

Gospel

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Omagh Bible Camp Target of Arsonist



Omagh Bible Camp near Milton, Ontario is one of the oldest summer Bible Schools being operated among churches of Christ. The multipurpose classroom, dining hall, kitchen, etc. building (upper inset), among the first permanent structures, built by volunteer labour, served well for many years until destroyed by fire on April 29 just as the camping season is almost upon us. See story on page 15.

Meditations on Thinking Way Ahead

Al Meakes

Just two weeks into our move back into life and ministry in Canada I went public skating. It was nice to be back in Canada--and great to be skating in Canada. Typically the rinks that we had skated at in other countries were either very expensive or "run down".

On television we had just witnessed some outstanding communication amongst international leaders. While skating I had assigned myself the task of pondering what I could learn from these communication styles.

As I kept circling the ice in the interest of a good aerobic workout, one trend dominated the whole arena. It was a matter of hockey jerseys (sweaters). Our location (Windsor) dictated that Toronto Maple Leaf and Detroit Red Wing outfits would be predominant. To my amazement it was Mighty Ducks hats and jerseys that were in the majority--especially on children aged 12 and under! How did these children become so "taken" with the Anaheim Mighty Ducks? Probably the main two reasons were the colours chosen and the Disney movies heroizing the Mighty Ducks. And what lies behind these two factors? Planning! Vision! Thinking well ahead!

I reflected back on my own life. When I was the age of some of these children, even as a Western Canadian, I chose the Montreal Canadiens. Although often very much in the minority, after many Stanley Cups I still remain faithful to the Canadiens even now, 35 years later. The Anaheim owners and the Disney officials have displayed vision and planning toward the achievement of their own loyal fan base 20, 30, 40, even 50 years from now.

How does this relate to the Lord's work? In Christianity we are challenged somehow to seek balance between two vital principles: (1) We should not worry about the future nor should we take our future plans for granted (Matthew 6:25-34; James 4:13-17), but (2) we have also been admonished by our Lord to look ahead and count the cost of future plans and activities (Luke 14:28-33). Despite the cautions of

Matthew 6 and James 4, the Old and New Testaments tell of numerous grand visions. One example would be the Lord's vision for the church of Jesus, a grandiose plan which was envisioned in His eternal wisdom and which came to fruition through Jesus our Lord (Ephesians 3:10-11).

Throughout the scriptures human leadership and the achievement of human plans play a vital role as well (especially in the context of prayer and the guidance of the Spirit). Nehemiah, in the 5th century B.C., responded with sorrow and conviction when he heard of the broken down state of the walls and gates of Jerusalem. The resulting mockery and embarrassment grieved him greatly. Aided by God and many dedicated helpers, Nehemiah envisioned an outstanding plan to rebuild the infrastructure of the great city of Zion. The book bearing his name preserves a marvelous account of the achievement of that tremendous cause.

The prophet Daniel, in the context of an extraordinary vision, projected the time when the God of Heaven would set up a Kingdom that would never be destroyed (Daniel 2:44). It would crush the previous kingdoms and empires and bring them to an end. It would itself last forever. Of course, throughout the scriptures there are hundreds of statements which detail and illustrate (in parables) the establishment of God's Kingdom and its mushrooming throughout the earth. The book of Revelation pictures the fruition of God's Kingdom as a destination open to every "tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9; 7:9; 14:6).

Holy Scripture records many other examples of vision, planning and actions calculated to carry out such plans. In a future article we shall elaborate more on this. For now a brief consideration of the apostle Paul will give a final biblical reminder of these important qualities. With prayer, fasting and the laying on of hands, Paul and Barnabas were sent forth on the first missionary journey. Later Silas teamed together with

Paul on the second and third missionary journeys. There were many rejections but you could say in a sentence or two: The positive results were phenomenal...all over the world. Much of this universe has never been the same!

Even after travelling to dozens of locations and having thousands of encounters, Paul, now in his 60's, declared, "I aim to go all the way to Spain" (Romans 15:24). Paul was certainly a man of vision and intensity. Praise the Lord!

Famous human individuals of more modern times also provide great examples of vision as well as meaningful statements on the matter. J.C. Penney began his Golden Rule store in Wyoming approximately 100 years ago. After several decades of success in the retail field, Penney said at the age of 94, "My eyesight is getting worse and worse, but my vision is growing every day." Ira North, beloved evangelist with Madison Church of Christ in Tennessee, was known for many spiritually motivating concepts. This brother, who began with Madison in his late 20's and saw the congregation grow to more than 3,000, often asserted, "Enthusiasm is as powerful as dynamite and as contagious as measles."

A famous poem (author unknown) that one often hears also provides relevant inspiration:

One man awake
Awakens another.
The second awakens
His next-door brother.
The three awake
Can rouse a town
By turning the whole place
Upside down.
The many awake
Can make such a fuss
It finally awakens the rest of us.
One man up
With dawn in his eyes, Multiplies.

How about you, the reader? What can you learn from the Anaheim Mighty Ducks? More important, are you merely dutifully existing from week to week, or are you thinking ahead? Are you following in the footsteps of the above biblical characters? Are you a visionary as well as a person of actions consistent with those visions and plans?

--Windsor, Ontario

5 Components of a Growing Church

Steve Rudd, Hamilton, Ontario

Why doesn't the church grow? The same reason we have so few elders—a lack of faithful children! The role of a parent is not merely to teach his children the gospel but rather to teach his children to teach the gospel to their children. We haven't successfully taught our children the gospel, let alone taught them how to teach their children. We are losing another generation of young people. With the loss of the young people, we lose another generation of qualified men for the eldership. Both problems are symptoms of the same cause.

If the track record with our physical children is poor, it is even worse with our spiritual children (new converts). With our spiritual children, we “dunk'em and leave'em”. No follow-up. As parents, we rely too much on educating our physical children through the public school system to the neglect of individual spiritual training in the home. In the church, we do the same with our spiritual babies; we rely upon the church's public school system (weekly sermons and classes) to the neglect of personalized one-on-one training. And we wonder why the few souls we win to Christ soon fall away! If we are indifferent to merely teaching the gospel, how will we ever accomplish the more difficult task of training new converts to teach the gospel? The job before us is not merely to reproduce but to produce producers! What we have produced is a generation of mules in the church—stubborn when it comes to getting personally involved in the Lord's work, and like the mule, unable to reproduce!

Christianity is a taught religion. Paul's instruction to Timothy was, “The things you have learned from me entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others” (2 Tim. 2:2). Paul was concerned with four generations of reproduction, and we have trouble with just one! How can we achieve growth? Here is how: no churches went about it. One church entered its evangelistic efforts around great pulpit preaching and only the preacher contacting and teaching non-Christians. The results were poor. The other church focused on the training and equipping of each willing member to contact and teach the gospel to the lost. Results were good, with a steady increase. Clearly, the New Testament example is closer to the latter. If the church is going forward, we will need to equip the saints for this great and noble work of service.

The Evangelist

The role and attitude of the evangelist is important. The evangelist can choose one of two basic roles when working with the members. He can choose the denominational pastor system where the preacher runs the whole show. Or, he can take the role of an assistant and co-worker. In business, these two roles could be compared to being the boss or being the sales manager. For illustration, let's parallel the church to an automobile dealership. The sales manager is a man with a proven record of sales and an intimate knowledge of the selling process. He is a skilled salesman who can outsell anyone else

two-to-one. That's why he's the manager. In a 40-hour workweek, he can sell 20 cars. But if he spends that same 40 hours training, supporting, and advising his team of 10 salesmen, who will be able to sell 10 cars each, his total sales volume will then be 100 instead of 20. Get the illustration? That's a five-fold increase in return for the same amount of time! Now, if you were the boss, where would you direct the sales manager to spend his time—selling or training?

Unfortunately, some evangelists want to be the boss rather than the sales manager. They want to be in the driver's seat rather than take the backseat and encourage the members to teach the gospel. The fireball evangelist will convert 10 persons a year; but if he spent his time training the members to reach the lost, the church would double every year regardless of its size. It's almost guaranteed! When it comes to church growth, I believe the evangelist should view the members as his sales team. His time is best spent training, supporting, and advising the members as they seek the lost. When prospects walk into our showroom on Sunday morning, he should give the resulting study to one of the sales team members.

The Church

Unfortunately, an evangelist can do and say all the right things to equip the church, but those mule members are apathetic, stubborn, and resistant to his efforts. They don't want to get involved. They are only interested in the status quo. Unless Christians make the decision to personally get involved and be committed to the plan, the whole effort will degenerate into a series of pep talks. Often, the end result is the preacher quits or is fired. Christians must make the decision to work together with the evangelist as a team to teach the gospel.

Many churches don't have a full-time evangelist. This shouldn't be a hindrance to growth. Committed members are the key ingredient to the plan. Christians who make a personal effort to reach the lost without a full-time evangelist is a very attractive opportunity that many evangelists can't resist. So, there is no reason to wait until you get a full-time evangelist.

The Study Outline

There are several ways of teaching the gospel. Besides the Jule Miller series, various outlines are available in one-shot approaches and multi-lesson series. I only use the Miller series in special cases where I want to break the ice a bit. However, to convict them of the finer gospel truths, I use a written multi-lesson outline.

Soul winning is a skill that requires flexibility and a personal touch, two things that do not come naturally from a filmstrip machine or VCR. Four things should be kept in mind when equipping the saints with study outlines: 1) borrow ideas from the work of others and come up with your own set of outlines; 2) outlines must be user friendly.

That is, they must be easy to learn to use. Incorporating pictures, charts, and illustrations will make the outlines easy to teach and interesting to non-Christians. Many of the existing outlines are so complex that they require memorization, which is not practical for general church use. Also, many existing outlines were prepared for use by preachers and not the average member. Your goal is for the members to be able to teach new Christians how to use the outlines with little difficulty. A big challenge! 3) Prepare a specific outline that will actually be used in the study. It is impractical to expect every member to draft their own. Outlines should be photocopy-ready for efficient reproduction. This preparation will require some effort on the part of the evangelist. 4) Improvements in the outlines should be made periodically by using the feedback comments of the users. Preparing a study outline for your church is a big challenge and one that is long overdue. It is the central focus of a growing church. Without one, training the saints will be very difficult.

Prospects

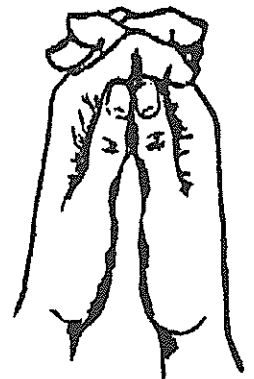
No teaching situation is complete without students. Suppose you have trained and equipped 25 Christians to teach the gospel. Where will you get the prospects for these trained Christians to teach? Unless the members can see that they will actually be teaching what they have learned, they won't give their whole heart to learning the outlines. You finish 10 weeks of training and have 25 people ready to teach, but no prospects! Interest in the whole effort will fizzle. This is a critical link that I will discuss in future articles.

A Specific Plan

A specific plan should include the following points. 1) Show them why they need a plan and include the members in the designing of the plan. 2) Motivate the members to want to participate in the plan. 3) Set a series of target dates for every aspect of the plan. (For ex.: Will there be any prospects to teach after the members have completed their training?) 4) Select or write a study outline for the church to use. 5) Decide how and from where you will get the necessary prospects. 6) Make provisions to ground and train new converts to teach the gospel. All these things must be taken into account before you begin. Look at the local church where you attend. You know what will come easy and what will require extra work. You will need a specific plan tailored for the local church.

Summary

Equipping the saints for the work of service does hold the promise of growth if we remember that we are the workmen and God causes the growth. We need to work as if everything depends on us and pray as if everything depends on God!



Passing the Torch

Wayne Turner



Over the last few decades, the world of churches has increased in complexity. Large staffs, complex budgets, multiple use buildings, multi-faceted programs and ministries, indicate that churches are trying to become more involved with their communities. Almost everywhere one can find churches running schools, day cares, seniors' residences, food and clothing banks, counselling services, encounter groups, personal development programs, youth and recreation centres--the list is seemingly endless. Often programs like these are the result of a "church" marketing approach, assessing what people in the community want, then trying to respond to them.

Helping people in need is certainly part of a Christian's mandate. Paul told the Galatians to do good to all people, especially other Christians (6:10). Jesus portrayed judgment as a separation of the sheep and goats, showing the need to have compassion for the hungry, thirsty, stranger, sick, naked, and imprisoned. In their desire to increase their relevance to those around, some churches have enlarged this list to also include matters related to the quality of life. Some time ago, Gary Trudeau, in the comic strip "Doonesbury", showed the extent to which this can go by depicting a minister telling potential members he was not really into the "God thing".

In a world that often replaces its search for meaning with the pursuit of momentary diversions, it is imperative that God's people not lose sight of the real purpose and work of the church. We must remember what Christianity is really all about. While there are many benefits and advantages to being Christians, one thing is primary: our relationship with God. It is too easy to be sidetracked by all the different activities that churches are engaged in and to forget our main concern. As Paul expressed it, "If we only have hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most to be pitied". This is about life, death and eternity. Many of the things that religious groups are doing today are good and helpful, but only one is necessary.

Faced with this, we need to be involved in preparation. Doesn't the "Parable of the Talents" teach us to be ready for eternity and, by example, to teach others to be ready as well? What good does it really do to improve the quality of a person's life for the 70 or 80 years he walks on the earth and neglect the eternity that follows? How could a "good" person possibly respond to someone's need for the saviour by instead offering only a momentary entertainment or a self-help

course so that he can accept his feelings of guilt? It is the work of Christians to share the words of Jesus--the words of eternal life--with the rest of the world. It is our task to speak the truth, in love, and to tell of sin and its consequences, of God's love, forgiveness and hope. It is our responsibility to help people find the "full assurance of faith" that they may know "with certainty" the things they have been taught--that their faith might not rest on the wisdom, philosophies or speculative opinions of men, but rather the word of God.

This is why Jude admonished his readers to "Contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (v. 3), and Paul wrote, "What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others" (2 Timothy 2:2). The task of preaching the gospel and teaching God's word goes from generation to generation, a torch passed down through the ages to give light.

This past year, we were saddened by the passing of Ed Bryant and Murray Hammond. For many years, both served the church in Canada as preachers and through the **Gospel Herald**. Yet, we also rejoice, knowing that they have gone to be with the Lord. The torch they carried so faithfully has now been passed on. To remind us of this, an article from each of them is reprinted in this issue. How well will we carry that torch?

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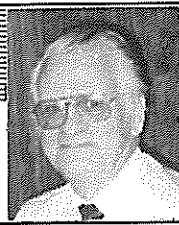
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This page is dedicated to helping readers to have strong Christian families. It is edited by E. Dan Wieb, 1746 Coteau Avenue, Weyburn, SK S4H 2R1.



Unrelated Matters?

During our travels this past winter, I happened to read the editorial page of a small town newspaper. Two unrelated, separate articles caught my attention and gave me an idea for this column. While the two items had no apparent connection, one was a syndicated column, the other a letter to the editor, they definitely belong together.

The letter to the editor was entitled "Abortion". It was another attempt on the part of concerned people to make society see the wrong in abortion and appreciate the sanctity of life. The writers of the letter referred to Psalm 139.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body.

The letter went on to throw a special light on the passage with reference to the Hebrew meaning of two words. Apparently, "made in the secret place" might well be translated "embroidered in my mother's womb". "Unformed body" is "embryo" in the Hebrew. The sanctity of life is well pictured by the psalmist and should cause each of us to recognize the value of the life of a child. I especially enjoy the closing sentence of the letter. "Yes!!! Life is a beautiful choice. . . children are such a great way to start people".

By itself, the concept expressed in this letter is of extreme value. Many books have been written on the value of life and the importance of the "pro-life" movement. And, we agree wholeheartedly with the principle.

The other article to which I have re-

ferred is a syndicated column by Cal Thomas of the Los Angeles Times. In his column, Mr. Thomas is reporting on the findings of an opinion poll done recently in L.A. The significance of this poll is that it was conducted with young people aged 10-16. Two results of the poll are important. These young people handed down a two-count indictment. First, they revealed that television has a more profound impact upon the lives, values, ethics and morals of the young than even television's greatest critics may have thought. Second, these young people revealed that there is a clear breakdown of parental authority and informed leadership.

While the results of the poll are not startling or unexpected, the fact that young people recognize what is happening should cause us to do something about it.

What do these two separate and apparently diverse columns have in common? I see a definite connection.

While Christians are up in arms, and rightly so, about the problem of abortion in our society, we must realize that allowing a child to be born carries with it major responsibility. When a person, man or woman, becomes a parent, the sanctity of life takes on greater significance. The responsibility of realizing children must not be transferred from the parents to any other segment of society. Schools, churches, media or peers must not be allowed to usurp the God-given role of the parent.

Interestingly enough, three-fourths of the young people surveyed in the above mentioned poll reported that if they could choose between television and spending more time with family, they would choose family every time. Well, why don't they? The writer of the column makes reference to a Newsweek

cover story from March 6, 1995 which deals with the fact that parents are often too busy, too tired or otherwise too occupied to spend time with children and that television has become the most significant other in the lives of too many children.

It is not too late. The survey reveals that children are still aware of the difference between the values depicted on television and the values presented by some parents and some more conservative segments of society. Eighty-two percent of the children surveyed say that TV should help teach children right from wrong. These children apparently know that life, as depicted in television is not healthy. They are aware that they are being led in the wrong direction by what they are viewing on television. They are not the ones who will change things, however. They are, after all, impressionable children who need the guidance and discipline that parents are supposed to give.

Television is here to stay! Surveys show that most families have two or more television sets in the home, and many children have their own sets in their rooms. It is incumbent upon parents to utilize the beneficial aspects of the media and supplement the instructional values that they present. It is also incumbent upon parents to monitor what children are viewing. If we, as parents and grandparents, accept our responsibility and treat it seriously, we will do all we can to insure that our offspring are getting teaching and encouragement at home which will counteract some of the adverse influences they are sure to undergo outside the home.

In order to be impressed by our responsibility as parents, we must understand what bringing children into the world involves and what raising them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord entails. If we do not fill our children's lives with wholesome activity and sound teaching, the media and other influences will fill the void that we leave.

Fortunately, we are aware of the problem, and solutions are being sought and offered. As Christians, we have an excellent source of strength in our faith in God and our knowledge of His word.

(continued on page 19)



“Stand in Awe, and Sin Not”

The words of the title are from the 4th Psalm, an evening Psalm (ASV). This psalm speaks of joyful confidence in God. “In peace will I both lay me down and sleep; For thou, Jehovah, alone makest me dwell in safety”. The writer expresses a deep faith in the care and protection of God. In a world where people cannot always be counted on, this confidence in God can support and sustain a person in times of trial and stress. While one ought to be able to count on fellow Christians, sometimes they fail. . . God never does.

In verses 4 and 5 there is some important direction for God’s people. “Stand in awe, and sin not: Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in Jehovah” (ASV). Consider these things and their importance in your life of faith.

“Stand in awe, and sin not.” Words like awe, fear and trembling are almost obsolete to Christians today. There is great emphasis on words like happiness, joy, peace, and comfort when talking of the Christian’s life. These are good words that speak of the things given the Christian by God. However, one needs to see the holiness of God and stand in awe of Him.

Failing to have proper respect of God and His word may lead to an improper view of the problem of sin. One may think of sin too lightly and consider it simply as “human nature” or a simple violation of “respectable society” rather than a transgression of the will of God. This kind of thinking leads one to fail to honour God’s word in life. Psalm 50 tells the results of this attitude. “But to the wicked, God says: ‘What right have you to recite my laws or take my covenant on your lips? You hate my instruction and cast my words behind

you” (vss. 16, 17, NIV).

Don’t be guilty of this failure. Stand in awe of God and do not sin against Him.

“Commune with your own heart upon your bed.” The heart is the source of desire, emotion, conscience and intellect. The idea here seems to be the need for one to withdraw from the rush of life and think about the things of God. With the daily pressures one is often distracted and does not take the time to search the heart and understand what motivates self. The writer says that one needs to do some careful soul searching away from the crowd. Everyone needs to examine his feelings in reference to God. Is doing His will a terrible obligation to fulfill or is it done with rejoicing? Has “following the example of Jesus in the way he lived and treated others” become the watchword of life? These are important questions to the believer who sees God as “awesome” and desires to please Him.

This “communing with self” must be uncompromisingly honest and guided by the word of God. “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Understand that this meditation in quietness is not about learning the truths of God’s word but about applying them to oneself. The mediation of the true believer will lead to repentance for sins and a closeness to God in thankful acceptance of His saving grace that continues to cleanse from sin (1 John 1:7).

The communing with oneself and meditating on the will of God is not an end within itself but rather a means to an end. . . a right relationship with God!

“Offer the sacrifices of righteousness.” Simply stated, do what is right. Obey the commands of God, and be transformed by renewing your mind to

be like that of Jesus. “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. . .” (Philippians 2:5). Paul goes on in this text, through verse 11, to show that Jesus’ attitude was one of obedience to the will of the Father for him. He was faithful in his obedience all the way to and including death.

Believers are told, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:2). Test (commune with, search) the heart, in light of the word of God, to know what God wants of His people and see where His will is being done and where there is failure. With God’s help the failures can be overcome.

“Put your trust in Jehovah.” Trust Him to forgive as He has promised. Trust Him to give you the inner power to overcome sin and resist temptation. “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And *God is faithful*; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” (1 Corinthians 10:13;).

Only when one trusts God to fulfill his promises is it possible in peace to “both lay me down and sleep; For thou, Jehovah, alone makest me dwell in safety”. One’s relationship to God is personal; guard it well.

“Stand in awe, and sin not!” God will bless those who, with His help, do this.

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The Safe, Sure Way

Ed Bryant

Most of us recognize the need for caution in our everyday pursuits. When we pay a bill, we insist upon a receipt, because it is just good business. We wouldn't think of buying a farm or a home without demanding an abstract deed. Thus do we seek to make secure our secular affairs. However, where spiritual matters are concerned, many are perfectly content to rely upon the silliest of half-measures.

It is not at all uncommon to hear those about us excuse their religious stand with the words, "We're all headed for the same place, only by different roads." This utter indifference over the eternal destiny of the soul does not make sense, in light of the extreme care we lavish upon temporal matters.

It is not enough to rely upon our feelings to direct our religious thinking and shape our obedience. Worse than that, it is dangerously foolish. We would not trust a grocer who merely dropped a few potatoes into a bag and handed them to us saying, "That's ten pounds!" We would inquire of him how he knows it is ten pounds. If he then placed his hand over his heart and said, "I know it is because I FEEL it--right here!" we would walk out without buying from him. Yet many people in this enlightened age are found practicing this method to guide them in their religion.

It is not necessary to depend upon such foolish methods when there is a safe, sure way, the guide to which is found in the Holy Bible, the word of God. The Psalmist wrote, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple" (Psalm 19:7).

Since the law of the Lord is perfect, what need have we of any other guide to a safe haven? Away, then, with creeds, manuals, disciplines and other man-made additions to what God has already said. Paul recognized the sufficiency of the Scriptures when he wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for cor-

rection, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Then Peter lends the weight of his inspired pen by writing, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of him that hath called us unto glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:3).

In the recent news, the religious world made token and pathetic overtures toward the unity for which Christ prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. World religious leaders made guarded predictions as to the outcome of the effort, but no one put into words the one thing that must be obvious to even the most casual observer--that unity cannot and will not be achieved until all men everywhere "teach the same things" from the perfect law of God and stop trying to twist that law to fit their own selfish desires. To be perfectly joined together, in the "same mind and in the same judgment" requires that man subject himself to the will of God, forgetting his own. Unfortunately, the vast majority of men are unwilling to do this.

Nearly everyone will agree that any religion without God is useless and vain. Too many fail to see, however, that when man begins to substitute his own wisdom for that of God, he makes God's wisdom of no effect in his life. Yet, the Bible plainly states that "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrines of Christ hath not God" (2 John 9). When we turn to our own substitutions and introduce man's innovations into the worship of God, we no longer abide in the doctrine of Christ, and no longer have God. They who are wise will take heed.

In this world of religious confusion the light still shines for those who have eyes to see, and the clarion call comes still to those who have ears to hear. The blood of Christ was expended to purchase only one church, and he is the Saviour of that body (Ephesians 3:23). Since "there is none other name under

heaven, given among men, whereby ye must be saved" (Acts 4:12), let us enter that body in the only way authorized by the word of God by being baptized into a likeness of his death (Galatians 3:26, 27). This should come as the final step in our obedience after having repented of all past sin and confessed Jesus as the Son of God in whom we have our hope of life eternal. Then, being raised to walk in "newness of life", let our lives be guided by God's will alone, continuing "steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). If our delight be in the law of the Lord, and if in this law we meditate day and night as did the Psalmist of old, there will be no time for expounding or hearing any other doctrine, and division will cease to exist.

Jesus tells us, in John 4:24, "God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth". He said also that the word of God is truth (John 17:17). This should narrow the matter down so that it comes within the grasp of everyone. Why complicate things by reaching into "outer space" for some revelation which isn't going to come anyway (Jude 3)? After all, the gospel is for every person, of whatever level of intelligence, and the blood of Christ, which is the only means of obtaining remission of sins, was shed for "the whole world".

Let all men everywhere, therefore, unite upon the Bible, in full assurance of its precepts, and in full obedience to its commands. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" (Colossians 3:16). It is the only way to heaven that God has given unto man, and when we forsake it for some other road map, devised by man, we can be sure that we shall not reach the safe confines of the heavenly city when this life is over. Let us not, then, place our confidence in our own wisdom. Rather let us turn our lives over to God, who created us, and follow His guide as the only safe, sure way. --March, 1962

"...trust in your God and return to him. Be loyal and just, and wait patiently for your God to act."
--Hosea 12:6 (GNB)

"Dreaming"

(A sermon preached by Murray F. Hammond)



Text: Genesis 37: 3-28

At the age of 17, Joseph, favourite son of Jacob, was reputed to be the greatest dreamer in all Canaan. But Joseph was very much hated by his brethren, because he was more loved than they by their father. And Joseph was the more despised by his brothers, because of his much dreaming, for in his dreams, they always appeared subordinate to Joseph. Well, one day, Jacob sent Joseph on a sort of inspection tour of the flock which was being tended by the brothers in the land of Dothan. And as Joseph approached their campsite, the brothers sarcastically observed one to another, "Behold, here comes the dreamer." And while he was yet afar off, they conspired together to slay him, and thus put an end to his presumptuous dreaming. But, as it turned out, they sold him to passing merchants as a slave instead.

Now, reminiscent of that story in the Old Testament is the story in the New Testament of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, who, like Joseph, was also a dreamer! Indeed, he was the greatest dreamer this old world has ever known! He dreamed a dream so gigantic, so stupendous, that, although nearly two thousand years have come and gone, still the dream has not been fully realized. He dreamed of the universal brotherhood of man! That

was His dream. And again like Joseph, Jesus was hated for His dreams and evil men supposed that they could put an end to His idealistic dreaming by nailing Him to a tree. Of course, and needless to say, they were unable to destroy either the Man or His dreams, for He has since been crowned King of Kings, and His dream of love lives on in the hearts of His disciples everywhere. And, so long as His church shall last, so long shall His dream remain alive, His dream of peace on earth to all men of good will. And hence, the church of God exists today as the custodian of this dream which originated in the mind of Christ Himself. And so you can see how very important a dream can be! Let's not, therefore, look upon dreaming lightly, for it's a Bible subject, and like all Bible subjects, is more than worthy of our attention and considering!

The coming of Jesus Christ to this earth was inspired by a dream, a dream on the part of God. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The salvation of sinners--that was God's dream, the dream of dreams, the dream that transcends all dreaming. And Jesus Christ, by virtue of His vicarious sacrifice upon Calvary's cross, loaned stuff, and substance, and reality to the dream. And thus was God's eternal desire and purpose to make redemption possible, his dream of man's reconciliation to Himself, fulfilled in and through the Person of His only begotten and dearly beloved Son, Jesus the Christ!

And so, what a lot we owe to dreams! But let me say, just here, by way of parenthesis, before going any further, that there are dreams, and there are. . . dreams. There is the kind of dreaming which Webster defines as "the appearance of subconscious images in one's sleep. And although that's the kind of dreaming which Joseph did, it's not the kind of dreaming about which I am talking this morning. And then there is the miraculous dream or vision--long since

done away--such as the one that the apostle Peter experienced on the housetop in Joppa; but I'm not talking about that kind of dreaming this morning, either!

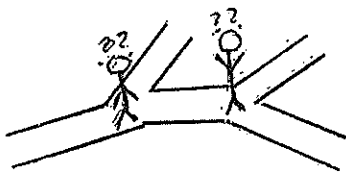
Rather, the kind of dreaming about which I am speaking is that faculty which each of us possesses to visualize or to plan ahead. You may call it romanticizing or castle building, if you wish, but by whatever name you choose to call it, the fact remains that, if we are to make any noticeable headway in the kingdom of Heaven, then we must exercise vision, and plenty of it, for, as Solomon says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." And so, if we hope to greet the dawn of bigger, grander and better things tomorrow, then we must dream our dreams today! Not, you understand, that it's enough for us just to dream; we must then proceed to do our utmost to make those dreams to come true. We must be idealists, to be sure, but we must be visionaries with "a mind to work". It's only when one couples his dreaming with ACTION that he's in the possession of the right, and the unbeatable combination it takes to achieve success and accomplish one's goals.

Dreams are what make the world go 'round. Dreaming makes for progress. We might still be in the Dark Ages were it not for history's dreamers who dared to blaze new trails! Columbus dreamed of a far-off land and set out to discover it; Edison dreamed of the electric light and worked tirelessly to invent it; Jenner dreamed of a vaccine to immunize against smallpox and was not satisfied until, after years of laborious research, he had succeeded in developing the process known as vaccination!

And history is not without its religious dreamers! Martin Luther dreamed a dream. He saw, in his dream, the Bible placed into the hands of the masses. He visualized the Word of God being read by the chimney-sweep, the milk maid, the peasant farmer. But not content to merely dream about it, he then proceeded to nail his now famous 95 Theses to the door of the cathedral in Wittenburg, and this single courageous act was the spark which ignited a

(continued on page 13)

POINTS BY PERRY:



Long-Term Decisions

There are definite advantages to making advance decisions to cover some areas of life. Such often set a course and save us from having to make many small decisions. They can mean that what would otherwise be temptations along the path of life are already covered and do not constitute temptations at all.

Having made the decision, "as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah" (Joshua 24:15) and announced it before all the people, Joshua was not likely troubled with making repeated choices regarding the idol worship that was the downfall of many of his contemporaries. He had already decided. It is unlikely that members of his household heard such matters being debated and decided over and over again.

When Moses had made his choice to turn his back on the princely pursuits of Egypt (the seasonal pleasure of sin) in favour of "ill treatment with the people of God" (Hebrews 11:24-26), his course was set. He was not likely troubled by daily decisions as to whether or not to return to the palace.

Some years ago we were impressed by a youth speaker who urged that young people make their lives easier by deciding some matters in advance. As a popular speaker, he was invited to many banquets where alcoholic beverages were often served. Rather than waiting and deciding each time whether to partake or decline and perhaps thus cause embarrassment and inconvenience, he decided ahead of time that he would refrain from drinking alcohol. Because this became known and/or because of advance arrangements, there was seldom any problem. His glass was already filled with fruit juice or some was served without his asking. The advance decision made life much easier and

prevented any likelihood of giving to temptation in a 'weak moment'.

Our decision to marry the partner of our choice and the public declaration of intent to be faithful (love, honour and cherish) through 'thick and thin' until "death do us part" should work in a similar way. Each conflict, disappointment or difficulty that arises should not call for a decision whether to stay or 'go home to mother'. A broad long-term decision has already been made. Consequently, it is understood that 'we'll work it out together'.

In a similar way our decision for Christ takes care of many small decisions. We have chosen Him as our Lord; pledged to "follow in His footsteps"; determined to "live for Him who died for us" and committed to "be faithful unto death". If this is understood, and it should be, many smaller decisions are already covered. It should no longer be a problem when faced with pressures to lie, cheat, steal, drink, commit immorality, participate in filthy talking, get even, etc. These matters have already been decided. The one big decision took care of all these.

Perhaps another problem should be solved by this method. It seems that there are those who find themselves deciding each time the church meets whether to attend or do something else. The something else may appear really

desirable and worthwhile. How to decide? Imagine the effect on the children in a family where such is being discussed and decided on a fairly regular basis. How much better for all if the covering decision has been made to be with the Lord's church regularly whenever it meets. It becomes understood that this is what we do. It is not a question of whether we like the speaker or the program. Attendance has already been decided. We have these prior appointments.

Making long-term decisions can save us having to deal with many daily decisions. They have already been decided.

EVANGELIST REQUIRED

The Tillsonburg Church of Christ is seeking a mature, experienced evangelist to provide leadership and assist in the spiritual development of the congregation in our rural Southwestern Ontario location.

Partial support will be required.

Interested individuals can reply by writing to:

Tillsonburg Church of Christ
P.O. Box 331
Tillsonburg, ON N4G 4H8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- 4... June Meeting & 100th Anniversary of Fenwick, Ontario church at Fonthill
- 25... 10th Anniversary of Stratford, Ontario church

August

- 7-11... V.B.S., Wawota, Saskatchewan

September

- 8-10... Jack & Jeanne Reese Seminar, St. Catharines, Ontario

October

- 26-29... World Missions Workshop, "To Know Christ, To Make Christ Known", A.C.U., Abilene, Texas
- 28... Kid's Rally, Wawota, Saskatchewan

(If you have events that you would like to have listed in this Calendar of Events, please contact Eugene Perry at (905) 563-7503.

A Sigh

Paul Dale

Sigh: 1) *to make a long audible respiration (as to express weariness or sorrow)*; 2) *GRIEVE, YEARN* (The Merriam-Webster Dictionary).

We're by the Sea of Galilee. The "Teacher" has just fed 4,000 plus people. It's the second time he's reached out with this form of ministry. After the first feeding, he touched people's lives in many other ways. Today everyone on the hillside witnessed his actions with their own eyes and stomachs.

No doubt the "religious" leaders are well aware of his movements and the "things" he's doing. . .

Following the meal, we watch as Jesus sends the crowd to their homes. Assembling his disciples, the group walks down to the shoreline, boards a boat, and heads for an area of the country known as Dalmanutha or Magdala, located in the region of Galilee on the northwestern side of the sea. I can almost imagine the scene as the boat slides up on the shore, bumping against a few of the rocks in the shallow water. Possibly Peter or Andrew or one of the other 'fishing' disciples who has strong water legs, jumps out to secure the boat, while the others step onto dry land.

Word spreads quickly, "the 'Teacher' has arrived". People begin to show up at the shore, including those fellows who always want to ensure everything is being done "right" . . . the Pharisees and Sadducees. At this point in the story we need to return to the place where Jesus had come from . . .

We're in the midst of the crowd around the "Teacher", listening intently to the words he's sharing. We've witnessed healings including a man who was deaf. People are excited. No one wants to leave . . . a day passes . . . then another . . . and another . . . three days in total! No one has eaten. All have fasted by just being with the "Teacher". *No one is complaining about being hungry!!*

We move closer to hear what the "Teacher" is saying.

"I have compassion for these people" (Mark 8:7, NIV).

Unlike the time before, the disciples have food, not enough to feed 4,000 without a miracle, though; just 7 loaves and a few fish. However, Jesus takes over, prays and passes the food to his disciples to hand out to the people. . . "and they (the crowds) were satisfied".

The key point to remember is the fact that Mark does not record anyone from the crowd coming to Jesus and saying, "I'm hungry!" or "We're hungry, feed us!" or "We've been with you three days, surely you could work a miracle like you did before and feed us!" . . . Instead the people just wanted to be with the "Teacher".

We leave the scene in the countryside on the east shore of Galilee and return to Dalmanutha . . .

A group of people arrives to meet with the "Teacher". Included are the Pharisees and Sadducees. We watch as a discussion ensues. They want Jesus to "perform" a miracle. Following the request for a "sign from heaven", we hear Jesus do something. Mark records it for us:

"He sighed deeply . . ." (Mark 8:12, NIV).

Sighed deeply. How many times have you sighed deeply in this life? You know, the time during March break when the kids were home from school and you just couldn't take the noise anymore! The time when you did your income taxes and found out you owed a few hundred dollars extra unexpectedly! Or the time a tragedy happened to one of your best friends or family members!

As we listen to Jesus' sigh, do you wonder what kind it is? A tired sigh? A frustrated sigh? A grieving sigh?

The sigh of tiredness. Despite his spiritual strength, while on earth Jesus lived as a human. He hurt when he hit his finger with a hammer. His feet ached when he'd walked for many miles. He grew hungry when he hadn't eaten and thirsty when he hadn't had a drink. . . He's just spent three or so days with a crowd of people. Met their needs. Taught his disciples on the boat ride over. Now the "religious" come to "test"

him. Was he feeling drained? The sigh of frustration. He's touched down in the lives of numerous people. Healed many. His teaching is infallible. No one has proved him wrong. The way he treats people is impeccable. Still, the religious leaders, knowing all this, come to test him. To dig a little deeper. To try and rub him the wrong way. To get him to say or do something out of place, thereby condemning himself. Why won't they accept him?

The sigh of grief. Possibly this was the strongest sigh of all coming from the chest and heart of Jesus that day. The men testing him were supposed to be the "cream" of his Father's crop. Men who looked out for the souls of Israel. Men who ensured people worshipped and correctly. Men who outwardly claimed to be connected to God. Yet, what was their purpose this day as we listen to the conversation? "To test him" . . . God's son! If only they'd been truly connected to his Father!

What amazes me about this episode in Jesus' ministry is the way in which the religious leaders came to him and asked for something. Back on the hillside when the 4,000 or so were hungry, no one asked him for food. They just wanted to be with him. The religious leaders on the other hand wanted him to perform at their wish . . .

So Jesus sighed! A deep, strong sigh. So much work to do. So many people to try to reach. And so many obstacles in the way, including those claiming to be of his Father.

As I reflect on the way in which I've responded to Jesus, I recall times I've been like the 4,000, just patient and waiting. Other times I've demanded sighs. I've failed to connect. I've been an obstacle to him.

And I wonder; has he sighed?

(Texts: Matthew 15:29-16:4; Mark 7:31-8:13).

--Lucan, Ontario

Communion Supplies

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by **Walter R. Straker**
750 Clark Boulevard
Bramalea, ON L6T 3Y2
ONTARIO

Ajax: The theme for the year is "Here Am I Send Me". Beth and Jamie Whitehead and their three children have moved to Great Lakes where Jamie has taken work. Since Devon Bennett announced his willingness to work full-time, the contribution has increased from \$700 to \$1,000 per week.

Beamsville: Bev Sutton, former member of this congregation, died in early April. The Great Lakes Youth Rally on April 21-23 had about 300 teenagers. Ed Jermakowicz of Belarus states that he has given 1,015 copies of Scripture out since his arrival there. He and his wife, Svetlana, have moved into their log house. Ruth Huntsman, who celebrated her 83rd birthday on April 26, passed away on Saturday, May 13. Henry Ensley left for Camrose, Alberta where he will work this spring and summer.

On his visit to India, Donald Perry spoke twice in Khasi and once with a translator and visited many homes where he and Bob spoke mostly Khasi. He has a slide presentation of his trip.

Bramalea: The Cuarezma family from Waterloo was here to give a report of their Spanish work. Vicente and Soledad Campos have returned to the Philippines for up to six months. May 14 was African Day. The Ghana brethren had invited the Ghanaian brethren from the Toronto congregations to meet with us. About 10 visited from Strathmore and 30 from Harding Avenue. Eight were first-time visitors to the church of Christ. Max Craddock and Freddie Williams were our speakers on April 23. On April 30 Sam Asamoah, Bob Burright, Kevin Hunter and Freddie Williams were installed as deacons. This brings three new cultures into the deaconship: Ghana, South Africa, and U.S.A. On Sunday May 7 Grace Akrofi, one of our senior ladies, was baptized into Christ as was Sammy Adjei Yeboah, husband of Elizabeth

who had been a member for about eight years before coming to Canada eighteen months ago. Sam and Elizabeth are the parents of a baby boy. Bob and Barbara Iddon moved back to B.C. on May 23. A Day of Prayer and Fasting is scheduled for June 4. It is the 11th annual day of prayer and fasting sponsored by the Manna International and the church of Christ in Redwood, CA.

Shirley Straker's stepmother, Hester Lewis, passed away on April 27.

Brantford: Jacob Potts was baptized on April 2. The Watts family of Terrace, B.C., partially supported from Brantford, visited on April 2.

Steve May presented lessons on Modern Parables May 5-7.

Burks Falls: This new congregation had 29 present for the first assembly.

Fenwick: The June Meeting will be held at the E.L. Crossley school. On July 1 this congregation will celebrate Canada Day at a picnic at Dandelion Acres. A centennial float is being prepared for the city parade.

Grimsby: Katie Sanders became one with Christ in late March. Fred and Nancy Toohey and family, formerly of Stoney Creek, became a part of this congregation on April 2. Some funds and song books were given to the new church at Burks Falls.

Ralph Perry is retiring from the Nigerian W.B.S. follow-up work in June but may still be involved somewhat.

Guelph: Speakers in May were Aaron Douglas, Mark Heuston, and Brian Boden. Melanie Penner, older daughter of Larry and Susan Penner, was baptized in the Waterloo building on April 8. She is now a member in Guelph with her parents.

Hamilton (Fennell Avenue): A one-day VBS is planned for August with continuing Saturday sessions in the Fall. Jim Evans was baptized recently.

Hamilton (West Hamilton): The men are continuing a study of **Hearts On Fire** on Saturdays at the Morphy home. At the end of April the congregation was still ahead of budget. On April 2 their attendance on Sunday morning was 81 and on Sunday evening 106.

Meaford: The Seniors of the congregation are taking a van load of about 14 to various congregations in the area such as Owen Sound, Collingwood, and

Barrie for Sunday morning services.

Newmarket: The ladies held a Progressive Dinner on Monday, April 3 with 22 ladies attending. The theme of a meeting held May 26-28 with Steve May was Concepts of Grace.

Niagara Falls: The angels of Heaven, John and Gloria Roach and the church family were made to rejoice when their daughter, Jennifer, put on Christ in the waters of baptism on Friday afternoon, March 24. Ladies Day was April 29 with Carol Pinczuk, Barbara Boland, Gloria Roach, and Dorothy Boland sharing lessons on the theme "God and Woman". They had a great Spring Break VBS with 29 students from Oklahoma Christian University. There were 144 in attendance on March 19; 139 at the Wednesday Bible study; 106 on Monday night; and 124 on Tuesday night.

Omagh: Camp Omagh suffered a tragedy when an arsonist burned down the kitchen and the dining hall on April 29. The arsonist was caught later that same day. He had started 11 fires in 3 days. He was a retired, 56-year-old York Fire Department fire fighter. The camp will continue with its regular schedule. The board met and decided to turn McKerley House basement into a kitchen and a dining hall. Plans are to rebuild next spring on the old site.

Owen Sound: Jerry Tallman held a Personal Evangelism Seminar May 5-7. This church is considering the possibility of an eldership.

Port Colborne: Children's Bible Hour, Wednesday 6:30-7:30 p.m., has 34 in attendance. An evangelism retreat for young people is planned for June 14. Melita Lock will return from Papua New Guinea on that day. On July 2, Max Craddock will speak, and the Strathmore young people will present a lesson in drama.

Sault Ste. Marie (Pinehill): Max Craddock held a gospel meeting from April 9-11. On April 9, Allan Pigeon put on the Lord in baptism. He had been studying with Guy Stoppard for some time. The Northern June Meeting will be here on June 25.

Stoney Creek: Ben and Patti Wiebe arrived back from India April 1. Bryan Meneer led a discussion on April 9 on "Can the Stoney Creek church grow?"

(continued on page 18)

NEWS

— PRAIRIES —



by Brian Cox

P.O. Box 454, Wawota, SK S0G 5A0

Moose Jaw, SK: Those undergoing surgery this spring include: Edith Brown, who had knee surgery; Clarence Bien, who had hip surgery; and Ed Elford, who had knee surgery. All are doing well in their recovery process.

John McMillan, President of Western Christian College, was in Moose Jaw on March 21 to talk about the school and do some fund raising. The chorus from W.C.C. was there on the evening of April 1, and their performance was enjoyed by an almost full house. These young people are to be commended for their zeal. The Women's Service Club for W.C.C. held a "Silent Auction" April 21 to raise funds for the Student Life Department of W.C.C. raising a total of \$360.

The Pioneer Clubs hosted a "Bring-a-Friend" night on March 15. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by 21 young people. It is great to see the enthusiasm of young people in bringing their friends to hear the gospel.

Please note that Moose Jaw's second service on Sunday has been permanently changed to 2:00 p.m. from 6:00 p.m. They changed their schedule last fall for the winter months on a trial basis, and it seems to have been a good change. There is an increased attendance at the earlier time and it is easier for out-of-town people to stay for the service. The last Sunday of each month they have a "noon Fellowship Meal" immediately following the morning worship.

The "Over 50 Group" hosted a pot-luck supper, visiting, fellowship and games night on March 24. They invited the over 50's from Regina and Gravelbourg to join them for this great time of fellowship and fun.

The Wednesday evening teen class, under the guidance of Ron and Judy Hegdahl, went to the Pioneer Lodge Senior Care Home on March 29 to sing for and with the seniors as well as to put on a skit and share lunch and a time of visiting with the seniors.

The last weekend in April, Tim and Sara Pippus were in Moose Jaw when Tim (a Moose Jaw boy) presented an

excellent series of lessons. Tim ministers with the church in Estevan, Saskatchewan.

Moose Jaw is involved in the 1995 Day of Prayer and Fasting on June 4, organized by the Redwood Church of Christ in California. They will use a Family Giving Calendar for the month of May that gives details of living conditions in the various countries that receive support from this program. This serves to remind all of how much we have and how little some in other countries have.

Manson, MB: This congregation has scheduled their Bible School for August 14-18. Blair Roberts will direct this year and his wife, Susan, will teach the Ladies' Class.

Winnipeg, MB: The Board of Directors for Western Christian College held meetings in Winnipeg on March 17 and 18. During this time, they provided an opportunity for anyone who wished to speak with them or ask them questions. The Winnipeg chapter of the WCC Alumni hosted an evening of desert theatre on March 18. The W.C.C. drama club was on hand to present *Bench 18*.

Horse Creek, SK: Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for July 3-7 and will include from Grade 1 on up. The VBS team from WCC will be doing the teaching. (See page 21 of the May issue of the *Gospel Herald* for more information on this team.)

Wawota, SK: The Moose Mountain chapter of the Western Christian College alumni met on April 6 to make plans for the coming year. The last evening of each month will be a Movie Night. The first one held on April 28 was a great success. Plans are underway for an Alumni Golf Tournament this summer. Plans are also under way for an evening of Dinner Theatre this fall. On May 13 the alumni will be cleaning ten kilometers of ditches as a fund raiser. These activities will provide opportunities for fellowship as well as raise funds to be used for bursary and scholarship assistance for young people from our area that wish to attend WCC.

The Wawota church will be fully supporting Travis Sass as he enters into the AIM (Adventures In Missions) program. Later this summer he will be entering the training phase of his involvement with a mission placement coming next year. Wawota began its

involvement with Travis in 1993 when he served as a summer ministry intern in Wawota. In 1994 Wawota gave some support to Travis' involvement with the Let's Start Talking Team out of Regina. The Wawota church has a great deal of love and respect for Travis and has been thrilled to see him grow into the image of Christ. We are encouraged to see the way that God is working through him. We look forward to more years of involvement with Travis.

Whitewood, SK: The Friday evening Bible study concluded this term with the video series from Focus on the Family entitled *Life On the Edge* (Bible study will begin again in the fall). Although this series is meant for a younger audience and the group is predominantly an older group, a very high level of interest was shown with lengthy discussions often taking place after each video. It is encouraging to see those who are older concerned with the issues facing younger people and interested in helping them any way that they can.

May 7 saw a group go to the Whitewood Care Home to worship with the residents there. Most of the residents reported enjoying the singing most of all.

MISSION NEWS

Romania

Five Romanian cities with 300,000 or more people in each have been targeted for evangelism. Six churches, with a total of 500 members, worship in Romania. Workers there and in Little Rock have more than 60,000 names of interested contacts awaiting further teaching.

--Christian Chronicle

Reception

Following a
June 24th wedding
in San Juan, Puerto Rico,
a Canadian reception
is being held for
Duane and Janice Whittington
at Bramalea Church of Christ
750 Clark Boulevard
Sunday, July 2, 2 p.m.
All friends welcome.

NEWS FAR WEST

Send your news to Gospel Herald,
4904 King Street,
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B6

Nanoose Bay, BC: Brother Ming Paul Lee has been actively involved in relief work in war-torn Croatia, and we have selected the following information from his submissions.

He wishes to thank Christians in Canada, Malaysia and the U.S. for helping the Sarajevo Children's Home project. Rebuilding began on April 10 with completion targeted for June, to house 120 children.

Many packages of medicine and gifts from Canada were to be in Zagreb by May 6 for "Peace on Earth Humanitarian Relief", a church of Christ ministry in Croatia. A group of 27 Canadians from Nanaimo offered to carry the gifts from Canada to Croatia.

Teachers and workers are needed for spring and summer, teaching English using the Bible at Croatia Summer Camp, July 17-22. Canadian Christians of all ages are welcome. Sponsors are also needed to send students and young adults in war-torn Croatia to Pula Christian Summer Camp. Donations will help young people to learn about and know Jesus. This camp has proven to be effective in evangelism, encouraging young churches and providing fellowship. Many have come to Christ in camp. Tim Woodroof of Washington, is the key speaker and will talk about "Who Is Jesus?"

Elders and churches are encouraged to help and to pray for the war-torn country of Croatia.

Those interested in more information or in helping are encouraged to contact Ming Paul Lee, Box 15, R.R. #2, Arlington Road, Nanoose Bay, BC V0R 2C0, phone (604) 468-7976; FAX (604) 758-1181.

Vancouver, BC: "For all of us who were present yesterday (April 15) for the B.C. Spring Fellowship, what a day it was indeed. Over 120 adults plus children attended the event. . . Milton Diaz did a 'superb job' with his sermon, 'Light a Candle.'" --Oakridge bulletin

Dreaming

(continued from page 8)

torch of spiritual illumination seen throughout the world, and with the coming of this enlightenment came the

realization of the dream of this German Augustinian monk. We only regret that his dream did not embrace more truth than it did.

Thomas Campbell, Alexander Campbell, Barton W. Stone--these men, of a century ago, dreamed a dream. And the more they studied the Bible, the more vivid became the dream. They visualized the completed restoration of New Testament Christianity, not the establishment of some new religious denomination, but a full return to the ancient order of things before there were any human churches. That's what they saw in their dream--the church of Christ existing in modern times just as she existed in the first century, free of all human creeds, and doctrines, and practices!

But not content to merely dream about it, they, together with a handful of their Bible-loving contemporaries, dedicated their lives to the preaching of the pure, unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel just as it's written, without addition and without subtraction. And that their efforts were not in vain, that their dream did come true, is evidenced by the fact that the Church of the Firstborn exists today, by the grace of God, in all her primitive simplicity.

But now to bring the lesson closer to home, that is, by way of applications. You, of this congregation of the Lord's church, you must dream your dreams! Dream daringly! Dare to dream of ultimately winning this entire community, and eventually this whole city, for Jesus Christ! Dare to dream of someday having this lovely auditorium consistently filled to overflowing with people come to hear the Glad Tidings about Jesus! Dare to dream of one day having a qualified presbytery to superintend your affairs! Dream your dreams, I say, and visualize your visions, and plan your plans, and then work, work together, to translate those dreams into practice. For, unless you do, you'll perish!

"But," someone is ready to say, "dreaming frequently results in disillusionment, and so I'm afraid to dream, lest I be disappointed and heartbroken." Well, it is true that, sometimes, a man will dream his dreams and almost succeed in having them to become realized,

(continued on page 19)

CAMP MANITOU



Teaching a respect for
God's Word
in God's World

INFORMATION

Camp Dates '95: August 12-19

AGE: Men aged 13 years and older. You must be 13 by December 31, 1995 to qualify; there is no upper age limit. A limited number of campers aged 10-13 may be accompanied by a father.

FEE: Camp fee is \$125 per person and includes the round trip bus transportation from Newmarket.

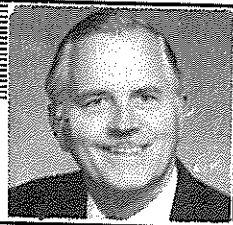
For an application or further information,

contact: **CAMP MANITOU**
c/o Jim Dickie
4220 Bethesda Road, R.R. #1
Vineland, ON L0R 2G0
(905) 641-8442

BOOK REVIEWS

Books to be reviewed in this column should be sent to **Keith Thompson, Editor**, 348 Dixon Blvd., Newmarket, ON L3Y 5C4.

(Books may be ordered from the Gospel Herald.)



The Contemporary English Version, Canadian Bible Society & Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1514 pages, various prices depending on binding.

We are anticipating what we believe will prove to be the most significant event in religious publishing in many years: the arrival of **The Contemporary English Version!** We are thrilled to have received an advance reviewer's copy of what we predict will be the most serviceable translation of the scriptures for our modern world.

The Preface begins, "Translation it is that opens the window, to let in the light that breaks the shell, that we may eat the kernel; that puts aside the curtain, that we may look into the most holy place; that removes the cover of the well, that we may come by the water ('the Translators to the Reader,' King James Version, 1611). The most important document in the history of the English language is the King James Version of the Bible. To measure its spiritual impact on the English-speaking world would be more impossible than counting the grains of sand along the ocean shores. Historically, many Bible translators have attempted in some measure to retain the form of the King James Version. But the translators of the **Contemporary English Version** of the Bible have diligently sought to capture the spirit of the King James Version by following certain principles set forth by its translators in the document 'The Translators to the Reader which was printed in the earliest edition'."

The Preface goes on to say that every attempt has been made to produce a text that is faithful to the meaning of the original. As the translators of the King James Version asked, "What can be more available thereto than to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they understand." Martin Luther followed the same concept: "We do not have to inquire of the literal Latin, how we are to speak Ger-

man. Rather we must inquire about this of the mother in the home, the children on the street, the common man in the marketplace. We must be guided by their language, the way they speak, and do our all translating accordingly."

The Preface also points out that more people hear the Bible read aloud than read it for themselves! We are sure that it is as true of Canada as the U.S. where "almost half of U.S. adults have very limited reading and writing skills". This translation is designed so that an inexperienced reader can read aloud without stumbling, and someone unfamiliar with traditional biblical terminology can hear without misunderstanding.

"In order to attain these goals of clarity, beauty, and dignity, the translators of the Contemporary English Version carefully studied every word, phrase, clause, and paragraph of the original. Then, with equal care, they struggled to discover the best way to translate the text, so that it would be suitable both for private and public reading, and for memorizing. The result is an English text that is enjoyable and easily understood by the vast majority of English speakers, regardless of their religious or educational background."

The Preface further extols the value of a variety of translations, as did the translators of the King James. They propose that the CEV be seen as "a companion--the mission arm--of traditional translations." They acknowledge their indebtedness to all translators and biblical scholars who have gone before them and have made it possible to understand something of the languages, cultures and history of biblical times. And together with the apostle Paul, they confess: "We don't have the right to claim that we have done anything on our own. God gives us what it takes to do all what we do" (2 Corinthians 3:5). "Offer praise to God our Savior because of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 24, 25)!

If we had the space, we would like to give lengthy quotations from this trans-

lation. Here are just a few verses: Psalm 23: 1, 2: "You, Lord are my shepherd. I will never be in need. You let me rest in fields of green grass. You lead me to streams of peaceful water, and you refresh my life." Psalm 24:1, "The earth and everything on it belong to the Lord. The world and its people belong to him." Jeremiah 31:31, 32, "The Lord said, 'The time will surely come when I will make a new agreement with the people of Israel and Judah. It will be different from the agreement I made with their ancestors when I led them out of Egypt. Although I was their God, they broke that agreement.'" Ezekiel 18:20, "Only those who sin will be put to death. Children won't suffer for the sins of their parents, and parents won't suffer for the sins of their children. Good people will be rewarded for what they do, and evil people will be punished for what they do." Daniel 2:44a, "During the time of those kings, the God who rules from heaven will set up an eternal kingdom that will never fall." Mark 16:15, 16, "Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world. Anyone who believes me and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe me will be condemned." Acts 26:28, "Agrippa asked Paul, 'In such a short time do you think you can talk me into being a Christian?'"

All the Words of Jesus, Compiled by Raymond Long, 510 pages, hardcover, Star Bible Publications, Fort Worth, TX. \$9.95 (U.S.)

Raymond Long completed this work shortly before his death. He was a man of deep compassion for the poor and others with major problems.

The first part of the book gives the words of Jesus in the order they appear in the Bible. The second, and much larger portion of the book, lists the Lord's words in topical order.

The King James Version is used, but it can easily be adapted for use with other versions.

P.C. Study Bible

This excellent computer program may be ordered from the Gospel Herald. Available in multiple translations and with Nave's Topical Bible, Bible Dictionary, Greek-Hebrew Dictionary and Concordance, Word Studies, Treasury of Scripture Knowledge.

1) This is now available for Windows with all the accompanying advantages:

2) There is now a New American Standard Version add-on.

For information and prices, contact:

Gospel Herald, 4904 Kintz Street, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B6
Phone/FAX (905) 563-7503

Finally, Back to India!

Donald Perry

It is now almost 18 years since I left India with my family, after working for 14 years in the northeast among the Khasis in the State of Meghalaya. During the month of April, after several abortive efforts through the years, I finally got to visit there. My son, Bob, and his wife, Elaine, accompanied me. It was a good experience to visit the church, school and community where we had lived and laboured.

I had been invited to be with the church in Mawlai, Shillong, for a special meeting with village congregations. The evening meetings started with local and village speakers. I preached in the Khasi language (with some difficulties after 18 years) on Saturday night and Sunday night and in English on Sunday afternoon. The church building was full and running over, and loud-speakers were used to broadcast to the neighbourhood. I met many people whom I knew, and many more whom I should have known but did not due to the changes of time. There were visitors from four or five village congregations. There were many local young people and children present. I was in-

vited to visit villages the following Sunday. David Hallett had recently been to good meetings with the Khasi brethren in Bhoilymbong; so, I chose to go to Kongpung. There we had two meetings and visited in two homes where we had tea and two big meals. I preached again in Khasi. We had prayers for the sick at two homes. The churches are carrying on. Dramsingh, the one Khasi who studied at Alpha Bible College, continues to do work among these churches. The people seem more prosperous now. They do have some vehicles available, and the bus services to villages is much better now. They need encouragement, and perhaps some short training courses from visiting brethren might be helpful. There was an effort to revive the church in Umroy while we were in Shillong.

I visited Mawlai Christian School. I had worked through the years as headmaster and was disappointed that the school was closed a couple of years after we left. I find that some of the teachers did keep a Khasi medium school operating with government grants through the years. In the past few years Mawlai Christian School has been revived as an

English medium school, with eight young Khasi women as teachers. The children are charged tuition and wear uniforms. Schooling is big business in India. Good quality schools can operate at a profit with the tuition charges they require. We met many of our former students and were much impressed with the advances they had made from being poor barefooted children in rags from illiterate families to being high school and college graduates with their own families with good jobs, wearing good clothes and living in good houses.

We had opportunity to visit in many homes, do some sight-seeing, some shopping, go to a wedding, attend Rotary Club and other functions. Dr. Bob got a chance to see veterinarian practices there when he made some calls with a fellow vet friend and did a C-section on a sow. Shillong was comfortable with some night thunder showers. Calcutta was 104°F when we flew in from Assam to come home, but we landed in a modern, spacious air-conditioned domestic airport. And, yes, we did have our digestive system upsets, and traveled in areas from which we afterwards read reports of people dying with gastroenteritis and epidemics of malaria.

Omagh UpDate

On April 29, 1995 at about 10 a.m., an arsonist set fire to Omagh's dining hall and kitchen and burned them to the ground. A man, a retired fire fighter, has been arrested and charged with the arson.

The basement of the McKerlie House will be used for the kitchen and dining hall this summer to allow camp activities to continue. The craft room will be moved to the McKerlie House living room, and the number of campers will be limited by having only 4 girls' and 4 boys' cabin groups. In years past we have been able to have a few more campers by adding an extra cabin group. That will not be possible this summer because of the need for space for classrooms, etc.

The Board is working on plans to rebuild the kitchen/dining hall, in the same location, in time for camp in 1996. The fall and winter will be used in getting the plans ready and raising the funds to build. The cost of building will likely be in the area of \$200,000. Building

plans and cost will be announced as soon as possible.

Please keep Camp Omagh, the Board of Directors, the camp staff and campers in your prayers that, in spite of this terrible act of destruction, the summer of 1995 will be a great one at Omagh.

--Max Craddock

GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Why not give the **Gospel Herald** --12 visits per year -- for \$10. New Christians, newlyweds, and H.S. and College graduates, one year FREE.

Evangelist Required

The congregation of Sundridge, Ontario requires a full-time minister. This congregation of approximately 90 members is self supporting and has a large number of young people.

Please send resumé to:

Church of Christ
Box 156
Sundridge, ON POA 1Z0

MURRAY F. HAMMOND

Murray Frederick Hammond was born in Toronto on May 30, 1929, to Fred and Sara Hammond, and he departed this life to be with his Saviour on April 13, 1995 at Grace Hospital in Windsor.

He leaves behind Joyce (Whitfield), his partner and companion whom he met in Vancouver and married on December 3, 1955; a son, Guy and his wife, Cathy, of Mississauga; a daughter, Sara, and her fiancé, Drew Chappados of Sudbury; twin daughters, Becky and Sharon of Windsor; and two grandchildren, Elinor Joyce and Wyatt Michael Murray Hammond. He is also survived by his sister, Viola, and her husband, Wally Jones of Lindsay.

Murray was baptized into Christ by brother Ray Crumbliss in 1941 at Omagh Bible Camp and determined to prepare himself to serve the Lord by attending Harding College. Due to contracting tuberculosis, he was unable to complete his studies there, and he returned to hospital in London, Ontario for treatment from 1948-51. He preached and taught Christ in the hospital chapel in London and was instrumental in planting the Lord's work in London. He completed correspondence studies for his Doctorate of Divinity and was a faithful gospel minister for the Lord's church in many cities in Canada including Vancouver, B.C., Thessalon, and Toronto, Ontario. Finally, in Windsor he served as the congregation's evangelist until failing health caused him to give up that work. He continued to serve as minister to the sick, teacher in the seniors' class (Keenagers), counselor and teacher of the youth in the congregation, and also in more recent years as an elder.

Guy described his father as a great man. Truly, this was an apt description of our beloved Murray. He knew and understood suffering, and even when he was faced with terminal cancer, he exhibited love and concern for everyone with whom he came in contact.

When his final illness was diagnosed, he accepted it with great courage, knowing that he was soon to receive that promised "crown of righteousness".

Brother Geoffrey Ellis of the Waterloo church of Christ officiated at the funeral service, which was attended by

close to 250 people. Keith Thompson of the Newmarket church of Christ and Guy Hammond from the Toronto church of Christ both presented stirring eulogies.

Many returned to the Windsor Church of Christ building for a time of fellowship and sharing of lunch. The graveside committal service was conducted the following day by a fellow elder, Bill Brown, at Victoria Memorial Cemetery.

Additional Note: Murray, Joe Cannon and the writer were picked up off the street by the late A.L. Whitelaw and taken to church meetings. While he was in the sanitarium with tuberculosis, the late Bruce Merritt took the Lord's supper to him each Sunday afternoon.

Murray published a book, *Why I Believe in God*, and some of his sermons are being assembled for a book to be published by the *Gospel Herald*.

--Keith Thompson

HERB WHITAKER

Following a long fight with cancer, brother Herb Whitaker passed away on April 19, 1995 at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Toronto. He is mourned by his wife, RoseMary, and daughter, Yvonne (Andy) Sayers; six grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; one sister; two brothers; a host of friends, and his church family at Strathmore.

I had the pleasure of baptizing Herb on June 13, 1993. He knew he was nearing his death, though the end came suddenly, but always maintained the joy and peace of Christ in his heart. During the time of his illness, he was a continual blessing to all who spent time with him. He spoke to all of his strong faith in God's blessings and of his eternal life. He will be missed by all of us who knew him, but memories of him will encourage and bless in the days ahead.

He was born in North Carolina and had music in his blood. His mother bought him a Sax when he was 12 years old, and he spent over 40 years in the music business as a musician and band leader. He retired from the hectic schedule involved in band work and worked for nine years in security at the American Consulate. Statements made to me by people who had worked with Herb over the years spoke of the high respect all had for him.

We pray that God will bless and strengthen RoseMary and Yvonne and all who mourn Herb's passing. We thank God for the joy of sharing the

Good News with him and seeing his faith and hope grow stronger day by day.

A funeral service of praise and thanksgiving was conducted by the writer on April 24, 1995 in Toronto.

--Max Craddock

RUTH HUNTSMAN

Ruth Huntsman, beloved, longtime member of the Beamsville Church of Christ, lost her battle with cancer on May 4 at the age of 83 years. She spent the last four months in the hospital. Her husband, Arnold, predeceased her in 1990. Her daughter, Lois, and her husband, Randy Morritt, with their children, Jennifer, Ben and Bruce, and a host of friends will miss her here, but "sorrow not as those who have not hope". She was always very supportive of her family, the church, and Great Lakes Christian College. She met weekly with the WAVES for quilting and will be much missed by them. She was full of good works. Her faith, hope and love were much evident in her final months. The funeral was conducted by Keith Thompson and Donald Perry.

--Donald Perry

IVAN A. MCCOMBS

Ivan A. McCombs of Fonthill was born December 1, 1907 to Jesse and Evelyn. He was the eldest child and was followed by a sister, Vida, and a brother, Don. Ivan went home to the Lord on March 19, 1995 while in his 88th year. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Reta (Culp) McCombs in 1991. He was the loving father of Dorothy Burton of Welland, John and Louise McCombs of Wainfleet, and Shirley and Neil Koudys of Port Robinson; dear grandfather of Marie Luciw, Betty Burton, Martha and Bob Cochrane all of Welland, Jason and Julie Koudys of Port Robinson, and Amy and Jeremy McCombs of Wainfleet; and great-grandfather of Garnet and Shannon Cochrane.

He will be fondly remembered by his brother, Donald and wife, Ruby, of Tempe, Arizona. He was predeceased by his first wife, Florence Dilts in 1939; his sister, Vida Montgomery; son-in-law, Lloyd Burton; and grandson, Arthur Burton.

Ivan and his daughter, Dorothy, moved to Beamsville after the death of his first wife, Florence.

Ivan loved to skate. He told of making ice rinks and jumping over barrels while skating. He loved to watch skat-

ing programs on T.V. He met his second wife, Reta, at a skating rink at Tufford Road school house. Ivan and Reta married and owned and operated the I.A. McCombs Greenhouse and Nursery in Fonthill, which opened in 1953.

Ivan was baptized into Christ in 1957 by Louis Pauls and has been faithful to Christ and his church throughout his life. He will also be greatly missed by his brothers and sisters in Christ at the Fenwick Church of Christ.

ISABELLA ELLIS

November 24, 1908-April 5, 1995

Isabella Ballantyne Ellis, a loyal and dedicated member of the church, passed away at Swift Current, Saskatchewan on Wednesday, April 5, 1995. Funeral services were held at the Church of Christ building on Saturday, April 8, 1995.

Belle, as she was known to all, was born on November 24, 1908 in Bels Hill, Scotland, to parents, James and Mary McCraig. In 1910, Belle came to Canada with her mother and brother, James, to join her father on the new homestead south of Bengough. She was united in marriage to Earl Ellis on November 1, 1927. Three children were born to them: Norman, Mabel and Ray.

Belle proclaimed the gospel of Christ in the life she lived. She will be sadly missed by her family, which includes 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

The writer has known this family for years and had previously taken a part in the funeral services of Belle's husband, Earl, and her beloved mother, dearly known as Grandma McCraig.

Belle knew that she was but a pilgrim in this world, always looking up in hope, with confidence in the reassurance that Christ was leading her home.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

--Roy H. Bailey

MELVIN EDDIE BRANDT

Melvin Eddie Brandt, beloved husband of Anna Brandt, passed away at the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital on Tuesday, April 25, 1995 at the age of 80 years. He was born at Wynyard, Saskatchewan on August 2, 1914. There he attended a small country school while growing up on a farm with his three brothers and two sisters, all of whom and his parents have predeceased him.

On February 6, 1937 he was married to Ann Skibinski, also of the Wynyard district. The young couple lived and worked on a farm near there when their first child, Glen, was born. In 1941 they moved to Neepawa, Manitoba, where they managed a fairly large farming operation for about 13 years. It was here that Raymond and Mildred were added to the family. The family moved in 1954 to Nesbitt, Manitoba where Mel began work as a mechanic for the rural municipality. Then in 1957 they moved to Weyburn, Saskatchewan. Mel found employment with Fargo Oils, Ltd., while Ann did the cooking at Western Christian College.

In the years that followed, Mel and Ann lived in Carnduff and Estevan, Saskatchewan before moving to Lone Rock, a small place near Lloydminster. It was here that Mel retired in 1979 after 22 years of dedicated service to his company. In 1990 they moved to Medicine Hat.

Throughout the years, Mel dearly loved his family and especially enjoyed taking his grandchildren on fishing trips. His retirement activities included Bee-Keeping, fishing, and being active in church work as had been his interest wherever they lived. Mel was baptized in 1942 by Gordon Pennock of Winnipeg. In his own friendly way, Mel

was an example and an encouragement to many. For more than 52 years he served his Master faithfully. He always loved the singing of hymns at church. His prayers were thoughtful and an inspiration to all of us.

Mel leaves to mourn his passing his beloved Ann, who shared his life for more than 58 years; 2 sons: Glen of Regina, and Raymond (Barbara) of Calgary; one daughter, Mildred (Brian) Latimer of Medicine Hat; four grandsons: Kane (Val) of Medicine Hat, Will (Jody) of Regina, Curtis of Calgary and Brad Latimer of Medicine Hat; 2 granddaughters: Shannon Latimer of Medicine Hat and Nadine (Vince) Kolodychuck of Calgary; and one very special great-grandson, Jesse, of Regina.

He is also survived by sisters-in-law: Doris (George) Melnychuck of McCreary, Manitoba and Kate Skibinsky of Estevan; brothers-in-law: Matthew (Audrey) Skibinsky of Eden, Manitoba and Nick (Mary) Skibinsky of Carrot River, Saskatchewan along with numerous nieces and nephews as well as a host of friends everywhere.

We shall miss him, but our sadness is not without hope.

Words of encouragement and hope were spoken by Ernest Andreas and Gary Friesen led the congregation in singing a number of Mel's favourite hymns.

Pinehill Church of Christ

Sault St. Marie, Ontario

invites you to attend the

Northern Ontario June Meeting

on Sunday, June 25

Theme: Where is Jesus in My Life?

Speakers:

Dean Hotchkiss, Ice Lake

Maurice Brown, Sudbury

Stanley Day, Cheboygan

Special worship service will be available for young children at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Location: 132 Cunningham Road (one block south of McNabb Street; one block west of Pine Street.

If accommodations are required, please phone: 949-4988 (building) or 949-7612 (Rob Whitfield) or 942-7999 (Guy Stoppard).

Lunch provided.

News East

(continued from page 11)

On April 18 the congregation had a night of prayer and fasting beginning at 7 p.m. Vaughn Saraphanian left for two months' training in Germany on April 22. He took a new job which required this training.

St. Catharines: Joanne Isaac was baptized into Christ on April 4. The memorial service for Mrs. Frances Renshaw was held May 4 at 4 p.m.

Stratford: Kathy Hoover flew to Livingston, Montana for the funeral of her grandmother, Hester Lewis, on April 27. The Great Lakes Men's Quartet sang and led a devotional with the young people on April 29. They took the service on Sunday morning, and Jonathan Straker presented the lesson. Following the potluck, the young men led in another hour of singing.

Thirteen ladies attended the "Ladies' Night Out" wrap up of the ladies enrichment class. Violet Whitfield was surprised by a party for her 80th birthday on May 14. The new baptistry is now ready for use. All are invited to visit for the 10th Anniversary on June 25.

Sundridge: The Ray Miller weekend was May 5-7.

Thunder Bay: Ellis Swanson was baptized on April 16. Jamie Toews and Sean Hammond were married in Hamilton on April 21. Malcom McMillan arrived in mid-May to work with the congregation for the summer.

Tillsonburg: The Ladies' Day held on May 6 was enjoyed by about 50 ladies. One young man was baptized on May 14 when Art Ford was visiting.

Tintern: The brethren were able to pay \$16,500 on the principal of their mortgage and hope to have it paid off in the next five years. Jenni Stanley will soon be home from Wales. She has visited Rome and Berlin. Rayburn Lansdale spoke at the Men's Breakfast on May 13 at the Tallman Fireside Room. Cory Smith called from Papua New Guinea to say that he was going to the highlands near Garoka where he is planning to build a grass house in which to live. He will be working with the small churches in that area.

Toronto (Bayview): Hal and Nina Strahm placed membership at Bayview. They moved here from the U.S.A.

Bayview's 1995 budget is \$1,130, and they have been breaking it with an average of \$1,220. The congregation was sponsor of the Training for Service program on April 14. Over 500 registered to hear Kelly Carter of Victoria, B.C. Kelly was the guest speaker on April 15 for the Sunday morning service. Ron Pauls was guest speaker on April 30. Darryl Buchanan attended the Pepperdine Lectureship. A Bring-a-Friend Sunday was planned for May 7.

Toronto (Harding Avenue): On April 2 the Harding Avenue congregation had a special African Service followed by a potluck.

Toronto (Strathmore): The video, *The Blessing*, featuring Gary Smalley and John Trent, was viewed. This film on the importance of giving and receiving love, is for all. Sister Flora Argantona moved to California. She has been part of the Spanish congregation for two years. A Christian brother, Martin Lopes, from Costa Rica came to Canada to visit fellow Christians in Winnipeg and was detained in Milton. There was some kind of problem with his passport. Herb Whitaker, who had been a Christian for two years, died April 20. Walter Straker spoke as an exchange speaker with Max on April 23. Liong Tjhio has been visiting the services. He is a member of the church from Sao Paulo, Brazil. On May 7 during the Bring-a-Friend Day with 187 in attendance, Kodua and Kofi Dwomoh, sons of Peter and Euphemia, were baptized into their Lord. Max Craddock is on a one-week trip to Ohio and will speak at the congregation where he first spoke 35 years ago.

Waterloo: Geoff and Doreen Ellis visited in Harpeth Hills in Nashville where Geoff spoke on the Sunday evening. \$1,800 of the \$2,000 targeted by Waterloo for Piedra Menuda, Nicaragua has been raised. Help is still needed on the other \$4,000. Megan Sandiford gave her life to Jesus on Sunday morning, March 16 and was baptized by her father. Ashley Sandiford committed her life to the Lord Jesus on Sunday, April 23. Teresa Castro and her girls made a visit to El Salvador, and Kay Kowalski made a trip to Manitoba. Geoff Ellis left on Saturday, May 6 to go to Russia with Wesley Jones in a continuing effort to spread the gospel. He will return on May 27. Doreen went to Georgia to visit their son and family.

Volunteers are distributing the Good News is for Sharing booklets in Waterloo.

Welland: The Kids for Christ program has been very successful this year with a total of 56 children having attended at least once. The last session for the school term will be held on June 16 with a picnic and an invitation to all the parents. The request for financial assistance to repair the roof of our building has brought in \$2,020 thus far. Local members are expected to add at least \$1,250 more, but the estimated cost is close to \$30,000. The following brethren have preached at Sunday afternoon meetings in recent weeks: David Lock, Brad Corbett, Walt Cromwell and Henry Boland. Magnar Knutson is undergoing tests for a kidney problem.

Windsor (Westside): Murray Hammond, who was an elder in the congregation, departed this life to be with his Lord on Thursday, April 13. He will be very greatly missed. Lewis Mutuma is still seeking help to ship a container of relief and medical supplies to Zimbabwe in June. He plans to be there when it arrives along with a shipment from Beamsville to be forwarded to neighboring Zambia.

QUEBEC

Lachine: On March 29, Edith Abusomwan was baptized by Leonard Amanati. After three years of effort, the French worship services have been discontinued. Jacques and Josette Marchal will continue to work with the English-speaking congregation. Joyce Matheson was baptized on February 25 following five months of Bible study. English as a second language for immigrants was started recently with 10 students. In June, James and Terrancia Bell will be arriving from Dominica, West Indies, to begin a new congregation in LaSalle. In December, 1995, Sylvain and Martine Arsenault will graduate from IBC and return to Montreal to establish a French-English congregation. In July the congregation in Lachine plans to take on the full support of Christopher Blackwell, who will work with the English-speaking congregation.

Montreal: The Spanish work meets Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday p.m. with about 20 in attendance.

Sherbrooke: Luc Fortin reports that things are going well with a good spirit

present. He had four studies with new contacts during a recent week.

NOVA SCOTIA

Mill Village: Assisted by Jack Mackey, Bev Wells was baptized on March 31 as a result of Bible studies. The congregation is looking for property in the immediate area for future use. The present building sits on a postage stamp sized lot making renovations and extensions and parking a problem.

Moncton: Tim Johnson is busy with "lots of Bible studies", many home visits and lots of company. He and fellow elder Royal Maillet are visiting one family each week and find this to be helpful. Royal has written a fine pamphlet about the Lord's church, which is being used door to door.

NEW YORK

North Buffalo: On June 3 at 10 a.m. there is going to be an adult Bible Bowl on the book of Esther from the NIV. Congregations in New York and Southern Ontario have been invited to participate. A Mother-Daughter banquet was held May 13.

Solve Gift Selection Problems

Give a Bible, Book, Electronic Bible, Computer Bible Program; for children: games, books, puzzles or Bible-based computer games.
Gospel Herald, 4904 King St., Beaverville, ON L0R 1B6

Dreaming

(continued from page 13)

when, of a sudden, seeming disaster strikes, and his castles crumble and are become as nothing. But when that happens, when a man's dreams have been destroyed, then he must dream new dreams, bigger, and better, and nobler dreams than before, and then, with indomitable determination, he must proceed, with the help of God, to make those dreams to materialize and to become living realities!

And the same holds true for a church. If it should ever happen that certain of this congregation's plans do not pan out, then let your old men dream NEW dreams and your young men to see NEW visions. Whatever you do, never, never, never, despair of dreaming, but always aspire higher yet and higher!

--March 1972

Unrelated Matters?

(continued from page 5)

Putting what we already know into practice will help make our children's lives more healthy in every way.

Cal Thomas concludes his column with these words of encouragement: . . . the latest poll of children is a wake-up call for parents to monitor more closely their children's

lives and to be as concerned with what is going into their minds as the quality of food and water they consume.

We know that children are a gift from God, but they are also a responsibility. Let us all be as concerned with the teaching our children receive as we are with their physical well being.

HELP NEEDED!

Readers may have observed that the current issues of the Gospel Herald are marked Volume 60. This means that this gospel paper will soon complete 60 years of service among us.

We appreciate the encouragement and support of many, and once more request help to increase circulation. When renewing your subscription, why not include subscriptions for others who might appreciate the paper and benefit from it.

Max Craddock has contacted someone in most churches asking for assistance. We appreciate the resulting promotional notices we have seen in several church bulletins.

--E.C.P.

Nicaragua

The 32 churches in Nicaragua reported 794 baptisms and 293 restorations from February to October 1994. Also, 5,000 people are studying World Bible School courses.

--Christian Chronicle

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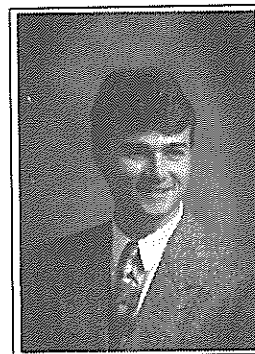
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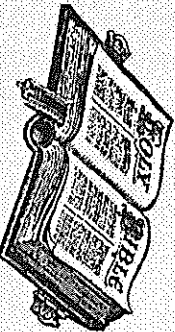
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Lesson 1, cover page



The Bible

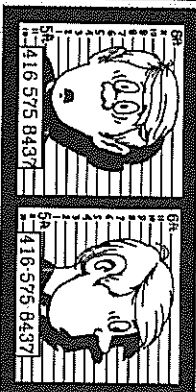
So...
You say you
believe the Bible?

Are Bible stories just myths?
Does the Bible contain errors?
Did Jesus Christ ever really live?
Does the Bible contradict science?

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Lesson 3, cover page

Is Jesus Really Your Lord?



If you were *arrested*
for being a Christian...
Would there be enough *evidence*
to convict you?

© Steve Rudd

Facts & Feelings



Are your *feelings*
of salvation based
upon the *facts* of
the Bible?

- Could you be lost even though you feel saved?
- Is the church you attend the same one Christ died for?
- Why are all the churches divided over doctrine?
- Does it matter which church you attend with?
- If Jesus were on earth today, where would He attend?
- Where did all the churches come from today? If Jesus established only one church in the first century?

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Various sections from the three test sheets

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Age _____

Your Church Affiliation _____

Please Enclose With My Next Lesson

✓ Free, but check only one please!

- ☐ A list of 60 Bible prophecies, complete with their fulfillment.
A unique daily Bible reading schedule.
A commentary for husbands & wives. (Type in your fringe case)
☐ Bible passages that show Jesus to be the divine creator.
What does the Bible teach on heaven and hell?

Ask Yourself...

Do you attend every week with a local church? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐

If you did tonight would you go to heaven? ☐ UNSURE ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐

Is Jesus happy with your present level of commitment to Him?
☐ Unsure ☐ No ☐ Yes

How would you describe the way you presently follow Jesus?
☐ Committed Christian ☐ So So ☐ Non-Christian

Please answer my questions...

☐ Is Bible teaching sprinkling pouring or immersion?
How can I be absolutely sure about my own salvation?
☐ Where did all the hundreds of denominations come from?
What exactly is the Bible blueprint of doctrine and worship?

The choice is yours!

✓ We hope this Bible study has been interesting and challenging for you.
We have many other Bible study options for you to choose from. All of
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any obligation. *The choice is entirely yours!*

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