

Gospel

Herald

For the promotion of
NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

ISSN 0829 - 4666

Vol. 77, No. 4

TORONTO, ONTARIO

April 2012



This iconic image of a wise looking owl was chosen to introduce Wayne Turner's editorial on the topic of wisdom entitled "Getting Smarter" on page 4.

FROM:

Gospel Herald Foundation

Telephone: 416-461-7406 • FAX: 416-424-1850

5 Lankin Blvd., Toronto, ON M4J 4W7

www.gospelherald.org

The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Fulfilled an Age-old Promise of God, PART 2

Roy Davison

What is the gift of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is given to each Christian: “And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us” (1 John 3:24). “By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit” (1 John 4:13).

“For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit” (1 Thessalonians 4:7, 8).

God “has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee” (2 Corinthians 1:22). “Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee” (2 Corinthians 5:5). This is the basis of our hope: “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Romans 5:5).

The gift of the Holy Spirit received by all Christians must not be confused with the ‘gifts’ (plural) of the Holy Spirit received by certain Christians in the first century through the laying on of the apostles’ hands (Acts 5:12; 8:18; 2 Timothy 1:6).

Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit does not enable us to perform signs such as speaking in a language we have not learned or raising the dead.

It does mean that we have ‘living water’ within us (John 7:37-39). We have ‘the comfort of the Holy Spirit’ (Acts 9:31). We are ‘strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man’ (Ephesians 3:16).

How do we receive this promise?

Since Pentecost the Spirit is avail-

able to all. But how do I receive the Spirit?

When the hearers on Pentecost asked Peter what they should do, he did **not** say that they should ask God to pour out the Spirit on them as he poured it out on the apostles!

“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call’” (Acts 2:38, 39). At baptism we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Nor do we read that the 3,000 baptized on the Day of Pentecost spoke in tongues or did signs and wonders.

After Pentecost the signs and wonders were done through the hands of the apostles. “Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles” (Acts 2:43). “And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people” (Acts 5:12).

Others, who performed signs later, received that ability “through the hands of the apostles” by the laying on of their hands: “Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given” (Acts 8:18). [See also Acts 6:6; 19:6; 2 Timothy 1:6.]

The 3,000 *did* receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when they repented and were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins! [See also Acts 5:32; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:8; 1 John 3:24; 4:13.]

Paul explains how we receive the Spirit: “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior” (Titus 3:4-6). The Spirit is poured out on us at baptism, ‘the washing of regeneration.’

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink of one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

When we hear the good news of salvation through Christ, when we believe in Him as the risen Son of God, when we repent of our sins, and when we are baptized into the body of Christ, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15). Since the outpouring on Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all through Christ. “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call” (Acts 2:39). Amen.

Alken, Belgium

You can read and listen to this article at:

<http://www.oldpaths.com/Archive/Davison/Roy/Allen/1940/036-outpouring.html>

Roy’s online book about the Holy Spirit is available at:

<http://www.oldpaths.com/Archive/Davison/Roy/Allen/1940/holyspirit.html>

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

Apocalyptic Now, PART 2

Paul Birston

In part 1 we saw that Apocalyptic Bible passages aren't just scary predictions of events far off in the future. They give us great insights into God and inspire us to live better lives with Him now. Apocalyptic passages speak of God's character and motives. They tell us about the behaviour He expects of us, and the consequences of our actions in response to His love and gracious offer of salvation. Apocalyptic passages reveal a lot about God's allies, enemies, mighty deeds and exhortations to action.

As promised, this article looks for insights from several apocalyptic passages. These include five from the Old Testament and five from the New Testament: Isaiah 24-27, Ezekiel 38-39, Daniel 7-12, Joel, Zechariah 12-14, Matthew 24 (cf. Mark 13, Luke 21), 2 Thessalonians 1:3-2:13, 2 Peter 2-3, Jude, and Revelation. I encourage you to read these and make your own observations in addition to this summary.

God and His Allies

God is Lord of hosts, Lord God almighty, Creator, Father, Master, Keeper and Protector of all His creatures. He is the only One, like no other. He is merciful yet holy. All the nations are to know Him. He is the Ancient of Days whose appearance is white as snow and blazing. God is strong in carrying out His word yet gracious, compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He is zealous for His land and brings calamity for disobedience but He will relent if people repent. He is not slow about fulfilling His promise to consummate all things.

He patiently waits for people to repent. He is Judge of all and refuge for His people.

Jesus Christ is the Son of Man, Prince of princes, Messiah, the One pierced, the Shepherd who lives forever with the Father. He is the Son of God and Saviour who comes with authority from the Father and has sat down on His throne. He is the first born from dead, the living One, who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. He is holy and true, the One who died and came to life again. He has the sharp two-edged sword. He is God, Lion of Judah, Root of David, the Lamb that was slain, Alpha, Omega, King of kings, and Lord of lords. He is the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God. His Holy Spirit is God. Revelation emphasizes salvation through the death, burial and resurrection of

the Lamb who is worthy of glory with the Father.

God's allies include his faithful thousands upon thousands who attend Him, the saints of the Highest One, His holy ones. They appear in various forms like Daniel's "certain man" dressed in linen, appearing like lightning and sounding like a tumult. The Lord has His armies in heaven and on earth. God's elect and faithful servants work with Him. These include those who have survived persecution for His name. Some passages simply mention "others." God's people are a kingdom of priests. Twenty-four elders attend Him. The bride of Christ includes the witnesses He redeemed from all nations.

Angels are common in apocalyptic visions. They are mighty and appear in many ways including flaming fire. Michael is the archangel, the great prince, and he has angels working with him. Revelation numbers the angels in various ways, including the seven. Other heavenly beings include the four living creatures and the woman clothed with the sun and crown of twelve stars and her son. God's allies are examples of faithfulness and obedience.

God's Apocalyptic Communications

God sends apocalyptic communication through visions, dreams, special messages and signs, notably the sign of the Son of Man and the breath of His mouth. Trumpets frequently sound to announce messages and cataclysmic events. There are unique elements: the fountain of

continued on page 8



Not sure if your church insurance policy is giving you the coverage you need?

With Brokerforce Insurance Inc. and the Sanctuary Plus product, you can be assured that your Church of Christ will receive the best insurance coverage at the most competitive premium. With over 45 years of experience, Brokerforce understands the unique needs of ministries and is dedicated to providing every church the highest quality protection at an affordable price.

"I recommend Brokerforce to you. They will provide an excellent church insurance product for you just like they have for us at Strathmore Blvd. Church. We have not been disappointed in their Sanctuary Plus coverage nor their broker service."

—Max Craddock

Call or Visit for a Free Quote Today!

BrokerForce we work for you 1.800.263.9870 www.brokerforce.ca **SANCTUARY PLUS**

Getting Smarter

Wayne Turner



The Smothers Brothers were one of the most popular comedy teams of the 1970's. In one sketch, Tom (often seen as the "dumb" one) came out on stage carrying a glass. His brother, Dick, asked, "What do you have in the glass?" Tom replied, "Smart juice! One drink of this and you'll get smarter." In the dialogue that followed, Dick increasingly ridiculed his brother at the thought that one could drink something to increase their smartness. Finally, snatching the glass, Dick drank it and sputtered, "That's not smart juice—that's vinegar!" Smiling, Tom looked at him and said, "You're getting smarter."

Do you ever wish that you could really drink smart juice? Or that you could go to the store and buy a case of wisdom? We know it isn't that easy. However, as we seem to be increasingly reminded that there is a lack of wisdom in the world, we might wish that more people would find it.

In "The Missing Factor in Higher Education" by Perry L. Glanzer (*Christianity Today*, March, 2012), Glanzer reports that in the pre-1860 U.S., 90 percent of undergraduates attended church-affiliated colleges. Today, over 73 percent are being educated at secular state universities. He notes that in the past, universities sought to "cultivate expertise in the conduct of a good life—a quality the Book of James identifies as the mark of wisdom (3:13)." Now, "secular universities have transformed into 'multiversities'—institutions with no unifying core of knowledge or identity that can provide students moral wisdom for life." Education is increasingly narrowing from creating whole, wise human beings to institutions focused on passing on knowledge and skill in very specific subject areas. Glanzer notes one study "reported that 62 percent of students never had professors encourage discussions of life's meaning and purpose." Glanzer's main idea is that church-related schools are able to offer sound moral and character development along solid academic educations. It would be a mistake for them to follow the path of secular institutions. They should offer both wisdom and knowledge.

At this point, we should give thought to what wisdom is. The answer often begins with knowledge. However, just because a person knows something doesn't mean that they are wise. Some add that wisdom is the ability to use knowledge. More than that, wisdom includes understanding and insight, good judgment, common

sense. Someone has suggested that wisdom is knowing what is true, right or lasting.

Jesus spoke of wisdom through parables like the wise and foolish builders and the ten virgins. Wisdom meant following His words, living with the right priorities and being ready for eternity. True wisdom should bring us closer to God. According to the writers of Job, Psalms and Proverbs, the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

When Satan tempted Eve to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree, he told her she would be like God, knowing good and evil. Eve saw it as desirable for gaining wisdom, so she ate it. What did she gain? She gave it to Adam to eat. Their eyes were opened; they were ashamed of their nakedness and tried to hide from God. Though they may have gained a moral awareness, they did not gain spiritual wisdom.

James explains that there are different kinds of wisdom—from the earth or from heaven. Some wisdom can be destructive, other wisdom building and peacemaking. In other words, some will cause us to miss God. Some will bring us closer to Him. For example, after the apostles had appeared before the Sanhedrin, the famed rabbi Gamaliel advised patience. If the message of the apostles is from man, it will fail. However, if it is from God and the council opposes it, they will be opposing God. From a worldly standpoint, this is very practical wisdom. It illustrates why he has been regarded as one of the all-time great rabbis. On the surface, there is a spiritual component. For Gamaliel, the issue was related to the source of the message. However, spiritual wisdom

continued on page 6

GOSPEL HERALD

Published Monthly by the Gospel Herald Foundation, a non profit corporation, for the Promotion of New Testament Christianity

— FOUNDED BY ROBERT SINCLAIR, 1936 —
CO-EDITORS

Editorial Editor – Wayne Turner
Theme Edition Editor – Paul Birston
Managing Editor – Max Craddock

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Edwin L. Broadus, Burlington, ON
Eugene C. Perry, Beamsville, ON
Linda Hammett, Kingfisher, OK
Tim Johnson, Barrie, ON
Peter Morphy, Royal Oak, MI
Don Hipwell, Fenwick, ON

Geoffrey H. Ellis, Waterloo, ON
Marion Waugh, Edmonton, AB
Barbara Lewis, Spokane, WA
Walter Straker, Bramalea, ON
Harold Bruggen, Welland, ON

Layout/Design - Stephen Gill

The inclusion of articles, advertisements and church directory listings does not in every case imply complete endorsement by the Editors of either source or content.

Send teaching articles to Wayne Turner, 45 Millfield Drive, Winnipeg, MB R2M 2N9
(204) 257-7926 E-mail: <editorial@gospelherald.org>

Send advertising and subscription information to
Max Craddock, 5 Lankin Blvd., Toronto, ON M4J 4W7
Phone: 416-461-7406 Fax: 416-424-1850 E-mail: max@strathmorecfc.ca

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

Canadian Subscription \$16; \$28 for 2 years.; Widows & Gifts, \$15
PDF version by email \$10.00

U.S. And Foreign Subscriptions \$23.00 USD per year to cover higher postage
"Publications Mail Agreement Number 4000 5401"

Indexed by Restoration Serials Index

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Canada

Return Undeliverable Address Blocks to: 5 Lankin Blvd., Toronto, ON M4J 4W7



Raising Our Ebenezer

The events of 1 Samuel chapter 7 come near the end of the period of judges. The Ark of the Covenant had been taken and held for some twenty years. Israel mourned this, but had gotten involved in serving other gods. They have erected items of worship to the Baals and to the Ashtoreths and have drifted away from God. Their mourning over the fact that the Ark is gone and that they want it back, seems to turn their lives around and gets them to thinking about God again.

Samuel instructs them, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines' So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreth, and they served the LORD only" (1 Samuel 7:3).

What is the key word in the statement of Samuel that is noted above? Clearly the key word in this statement is "if". If you are willing, if you are ready to put away your foreign gods, if you are ready to put away your idols and commit yourself to God alone, then great things can happen but you've got to make that decision. You must be fully willing to honour and obey God to receive His blessing and you've got to do that now!

Thankfully, that's what they did! "Then Samuel said, 'Gather all Israel at Mizpah,

and I will pray to the LORD for you.' So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the LORD and fasted on that day and said there, 'We have sinned against the LORD.' And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah" (1 Samuel 7:5, 6).

Of course, when one sets his or her mind to doing the will of the Lord, then Satan and his force is nearby to undermine and destroy. It is in these times that faith is put to the test and often, even those who seem to be strong can fall.

When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the

rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. And when the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid. They said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines" (1 Samuel 7:8). Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it up as a holy burnt offering to the Lord. He cried to the Lord on Israel's behalf and the Lord answered him. While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the Lord thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites. The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Car.

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Till now the LORD has helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12b). Since the people had made their decision to return to God, had put off their idols and were now worshipping the Lord alone, Samuel calls them together and offers a sacrifice.

Ebenezer is an interesting word and the theme of our article is "Erecting our Ebenezer". What is that all about? Ebenezer is not a word that we use very much. When we do hear it, in one season each year, it is in the story by Dickens featuring Ebenezer Scrooge, the guy who hated everything but money. We use the word when we sing "Oh Thou Fount of Every Blessing". Hopefully we understand that the word Ebenezer means "stone of help" and what Samuel was doing was setting up a stone to remind the people of Israel that they were delivered by



Choose To Remember

Annual Ladies Day

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2012

Place: Sudbury Church of Christ,
2663 Bancroft Drive, Sudbury

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.
Join us for coffee and muffins.

Guest Speaker: Lois Morritt, Thessalon
Afternoon Speaker: Cindy Seguin, Sudbury

Lunch will be provided.

continued on page 6

God. It was His power that chased the Philistines off and they needed to always acknowledge God's care. So do we. We raise our Ebenezer when we have faith in God in the face of seemingly impossible tasks.

What kind of seemingly impossible tasks do we face? How can we deal with the idea of raising our stone of help? Maybe our task is dealing with a difficult person in a God honouring way. Maybe our boss, maybe an employee, maybe just somebody we cross paths with, possibly a friend who is really hard to deal with for some reason or, sadly, a difficulty in the home. One might walk away, but that is not always possible because of the situation or relationship. Maybe it is government decisions that go against our Christian convictions.

The beginning of the answer is to understand that we cannot do it alone. We must remember that we,

as Christians, are NEVER alone. If we put our trust in God, He will help us do the right thing, even when it's difficult. Remember, "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

There is no right thing that we can't do with the help of God. Remember the message for us from Hebrews 11. After listing a number of believers by name, the Hebrew writer gives on to list several and the price they paid. (Read Hebrews 11:32-38). Because of their faith in God and commitment to His will, these all paid a great price. Was it easy? No it wasn't. Did it cost them? Yes it did, it cost them their life in many cases, so why/how did they do it?

Paul tells us in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." We feel His presence in us along the way. The

promise that Jesus made to His apostles at the giving of the great commission, "...And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b). This is His promise to us today as well.

Paul states the promise in this way, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Also, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). With the stone of help on our side, how can we fear defeat.

.....
Editorial... continued from page 4

should have pointed to the ultimate question of whether the members of the council should accept the message, not just find a way to co-exist with it. How could truly spiritual wisdom miss the need for personal application?

James was warning Christians of the danger of being seduced by worldly wisdom. He asks, "Who is wise and understanding among you..." (The word understanding here can have the sense of being expert.) It sounds like he is speaking to those who feel that they have more wisdom and insight than other Christians. He goes on to contrast the nature, character and results of earthly and spiritual wisdom. As Jesus said, we can tell by the fruit. Godly wisdom produces good fruit. It comes from humility and leads to peace, spiritual growth, serving others.

As God's people, individually and as congregations, we need to use God's wisdom in making decisions—to gain wisdom from seriously studying His word and from our own experiences (especially where we have failed to make wise decisions in the past). We need to teach character and moral development as well as wisdom as part of our Bible classes.

What do these churches and schools have in common?

They have partnered with CCDC to help accomplish their ministry goals.

Talk to someone at:

Ville-Émard, QC
Dauphin, MB
Mill Village, NS
Gravelbourg, SK

Western Christian College, SK
Davenport, AB
Strathmore Boulevard, ON
Great Lakes Christian High School, ON

Or give us a call.

Church of Christ Development Company Ltd.
Providing church building loans since 1957.



**Funding Churches...
Building Ministry**

Church of Christ Development Company Ltd., 8621-104 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4G6
1-780-406-1045 info@churchdevelopment.com

You are invited to the

GREAT LAKES BIBLE COLLEGE GRADUATION & PROMOTIONAL DINNER

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Registration 5:00pm

Dinner 5:30pm

At

Delta Kitchener-Waterloo

105 King Street East

Kitchener, Ontario

Tickets: \$30

Guest Speaker: Garry Bailey

Abilene Christian University

Come celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates

For tickets contact:

Val Posthumus at 905-563-5374, Ext. 210 or vposthumus@glchs.on.ca



David, swords, plagues, and cooking bowls. God speaks through angels and even a donkey. He addresses the churches by seven spirits and letters. Apocalyptic sounds include songs of praise, the song of Moses, many waters, thunder and voices from the throne. Seven is a common number and organizing principle in Revelation: seven spirits, seven churches, seven angels, seven plagues, seven peals of thunder, and seven bowls. God uses powerful creative media.

The recipients of God's apocalypses include their earthly authors, chosen disciples, Israel, the church and the world at large. The revelations impact their recipients directly such as Daniel's feelings of illness and John's posture of worship. Second Peter presents a good example from the Old Testament in Noah, the preacher of righteousness.

God's motives include reigning on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. He wants to vanquish pride and establish peace. He will punish the unrighteous and reward righteousness, a quality in harmony with His character. He is patient, wanting none to perish but all to come to repentance. His patience is salvation. He will bring about the consummation of all things and decide final eternal destinies. He will be glorified.

God's Enemies

Biblical apocalypses describe the enemies of God. Authors give object lessons of their bad examples in vivid detail. They include nations and their inhabitants on earth, such as Moab, Gog and Magog, and dramatic spiritual beings such as the beasts of Revelation, Leviathan, the twisted serpent and the dragon who lives

in the sea. Empires sweep over His people. Fallen baptized Christians become enemies of God according to 2 Peter 2. Other human enemies include mockers, untaught, unstable, unprincipled men, liars, idolaters, sorcerers and murderers. Daniel and Revelation describe enemy kings. Daniel, Matthew and Mark caution their readers about the abomination of desolation. False prophets usurp God's voice. These include false Christs, the man of lawlessness and son of destruction. Babylon, the mother of harlots, leads many astray. The most prominent enemy is Satan, the serpent of old, the devil.

God's enemies deny Him, the Master, break His covenant, destroy, deceive with false signs and wonders, attempting to mislead His elect, make war on them, and shed righteous blood. They distort Scripture. While attempting to do "great things," they take pleasure in wickedness, commit immoral acts and entice others to do the same. They pollute and destroy the earth. Peter and Jude make object lessons of sinning angels, Sodom and Gomorrah, Balaam, Cain and the rebels of Korah.

Exhortations to Action

Apocalyptic passages contain exhortations to high ethical standards. Many center on God: glorify Him, fear Him, make peace with Him, be faithful to Him until death, confess His name, look to the One pierced, call on Him, worship Him, return to Him with a whole heart, believe Him, keep His and the Apostle's words and grow in the knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ. Many passages call for repentance: turn from iniquity, weep, wail, return to your first love, be spotless and

blameless. Preparation, perseverance and waiting are important: be alert, stay awake, be steadfast, keep Jesus' deeds, hold fast to what you have. Apocalyptic ethics exhort individuals in relationship to others: gather God's people together, have mercy on those who doubt, save others, snatch them out of the fire. Apocalyptic exhortations are often hopeful: rejoice, be glad, be at perfect peace.

God's Actions and Consequences

God acts and does great things for His faithful and against His enemies. He is sovereign over the affairs of heaven and earth. While He is patient and just and exhorts people to obedience, God moves forward with purpose. Time has its consummation in eternity when opportunities for repentance end and final destinies emerge. Actions have consequences. Reaping follows sowing. God will bring an end to every disobedient idolatrous initiative, punish His enemies, and give relief to His people.

God will pour out His Spirit on all and empower believers. Jesus will return victorious over all His enemies and gather God's people to Him. They will shine brightly like stars. He sanctifies His people by His Spirit. They work with Him for His purposes in the strength He supplies. God burns up the earth and brings the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem. He brings an end to the pain and tears of His people and heals the nations. Ezekiel and Joel repeatedly express the ultimate purpose of God's actions: all will know that He is LORD. His faithful will walk with Him in His everlasting light and glory.

Heavenly and Earthly Spheres of Influence

Apocalyptic passages are conduits of communication between heavenly eternal and earthly temporal spheres. They address the fate of nations, kingdoms and individuals alike on the basis of their response

If your mailing address changes, please inform us so we can make the needed adjustments to our mailing list. Be sure to include apartment or unit numbers if needed in the address as Canada Post returns copies to us – at a significant cost – if the address is not complete. Contact us at: The Gospel Herald, 5 Lankin Blvd, Toronto, ON M4J 4W7; Phone – 416-461-7406; email – maxc@strathmorecofc.ca

to God. Time is a critical dimension through which God works to fulfill His eternal purposes. Though only the Father knows the time of Jesus' return, each day for those living on earth is an opportunity to connect with the life of eternity. The final apocalypse reveals God's supremacy over the new heaven, new earth, new Jerusalem, the darkness of the abyss and the lake of fire.

Summary: Ongoing Applications of Apocalypics Now

Apocalypics focus on God through His revelation of Himself by a genre of writing that links the physical and spiritual realms. God's nature and power appear in His names, His voice and words, His commands and in His mighty deeds. His mercy and steadfast love motivate His desire to wait for all to come to repentance. He wants none to perish. This knowledge of God increases our devotion to Him and His mission.

The high calling of Apocalyptic ethics apply to all spheres of earth and heaven, time and eternity, including international politics. God promises closure to the problems that emerged at Creation and the Fall. Biblical apocalyptic writings have roots in real history that is moving forward to the point where God will resolve ongoing conflicts between cosmic forces and establish peace. Historical examples of the past are important: good and bad object lessons testify to God's power and the weakness of the disobedient and unfaithful. God speaks creatively using signs and symbols to simultaneously reveal and conceal as He sees fit.

Apocalyptic exhortations to repentance, faithfulness, steadfastness and love are general and yet yield principles that apply to all arenas of life. Evil will be present until the end so Christians must stay alert, discerning and vigilant. Apocalyptic ethics are corporate and individual for God's hosts in

heaven and on earth. Christians live within two worlds, one visible, one invisible. Though in the minority now, they will partake in God's ultimate victory.

Actions have temporal and eternal consequences, life and death implications. People are accountable and will face a just God's judgment. Hope in God through crises and suffering leads to worshiping Him and rejoicing with Him eternally. The fulfillment of His will and salvation depend on the gospel, victory and reign of the Lamb and the encour-

agement of the community of those He redeems. In two verses with apocalyptic overtones, Paul foretells that, "at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11). Similarly, Ezekiel writes more than twenty-five times that this motive of God will also find fulfillment: then "they will know that I am the LORD."

Winnipeg, Manitoba



Golf Tournament

**To fund scholarships provided by
GLCHS Alumni Association**

All Golfers welcome
May 26, 2012
Niagara Falls Golf Club
6169 Garner Rd., Niagara Falls, ON
8:30 a.m. Tee time

**Cost: \$95 includes 18 holes of golf, cart, coupon to
return to course for another round at \$25 (includes cart)
prizes & lunch plus a donation to Great Lakes**

Early Bird Special: Register and pay by May 1, 2012: \$85

Call Valerie at 905-563-5374 X 210
for details about how to pay using PayPal



- EAST -

by Don Hipwell and Harold Bruggen
 Church of Christ, Box 416
 Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0
 Email: donhipwell@aol.com
 or Harold Bruggen at hbruggen@gmail.com

ONTARIO

Brantford: An afternoon song service was held on February 26.

Fenwick: Chris Moore is leading the adult Sunday school class in a series of lessons about the mission of the church. Nancy Smith, who recently began attending at Fenwick after some absence, passed away on February 28. Joseph Lamontagne, of Welland, has been watching Billy Lambert on TV and began taking the WBS course. He called and requested baptism which took place on Monday, February 27. Pray for his growth. Caleb and Meaghan Miller, of Minford, Ohio, travelled to Fenwick on March 23. Caleb has applied for the minister's position and preached on March 25. A potluck and crockinole party was held on March 24 to get to know them better. We look forward to a special meeting with Max Craddock April 20-22.

Stoney Creek: The church was greatly saddened by the death of Paul Kindy, age 71, early on the morning of February 1 at Hamilton General Hospital. Paul and his wife, Heather, became members of the Stoney Creek church when the congregation moved to its present location 30 years ago. In addition to Heather, Paul is survived by his four children, his father, one brother and two sisters. Funeral services were conducted in Hagersville. Lisa Robertson is spending a month in Brazil in scientific research in conjunction with her Master's degree at McMaster University. Jon Groves and Marianne Golini have announced their engagement and are planning their wedding for August 4, 2012. Jon is the son of Fran Groves. The congregation enjoyed a Food and Games Night on Saturday, March 3. The church has received a significant bequest from the estate of Vera Clarke, who died a year ago this past January. A committee has been appointed to recommend wise use of these funds

Please join the family of
Jim Ford
 in celebrating his 95th birthday
 at a come and go tea in his honour
 Saturday, May 5
 2 to 4 p.m.
 Albert Place Event Room
 Access from parking lot at west end
 of 121 William St., Meaford, On
(best wishes only, please)

Toronto (Strathmore Blvd.): On February 25, a Key Production Workshop was held to train more workers in the fine points of production of the Key To The Kingdom program. Several of the congregation came, learned and practiced the setup, lighting, filming and finishing of the production. The congregation rejoiced with Joy Fradela at the arrival of her husband, Idelfonso Tabieros to the Strathmore Family. Further reason for rejoicing was the baptism of Jorge Martinez, a young man from Mexico who has been attending at Strathmore for several months. In an email to Max he wrote, "I didn't have idea this feeling was like this great and now I'm asking myself, why didn't I take that decision before?" There is no joy like that of being in the Lord is there?

Waterloo: Jacob Dale went on a mission trip to Honduras during Spring Break. We are organizing a mission trip to St. John for August 10 - 12 this year to help Shawn LeBlanc and the congregation there with local outreach and hold a short seminar on "Parenting" on the Sunday.

Plan now to spend an exciting time at... **CAMP OMAGH**

2012 CAMP CALENDAR

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| July 1 | Singspiration 1 and Family Picnic | Bob Sandiford/Tim Page |
| July 3-6 | Prime Timers | George Mansfield |
| July 6-8 | 20's Weekend | Andrew & Sean Toohey |
| July 8-14 | Week #1 (Ages 7-9) | Patrick Hunter-Buffington |
| July 15-21 | Week #2 (Ages 8-10) | Tim & Anna-Lise Zavitz, CIT |
| July 22-28 | Week #3 (Ages 11-13) | Jamie Azzoparde |
| August 5 | Singspiration 2 | Bob Sandiford |
| July 29-August 4 | Week 4 (Ages 11-13) | Brian Wall |
| August 5-11 | Family Week 1 | Bruce-Marni/Brad-Hedi Boland |
| August 12-18 | Family Week 2 | Tim & Laura page |
| August 19-25 | Teen Week | Don Rose/Brad Cook |

Check us out on the web @ www.campomagh.org for new updates.



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

(BC news supplied by Barbara Lewis)

ALBERTA

Edmonton, Northside: Stephen & Kaylin Booker and Christopher Banbury have placed membership here. Beat the Blues Banquet was a successful evening. There was a large turnout to enjoy the international cuisine and talent show. Our annual winter carnival was held at the home of Sean and Heidi McCartan. There was a good turnout to enjoy the winter festivities on a beautiful spring like day. March 4 the Greet and Meet Potluck was held. Those recently baptized, or who have placed membership were honoured. A care group has begun in Spruce Grove. We now have 7 care groups throughout Edmonton and surrounding communities.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Abbotsford (Central Valley): The church is planning to do something special for the Sunshine House during the Easter season. We are having the occasional visitor from the home come to our services, as well as another WalMart employee. A special weekly Bible class for new Christians and interested visitors has been planned. The Weirs were at 100 Mile House the last weekend of February to officiate at the wedding of Brandon Burfoot and Chelsey Swaan. After worshipping with the small group there on Sunday morning, they drove to 70 Mile House for a service there at 2 PM. Both places had snow, which was

welcomed because of a lack of it this winter. Depending on the weather in the passes, the Weirs are hoping to get to Kelowna, Prince George and Creston before their first trip of the year to the First Nations villages in early June.

Burnaby: Allen Jacobs, long-time missionary to India and former preacher for the Burnaby church, has been undergoing treatment in the TB Clinic of Vancouver General Hospital for several weeks. As he was allergic to some of the early medications, treatment had to be restarted, with constant nursing care. Kalahan Deng was warmly welcomed home by his family and friends after a six-month visit to his new country of South Sudan in Eastern Africa. He was looking into the possibility of working in the government, but found the country still in an unstable condition with threats of more attacks from Sudan. Also returning were Erol and Debra Dogan from a trip to Australia where they visited with a Sudanese friend of Kalahan's whom Erol had met several years ago in Cairo. This man had fled the turmoil in Egypt to go to

Australia, where he is preaching and working with like-Sudanese people also attempting to become permanent residents. They also saw Stuart and Sandra Noel, former members of the Burnaby church, in Sydney and learned they are very much involved in the churches of Christ in that area. Stuart is an elder in the congregation they attend, the Liberty church of Christ.

Delta: Erol and Debra Dogan were our guests on March 4 when Erol titled his sermon "My Enemies of Yesterday Became My Friends of Today". During his experiences in Israel over the years he has become acquainted with and aided the Jerusalem church in their outreach efforts to Muslims. In this sermon Erol told how God worked in a number of different ways to bring together, through happenstance meetings, the son of a leader of a terrorist group who eventually became a Christian. At the time this happened a few years ago, Erol was not at liberty to tell this amazing story, but is now able to share it with congregations at the numerous places where he is invited to preach. It not only encourages Christians not to be afraid to speak to those of the Muslim faith if they are given the opportunity, but also increases their faith in how God uses people to accomplish His work today.

Oakridge (Vancouver): The March youth meeting was held at the home of the Diaz family with supervision from Tyler Johnson and Alan Hidalgo during an active evening of games and Bible study.

Salmon Arm: John and Lorraine Murray and Morris and Marie Taylor were commended for their many years of service and work for Western Christian College. Maurice and Marie brought back the news of the school's impending closing following a meeting of the board last month. Both families spent

continued on page 13

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 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

MISSION NEWS

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



PHILIPPINES (CEBU): Salvador Carriaga never misses a chance to promote the Philippines as the ideal place to have a vacation, do mission work or both at the same time. His story this time is about Ernest Andersen, who lives in Regina, but farms near Big Beaver, Saskatchewan. During the coldest time of the year, he goes to a warmer climate—usually California—to thaw, but last year, he went to the Philippines. He and his daughter, Renae, helped build huts for a Christian Camp on the island of Cebu. They went back again in February of this year and were amazed at the improvements and changes that had been made in the camp and the surrounding area. As they did last year, they hosted a goat show, this time adding a second one. While Renae, who works for a managing company in Whistler, BC, spent her time with young impoverished children, Ernest helped with construction and improvements in the Children's Home. Parties featuring hotdogs and roasted marshmallows were provided for the children. "Although not the healthiest food to introduce, nevertheless it was a big treat for the kids and everyone had fun, especially Ernest, who is a kid at heart," Salvador wrote. He pointed out that for people who wish to have a vacation or do short-term mission work, there are communities serving as models towards self-sufficiency with their goat farms. "Your brief presence can add great value to their spirits and development. We have huts in which you may stay and transportation to pick you up from the airport to take you to the farms."

MYANMAR: Forty of the best church leaders in this developing country were invited to spend another training seminar under our finest local preacher, along with the help of two outstanding missionaries from the Philippines. Located in the Delta

region, there were discussions on how to develop one's own skills, along with hands-on training from dawn to dusk. People came from nine different villages where churches were started following the devastation of three years ago. These "Church Development and Planting" lessons bring out difficulties to be solved, as well as increasing knowledge that can be shared when the leaders return home. As Myanmar has opened its doors to tourist and foreign business people, the government has relaxed many of its restrictions. Hotels that once stood empty are over-booked, and flights are full from destinations around the world. English has become a greatly sought-after skill. As a result, translators are in great demand, since few visitors speak Burmese. The World English Institute has lessons ready to improve language skills while introducing a knowledge of the most important literature in any language, the Bible. A team of six that arrived in February already had 70 people registered for the con-

versational discussions they conducted. If you are interested in spending time helping this effort, the email address for Partners in Progress is PIPWEM@aol.com. Further information is given on the web site: www.partnersinprogress.org.

ZIMBABWE: "This is a special year for us in Zimbabwe and all overseas congregations supporting this work. In July, we shall celebrate the 10th anniversary of the World Bible School in Zimbabwe. The work that has been accomplished



Natives receiving boxes of food and clothing in Zimbabwe



A Christian Ministry

234 Cook St. Barrie ON L4M 4H5

Not for profit charitable Long-Term Care Facility
Where you can make a difference
Now and for the future

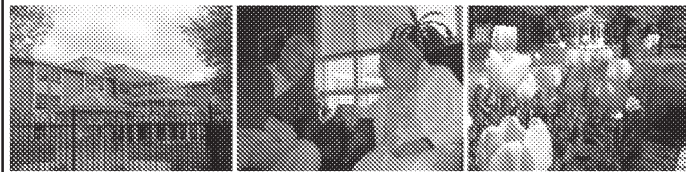
Remember us

For information on how you can make a donation
or leave a bequest in your will

Call Lorraine Maher 705 792-7404

705 726-1003 • fax 705 726-1076

www.groveparkhome.on.ca



during this period speak volumes about the total commitment to the Great Commission, as the Lord's work in Zimbabwe continues to grow unabated. The vision which caused this Office to be opened in Bulawayo is astounding, which is attested to by the many souls saved. It has never happened in the history of this WBS Office to baptize 30 at the beginning of the year, since there are so many other things happening in January. But 2012 has been different. We have started it with a BIG BANG! As we drove our truck through Mtshabezi hills for the baptisms, the people sang from the joy in their hearts all the way down to the river. Velaphi and Jacob, our native preacher, have been considering spending more time in the rural areas where people seem to be more receptive to the Gospel truth." (From a report sent to Mabel Bailey, former African missionary, by her daughter, Stella)



Joseph conducting a worship service in Zimbabwe

SOUTH SUDAN: "I went to the South Sudan on August 19, 2011, and spent six months there. I found most of my family members, but many of them had either died during the long civil war or from natural causes. Above all, many younger generations were born while I

and winning a lot of people to their side. Therefore, South Sudan should be the land where our Lord's message should be preached. For there is a freedom of worship for all of God's lovers." (Personal letter from Kalahan Deng upon his return to Vancouver)

have been living abroad. They are now old with their own families. The over- all situation in the South Sudan is that it is still premature in terms of security and development. Since coming to our Lord's gospel, I have not seen any existence of the Lord's Church across the country. And this is the fact we all need to seriously debate about. I saw many denominations establishing their churches

News West... continued from page 11

several years working in various capacities for the school then located in Weyburn, SK. Our ladies have been invited to participate in activities with the residents of Shuswap Lodge. One of the events planned for March was the baking of cookies to be given to the Women's Shelter in Salmon Arm.

MANITOBA

Dauphin: Wayne Olson has begun full time mission work with the congregation in Dauphin, as an outreach minister focusing on the inner-city.

Winnipeg (Central): The teens and parents of teens volunteered at the Siloam Mission on February 22. A lunch was held in support of True North Helping Hands, the organization which coordinates the volunteer building of schools in Northern Mexico. There was a potluck brunch for all the ladies who have been a part of the prayer sisters program and for those who wish to be part of the program. The theme was "Bind Us Together."

Key To The Kingdom Day, MAY 6, 2012



On the Vision Network
Friday at 8:30 AM (ET)
(Check local listing for channel #)
Star Choice - 394 • Bell ExpressVu - 65 (new #)

CHNU JoyTV
Sunday at 11:00 AM (PT)
Channel 10 covering Vancouver, Victoria and the Fraser Valley • also on Rogers Digital Channel - 173

also on CJRL Radio
Sunday at 7:30 AM in Kenora, ON

Key to the Kingdom programs are also available at all times on web:

www.keytothekingdom.ca

Your support of the Key To The Kingdom ministry is needed daily in 2012

- **Pray** daily for this outreach...
- **Advertise** the program to your family, friends and community...
- **Support** the ministry financially in your personal and church budgets...

On **May 6** we invite congregations to focus their worship service on evangelism in Canada and the Key To The Kingdom ministry in particular by:

Having **special prayers** offered in support of this work...

Taking a **special contribution** to help with the financial requirements of the ministry...

Please contact the Strathmore leadership with any questions concerning the Key Ministry at:
Strathmore Blvd Church of Christ, 346 Strathmore Blvd., Toronto, ON M4C 1N3 • Phone: 416-461-7406 Email: maxc@strathmorecofc.ca

Please send donations to: Strathmore Blvd. Church of Christ, 346 Strathmore Blvd., Toronto, ON M4C 1N3

Because of bank requirements, please make cheques payable to Strathmore Blvd. Church of Christ and please put **Key** on the memo line.

OBITUARIES

Dalziel, Charles

Born in Australia in 1923, Charles Daziel remained active until his unexpected death on January 24, when he collapsed after a day of skiing.

As a young man in the Australian Air Force, he was sent to Alberta for training where he met and married. They returned to Australia where two children were born. When the girls were ages seven and five, the family came back to Canada, settling in Vancouver, BC, where they helped a new congregation in Burnaby get started.

After his family was shattered by divorce, Charles moved to Kelowna where he worked for Sun-Rype Apple Juice until his retirement. He had remarried, and leaves his wife, four children and a number of grandchildren, several of whom paid tribute to their father and grandfather at a Memorial Service in the Burnaby building on February 19, 2012.

– information supplied
by Barbara Lewis

Knutson, Edna

August 4, 1925 February 9, 2012

Edna passed away peacefully on the evening of February 9, at the age of 86. Born to Russell Elford and Annie (nee Grummett) in the Horse Creek area of SW Saskatchewan.

Edna was the seventh of nine children: Chet, Cliff, Pansy, Edward, Eva, George, Edna, Ruby and Ada. Edna is survived by her husband, Arnold,

of 67 years; her sister Ada; her five children: Alfred (Helen), Vernon (Colleen), Madeline (Ron Cutting), Russell (Glenda) and Carmen; thirteen Grandchildren and seven Great Grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter-in-law Victoria Knutson (2011).

Edna grew up in the Horse Creek area of Saskatchewan. After their wedding on June 28, 1944, Edna and Arnold settled on their farm south of Glentworth, SK. She supported her husband and their family as a homemaker. In later years Edna was involved with Home Care and later was a member of the board of directors. Edna was also secretary treasurer of the Glentworth Senior's Club for several years. Edna enjoyed growing flowers, gardening, sewing and quilting. Edna was known to be exceptionally meticulous around her household, with her cooking, and was very proud of her home and farm.

In her life, Edna's family came first and yearly sister get-togethers were very special. Edna was also a long time member of the Church of Christ. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan.

– Arnold Knutson

Sigurdson, Laura

A beautiful celebration to honor the life of Sister Laura Sigurdson, filled the Oakridge building in Vancouver, BC, on February 25, following her death from pneumonia on February

15. Three special tributes were given by Laura's nieces, Melba Wright, Doris Johnson and Alan Hidalgo. Long-time friends and members of other congregations were present to honor Laura's memory, as others who couldn't be present sent messages of condolence and admiration. These came from as far away as Toronto, Cancun, Mexico, Texas and Idaho, and were printed in the Oakridge bulletin the following week under the heading of "Letters to Laura".

One emphasized her dedication to the church since her conversion and baptism some 40 years ago. Another wrote that "she stood out, because of her quiet faith, living it without pretense or apology for her belief. She loved the Word and would recite the passages that touched her most, sometimes interjecting a comment that brought a point home or laughter in Bible classes.

It was pleasant to be with Laura because she was kind. She told me once that she had no natural empathy and so she had to work on that. She did a good job, because she was always conscious of the other person's needs. Others noted that Laura helped her neighbours, shared her recipes, was always part of the church cleanup crew and carried linens used at potlucks and other special occasions home to wash.

There was another short service when her remains were buried a few days later beside her father, a veteran, in the historic cemetery of Mountain View in Vancouver.

– information supplied
by Barbara Lewis

Pictures and Reports

We are always looking for items concerning outreach and service activities of congregations across Canada. Pictures are worth a 1,000 words, they say, and we like to have pictures we can publish on mission outreach and service projects in evangelism, teaching and doing service. These may be of work done in Canada or by Canadian congregational groups who travel and serve outside of Canada. Good quality digital photographs allow us to see, be encouraged by and praise God for these activities of our fellow Christians. We look forward to being able to share these "good news reports" with readers of the Gospel Herald.

– The editors

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

7th Annual

How to have a royal wardrobe
on any budget.

What's in your closet?



"Choosing Designer Clothes"

"Does this outfit
make me look....."

"Mirror, mirror,
on the wall..."

May 26, 2012

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

North Pelham Youth Centre

1718 Maple St., Fenwick

Speaker: **Marni Boland, Niagara Falls**

**Minute
Make-overs**



S.O.S.

S.O.S.

Teens,
Keens &
In-betweens!

presented by

Fenwick Church of Christ

Morning coffee and lunch provided
(donations to defray cost gratefully accepted)

Please pre-register by May 19.

Phone: 905-892-5661 or email: patdcooper@yahoo.ca

BOOK REVIEWS

The Blue Parakeet, Rethinking how you read the Bible by Scot McKnight

This book got my attention when it was first released as it was mentioned on some religious web sites that I frequent. I read a little about it, saw that Scot McKnight wanted to get people to think about how they read and apply the Bible and thought this could be a very good thing. I didn't read the book for some time because there were other things I thought more important. One morning, two friends came asking some questions. I told them I had not read the book but knew a little about it because of some articles I had read. It was then that they shared with me their concerns about the book. After our conversation I thought I should get my hands on a copy and give it a read. The two brethren who raised the concern promptly offered me their copy.

I sat down and spent a little time with the book and found some things that I thought were good and some others not so much. I appreciate any author or teacher who asks questions to try and get the audience thinking.

Some things McKnight says stand out as especially helpful. Christians do need to think critically about why they believe and practice what they do (I Peter 3:15). In reading scripture we must learn to see the big picture "Story" if we are going to appreciate what God is doing. We need to keep going back to the Bible as we strive to live as God's people. We should not avoid or ignore passages of scripture that challenge us (McKnight calls these blue parakeet passages). I found these things refreshing and could offer a hearty amen.

The main thrust of the book, however, was to advocate a certain way of interpreting and applying scripture. The interpretive method McKnight suggests can be summed up by saying "That was then this is now". What McKnight means by this is that God has expected different things of dif-

ferent people at different times. There is some truth to what he says here, for example, we should not all start building arks. McKnight particularly likes to say "God speaks in our day in our ways" meaning that God may not be saying the same thing to us that He said to others of His people. He suggests discernment is the way we determine what God is saying to us. McKnight wants us to discern how we live out what God has said "then", (when the Bible was written) "now".

There are some big problems with this approach. The first is that it's not terribly helpful. At best its wishy washy, leaving us no clear direction from scripture and at worst it's completely useless. When someone asks should I be circumcised (an example McKnight mentions) will I help them much if I simply respond "well, that was then this is now". What if they ask about lying, sexuality, theft, marriage, salvation, faith or any number of subjects found in scripture?

To support his method McKnight points out that we don't do everything mentioned in scripture. For example we don't wash feet. His explanation for this is "that was then this is now." As mentioned above that's not terribly helpful, why not point out that Jesus was not trying to implement a religious ceremony but to teach a leadership principal. McKnight offers all kinds of examples like the one just mentioned but never once offers an explanation. The more I read the sections where McKnight offers examples of things we don't practice from the New Testament and Old, the more it felt like he was trying to undermine the reader's confidence rather than trying to help them understand the Bible and apply it.

Another problem with McKnight's method is that he makes a lot of reading the Bible as a story, which is good. However he never talks about the impact redemptive history has on how to apply scripture. He repeatedly places Old and New Testament examples side by side without even mentioning

that the Old Testament commands are not binding on Christians.

Another essential element of Bible study that McKnight fails to embrace is authority. He says people "never need to speak of the Bible as their authority nor do they speak of their submission to the Bible". He is trying to talk about a good principal, that we don't obey God as a chore. But he goes way too far to the extent that he disagrees with Jesus and the overall tenure of scripture (Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:15; 15: 14; 2 Timothy 3:15-17).

McKnight's downplaying the authority of the word makes sense based on his suggested method of interpretation. After all, if we are to discern what God is saying to us and how to live it we are the authority. Rather, if we are to truly listen to God we will give Him the respect He deserves and read the Bible as if He wrote it expecting it to be understood and obeyed.

Finally, the general principal that God speaks to us today in our ways is flawed. 2 Timothy 3:15-17, tells us that scripture supplies all we need to know from God. Jude 3 says the faith was once for all delivered to the saints. Hebrews 1:2-3 says God has spoken in different ways to different people throughout history but now speaks to us through His Son. In other words, God spoke in the past delivering His will for those days and for these.

This summarizes the main problems with McKnight's approach. More could be said but for the sake of brevity we will move to what he calls a case study. The amount of time given to the last part (Part 4) of the book leads me to think that this is what McKnight has wanted to write about all along but first needed to shake the confidence of his readers so they would be less inclined to doubt him.

The last part of the book consists of a five chapter case study. McKnight says he will apply his proposed method "that was then this is now" to the subject of women in ministry. The argument that McKnight makes however is not "that was then this is now". Instead he says let's survey

what women did in scripture. He uses the acronym WDWD (what did women do). He first considers godly women of the Old Testament showing them as leaders and prophets. Then he moves to the New Testament in an effort to do the same thing. Notice this is not following his prescribed method but instead is saying, what women did then they should do now.

McKnight fails to mention that none of his examples from the Old Testament were priests. Neither does he point out that God's expectations for His people have changed from Old to New Testament. His examples from the New Testament, which would be binding examples, don't prove his point. He makes special mention of Junia who Paul calls an apostle. He then imagines all of the things this might mean she did. Two things need to be clarified. One, apostle is not used here in the special sense of the twelve (all of whom were men). It is simply used as a word meaning one sent with a message. I notice McKnight doesn't think those sent by Herod to kill the babies under two years of age held any special church function despite the fact that the word apostle is used of them (Matthew 2:16). Second, the suggestions that McKnight makes about what Junia would have done as an apostle come straight from his imagination. None of the examples offered by McKnight have a woman functioning in a leadership or authority position.

Next McKnight moves to the two texts most often discussed in regards to the role of women. I Timothy 2:9-15 and I Corinthians 14:34. McKnight offers four arguments to say that these passages don't restrict women from any ministry today.

First he says if these passages restrict women from leadership roles they contradict the WDWD passages. The problem with this is he doesn't mention a single example of a woman leading in the church in his WDWD examples. In fact, when you read what women did in the New Testament you get the

distinct impression that they are functioning within the restrictions given in these verses.

His next argument is that these texts only apply to uneducated women. I would urge you to get your Bible and try to find that in the text. It simply is not there. In fact if you read the rest of 1 Timothy you find men mentioned as the ones who are teaching what is wrong. And when Paul explains his restriction he appeals to creation order not to the limited knowledge of the women. Further, it's a real stretch to suggest that none of the women in Corinth or Ephesus were educated or spiritually mature. If this were the case how could Paul have the older women teach the younger.

The last specific argument offered by McKnight is that these texts are dealing with what he calls "the new Roman woman." He offers a historical reconstruction in which some church members have been influenced by an ancient women's movement. Because of this they were dressing provocatively, jumping up to take speaking roles away from men and generally aggressively asserting themselves. This may well be the case although you can't prove that it is. Even if the historical reconstruction is right it doesn't mean Paul's words don't apply today. This would be like me saying, "well the warnings against sexual immorality in scripture don't apply today because they were written to a group that had a real problem with this."

Finally McKnight does what most egalitarians do in appealing to Galatians 3:28. These verses he says mean there should be no distinction in gender in the church. They say any

gender distinction is based on the fall and the verse says that distinction no longer exists for those redeemed from sin. Is that really what Paul was saying? Or was he trying to stress that all Christians are equal in the eyes of God. All share the same blessings of salvation because all, through baptism, have been clothed with Christ. It is worth pointing out that in neither of the passages mentioned above does Paul cite Genesis 3:16 to support his directions. Instead he appeals to creation order itself (before the fall) as his reason for limiting women from public leadership in the church. The other obvious problem with this is that Paul continually makes distinctions between men and women, masters and slaves, and even Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-4:1; Romans 1:26-27; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; I Timothy 2:9-15; I Corinthians 11:2-16). We, as Christians today, also understand and make these distinctions. How do you suppose my wife (or the congregation where I work) would respond if I started spending long hours alone with a particular woman, not my wife? Then, when questioned, said "well it's just like I was with a male friend because of Galatians 3:28."

McKnight is right that we should not silence the challenging passages in scripture which he calls blue parakeets. This however is exactly what he is trying to do in advocating that people ignore God's commands in 1 Timothy and 1 Corinthians.

As a conclusion McKnight's suggested hermeneutic is neither helpful nor biblical. He has some good things to say, but like any good lie, there needs to be a grain of truth if you want people to believe it. I can't recommend this book but instead would strongly warn of the damage it could potentially cause. There are all kinds of great books on Hermeneutics out there which will offer real helpful tools for Bible study without promoting an agenda.

Kevin Cleary

ROYAL LEPAGE
Niagara Real Estate Centre
Broker/Independently Owned & Operated

101 Lakeport Road
St. Catharines
ON L2N 7E7

Bus: 905-937-6000
Toll Free: 866-999-9497
Cell: 905-327-5000
E-mail: paulsmith@royallepage.ca
www.royallepage.ca

Paul Smith
Sales Representative

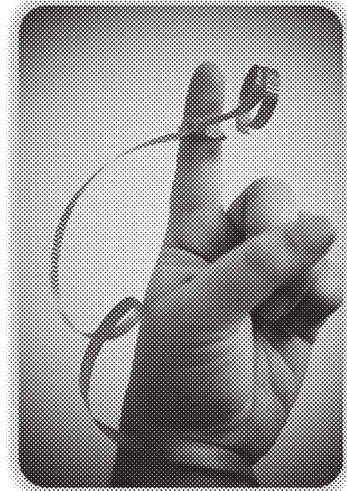
Barrie Church of Christ
345 Grove Street East
Barrie, Ontario

THE POWER OF ONE

ANNUAL YOUNG ADULT
WEEKEND

MAY 4TH – 6TH 2012

FOR ADULTS AGED 18 – 35



Join us for a weekend of fellowship, study and growth as we examine
Ephesians 4:4-6:

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one
hope of your calling;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Ray Reynolds,
Gulf Shores Church of Christ, Alabama**

Ray Reynolds is the pulpit minister of the Gulf Shores Church of Christ in Alabama where he has served since November 2007. He has been in the ministry for nearly 16 years and has worked in Alabama, Tennessee and Idaho. He and his wife, Sarah, have three boys: Luke, Seth, and Izak.

Ray has Bachelor of Arts and Master of Ministry degrees from Heritage Christian University and also a Ph.D. from Trinity Theological Seminary. He is the Founder and Director of T.I.T.U.S. Camp (Teens in Training for Useful Service) at Heritage Christian University in Florence, Alabama, which trains 70 teenagers each summer for full-time ministry.

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 20, 2012 AT
WWW.YAW.BARRIECHURCH.CA

BILLETING AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YAW@BARRIECHURCH.CA

● Friday, May 4th

7:00 pm – Registration

8:00 pm – Song Service

● Saturday, May 5th

10:00 am – Registration

11:00 am – Lesson #1

12:00 pm – Lunch

1:00 pm – Singing

2:00 pm – Organized
Activity

5:00 pm – Supper

6:30 pm – Lesson #2

● Sunday, May 6th

10:00 am – Lesson #3

11:00 am – Worship
Service & Lesson #4