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It's a Little Thing

Roy D. Merritt

(From the March, 1959 issue of the Gospel Herald. That was the 25th Anniversary of the Herald.)

A coral snake is a pretty little thing, but its bite can send a soul winging into eternity within minutes. A bullet is a small thing, but it, too, can reduce mortal man to dust. A lie may be a single word, but its effect can stagger communities and even nations. Of all the puerile excuses known to man for failure to obey God's Word, one of the feeblest is the expression "It's a little thing".

When the Almighty God of heaven has legislated on any matter, how dare one of His creatures presume that it is a minor thing? In the face of a deliberate flouting of His law, the loving Father becomes the Almighty Avenger. The writer of the Hebrew Epistle speaks of this when he says, "For we know him that said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense. And again, The Lord shall judge His people. It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:30-31).

Perhaps to Adam, the eating of a certain fruit was a little thing, but tears, pain, shame and death bear testimony to his mistake. Modern man can be just as mistaken in his sense of values. Only eternity can reveal the full penalty for despising the authority of Him who has spoken.

To some, the necessity of baptism is obvious; its action is a matter of little consequence. To others the offering of hymns to God is an important item of worship; the introduction of an unauthorized kind of music is a little thing which needs no authority apart from custom or desire. To some, allegiance to Christ in profes-

sion is a must; the name to be worn by such followers is open to choice. And so innovations, substitutions and sheer inventions pile up to dam the unthinking masses which are content with a show of things. What a travesty of obedience this is!

The church of our Lord is a unique institution with distinctive characteristics which set it apart from various denominations. If it ceases to be such an institution and compromises for the sake of peace or popularity, it has lost its very reason for existence—the glorification of Christ as absolute monarch over the whole spiritual realm, man and angels (Philippians 2:9-11). Although some of these distinctions may seem slight to man's reason, the very fact that



Christ saw fit to furnish the pattern should be enough to make them important in our eyes.

If Christ's command to baptize every believer is a matter of eternal life or death, who is to say that the act of immersing is not to be as zealously obeyed as the design? On a command that prepares a soul not only for time but for eternity as well, what consummate folly it is to substitute sprinkling or pouring with the explanation, "It's only a little thing"! Russian roulette is safe compared with this juggling of actions.

If the music that Christ commands is the combined melody of happy hearts and the fruit of reverent lips, it is no small thing to devote our energy to the satisfaction of human listeners. There is no more evidence that Christ will be pleased with mechanical music than that He would be satisfied with a Tibetan prayer-wheel in our prayers. One cannot worship God mechanically.

If a man agrees that the profession of allegiance to Christ is indispensable to salvation, how can he shrug off as "a little thing" the refusal to wear that name religiously "which is above every name"? Is it really "a small thing" to glorify some man or method or location rather than acting in THE name of which we are told: "Neither is there any other name under heaven which is given among men wherein we must be saved" (Acts 4:12)? A name is a small thing but I would protect my good name with every fibre of my being, and so would you yours. Are we to deny Christ the glory that is His due by a refusal to be content with His name?

When a man 'or' woman is stubborn or sensual, the excuse, "It's a little thing", may seem like a sufficient answer to every charge of digression. When hearts are inclined to "go beyond the things that are written", eyes are out of focus to the enormity of sin. Golden calves of error do not just happen. They are the product of a weakened regard for true authority and a decision to furnish man's "improvement" of God's plan.

Neglect or rejection of any point of God's revealed truth is never a little thing. Thirty years ago a handful of gypsy moths that had been imported into the United States for experimental purposes escaped. They could have been easily destroyed then, but when they were allowed to reproduce, they cost the State of Massachusetts alone \$700,000 and it is estimated that it will cost another \$1,000,000 to put an end to them. From small beginnings come disastrous results. The time to avoid the results of sin is by refusing to tolerate even "a little one".

St. Catharines, ON

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

How Do You Read?

Eugene C. Perry

(This article is from the June, 1957 issue of the Gospel Herald)

(“How Chinese Christians Obey Bible” is the title suggested by Jordan Wen, who was introduced by Willard Collins at the David Lipscomb College Lectureship and told the story which is the basis for this article.)

We recently met a Chinaman who showed us that it makes a difference how we read. He said that in China they read up and down the page. Consequently, as one reads the Bible he is saying yes by the nod of the head, “Yes God, that is right. Yes God, I’ll do that.” By contrast, said Bro. Wen, you Americans read from the left to right and are saying by the nod of the head as you read, “No, God, I don’t believe that. No, God, I won’t do that.” Perhaps a contrast of the religious receptivity of Americans with that indicated by the following story will show that this illustration is far too true.

What will the word of God produce if presented to unprejudiced, honest minds? What will a wheat seed produce in good soil? Each will produce what God meant it to produce. That God’s word should produce anything but simple New Testament Christians and pure New Testament churches is inconsistent with the laws of nature or of reason.

No doubt, wherever the Bible has gone the centuries have witnessed many stories like the following told by Jordan Wen, who came from Formose (Free China), five months ago, to America. We took notes as he told in his interesting way in broken but understandable English of an independent, 50 year old, restoration movement in heathen China.

An American medical doctor who instructed in the first medical school in China invited some of his students into his home in the evening

to read verses of the gospel of John and to recite a memory verse. Upon graduation, some 4 or 5 of these were so inspired with what they had learned that they voluntarily gave up the honour and wealth of their hard gained schooling to become the first group of travelling evangelists. They preached for various denominational groups and caused a great religious revival among them. They seemed not yet conscious of important errors existing and caused no offense.

However, some 20 years later (35 years ago) a second great revival resulted in a plea to return to the New Testament teachings and practices. Such, as is usually the case, resulted in these groups being forced to assemble separately.

This revival was characterized by the publication of many books and papers exposing the denominations although no public debates occurred.

What did these people find in their New Testament as result of their independent study? Baptism, by immersion, for the remission of sins was taught. They observed the Lord’s Supper weekly because of Acts 20:7 and usually in the evening because it is called a ‘supper’ (the word for the evening meal).

Great effort was made to avoid becoming denominational in any way—nearly every congregation used a different name, but tried, nevertheless, to use a scriptural one.

continued on page 7



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The Command All Must Obey

J.C. Bailey

(This article is from the February 1964 Gospel Herald)

THE BIBLE IS TRUE. There are a number of reasons why I accept that statement. I shall tell you one reason why I believe that the Bible came from the mind of eternal God. The prophecies of the Bible are fulfilled. No man can foretell the future with accuracy. The Bible never errs. Therefore it is not the product of man but of Jehovah God.

The Bible tells us in Isaiah chapters 13 and 14 that Babylon would be destroyed. History tells us that Babylon was destroyed, and in the way that God said it would be destroyed. The Bible tells us in Zephaniah, chapter two and in the book of Nahum how Nineveh would be destroyed. History shows us that is just what happened. The Bible tells us that Tyre would be destroyed. This prophecy is fulfilled in the most minute detail. Read about it in Ezekiel chapter 26. Then pick up any good history book and you will find that every one of these cities is in the exact condition today that the Bible foretold thousands of years ago. We have given three examples but we could give hundreds of examples.

The God who foretold these remarkable things has commanded all men to repent. Listen! "The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now He commandeth men that they should all everywhere REPENT; inasmuch as He hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30, 31). God appointed a day in which He judged Nineveh, Babylon and Tyre. In each case these nations failed to repent of their sins. Now God is going to someday judge all men. I know this is true by what He has done.

Why is Punishment for Sin Long Delayed?

Why does this world with all its wickedness stand? I shall show you why. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promises as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). So we can go on in sin if we choose and face a fate worse than the fate of Tyre, Babylon or Nineveh. We can repent of our sins, turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and have the hope of life eternal. He who never lies has promised just that. He has said: "And having been made perfect, He became unto all them that obey Him the author of eternal salvation" (Hebrews 5:9). Are you willing to follow Nineveh, Tyre and Babylon into the fruit of unrepentant life or will you surrender to God in repentance?

Why We Should Repent?

Listen to the Word of God: "Or despiseth thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and long suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Romans 2:4). God gives us the sunshine. God gives us the rain. God gives us the bounties of harvest. God gives us the heart to love and

be loved. The closer we come to God the greater this is. This is subject to proof. Jesus said to judge a tree by its fruit. The fruit of Christianity is good. Do we despise, and go on living in our sins?

Again we read: "And He said unto them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46, 47). God showed His supreme love in that He sent His Son to die for us. HE CONQUERED DEATH. He assures us that if we obey Him that we too shall rise from the dead to die no more. In order to reach this happy state we must REPENT. We must know no other allegiance but to Jehovah God through Jesus Christ.

Too often we look on the sins of others and think that they should repent of them, and they should, but we fail to see that we must repent of our sins. Jesus said: "I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5).

What is Repentance?

What does God require of us when He tells us to repent or perish? Some say that to repent means to be sorry for our sins. Repentance is more than being sorry for our sins, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation" (2 Corinthians 7:10). Judas was sorry for his sins but he went out and hanged himself. Our sorrow must be GODLY sorrow. Sorrow is not repentance but it will WORK repentance.

Jesus gave us examples to show us what repentance is. He said the people of Nineveh repented (Matthew 12:41). We find that the people of Nineveh turned everyone from his evil way (Jonah 3:10). Jesus said that a certain young man repented when he did what his father told him to do (Matthew 21:29).

Have you repented? Have you turned from your evil way? Are you resolved to do the will of your Father who is in heaven? If you have not then you have not repented. WHY SHOULD WE PERISH?

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A Distinctly Canadian Paper – PART 1

Wayne Turner

Periodicals have played an important role in the North American Restoration Movement from its earliest days. Eugene Perry has observed that Alexander Campbell's writings often went ahead of those preaching on the frontier and prepared the way.¹ As the movement spread and membership increased, new journals, often referred to as "brotherhood papers", came into being. These provided teaching material and brotherhood news, as well as discussion and debate of the various issues within the movement.

As brethren in the United States created numerous brotherhood papers, like-minded Christians in Canada recognized the need for similar publications for the small but growing movement in Canada. Reuben Butchart and Eugene Perry have documented a number of the journals in Canada of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Many of these publications did not survive, most often for lack of finances or subscribers. The *Gospel Herald* has served the a cappella Churches of Christ in Canada for 75 years. As we begin, we acknowledge that these articles will rely heavily on the work of Eugene C. Perry's compilation of the history of the *Gospel Herald*, originally prepared as part of a Master's thesis for Pepperdine University in 1971.

The Early Years

The *Gospel Herald* (G.H.) was started in March, 1936, by Robert Sinclair. Looking back, J.C. Bailey, Canadian preacher and former editor, recalled some of the earlier Canadian papers: the *Canadian Helper*, the *Bible Student*, and the *Christian Monthly Review*. The last of these to fail, the *Christian Monthly Review* ceased publication in 1933. Bailey points out the irony that the Review "died in the depression in a prosperous part of Canada" and the G.H.

"was born during the depression in the bush country."²

Sinclair was twenty-one when he started the G.H. in 1936. He was baptized in Horse Creek, Saskatchewan in 1928 at a protracted meeting held by C.W. Petch.³ In 1929, Petch moved to Horse Creek to preach and appears to have strongly influenced Sinclair. In December, 1932, Sinclair attended and was valedictorian of the three month winter school at Ogema, Saskatchewan, which had been organized by J.C. Bailey, who served as principal and teacher. In December, 1935, Bailey and Sinclair discussed the idea of starting a paper. Sinclair soon advised Bailey of his plan to do so, with the first issue appearing in March.

Sinclair had very definite views on what would and would not be included in the new paper. "He gave the three-fold purpose—to spread the gospel; to strengthen Christians and to encourage each other... [He] hoped to avoid two pitfalls—teaching that which is not

true and unkindness in the teaching. Affirming that nothing personal or unkind would be published, he stated that debating among brethren hinders the work of Christ."⁴

Initially, Sinclair worked out of a small room in his father's home. By September, he had acquired a new and faster duplicating machine. In December, 1937, the place of publication changed to Carman, Manitoba. In early 1938, Bailey "commended the remarkable job done by an inexperienced editor and referred especially to the problem of keeping arguments out of the paper."⁵

Bailey recalled some of the early problems Sinclair faced. Lack of finances threatened his ability to even publish the paper. Bailey suggested Sinclair appoint him as Business Manager. Second, Sinclair had difficulty getting the paper out on time. Sinclair was offended when Bailey suggested the paper be turned over to him.⁶ Despite Sinclair's reaction, the change of editor was announced in December, 1939. Sinclair continued to publish the paper.

Another challenge Sinclair faced was trying to keep the G.H. "Canadian" with articles written by Canadian Christians. In January, 1939, both Sinclair and Bailey challenged Canadian brethren to write more articles. Previous issues had relied heavily on reprints of articles from the papers serving the American brotherhood. Perry notes the challenge quickly led to improvement.⁷

Of Sinclair's work with the *Gospel Herald*, Perry concludes, "Robert Sinclair had done a commendable job in launching the *Gospel Herald* in the dry prairies during the depression. The evidence is that he gave much in sacrificial labour in early years and that later, when much of the work was hired, he had supplemented

continued on page 6



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A Distinctly Canadian Paper... continued from page 5
the earned and donated income of the paper.”⁸ Sinclair continued to publish the paper until March, 1942. His last contribution was apparently an article in 1944. Perry notes the end of Sinclair’s involvement with the G.H., “It is sad to state that he, who so valiantly laboured, is no longer affiliated with the cause he then supported.”⁹

Bailey Years

By the fall of 1939, the paper was near disaster. When Bailey took over as editor in January, 1940, subscriptions were dropping and only Bailey wrote regularly.¹⁰ Bailey, then in Meaford, Ontario, was challenged by the fact that he was about 1,200 miles away from where it was being published.

Bailey was an exceptional candidate for the editorial task. Perry notes that his “dynamic personality, optimism... courage...his popularity and widespread respect, together with his many travels throughout the Dominion enabled an increase in circulation to a peak not reached before nor since.” He was a shrewd business manager, willing to make personal sacrifices to keep the paper going.¹¹

Bailey continued the tone begun by Sinclair, keeping unnecessary controversy out of the paper. However, this did not keep him from attempting to “meet all challenges and answer or have answered all questions.”¹² One of the strongest positions taken by Bailey (and Sinclair before him) was on the question of a Christian’s involvement in war. In March, 1936, Sinclair published an article by Lillian Torkelson on “Christians and War.” Perry notes that, “beginning in October (1939) considerable space was given to articles on the question of the Christian going to war. They supported conscientious objection to enlistment.”¹³ Shelley Jacobs has traced the influence of the pacifistic views of David Lipscomb, James Harding and the Nashville Bible School into Canada through the congregation in Meaford, Ontario, and into Western Canada through the Carman Bible School in Manitoba, then subsequently into Saskatchewan and into the pages of the *Gospel Herald*. She notes, “From the opening discussions on war, the

Gospel Herald took a pacifist stance and never wavered.”¹⁴ Later, she points out that “J.C. Bailey was a prominent voice in the *Gospel Herald* on the issue of pacifism.”¹⁵

In 1942, when Sinclair ceased publishing the paper, Bailey had it printed in Meaford, Ontario. In 1944, Bailey moved back to Radville, Saskatchewan. Due to wartime restrictions, it was necessary to acquire their own used printing equipment and paper. With the move to Radville, he enlisted the voluntary assistance of some of the brethren there, as well as paid help from students at Radville Christian College, especially his son John.

During his years as editor, Bailey tried to extend the reach of the paper by recruiting associate editors from as many provinces as possible. His choice of content showed that he wanted the paper to be helpful to the average Christian. Perry observes, “The effort was obviously more in the direction of producing a representative paper than a polished paper”¹⁶ and that Bailey often prepared the paper “with a consciousness that isolated brethren depended on it for fellowship.”¹⁷ In 1947, after attending the Abilene Christian College lectures, Bailey was excited by the opportunities of the post-war period and resolved to use the G.H. to promote evangelism.¹⁸ Evangelism and missions have since been featured themes.

The paper was not without disagreement. At one point, Sinclair submitted an article that Bailey refused to publish. There was a difference in wording between the King James and the American Revised Version, which Bailey preferred. Bailey believed the other wording to be erroneous and refused to publish the article. He later stated, “The *Gospel Herald* went into hundreds of homes and some obeyed the gospel as a result of the things that were printed there.”¹⁹

In August, 1953, Bailey mentioned the possibility of passing the G.H. into other hands. His work on the paper limited his ability to fulfill one of his deepest goals – reaching out into new places. Two months later, he introduced Eugene Perry and Roy Merritt as the new owners and editors. He recalled, “To me, the *Gospel Herald* has become

a part of my life. I have said several times that it was almost like giving up one of the children.” Throughout its 17 years, he had written something every month except one. He had been editor, business manager and publisher. Of the new owners, he said that they have “assured me that they plan no great change in policy. They are both capable ... you need feel no qualms in giving them your unstinted support.”²⁰ The change in editorship also meant that the G.H. would again be leaving its Prairie roots in Western Canada and going East.

In 1971, Perry summarized Bailey’s time as editor: “Bailey had sometimes acknowledged the difficulty of deciding what to print. The policy of promoting New Testament Christianity must be satisfied and he was pledged to contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. At the same time he promised to avoid contention as much as this policy would permit. He strove to ride no hobbies and to hate the sin rather than the sinner. The paper was not a church paper and strove not to regulate nor interfere in the affairs of local churches.”²¹

Winnipeg, MB

1 Eugene C. Perry, *A History of Religious Periodicals in the Restoration Movement in Canada*. (Beamsville, Ontario: Gospel Herald Foundation, 2003) 11.

2 J. C. Bailey, “Some Recollections of an Old Man,” *Gospel Herald* 51 No. 10 (October 1985): 8.

3 Shelley Jacobs, “The Life of Charles W. Petch,” (paper presented to the Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society Annual Meeting, Newmarket, Ontario, August 16, 2008).

4 *Ibid*, 192.

5 *Ibid*, 194.

6 J. C. Bailey, *Forty Years a Canadian Preacher: 1921-1961*, (Abilene, Texas: Matthews Printing Company), 89.

7 Perry, *Religious Periodicals*, 196.

8 *Ibid*, 197.

9 *Ibid*, 197.

10 *Ibid*, 198.

11 *Ibid*, 194.

12 *Ibid*, 199.

13 *Ibid*, 197.

14 Shelley Jacobs, “Pacifism in Churches of Christ in Western Canada During World War II and the Influence of Nashville Bible School,” *Restoration Quarterly* 48, No. 4, 222.

15 *Ibid*, 223.

16 Perry, *Religious Periodicals*, 204.

17 *Ibid*, 203.

18 *Ibid*, 204.

19 Bailey, *Forty Years*, 89.

20 J.C. Bailey, “The Gospel Herald Changes Hands: Here Are the New Owners,” *Gospel Herald* 19, No. 9 (October 1953): 1.

21 Perry, *Religious Periodicals*, 212.

How Do You Read?... continued from page 3

Some cited are Christian Assembly (from meaning of word church), Christian Chapel, Church of Jesus Christ, Church of God and Church of Christ.

At first these small groups met and worshipped in homes. Then as they grew they rented public halls. Still further growth created a problem. It being difficult to find a large enough place for 700-1000 to meet in, simple buildings were erected. This caused division as some felt it was unscriptural.

Many other questions were debated as the years passed. At first one cup served all at the Lord's table. But congregations of 3-5-700 could not be served. Individual cups were used and resulted in further division.

Some women prepared to preach but learned that such was unscriptural and had to keep silent except to teach the children. Foot washing was once practised but study brought the conclusion that it was not a church ordinance but a lesson in humility. The holy kiss (man to man, and woman to woman) was soon replaced by the holy handclasp.

Those not members were not to attend at the Lord's Supper except perhaps once to observe. Offerings placed in boxes at the entrance could be given at any time (not just Sunday).

About 20 years ago it was realized that the deplorable, sinful divided

condition of the churches was causing a great failure to evangelize and grow. A few began to meet each month for 3 days of prayer. Others joined them. The result: in about three months—confessions of failure and restoration of unity.

All decided that division was sinful and it seems that the basis of the reunion was "Major things unity, minor things freely, everything charity". Another slogan used was "No creed but Christ, No Law but Love, No Book but the Bible".

Most evangelists were sent by the local church to the frontier and travelled about, largely dependent on the voluntary support of those among whom they travelled. Only large congregations supported an evangelist and he also was always sent out so that he should not get any ideas about a church belonging to him. Each congregation had a plurality of elders and many deacons.

What great power there is in unity! What wonderful blessing is peace among brethren! Brother Wen reports that all were now fired with zeal, and the power of united effort resulted in widespread and rapid growth. He said, "We could have evangelized all China thus reaching 500,000,000 souls; ¼ of the world's population, but too late. We won the admiration of denominational people. They liked to learn from us. But it was too late".

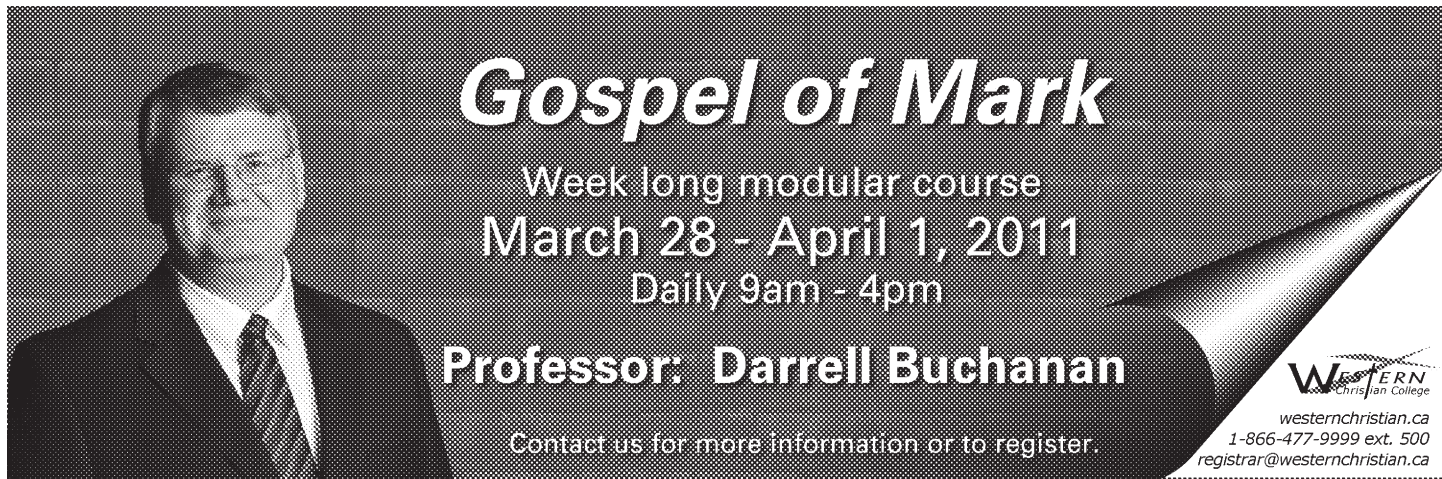
The Communists soon came.

Because most denominational groups had headquarters with whom the communist could work and through whom they could use the pulpits, they were permitted to continue. Not so with these independent congregational groups each with a different name. The communist couldn't understand such a set-up. The churches would not co-operate. In the winter of 1955 about 750 elders and evangelists were imprisoned. In so far as Brother Wen knows these are still in prison and in urgent need of our prayers. The churches, however, continue to meet and preach with new leaders.

Brother Wen comes from free China where there are 4 churches. He says there were about 100 on the east coast of Communist China, the largest with 1200 members. He came to America, unconscious of the fact that there were churches of Christ anywhere else except China. He began searching for a church, faithful to the New Testament and found such in Chillicothe, Missouri, within 2 months. Brother Wen hopes to stay one year in America and learn more. He may attend one of the Christian Colleges next fall.

May we read our Bibles with the right attitude!

Beamsville, ON



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Neglecting Our Faith

Fred Knutson

(From the June, 1986 issue of the Gospel Herald. This was the 50th Anniversary of the 50th year of the Gospel Herald)

She was a vibrant, enthusiastic person, who would describe her new life in Christ as “wonderful”. Her love for the Lord seemed to fill every corner of her world, and she longed for the fellowship of other Christians.

All went well for a couple of years, and when changes came, they were so slow and gradual, they were almost unnoticed. First there was a change in general attitude, a loss of some of her enthusiasm. If you had asked her about it, she would have said, “The church no longer provides me the lift I need”. This change in attitude was followed by a decline in activity and an absence from the assemblies. First it was Sunday night, then midweek and then Sunday morning. Finally, having taken up with an unbelieving young man, she quit altogether. Today if you were to call, you would not be welcome. There would just be a cold, embarrassing silence; she has her life, and you have yours.

Does it really happen? Yes it does, and more often than we care to admit! But how? How does it happen? How does one go from being “on fire” for the Lord to a cold, spiritual numbness?

Hebrews 2:1-4 is a warning, and contains two key expressions about our faith-life. It says we can “drift away” (1) through “neglect” (3). What is being described as a gradual process, is like a boat tugging at its moorings. If the vessel is not properly tied to the dock, eventually it will pull free, and be cast adrift on the current. This process is set in motion when we do not “pay close attention” (1); simply through neglect and inactivity. Herein lies an almost universal truth: whatever is neglected falls apart! Whether it be a car, a house, a

marriage or a relationship with God, neglect destroys!

And how can this be prevented? How can we stay alive spiritually? By paying attention! By testing our condition! By spiritually growing and making progress.

First, if we would stay alive spiritually, it is critically important to keep growing in knowledge. Knowledge is the foundation of faith (Rom 10:17), and we cannot have a strong faith without it. How are we progressing in the knowledge of God’s word? Do we have a plan of study? Do we know more now than we did years ago?

Consider for a moment the development in knowledge, intellect and reason of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the age of twelve, He was able to confound the religious leaders of His

day with His understanding and questions (Luke 2:46, 47). This was not a special gift from God, but was evidence of a strong desire and determined effort to know the Father’s will. As a man, we see Jesus developing

logical, rational, practical arguments for what he was teaching. The method of Jesus and His disciples for building faith involved all kinds of evidence, debating and questioning. The battle for the minds of men pitted the wisdom of God against the superficial philosophies of men (2 Corinthians 10:3-51). There was no substitute for knowing truth.

Our faith must also rest in a personal conviction from the word of God. We must know what it says, and be convicted ourselves, or we do not have biblical “faith” (Hebrews 11:1, 2). Some of us are like the young woman we were speaking of. We come to service to receive an “emotional high”. Things in the church are new and exciting; the preacher is all “fired up”; and we go home to live the week on the enthusiasm that was generated. Eventually, however, the newness wears off. The emotional high is no longer there. Rather than a personal faith rooted in the word of God, we have been living off illusive

personal feelings. When the service fails to “give us a lift”, we quit.

The human tendency is to be intellectually lazy. Some of us quit learning when the bell rang at the end of grade twelve. Sometimes that attitude has carried over into the church. Sermons should be brief, light, uplifting “pep talks”, much like a spiritual baby aspirin. We want enough to make the pain go away, but not enough to deal with the real problem. In our Bible classes, there are never any demands to be met; no assignments, tests or report cards. The result is that after years of being Christians, many are not able to discuss even the fundamentals of their faith with others.

Why do you believe what you do?; About God, the Bible, Jesus Christ about becoming and being a Christian? Is it faith based on knowledge and personal conviction (Romans 10:17)? Let’s not be lazy in the knowledge of God’s word. Make a time for personal reading, study and prayer. Challenge yourself in your Bible classes, through lectures, seminars, tapes and Bible correspondence courses. If we are not growing in knowledge, we are declining.

Experience of Service

Second, if we would stay alive spiritually, we must be active in the Christian experience of service. Faith is not simply an intellectual matter, but something you are, and something you do. Here is the issue: it is impossible to be right in faith, to feel right about our faith and ourselves, unless we are making some deliberate contribution in Christian service (James 2:26). Some see the church as a social club, a society whose services are available in times of need. The church marries, buries and visits those who are sick. Like the young lady, they ask, “What is the church doing for me”? The church is not a place to be a spectator, but to serve.

How do you feel about the church? How do you feel about yourself as a Christian? To a large extent, the answer to these questions will reflect



your involvement in service. When we distribute invitations, visit the hospitals or the elderly, provide meals for those in need, we feel spiritually alive. When we teach a Bible class or a personal study, help with VBS or do Bible Call, we feel and know our faith is alive. Let me challenge each of us, young and old, to make a list of things we are specifically doing for Christ. Don't generalize (my whole life is a service to Christ), and don't overlook the little things either. Your experience of service will be a blessing to you.

Dynamic of Fellowship

Third, if we would stay alive spiritually, we must experience the dynamic of Christian fellowship (Acts 2:42). Often the term "fellowship" is not understood. We use it as a synonym for a potluck dinner. Yet "koinonea" means all the things shared in common in Christ. It means loving, caring, warm relationships as brothers and sisters in Christ! It might be possible to attend the assemblies of the church

for years, and never experience the full meaning of Christian fellowship.

How do you feel about the people around you where you assemble? Most of them are probably Christians. Do you know their names? Where they live? Their jobs? Who their children are? Do you have any close relationships with anyone in the church other than your own immediate family? Is there any fellowship?

Fellowship depends on relationship, and it must begin with you. You need to participate: attend services (Hebrews 10:24, 25), be in class and at fellowship activities. Be available: allow time to stay and visit; don't rush off. It may mean planning your meals a little later on Sunday. Be friendly: rather than complaining no one is friendly, take the initiative, speak to people, be interested in them. Cultivate friendships: have people in your home, plan other activities together. Our closest friends should be in the church. If not, we may be in serious trouble (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Conclusion

We have been made alive together with Christ and raised up with Him (Ephesians 2:5,6). Few will probably be lost through a sudden tragedy, or defeat in a scholastic argument. Most of those who die will do so through neglect. Let us never neglect our faith. "Therefore, we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (Hebrews 2:1).
Bramalea, ON

LISTINGS OF INTEREST

Great Lakes Christian High School Alumni Association

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

Free Indeed!

A RE-EVALUATION
OF OUR WALK
WITH CHRIST

John 8:36

So if the Son sets
you free, you will
be free indeed.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

David Spiece
John W. Smith

Edmonton
church of Christ



edmontonchurchofchrist.org

780.455.1049 13015 - 116 Ave NW Edmonton, AB T5M 3C9 church5@telus.net

Alberta Spring Fellowship 2011 April 22 - 24

- EAST -

by Don Hipwell and Harold Bruggen
Church of Christ, Box 416
Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0
Email: donhipwell@aol.com
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Please send all news via email to hbruggen@gmail.com, or regular mail to Church of Christ, PO Box 416, Fenwick, ON, L0S 1C0.

Reminder: To be published in the following month's Gospel Herald, each congregation's information should be sent to Fenwick by the 10th of the month preceding the date of issue, which is the first of each month. Please clearly mark the email or the envelope: "NewsEast." When reporting an event, state the specific date (month/day/year) of that event. Also, please note that editors forward to NewsEast only the information received from congregations; they do not check each congregation's website.

NEW BRUNSWICK

St. John: We had another mail drop on December 14. We thought it would be good to mail these out just before the holiday season in the hope of bringing people from the community to worship service. As a result of this mail drop, we had a woman named Wendy correspond with the church through E-mails. She said she had seen both our postcard and newspaper ads. We also had a visitor, Lorraine, come out for worship on December 19.

NEW YORK

Sardinia: Ed Gibson gave the Sunday morning lesson on January 30. Glen Mueller's MRI showed the growth on his right auditory nerve had not increased in size.

ONTARIO

Beamsville: The congregation began participating in the Loaf of Bread program in January. Loaf of Bread provides meals to families in need. Geoff Taylor has been training to participate in water development projects

and will be travelling to Haiti in April to repair wells through Living Water International.

Bramalea: Gip Woothitha, our Thailanda member at Bramalea from 2008-2010, is enrolled at South Pacific Bible College in New Zealand for a 2-year course. Her three roommates are from Fiji, Pakistan and the Philippines. Gip would appreciate some financial assistance. Her sister is a Christian but her parents are Buddhists. Gip's E-mail is gift_82@hotmail.com. Dave Ramsey's 13-week Financial Peace University course is being conducted every Sunday afternoon. Eight Bramalea families and three from outside the congregation are enrolled in the sessions. On January 20, the young men were in charge of the Sunday morning service. That same Sunday Joel Osborne, missionary to Mito, Japan, visited Bramalea and reported to the combined grades 7 through adult Bible classes on his work in Japan and Cambodia. The Bramalea congregation is in charge of the 2011 "Training for Service" meeting on Good Friday, April 22. Guest speakers and teachers are Earl Lavender and Jackie Halstead from David

Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN, and Jonathan Straker from Abilene Christian University in Abilene, TX. The theme for the Good Friday lessons is: "Forming Spiritual Depth." Fred Whittington celebrated his 80th birthday on Saturday, January 29, 2011.

Fenwick: The congregation agreed to increase Glen Robin's monthly support for his work in Montreal. As well a special collection was taken and \$3,080 was donated towards his living expenses. Ralph Perry gave the Sunday morning lesson on February 6. A Valentine dinner and game night was held February 11. Once again, the men prepared the meal. A group outing to St. Jacobs and Elmira is planned for April 2. We look forward to a Gospel Meeting with Max Craddock, April 10-13.

Hamilton (Fennell): Greg Fewster, a recent graduate of GLBC who is studying at McMaster Divinity School is teaching an adult Bible Class on the book of Hebrews. This year the Fennell Ave. Church of Christ will mark 60 years of service in our community. In recognition of this, we are planning a couple of events this fall and would like to ask

you to mark your calendars and plan to be a part of these events with us. The first event is a weekend seminar with Eric Lyons of the Apologetics Press from September 30 to October 2, 2011. Eric is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University, where he earned a B.S. with a double major in Bible and history, and an M.Min. Eric, his wife Jana, and their three children live and worship in Wetumpka, Alabama, where Eric works with the youth of the Wetumpka Church of Christ. He currently serves as a member of the Bible Department at Apologetics Press. Eric has authored or co-authored a number of books, including *The Anvil Rings: Answers to Alleged Bible Discrepancies (Volumes 1 & 2)*, *Behold! The Lamb of God*, and *Truth Be Told*. In addition, he writes weekly for the Apologetics Press Web site, is editor of the Explorer Series, and assistant editor of *Discovery*, the monthly magazine on Scripture and science for children published by Apologetics Press. Eric speaks

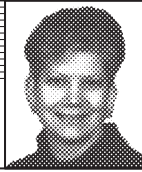
continued on page 13

PLEASE JOIN US FOR TRAINING FOR SERVICE



Friday, April 22, 2011

Cawthra Park Secondary School
1305 Cawthra Road, Mississauga, Ontario
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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

(BC news supplied by Barbara Lewis)

ALBERTA

Edmonton, Northside: submitted by Gerry Bibaud and Leslie Klingbeil: The Frozen Meal Ministry, that was started December 5, 2010, has met the needs of seven families/people. The congregation responded overwhelmingly by giving 141 containers filled with homemade meal for two, and so far, 116 have been donated in serving the community and church family. This Saturday, a few ladies are meeting to cook up a turkey and two chickens that were donated and making several more meals to store in the church freezer. The ministry is ongoing and has served well inwardly as more members can be encouraged by being involved in helping families that have been hindered in some way. It serves outwardly in showing each other and the community that we care because of what Christ has done for us. The Cleaning Ministry is in full swing in helping members that are moving and unable to meet some of the demands that are part of the cleaning process. Again it gives members of the congregation an opportunity to serve one-another. World English Institute Program is still functioning and attracting people in Edmonton who want to learn the English language using the Bible as the teaching source (www.weiady@aol.com). We now have a total of eight CARE group Bible studies meeting either Sunday, Tuesday, or Wednesday evening at the church building, church office and in various homes throughout the city and in Sherwood Park. We are all studying the Book of Romans. Our newest addition meets Sunday evening in the church office basement (newly renovated). This group also serves the Lord's Supper to those having to work and miss the morning worship assembly. There are two Ladies Bible Studies meeting: one during Monday morning on Esther and one on Monday evening on Isaiah. Thank you to Sisters Cindy Hreczuch (Elder's wife) and Lynn

Butler for taking a leading role for these studies. The Ladies "Round To It" Day is held the last Saturday of each month and encourages an afternoon of good fellowship while working on stuff you want to get around to. Thanks to Marie Bouchard (Elder's wife) for coordinating this. The Annual Ladies Retreat (at Rundles Mission Lodging, Pigeon Lake) will be April 1-3 this year. The guest speaker is Diana Turner (Winnipeg, MB). This annual event brings together about 55 ladies from all over. Please accept this as our invitation for many more sisters to join us. You are most welcome.

We would like to uplift the Young Adults who host a Campus Bible Talk on the University of Alberta Campus Monday evenings. They regularly have 8-10 visitors join their Bible Study. Last Friday, they hosted an international potluck together. What a shining example and encouragement. The Edmonton School of Evangelism (a satellite school of Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, Texas), is running two classes presently: (1) Historical Christian Evidences (seven students registered); (2) The Minor Prophets (eight students registered). This training program of 40 courses, when successfully completed, earns a University Accredited Bachelor Degree. Gerry Bibaud and Randy Fiske are the Administrators (www.satelliteschools.org). Planning for our Alberta Spring Fellowship (April 22 - 24, 2011) is moving forward. Theme this year is "Free Indeed - A Re-evaluation of our Walk With Christ" John 8:36. Key speakers are John W. Smith (Coweta, OK) and David Spiece (Columbus, GA) and guest song leader (who also will give a lesson to the teens over supper the Friday evening) is Chad Cellaire (Winnipeg, MB). Different functions are being planned such as a Mexican Fiesta and Tobogganing on Family Day, hosted by Blayne & Heidi Logan. Other events include a Winter Carnival hosted by Sean & Heidi McCartan (February 26) and our Beat the Blues Banquet (March 6) hosted by Mike & Kathryn Taylor. These will be an encouragement to the body as we spend time together and invite family and friends to join us for some fun. Sister Shelley Santiago arrived in Edmonton, from Hong Kong, on December 16 (originally from the Philippines) and is worshipping regularly with our congregation.

This past Sunday we were blessed to have guest speaker Bill Schwarz, CEO, of Western Christian High School and

College (Regina, SK). It was good to connect again and be updated on the positive direction and work taking place at Western Christian.

Edmonton Southside: (submitted by Tim Johnson) We're looking forward to a special weekend meeting March 26-27 with Lee Patmore from Lloydminster. It's called "Unity and Work," and it's based on the book of Philippians. We've also formed a committee that will formulate a 5-year plan for the congregation. We're working on some evangelistic projects for the Spring: Friends Day in late May and a community-invited Barbeque in June at which we will share information about the Lord's church.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Burnaby: Tim and Elizabeth Johnson left on Jan 26 for a month in India. They visited close friends and follow brothers and sisters in Christ who have worked closely with Allen and Betty Jacobs during their many years of Ministry in India. This included brother Abraham, who is supported by the Burnaby Church Family.

City Church: July will mark the 40th anniversary of Steve and Marcia Hasbrouck since first going to Japan as missionaries, with the exception of 16 years spent in Canada. Steve writes that each week sees another student in their new English Bible class that meets in the heart of the city just a few blocks from the location of the annual Snow Festival, and the students seem genuinely interested in the study. After an introduction, Steve moves into some of the prophecies about the Messiah and then into the gospels to learn about the life of Christ. For those who continue to participate, he will go from there to the book of Acts, to talk about the Holy Spirit's work in the first century. Houses in Japan do not come up to our quality for keeping out the cold. He and Marcia survive by using blankets to keep warm while sitting in their living room.

Oakridge (Vancouver): Three men from our congregation, Miguel Garcia, David Jacobs and Tyler Johnson, took turns filling in with both teaching and preaching while our preacher, Milton Diaz, spent a month visiting his home country of El Salvador.

Surrey: Our men, assisted by a number of ladies and children, participated in a food distribution for the Nightshift Street Ministries "Feed the Homeless" program on Jan. 28. The evening concluded with

continued on page 13

MISSION NEWS

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



KENYA: Barry Murray made a dream come true for his wife, Sandra, in December of 2008, when they were able to meet 25 of the wife's over 100 World Bible School students in this country. Sandra had begun as a study helper only five years earlier. One of her first students was a man named John Ombati, from the Kisii District in Kenya. He began sharing his lessons with others, and a group of eight declared that they were a Pentecostal church. Sandra continued to work with them through courses, tracts and other basic teaching materials. When she was able to locate two follow-up workers, they began a personal study with the group, which had grown to 13, and they soon became the "Kenya Church of Christ at Kiamabundu". They met for a while in a cattle barn, but had to revert to services under the trees when they lost it. Finally a convert named John Omae donated land on which to erect a mud building, and it was renamed the Riochanda church. John Ombati developed into a dynamic preacher, and soon the congregation grew to well over 100 members, spawning several "daughter churches". A project called "Over the Rainbow—Kenya" has dispensed Bibles, children's books, school supplies, Bible class materials and medical assistance. In addition, five evangelists have been helped, maize to feed 70 families provided, and even laying hens supplied. All of these things have happened because one woman devoted her time to one WBS student who hungered for the Word of God.

TANZANIA: Thayer Salisbury, one of the Herald's article writers and preacher for the Flanders Road church in Toledo, OH, and his wife, Chery, made a trip last fall to visit the church in Morogoro, Tanzania to determine their needs. While there, Thayer taught a five-day seminar on Ephesians, while Chery had a shorter seminar for ladies and children. They also visited people in their homes, and had studies with non-Christians during their 15 days. They learned that transportation was a big problem for the people in this region, as none have cars, and only a couple own motorcycles, which accounts for a low number able to get to the worship assemblies. The church has obtained three parcels of land on which they hope to place buildings, giving members a meeting place within walking distance of most in the city. One is a fairly large parcel in a central location, with two smaller ones in other parts of the city. Thanks to the soils

being generally good for making bricks, erecting buildings are relatively cheap. The Flanders Road congregation was raising \$1,050 to repair the preacher, Wilfred Massawe's, motorcycle, so that he is able to be more effective in visiting Christians in all areas, and \$700 to help with the construction of the first of the buildings. The Salisburys were convinced that the church there is off to a good start in the development of good leaders, and have made a wise use of previous help they have received.

MISSION PRINTING: In a 2010 year-end report, Vandall Dollarhide, director, wrote that this volunteer organization in Arlington, TX, had shipped 100,000 pounds of Bibles, tracts, song books and other materials to Ghana and Nigeria alone. The shipment went by three ocean containers to be received and delivered all over these nations by eager Christians. This year Mission Printing expects to send them three million tracts. A Nigerian preacher wrote

that by distributing tracts two weeks ahead of an evangelism campaign, there were 15 baptisms the first weekend. The greatest expense will be \$100,000 for the paper on which to print that many tracts. Vandall suggested that if 500 people gave \$10 a month, it would raise \$60,000 to help keep the presses rolling. This work has been supported only by congregations and individuals since its beginning in a church basement in 1979. Now a number of other churches have found space in their buildings to do some of the huge job of collating and stapling the printed pages that go to churches and individuals literally all over the world. Their mailing address should read: Mission Printing, Inc., 2707 Medlin Drive, Arlington, TX 76015.



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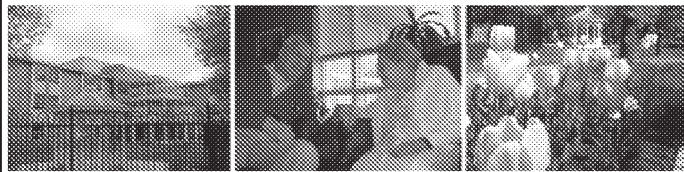
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News East... continued from page 10

frequently at youth rallies, Gospel meetings, and seminars around the country. We would like to extend an invitation to you and your members to join us for this seminar. Our second event will take place on October 30, 2011, in the form of a special Sunday morning worship with a potluck and fellowship to follow. We would like to invite all those interested in remembering those that have served with the Fennell Ave. Church of Christ, and anyone who would like to connect with the members at Fennell to commemorate 60 years of service.

Niagara Falls: God is moving in many ways. This year's theme is "Love is on the Move". We are focusing on reaching out to the community and being blessed at every turn. Diane Somerville has been rounding up volunteers to serve at a local "soup kitchen" called "Out Of The Cold" and it has been amazing to see the response of the congregation that want to be there. We are learning first hand that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We have had two souls added to the kingdom recently. Jennifer Beatty was baptized in November and Joan Cristelli was baptized on January 16. Many people are studying the Bible and we pray that they will make decisions soon to give their lives to Christ. We started a "Love and Respect" DVD seminar with Dr. Emerson Eggerichs on Saturday, January 15 and God blessed us with 10 couples from the community that joined us with approximately 80 in attendance. This series runs for 5 sessions, once a month, and everyone is looking forward to coming back next time for more great information on marriage.

Our men's group is going strong and meet every other Tuesday and our women's group meet the opposite Tuesday nights. This has been a great opportunity for the congregation to get deeper into our walk with God and grow closer as a church family. Bruce and Marni Boland have made a decision to pursue full time ministry in Niagara Falls. They will be focusing on the youth and kids programs, as well as leading the men and women in small groups throughout the week.

Tintern: In January, the Tintern congregation welcomed the Joy family (Doug, Connie, Abigail and Elizabeth) from Alberta. On January 21, twenty five children came out for KNO (Kids Night Out) even though it was very cold outside. Bethany Wirkkunen and Margaret Ayala hosted the event. We rejoice with Jim & Heidi Whitfield with the baptism of their daughter, Emily, on Sunday, January 23. Sunday, January 30, was World Leprosy Day and the congregation raised almost \$700 - enough to cure two people of leprosy. The annual general meeting was held on Sunday February 6. Our four elders: Doug Tallman, Jim Book, John Stanley, and Wayford Smith were affirmed as well as two new deacons, Adrian Vandriel and Wayne Whitfield were recognized.

Toronto (Strathmore): Asuncion Boorman was baptized into Christ by Santiago Molina on January 27. The ladies began a monthly activity program on Saturday, February 12. They had knitting and crocheting lessons until lunch time. Following lunch they had their regular monthly Bible study period. Following the Bible class, several continued to work on their "handiwork"

projects. Max Craddock held a weekend meeting in Vanleer, TN, February 4-6. He then continued on to the Freed-Hardeman lectureship.

Waterloo: The congregation took up a collection of coats, hats, mitts, warm socks and scarves for Mary's Place, a refuge for homeless and abused women in the Kitchener/Waterloo area. There has been an overwhelming response from those needing and wanting visits for more "visiting angels". Two people partner up and spend an hour as a "visiting angel team" with someone who is lonely. The congregation is supporting four orphans in China. January 14, Waterloo hosted a 20's and Up weekend. The theme was "We're Not in Kansas Any More - Re-imagining Engagement With a Post-Christian Society." Grade 1-8 kids had a make your supper and games night on Saturday, Jan. 29. Damaris Guaicara, daughter of the Barcelona (Venezuela) Church of Christ's preacher will be in Waterloo for six months to practice English and explore study possibilities here in Canada. Chris, James & Austin Blackwell travelled to England to celebrate Chris's grandmother's 100th birthday. Friends of Aileen (Cannon) Boyce celebrated her 90th birthday at a gathering on January 29. As well, a "Come and Go Housewarming" was provided for Carol Pinczuk on February 6.

Windsor (West Side): February 11 was Valentines Couples Night. February 13 was the monthly Hymn Sing and desert night at the building. Overcomers Outreach has begun again. It is a group meeting with the intent to assist whoever is having struggles in any area of life.

News West... continued from page 11

the joining of all volunteer hands in a large circle to engage in a group prayer.

Vernon: Jean Boulton was welcomed into our fellowship after her baptism Thursday afternoon, January 27. Heather Mehain returned the first week of February from competing in world junior international cross-country events in Estonia. Although glad to be home, she felt she learned some valuable lessons that will help her in the future.

MANITOBA

Winnipeg (Central): We rejoice with Priscilla Trimble who was baptized by her brother Luke. The men held a breakfast

and work bee on February 19. They enjoyed breakfast, some discussion and encouragement and worked together in the basement. The international group and friends held their regular get-together of food, fellowship and singing. The Prayer Sister's brunch was held Feb. 26. The theme was "Encourage" - from alongside build up!! Secret Sister names were revealed and redrawn.

SASKATCHEWAN

Retreats: The Sister Triangle Winter Retreat was held at Kenosee. Moose Mountain Provincial Park, Feb. 25-27. The theme was "Thank you, Father!" A Young Adults Retreat was held Feb. 4-6

at Clearview Christian Camp. The retreat was for post-high schoolers up to age 35.

Regina: An area wide devotion was presented by Dulous Neos (Northwest Church of Christ Youth Group) at WCC on Feb.20.

Weyburn: Wednesday night classes are entitled "7-47 Training: Flying with Love", an engagement with 1 Corinthians 13. In this quarter, "The Tree of Knowledge Learning" has the kids focusing on the Sons of Jacob (to the tune of 10 Little Indians) and the Fruit of the Spirit Gal 5:22-23. Feb 2, Wednesday evening class, a Western Christian college presentation was made.

The Vitality of the Resurrection

Ed Bryant

(From the April, 1986 issue of the Gospel Herald. This was the 50th Anniversary year of the Gospel Herald)

Second in importance only to the belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is the conviction that He died and arose from the dead, victorious over the grave! Paul testifies to the vitality of this conviction by saying that, without it, “your faith is vain, you are yet in your sins”.

Indeed, our whole faith stands or falls upon a belief in the resurrection, and according to the Bible, there is every reason to believe, but no reason to doubt it. It probably has more evidence testifying to it than any other event in history. The appearance of Jesus to His disciples, and “about five hundred brethren at once,” is proof enough for most, but one of His own followers, absent from His first appearance, refused to believe until he could touch the nail-prints in His hands and thrust his fingers into His side. Faced with such empirical evidence, Thomas was utterly convinced, and exclaimed, “My Lord, and my God!” Jesus gently reminded him that because he had seen, he had believed, but more blessed are they who believe, even though they have never seen.

Before His cruel execution, Jesus had told anyone who would listen that He would not stay dead. “Tear this temple down,” He said, “and I will build it again in three days!” But they thought He was referring to the temple of worship in Jerusalem. However, David had long ago written of Him, “Thou wilt not leave my soul in Hades (the grave), nor suffer thine holy one to see corruption” (decay of the flesh).

At His death, some of the cynics and scorners remembered something of what He had said, and tried to forestall any possibility of its coming to pass by going to Pilate to ask for

a security guard to be placed at the sepulcher for three days, “lest happily his disciples come and steal him away, and say, ‘He is risen from the dead’”. The grave was sealed with a heavy stone and a guard set to watch it. They reckoned, however, without the power of God. On the third day, an angel of the Lord came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards, awed by the bright splendor of the angel, and frozen with the fear of him, trembled and became as dead men.

When the women arrived, they found the tomb empty, the shroud in which He had been wrapped for burial laid aside, and the angel, who informed them: “He is not here. He is risen, as He said”.

Meanwhile, the guards reported to the high priests what had happened. The priests gave them a bribe to say that the disciples had come and stolen the body away, which they did, but the story is too thin to be convincing.

If the disciples had indeed carried off the body of Jesus, it would be no trick at all for the priests to force them to produce the body to prove their story. They made no such attempt.

The guards had everything to lose, like their lives, in admitting to the priests that they had slept while on watch. Yet, they went straight from the tomb into the city with their damaging admission, prepared to die on the gallows for their dereliction of duty.

The priests not only did not report it to the Roman authorities, they also furnished the guards with a “cover” story, along with the big purse...a whopping bribe for a whopping lie!

Some have thought that Jesus was not dead, but in some sort of coma, but eyewitnesses knew, and Luke, the physician, stated that Jesus had “given up the ghost”. Those who laid Him in the borrowed tomb knew He was dead, and with Him, their hopes

for an earthly kingdom. The tearing of the veil of the temple, from top to bottom, the three hours of unnatural darkness over the whole earth, the earthquake and the dead saints emerging from their grave, all attested that something cataclysmic had happened in the history of the human race! What could be more so than the death of the Son of God?

The great New Testament chapter on the vitality of the resurrection is 1 Corinthians 15. Evidently the Holy Spirit, through Paul, was responding to a need in Corinth, where false teachers had had a field day. Among the erroneous doctrines they spouted was that resurrection of the body was impossible. It was the Greek idea that the soul is revived at conversion, and that was the only resurrection there could be, and that was already past in the case of those who were Christians. The many times when Jesus appeared to people are recounted in this chapter, and furnish proof that the One whom everybody knew had died was alive and well.

If the dead are not raised, goes Paul’s argument, then Christ is not raised. And where does that leave the apostle and his listeners? Laboring in vanity! Preaching in vain and faith is also vain, if there is no resurrection from the dead.

Not only that, but Paul says that the apostles then become false teachers concerning God, and the Corinthians had a faith that was vain, not to mention that those who died had indeed perished forever. He added if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable”.

In ringing tones, however, he affirms the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The promise and hope derived from this fact is the opposite of the sentence passed Adam. “For as in Adam all die, in Christ shall all be made alive”. Paul could be

continued on page 16

1936–2011

My 75 years with the Gospel Herald

Walter R. Straker

The Straker family has read and enjoyed many articles in the Gospel Herald since its first issue. That year my father, Norman Straker, was one of about 15 original subscribers (members of the Church of Christ) who donated \$1 each to help finance this new Canadian Christian magazine.

His family received the Gospel Herald for the 15 years that I was growing up on a farm west of Wishart, in Saskatchewan, 100 miles north of Regina; and my mother, Hazel (Fee) Straker, continued to subscribe to it until she died in 1999. My brother, Bernard, found—among the possessions in her estate—the first two issues of volume 1, that my father had saved, and Bernard gave them to me.

In 1936, Robert Sinclair, one of D.A. Sinclair's sons (with articles by a few other Christian brothers) started the Gospel Herald—writing, editing and producing it on the family farm. Our family lived about two miles west of the Sinclair farm. My wife, Shirley (Lewis) Straker, worked with Brother J.C. Bailey and his son, John, in Radville, Saskatchewan, in 1951-52, setting linotype to produce the actual paper.

In 1993–1995, our youngest son, Jonathan, as a high school student at Great Lakes in Beamsville; worked part-time with Eugene Perry while Eugene co-edited the paper. Many changes in personnel have taken place over the last 15 years.

In 1995 the men on the Gospel

Herald Foundation board invited me to participate in their meetings as one who came from Western Canada. In addition, I had the privilege of collecting news for the NewsEast report from September 1993 to January 2011. When Shirley and I married in 1956, we had both been receiving the Gospel Herald since 1951. Although we cancelled one of our subscriptions after we married, we have continued to receive the Herald for 60 years.

What the paper did for us was to keep us up-to-date on what was happening in many of the congregations across Canada, as well as provide some excellent articles for the reading.

Brampton, ON



Key To The Kingdom Day, MAY 1, 2011



On the Vision Network

Friday at 8:30 AM (ET)
(Check local listing for channel #)
Star Choice – 394 • Bell ExpressVu – 65 (new #)

Grace TV

Thursday at 7:30 AM (ET)
Rogers Digital Channel – 396 or 241
Star Choice – 399, Telus 158 & MTS TV 21

CHNU JoyTV

Friday at 9:30 AM (PT)
Channel 10 covering Vancouver, Victoria and the Fraser Valley • also on Rogers Digital Channel – 173

Now also on CJRL Radio

Sunday at 7:30 AM in Kenora, ON

Your support of the Key To The Kingdom ministry is needed daily in 2011

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

On **May 1** we invite congregations to focus their worship service on evangelism in Canada and the Key To The Kingdom ministry in particular by:

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

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

Please contact the Strathmore leadership with any questions concerning the Key Ministry at:

Strathmore Blvd Church of Christ, 346 Strathmore Blvd., Toronto, ON M4C 1N3 • Phone: 416-461-7406 Email: maxc@strathmorecofc.ca

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

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

OBITUARIES

Austin, Kathleen Elizabeth

Katie passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, in her 92nd year. She was born in Cape Town, South Africa, on August 19, 1919, and was married for over 55 years to the late George William Austin, who passed away in 2000. She has been a member of the Strathmore Blvd. Church of Christ in Toronto since coming to Canada in 1957.

She is survived by her three daughters, Gloria (David), Sybil (Alan) and Cheryl (Edward). She was the loving grandmother of Michael (Alana), Robert, Stephen, Andrew, Lisa and Johnny. The cherished great-grandmother of Maren and Maea. As well, she leaves to mourn her passing many friends, along with her Strathmore family.

Katie loved to sing in worship and, for a petite lady, had a strong voice. Her family often referred to her as "The mouse that roared!" She supported her husband in his role of deacon at Strathmore and served several years as a Sunday School teacher.

For many years she cared for children for the Children's Aid Society. She was a skilled seamstress and could make clothing for her children and herself without a pattern to work from. She was an avid Toronto Blue Jays fan and was very hopeful every year that they would repeat their World Series years.

We thank God for the blessings we have received through our fellowship with her and pray God's blessing on all who mourn. A service of thanksgiving for her life was conducted by the writer on Saturday, February 19, 2011.

— Marvin Johnson

Meneer, William Bryan

Bryan was born on June 2, 1947 and passed away on December 18, 2010. Bryan's life was a gift to everyone who knew him. He was a loving, compassionate and encouraging husband, father and friend. He was a learned man with a sharp mind who sought spiritual truth and understanding throughout his entire life.

Bryan was a gentle soul who was always willing to lend a helping hand

or sympathetic ear to those in need, and never failed to brighten a room with his fun-loving and sometimes downright silly sense of humour.

He was the precious soul-mate of Susan (née Estes); loving father of Rachael, Hilary, Nathanael and his wife Emily (nee Cornell); beloved son of Ray and Audrey; brother of Donna Duxbury and Brenda Griffin; brother-in-law of Steven and David (Sue) Estes; wonderful uncle of his many nieces and nephews; good friend of his 'Saturday Son' André and a source of wisdom, guidance and support for many.

Bryan taught at Lloyd George, Lakeview and Fairfield elementary schools in Hamilton, and served as minister to the West Toronto, Bayview, Fennel and Omagh Churches of Christ.

A memorial service to celebrate Bryan's life was conducted by Ben Wiebe, Emily Meneer, Keith Wallace, Jordan Jones, Nathanael Meneer, Allan Jones and Ed Broadus.

May God bless those who feel most keenly his passing and may all find comfort and strength in their memories of his life.

— From material provided
by Eugene Perry

The Vitality of the Resurrection... continued from page 14

sure of his facts, for he had seen the risen Lord. The very act of baptism symbolizes the life of the Christian. He dies (to sin); is buried (in the watery grave), and then is raised to "walk in newness of life," after the manner of the resurrection of Christ. But if there is no resurrection, all this becomes mockery.

Thus, the inquirer can see how vital the resurrection is to the ongoing Christian faith. Without it, he really has no faith at all, because the alternative is to believe that we simply go away into oblivion. This is not the end sought for us by the Son God, in suffering and dying that we might live!

Why should it be thought a thing too hard for God to do, to raise His children from the dust of death? God is all powerful, and His miracles give us a glimpse of His power. If He parted the Red Sea to allow the Israelites to cross on dry ground, and He did; if He spoke, the world into existence by saying "let it be...", and did; if He could breathe into Adam the breath of life so that he became a living soul, and He did, then how can mere man limit God's capabilities by saying that He cannot raise the dead? Did He not demonstrate His power to do so by calling Lazarus forth from His tomb?

Men need proof for hope, and God

has abundantly supplied proof that we will be raised from our graves, in that He has raised up Christ. It matters not how our bodies are mangled, mutilated, crushed, disintegrated or cremated at death. God is able to raise us up with a body that pleases Him. Jesus said that God could "of these stones raise up seed of Abraham".

Christ has said, "all who are in the grave shall hear my voice and shall come forth, some to the resurrection of condemnation but others to the resurrection of eternal life". It is our task so to live that we will come forth to the resurrection of eternal life.

Surrey, BC

seek. serve. become.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR LEADERS!

GLCHS MISSION STATEMENT
 Great Lakes Christian High School fosters excellence in education while equipping learners to seek, serve and become like Christ.

Great Lakes Christian High School is positioning itself for spiritual, educational, and organizational growth, which requires dependable, experienced, and visionary leadership. We are, therefore, internally and externally posting two senior administrative roles to begin **August 01, 2011**.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants can inquire or forward a resumé and cover letter by March 31, 2011 to:

Great Lakes Christian High School
 Attn: Brad Cook
 4875 King Street
 Beamsville ON L0R 1B6

or to
careers@glchs.on.ca

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR	MANAGER, ACADEMIC SERVICES
<p>Areas of Responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage/Mentor the Administrative Leadership Team • Liaise with the Board of Directors • Strategic Planning • Organizational Oversight including responsibility for assisting the management of the spiritual, educational, fiscal, and residential aspects of the program • Developing and stewarding Internal and External Community Relations • Selective fundraising initiatives <p>Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A graduate degree • Five years experience in secondary school administration • An entrepreneurial spirit with an appreciation and affinity for both fundraising and financial management • Superior public-speaking skills 	<p>Areas of Responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage/Mentor Faculty • Direct the Academic Office • Academic Approvals re: Student Admissions* • Student Course Scheduling & Counselling* • Academic Scheduling and Coverages • Student Discipline – Academic Program • Part-Time Teaching <p>*shared responsibilities</p> <p>Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A graduate degree preferred • Two years experience in secondary school administration • Curriculum development experience an asset
<p>Shared Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expresses a personal faith in Jesus Christ and lives out that faith daily • A qualified secondary school teacher • Certified or pursuing certification as an Ontario Secondary School Principal • Five years teaching experience • Strong verbal and written communications with a variety of audiences • Ability to lead, work independently, and work in a team environment • Strong organizational and time management skills • A strong motivator • A consultative yet decisive management style, combined with strong conflict-resolution abilities and flexibility in human relations 	

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