heav'n.

Chorus:

Into our hands the gospel is given, Into our hands is given the light, Haste, let us carry God's precious message, Guiding the erring back to the right.

Medicine Hat, AB

GOSPEL MEETING

Church of Christ
765 Welland Road
Fenwick

Speaker: Dale Jenkins of Spring Hill, TN

Oct 23 – Sunday

9:45 – Renew – *Your Best Revival Ever*
11:00 – Refresh – *How To Be Blessed by the Word*
7:00 – Rejuvenate – *How To Grow A Loving Church*

Oct 24 – Monday

7:00 – Restore – *Every Member Needs
What Every Member Can Give*

Oct 25 – Tuesday

7:00 – Rekindle – *A Place at His Table*

Oct 26 – Wednesday

7:00 – Remind – *Do You Believe that Jesus is
the Son of God?*



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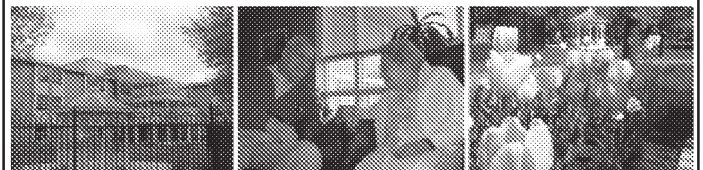
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NEWS

- EAST -

by Don Hipwell and Harold Bruggen
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Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0
Email: donhipwell@aol.com
or Harold Bruggen at hbruggen@gmail.com

NEW YORK

Niagara Falls (LaSalle): The congregation held a ladies' day on September 24. The theme was "Fruit of the Spirit".

Niagara Falls (Tennessee Ave): The congregation hosted a Gospel Meeting with Dr. James Lawrence of the Linwood Church in Buffalo. The meeting began with Homecoming Sunday, October 2. This included worship, a lunch and an acappella song service. The meeting continued each evening through October 5.

Rochester (Northside): The congregation held their 49th Anniversary Celebration on August 28. The afternoon was filled with singing. David Wilson of the Kings Church of Christ, Brooklyn, NY, then spoke in a Gospel Meeting August 29-31. The theme was "Building Upon The Foundation".

Rochester (Southside): A meeting was held with Billy McGuiggan of Natick, MA, on September 11-14. The topic was—What Jesus Would Love For You.

Sardinia: Our hearts are thrilled to welcome a new sister-in-Christ, Linda Korczak, who was baptized Sunday evening, August 21. Kyle Frank preached here on September 4 and Glen Mueller preached in Bradford, PA on September 11.

ONTARIO

Beamsville: The Beamsville church family joined the Tintern congregation for Church in the Park on Sunday, September 4.

Bramalea: We rejoice with Joyce Garnett who was baptized on August 21 by her father, Pete Garnett. Ainslie

Mitchell, who was baptized July 10, was immersed by Philip Thomas. Allen Garcia, summer intern for the congregation, left to attend Carleton University in Ottawa following his two months' work with Bramalea's teenagers. Average attendance in his Thursday evening class was 13. Allen was assisted by Kevin Hunter in this class. With Allen's guidance, Bramalea's young men took the worship service Sunday morning, August 7. Speakers from the congregation recently included Angelo Aiello and Donald Williams. We said goodbye and Godspeed to the Christian Kpodjie family—Christian, his wife, Janet Mensah and their children, Nathaniel, Keith and Rexford—moved recently so Christian could be closer to the school where he now teaches.

Fenwick: Ruth Zimmerman gave a report to the congregation prior to her return to PNG on August 11. The annual corn roast at Dandelion Acres was used as a planning session for the Kids For Christ fun fair. The fun fair, on August 29, was a success in spite of the rain. Twenty five children attended. The good neighbour BBQ was the best ever with 44 attending. Kids For Christ began again on September 9 with 24 children—8 from the community. The congregation participated in the Wainfleet Fall Fair for the first time. Coats have again been collected for distribution in October to needy families. A Gospel Meeting is planned for October 23-26 with Dale Jenkins of Spring Hill, TN.

Oshawa: As of October, we have been in Oshawa seven months. The congregation is having a regular morning attendance of 20-25 steady

members. Ladies class continues on the third Wednesday of the month with regular prayer night on the first Thursday of the month. The Thursday Bible class is studying Galatians and has a regular attendance of twelve. We ask you to continue to pray for Oshawa. (Note from Steve and Pearl Chubry) The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society met in the Oshawa church building on Saturday, August 20. George Mansfield spoke on the theme The Plea Of The Restoration.

Owen Sound: The Owen Sound Ladies' Renewal was held September 16-18. The theme was Set Your Mind On The Spirit. Speakers were Marg Sandiford, Carol Pinczuk and Pat Knutson.

Stoney Creek: September 11 the church resumed Sunday Bible classes after time off during the summer. Carrie Wiebe-Peever, Brent Olson, Fran Groves and Melanie Wiebe are teaching the children and youth and Ben Wiebe is teaching the adults. This fall there will also be two mid-week Bible studies, one in east Hamilton and one in Burlington. On Sept. 11 the church marked the beginning of a new school year with its annual "Blessing of the Backpacks." Children were asked to bring their backpacks to the worship service, and special prayers were offered for students and teachers. Seven of our young people, Alexis and Rachel Seraphanian; Mary, Emma and Lorelei Wiebe; Helen Peever and Samantha Lundy attended Omagh Bible Camp during the summer. Brent Olson, the church's preacher, is visiting the Holy Land this fall. Ben Wiebe, David Mubvumbi and Alex Groves are speaking on Sunday mornings while Brent is away.

Tintern: KNO wrapped up in May with lower attendance. Many thanks to all our volunteers. A group of teens went to IMPACT in Nashville, Tennessee in June. Fifteen teens and 3 adults were able to attend this event. BDC was held the first week of July.

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(BC news supplied by Barbara Lewis)

ALBERTA

Camrose: We had 35 people at our Singspiration and pot luck. It was an uplifting time.

Edmonton Northside: Welcome back to Garth Howe. Welcome to Ford Lau who was baptized and added to the family. For outreach, we held “a household items give away” and barbecue. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Congregational singing was held Sunday evenings over the summer. We are now back in our small groups for the winter. Unity is the theme of the lessons. The two Sunset courses—Greek 1 and Distinctive Nature of the Church—have also begun.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Abbotsford (Central Valley): A further report on the Bible Day Camps for the children in the two First Nations villages in B.C.): “In spite of weather between very wet and rainy to a couple of really nice days, 67 children between the two villages, 34 in Ft Ware and 33 in Tsay Keh, participated. The team from Tintern, ON, was composed of three generations, which proved to be great, as the kids bonded with the four younger people right away. Norm counted 15 surrounding our younger team members as they strolled around the village in Fort Ware following the devotional hour. After one afternoon session in Tsay Keh, we were in the middle of supper when several of the children came and asked to talk to ‘those others’, meaning the people nearest their ages. They wanted to play soccer. So the minute supper was over, the young folks left us to join

them. Later, when our evening singing/devo started, the village children all trooped in to sing with us... it was great! Suddenly a mother came in and motioned for her child to come to her, which he did. After she whispered to him, he came back to tell the other kids they had to go home. About eight got up and left, leaving us wondering why. Later we learned that a Grizzly bear had been spotted behind one of the houses and the moms wanted their kids at home—in the house! It is unusual for Grizzlies to come into the villages, but this one was seen several times that week, the first time we had heard of it during the several years we have been there. The dogs go crazy barking and will chase a black bear, but when a Grizzly comes, even the dogs put their tails between their legs and find a hiding place! The singing at the devotionals was especially uplifting and inspiring, as most of the team had been in chorus at one time or another at Great Lakes Christian College. When we sang “The Greatest Commands” (page 448 in Songs of Faith and Praise). Attendees from the villages were heard to comment that they had been listening to the angels sing!” (Ed: Thanks to Jen Weir for this information that came in two instalments.)

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

Oakridge (Vancouver): The usual monthly potluck in August was turned into a special occasion in recognition of our children and youth in anticipation of the start of school in September. They were presented with shiny party hats and horns to match colourful balloons decorating the fellowship room, and tried their luck at eating donuts on a string. “Now you know how we feed our children on potluck days,” Milton Diaz quipped. There were slices from two cakes, one in honour of “Children and Youth” and one to celebrate the 19th birthday of the daughter of our preacher as she leaves childhood behind. A new feature has been added to our weekly bulletin: a “Kids’ Corner” contributed by Joseph Diaz.

Salmon Arm: As usual, we participated in our town’s Fall Fair on Sept. 9-11, by having a display booth and a Clean-Up crew on hand when it was over. In order to encourage folks to get to know who we are, we gave some history of famous members, past and present, on a table bulletin board. It also told what we are about in our community and how we share our lives with each other in our fellowship. A folded handout, small enough to fit into a pocket, gave a map and information regarding service times, etc., along with a special invitation to come and get to know us. Banners lined the booth walls. A quilted one proclaimed Christ’s promise, “I will make you fishers of men.” Others urged people to: “KNOW—God’s love and His purpose for you. Romans 8:28”; “LIVE—out His love in our everyday lives. Ephesians 5:2”; and to “SHARE—God’s love with others. John 13: 34”. There was also a notice that we are the ones who were cleaning the fair grounds and bathrooms under the name of the church, as “Service” is our motto. October saw us advertising our Fall Lectureship, which is Oct. 22-23 with speaker James A. Maxwell. He is the Minister of the Holgate Church of Christ in Seattle, Washington, and has been preaching for nineteen years. He has established and led several ministries in various congregations,

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Barbara Lewis
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e-mail: ray-bjl@comcast.net



PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Velma Forman, PNG nurse and answer to numerous other medical needs, pronounced it a good trip when she arrived back in BC, after 30 hours travel time from Cairns, Australia. She had spent four nights there, courtesy of the Wycliffe Bible Translators' guest house, so was well rested for the long trip ahead. After a few days at home with family and friends along with medical/dental check-ups, she was on the road again, visiting Victoria, Campbell River and Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, and several individuals and churches around the Lower Mainland. Places expecting her in Canada included Vernon, Quesnel, Prince George and North Bend in B.C., as well as Moose Jaw and other towns in Saskatchewan. On her schedule in the U.S. were a few days each in Memphis and Spartanburg, TN, with a side-trip to Ohio. In most of these places Velma makes reports and presentations on her life in Lae. She expects to start her return trip on Nov. 30 for another three years of work.

PHILIPPINES: Dr. Al Mikell, a micro-biologist at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, OK., has made a trip to a remote village in Northern Cebu to install a bio-filtration system for a poor community. While there he trained leaders about the concept so that they will be able to duplicate the unit for other villages and even to other impoverished islands. During his time there,

Dr. Mikell enjoyed life in a grass hut, eating fish and rice, hiking in the hills and visiting goat and garden farms while he lectured at different schools, preached and conducted Bible studies. If his experiences cause you to want to do volunteer work in the Philippines, Salvador Cariaga will be pleased for you to contact him at cariaga@yahoo.com for more information, and invites you to share it with your friends.

JAPAN: The Moiwashita church of Christ was planted 54 years ago and their preacher, brother Suzuki, has been there from the beginning. Recently the church provided Steve and Marcia Hasbrouck with required letters of invitation so that they could renew their visas. As a result of the Hasbrouck's request, Steve has been asked to help a young man in training to become a preacher. Steve agreed, as he realized the young man needs more time for his studies and some on-the-job training. Also, as brother Suzuki is 83 years old, the congregation has asked if he would be willing

to speak at times until the younger man feels he is ready to do their preaching. "This is the only viable Restoration church still on the island," Steve writes. "This is commonplace on mission fields and the timid and fearful need not apply. If we are not willing to be verbally abused, misunderstood, taken for granted and other such things, we will not be able to get this work done... This is the nature of missions and it is the nature of church work. When we protect ourselves from any and every possible hurt, we keep out those who are genuinely looking for the Saviour." Recently, in talking with brother Suzuki, Steve said that he mentioned someone had asked him why he didn't retire from church work. His response was that he had no intentions of retiring, that preaching was "life-time work". **Japan Relief:** Brethren from across Canada sent \$104,000 to Bramalea for the Japan Relief work. \$100,000 has now been sent to the 10-member East Japan Relief committee in Mito, Japan. Joel Osborne and intern Sasha Ingle, who currently work with the Mito congregation, are part of this committee. Updates of the committee's activities and how money is spent on relief work can be found on the blog: <http://eastjapanrelief.wordpress.com>. Canadian Christians are strongly requested to continue to pray, and continue giving, to help restore order in Japan and to glorify God by showing our concern.

ETHIOPIA: Birke Bekele is a 17-year-old student at the Makanissa School for the Deaf in Addis Ababa. After three years of study, she was in the 4th grade this year and at the top of her class. Her mother had died when she was three years of age, and three years later, her feet and legs became infected and eventually gangrenous. She was carried to a medical clinic where both legs were

Preaching Position opening 2012

The members of the Church of Christ in Fenwick are actively involved in benevolence, educating children, missions, and outreach. Please send resume by January 1, 2012 to the Elders at:

CHURCH of CHRIST, Fenwick
Serving God & Community



P.O. Box 416, 765 Welland Road, Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0 PH:905-892-5661
email: cofcfenwick@gmail.com

amputated below the knee. When her father saw his child, he was so grief-stricken that he handed her to a beggar on the street and committed suicide. One day a stranger noticed her and carried her to the hospital in Ambo, where she and the beggar were living. They trimmed her legs properly and made her a

pair of artificial legs, continuing to provide help for two years. The same man had been searching for a home to place her in and finally found a Catholic institution willing to take her after she could walk. Here she found something to do as they let her help to cook and look after other handicapped children who

were there. After persistent begging, at the age of 14 she was allowed to enroll in Grade One of the Makaanissa School. She began attending church, and studying the Bible with Brother Abebe, who heads the school. After removing her artificial legs, Birke wept for joy as she was baptized with the help of two men early this year.

News East... continued from page 10

There were 151 kids registered, our biggest day was 132 kids! Thanks go out to all our volunteers and special thanks to the group from Northeast Church of Christ, Kingsport, TN. There were two mission trips this summer. Several teens from Tintern and Great Lakes Christian High School went to Nicaragua. A separate group of six went to British Columbia from July 29 to August 9 to help run two mini VBS's with Norm and Jen Weir and Hilda. They went to Fort Ware and Tsay Keh and had about 67 kids in attendance. We rejoice with the Williams family, as on Saturday, August 27, Maddie (Dwayne & Janine's daughter) was baptized by her dad. Church in the Park was on September 4. It included a kids program during worship followed by a picnic lunch. Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate and it was moved indoors to the Tintern building.

It was great to have so many visitors and friends together for worship. The Outreach Ministry is planning a town hall style information session on, "Who is Jesus and what did He teach?" at the Holiday Inn on Ontario Street in St. Catharines on Tuesday, September 20, at 7pm. A number of us have felt moved by the Holy Spirit to offer something like this in St. Catharines so we are advertising in the classifieds in St. Catharines. We rented a room at the hotel and we will see what happens. We are looking forward to our Celebration of Thanks to be held on Sunday, October 2.

Waterloo: UCI (University/College/In Between) meals began on Wednesday evenings in September. The meals will focus on young people ages 18-25. A brand new Friday morning program is underway for parents and caregivers. Starting in September, each

week we will get together for a time of discovery, learning and exploring God's world around us, as we meet at various trails, creeks and natural areas in K.W. The Waterloo church of Christ hosted a series of Bible Lectureships from October 6 - 9 at our building. The chosen theme was 'Facing Difficult Times' and revolved around the need to get Christian encouragement in those areas of our lives mostly stressed by the reality of our present times.

Windsor: West Side Craft Club is a group of ladies who have a skill to share or want to learn a new skill (knitting, crochet, other craft). We hope to produce items for our clothing giveaway (hats, mitts, blankets etc.) September 25 was the date of our BTCS—Back to Church Sunday. The theme for this day was "Today, I'm Going to Change the World."

News West... continued from page 11

which include Personal Evangelism, College Classes, Young Men's Ministry, Preacher Training, Young Married Couples, Domestic and International Gospel Campaigns from Arkansas to Belize City, Central America and Ethiopia in Africa. In 2003, brother Maxwell received the "Valor Award" in the category of "Church Leadership" from his Alma Mater, Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, TX, and in 2009, was named to the "Hall of Fame for the Classes of the 1980's". Theme for this year's lectures was "So Earth-moving Towards Heaven", and his topics included "Becoming What You Believe", "Transformers", "How

To Be In God's Family" and "When It's Time To Alter Your Altars."

Vernon: Supplied by Murray Ververda, our members were able to send email invitations to their families and friends to invite them to attend the special "Friends and Neighbours" Sunday on Sept. 11, which started with a 10:15 am Continental breakfast. A fall building clean-up followed the men's "Toonie" breakfast on Sept. 17, preparing for the renewal of all Bible classes the following day.

MANITOBA

Winnipeg (Central): August 7 we joined with Brandon, Manitoba, and August 13-14 with Kenora, Ontario,

for worship, fellowship and service opportunities. Our annual VBS was held August 22-26. Attendance was 40-45 with about 19 who do not usually attend our regular Bible classes. September 17 was Adopt-a-highway family service day. Our Friend Speak Ministry had its biggest number last year. On average there were 15 readers each week with a similar number of "workers". We are anticipating a good response again this fall as many newcomers keep arriving in Winnipeg. There are many needing friendship and someone to help them practice their English. By using the Luke workbook we are also sharing the story of Jesus.

What feels right

Kevin Cleary

I have a friend who I recently heard tell a little about his life. This friend is currently studying to be a preacher and I am sure he'll be a good one. That being said he has lived a life which included some bad stuff. When he was younger, shortly after moving out of his parents house he found it hard to make enough money. To supplement his income he began to sell drugs. First it was not a lot, just a little pot to make ends meet. But he soon learned that harder drugs brought a bigger pay day. With that knowledge he moved into selling cocaine and methamphetamine and other things.

During this part of his life his description is challenging. He was making lots of money driving a nice car and able to do and have whatever he wanted. His description of this time was "It felt great." In fact he says he can remember thinking to himself "how could his parents religion (Christianity) be right when his life was so good without it?"

This reveals something critical about the heart and mind of man. It is not a reliable guide for life. The wise man warns us of this truth "There is a way that seems right to a man but its end is death." Jeremiah reveals this same truth when he says "It is not in man who walks to direct his steps."

Our own life and desires illustrate this truth very well. What person craves green vegetables or omega three fatty acids? When have you ever thought, "wow I could really go for some lean protein right now?" What we crave is fat and salt and sugar. The things doctors tell us lead to heart disease, obesity, diabetes and all kinds of health problems. When it comes to finances is our first thought "boy I should put this away for retirement?" No, usually we think about what I can spend this windfall on.

And so good common sense tells us that we are not often very good

at knowing what's right even in our physical lives. That being said one of the most prominent ideas among religious people today is: I am looking for what feels good. What they should be doing is looking for what **is** good.

Only God is truly good and only He can tell us what is good in relation to our religious belief and practice. God has done that very thing. Paul describes men groping for God in Acts 17 but goes on to point out there is no need for doing so. He tells Timothy that scripture provides all we need to live a life that is good and pleasing to God.

My friend now looks back on his time selling drugs (which ended in a prison term) as a terrible time in his life. Not because he feels different but because he knows different. He will even explain that until he knew right, he had no guilt about his past actions.

Will we continue to pursue what feels right? Or will we take our direction from God as given to us in the New Testament and actually do right.

Meaford, ON

Humility

Deb Hibbard

The apostle Paul in Philippians 2:3 encourages us to not do anything out of selfishness or conceit but in humility to consider others better than ourselves. Being humble can be a very difficult 'attitude' to adopt. Humility is described as a 'state or quality of being lowly in mind, meek or unpretending.' Humility should be characteristic of the Christian. Time and again, we have been cautioned that we must possess such a quality. Proverbs 22:4 tells us that humility is the fear of the Lord, its wages are riches and honour and life. Colossians 2:18 tells us not to delight in false humility. We are to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience as God's chosen people (Colossians 3:12).

Humility does not come naturally to us, but it is something we need to

strive to achieve. While humility helps make us or is valuable in making our lives pleasing to God, it also is of great significance in our dealings with one another. Humility provides protection against arrogance and pride and will eventually save us from the embarrassment that comes with being boastful. As Proverbs 16:18 says, "pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." Unfortunately, many have found themselves in this dilemma and even sadder is their unwillingness to turn their pride into humility. It was pride that caused the devil to fall (Isaiah 14:13-15). Why would we want to be known as someone who lacks humility and is full of pride? If our lives are full of pride how different are we from the devil? Scary thought isn't it? Think about it, do you want to be associated as one having something in common with the devil? I certainly do not!

If one does not have humility one cannot serve others and be viewed as acceptable in God's sight. Humility is rooted in love and false pretences of creating an atmosphere of being humble have no foundation and will crumble. Too many times we fool ourselves into thinking that if no one knows what we truly think and feel in our hearts then no harm is being done. Are we forgetting we serve an omniscient God (1 John 3:19-20)? For us to truly 'love' each other, we must empty ourselves from selfishness. How can love, joy, peace, humility and other many great qualities grow if there is no room for it in our hearts? What is in your heart? Is it filled with qualities representative of a child of God? God despises a proud look and one who is conceited and is filled with 'self-importance' is in complete opposition to the kind of 'heart' that a Christian should possess. Luke 14:11 tells us that "for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Will you be among the exalted or will lack of humility be your downfall?

Have a fantastic day today!

Medicine Hat, AB

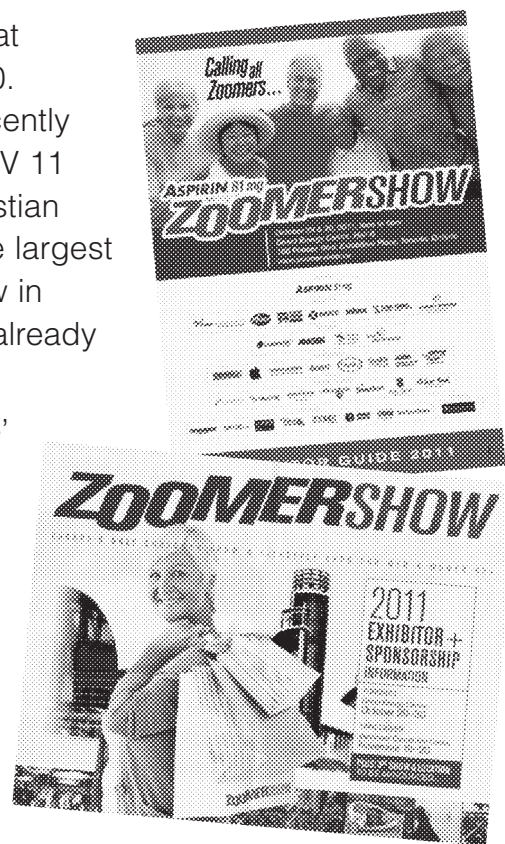
Come Join Key at the ZoomerShow

October 29 & 30, 2011, 9am to 5pm
in the "Faith Pavillion", Direct Energy Centre
100 Princes Blvd. Exhibition Place, Toronto

We are planning to have a booth in the "Faith Pavilion" at the **ZoomerShow** here in Toronto on October 29 and 30. The ZoomerShow is owned by Zoomer Media which recently purchased Vision TV, Joy TV 10 in Vancouver and Joy TV 11 in Winnipeg. As a result, 2010 saw the inclusion of Christian ministries to the show. This year they expect to have the largest Christian component of any mainstream consumer show in Canada. The ZoomerShow is only 3 years old and has already grown to over 26,000 attendees in Toronto.

This is not a typical Christian event, as it is a 'lifestyle' show, which is promoted directly to a large majority of the 45+ age group. The ministries that tested the show last year found that they were in fact surprised at how many people were interested in 'faith'. Those involved last year were well pleased with the results.

We have reworked the "Good News Is For Sharing" three lesson Bible course to use as a handout at the show and will have other teaching/information materials for distribution.



Key to the Kingdom™

BOOK REVIEWS

Traces of the Kingdom, One Thousand Years of the Churches of Christ in England, 2nd edition, Keith Sisman, Forbidden Books, 2010, hard back, 658 pages.

Considering Christ's assurance of the continuing duration of His church and the teaching of the parable that the "seed is the word", it is not surprising that much research has been done and many books written attempting to trace the continuous existence of churches of Christ from the time of the apostles. The congregational nature of the churches and the fact that persecution has all too often driven the faithful underground, makes such attempts very difficult and necessarily exposes some "missing links".

The author of this book, Keith Sisman, preacher at the Cambridge City Church of Christ, England, has a slightly more modest purpose – "to refute the falsehood that churches of Christ are a nineteenth century denomination" (and/or) "a development of the Reformation and hence are of Protestant origin". The case is made "that churches of Christ existed in Europe prior to the Reformation and later came into fellowship with the Restoration Movement in the 1840s". Traces as far back as the eleventh century are identified.

Although the research shows that such churches were quite numerous for a time only a small number were left to become a part of the nineteenth century Restoration Movement leading to the question of what happened to the others. The answer seems to be that many compromised on Calvinism and evolved into the Baptist church (the author premises that the Baptist historians have chosen to omit this when searching their origins.); others, wishing to be recognized and accepted in the religious world of the time blended in with the Protestant denominations.

This book is the culmination of fifteen years of study using rare sources

held in the archives of University Library, Cambridge and the British Library, London. Interestingly, there being a dearth of recorded sources from these churches the author frequently and effectively uses the records of Catholic and State church persecutors as documented sources.

In the Introduction he states, "we know the churches of Christ early on separated from the State Churches, to which entry was via believers' baptism, by immersion, for the remission of sins (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38, 2:47). Each congregation was overseen by a plurality of elders, which is the same office as pastors, bishops and presbyters. Each (congregation) had deacons and rejected a separate clergy class"

There are nineteen well researched chapters dealing with European church history and then with periods, individuals and individual congregations in England. There are records of many who were tortured and ultimately burned to death for not "baptizing" their babies because of their convictions regarding original sin and that baptism (rebaptism) was for penitent adult believers.

Described as "the definitive work on the history of the pre-Restoration churches of Christ in England and Europe" this is a very interesting, revealing and touching read. It may be ordered from the website www.Traces-of-the-Kingdom.org.uk

Reviewed by Eugene C. Perry, Beamsville, ON

MINISTER NEEDED

The Ville-Emard Church of Christ in Montreal QC is searching for an anglophone minister to work in co-operation with the congregation's francophone minister of 25 years. Must raise own support. Strong Biblical grounding considered a high priority, as is ability to speak, or willingness to learn French.

Montreal is Canada's 2nd largest city and, besides its beauty, history and festivities, presents a highly unique, mission-oriented ministry opportunity in North America. The Ville-Emard congregation hosts live online broadcast of worship every Sunday morning on our website vecoc.org.

To respond either for information or application please contact: info@vecoc.org or call **514-765-8919**.

fact, sometimes our first impression of an individual may be negative. However, as we get to know them, that negative attitude is replaced with love. Surely this is true in a person's relationship with the Lord. As one gets to know Him and what he has done for us, love grows. This is one duty of the church, to make Him known and help build love and commitment to Him and His will.

Under the old law it was the responsibility of parents to see that their children were constantly reminded of the will and the love of God. Small sections of scripture were written out and carried in containers, called phylacteries, on their forehead or arm. They also attached a small container of Scripture to the doorposts and gates of their houses. All around were these continual

visual reminders of the place of God in their lives and the lives of their family. Do you suppose that, in some cases, their children were "put off" when their parents did not respect God by failing to follow His will in their home and life?

The point is that we (in the home and in the church) have a responsibility to teach the next generation to love and serve God. This is a must if there is to be a growing church in generations to come. Does this mean we need to write bits of Scripture and hang them around our necks and that of our children? Is it that we should stick up portions of Scripture as our doorways to be touched by those who pass through?

I think not. However, we can make our home and our personal environment a place where Scripture is read and discussed. Each of us can

set an example of placing value on spiritual teaching, discussion and knowledge for ourselves and our family. Like Joshua we can make the commitment to be a family who seeks the Lord.

Of course, the church will also benefit from this "homework" and will, itself, support this "homework" by providing a commitment to sound doctrine being taught and lived. The leadership of the church will be committed to "...building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood...". These combined efforts will help families grow stronger and will result in the church growing as God desires.

Remember, the church is only one generation away from apostasy! Don't let it be your generation.

Administrator (CEO) Position

In 1968, the Barrie Ontario Church of Christ opened what is now a not-for-profit, long-term care continuum which includes a 143 bed nursing home, a 14 unit retirement area and a senior's day program. Led by an independent Board of Directors, the Home operates on the Biblical principles espoused by the Church of Christ. The Board is therefore looking for an active member of the Church of Christ to become the Home's next Administrator in 2014.

Ontario's Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care legislation demands certain qualifications for new Administrators, which include:

1. **A post-secondary degree preferably in health or social services;**
2. **Three years of management experience in the health or social service sector;**
3. **Demonstrated leadership and communications skills;**
4. **Completion of a specific 100 hour long-term care administration program.**

The Board wants to talk to you if you are interested in the Administrator position and:

1. **Already have the above qualifications, or**
2. **Are willing to put in the work required to gain those qualifications.**

To express interest or for further information, please contact:

Terry Codling, Administrator: (705) 792-7393
tcodling@grovesparkhome.on.ca
www.grovesparkhome.on.ca





GREAT LAKES LECTURES

Into All the World

November 4-5, 2011

Great Lakes Christian High School Campus

Friday, November 4, 2011

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. GLCHS Chorus

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Keynote address
"Into All the World" - *Philip Slate*

Saturday, November 5, 2011

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Prayer Breakfasts

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Keynote Address
"Becoming all things to
all Men"
Philip Slate

11:00 - 12:00 p.m. Classes

- a. What's the big deal
about salvation?
Tim Johnson
- b. The Care and Feeding of
Missionaries - *Art Ford*
- c. How to reach a media
saturated generation with
the Gospel - *Noel Walker*

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Classes

a. The use of Social Media to
promote church life
Richard Maddeux

b. Strategies for personal
evangelism - *Jim Holston*

c. Book Review: The Celtic
Way of Evangelism: How
Christianity Can Reach the
West Again.
*Reviewed by: Elgin Whitfield
and Don Rose*

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Keynote Address
"Worthy to Suffer"
Philip Slate



Schedule subject to change.

For more info please visit our website (www.glbc.ca) or give us a call at 905-563-5374.