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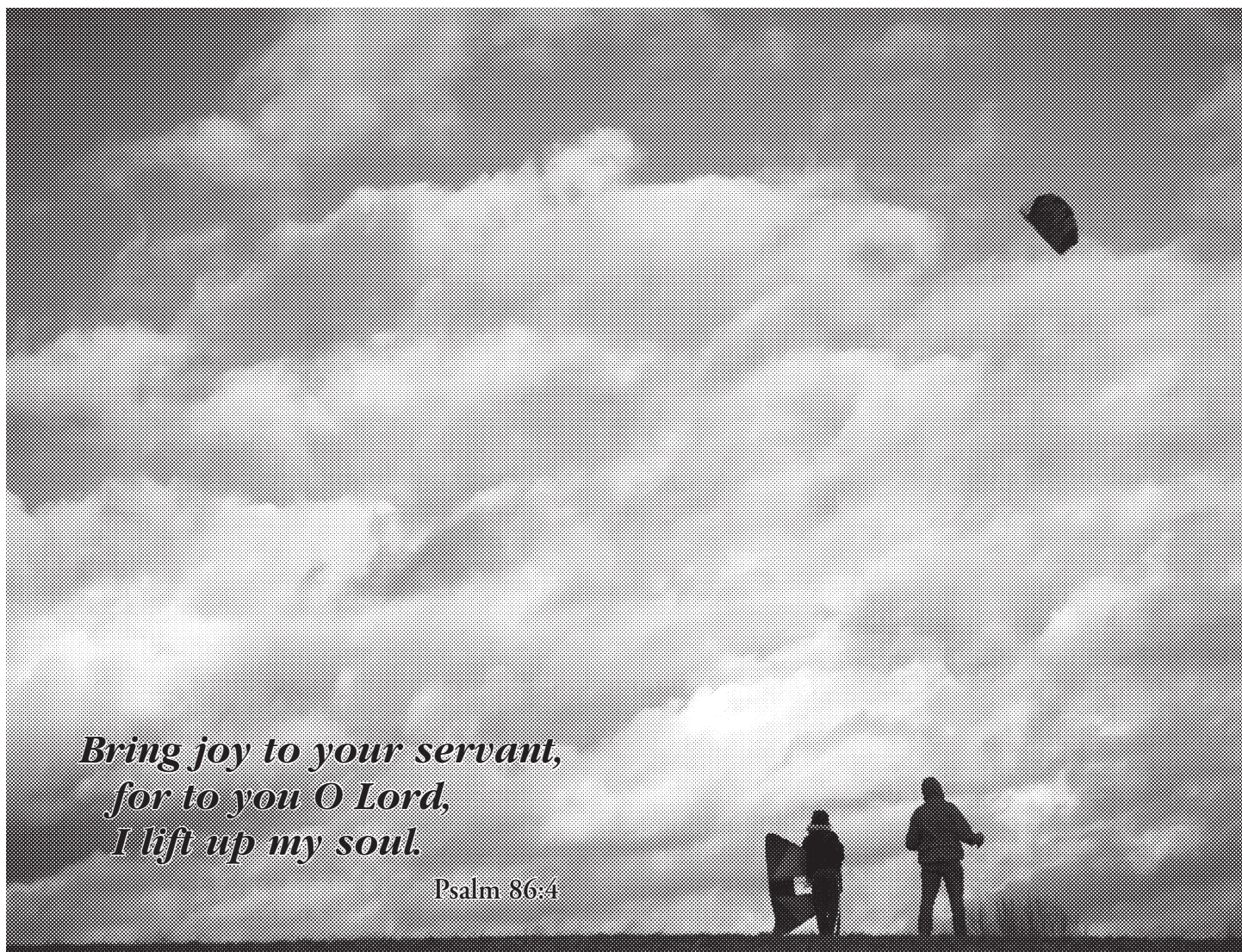
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*Bring joy to your servant,
for to you O Lord,
I lift up my soul.*

Psalm 86:4

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Witnessing

Donald Perry

The term “witnessing” is often used to express the ideal of telling others what Jesus has done for the person who is witnessing to someone else. It is a testimony to others of what the testifier believes God has done for him or her. There is a primary use of the term as used for what took place in the recorded history of the early church that needs to be carefully considered as a foundation of our Christian faith and Christian witnessing. This has to do with the physical witnessing of Jesus the Nazarene as raised from the dead.

In the Apostle Paul’s first letter to the church of God at Corinth he discusses the resurrection of the dead. He writes, “But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised” (1 Corinthians 15:12-15 NIV). Paul understood that the resurrection of Jesus was basic to faith in him as the Son of God and the Saviour of the world. Faith in the resurrection of Jesus is based on witnesses who saw him with their eyes, and touched him with their hands, heard him speak and witnessed him eating.

Jesus’ apostles and his inter-circle of disciples found themselves in doubt, uncertainty and unbelief when some women testified that they had seen him alive after his death and burial. Two of his disciples on

the road to Emmaus were talking about “everything that had happened” in Jerusalem. Jesus, incognito, joined them on the way and asked what they were discussing. Their faces were downcast and they said they were talking about Jesus of Nazareth. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people,” they said. “The chief priests and rulers

It was very important that the evidence of Christ’s resurrection should be confirmed with more than adequate evidence.

handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped.” they continued, “that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition some women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women said, but him they did not see” (Luke 24:19-24). Jesus reproved them for their lack of

faith and opened the scriptures and explained them in relation to the death of the Jesus. They urged this stranger to stay with them because it was nearly evening. In the breaking of bread with them, “their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.”

They got up and immediately returned the seven miles to Jerusalem. They found the disciples in Jerusalem gathered together. Someone in the group exclaimed, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two men told them about their experience with Jesus when they recognized him in the breaking of the bread. As they were talking Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” Jesus scolded them for their unbelief: “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” As they seemed to continue in their unbelief, he asked them, “Do you have anything to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.”

“Then he opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures.

He told them, “This is what was written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations beginning at Jerusalem. You are my witnesses of these things” (Luke 24:45-48). In the book of Acts Luke records that “after he suffered, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of

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A Coffin in Egypt – GENESIS 50:22-26

Thayer Salisbury

“So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father’s house. Joseph lived 110 years. And Joseph saw Ephraim’s children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph’s own. And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, ‘God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.’ So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.”

Sometimes we have to stay where we would rather not be. Sometimes we have no choice but to live in a culture that is corrupt and corrupting. When that happens we might respond in a number of ways.

We might allow ourselves to be assimilated into the culture, losing any distinctive identity. This is the response of many people who call themselves Christians but who are indistinguishable from the society at large.

Another response might be to withdraw from our society, maintaining distinctiveness at all costs. This is the path of monasticism and, more recently, of the Amish. Such a life maintains the separateness, but does it allow us to glorify God as we ought? That is a difficult question.

Thirdly, we might seek to be a part of the society in some ways, while clearly standing outside it in others. This is the most difficult and the least traveled path. In practice it often has the disadvantages of the other two: we lose influence, then, in trying to regain it, we lose identity and in the end have neither identity, influence

nor purpose. It is difficult to achieve that ideal amount of separation and similarity which allows us to influence the society without being conformed to it.

Not a new problem

The family of Jacob faced an interesting difficulty in Egypt. From their point of view it may have seemed that they had entered Egypt for food. They may have been sent there for a different reason from God’s point of view. They may have been in Egypt to maintain their identity. They would have lost identity in Canaan. Some of them, Judah for example, had married into Canaanite families and were in the process of losing their identity.

In Egypt, they are clearly a separate people. They settled in the region of Goshen, set apart from most Egyptians (Gen 46:33-34). This helped them

continued on page 14

Key to the Kingdom Day, May 6, 2007

Congregations and individuals across Canada are invited to join in a **DAY OF SUPPORT** for this Canada wide program through

- **prayer** • **advertising** of the program in your community
- **special contributions** to help with the financial requirements for television time, phone costs for response to the invitation to take the Bible course, purchase and mailing of the World Bible School materials.



For information concerning the program contact
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Toronto, ON M4C 1N3
phone: 416-461-7406 • e-mail maxc@strathmorecofc.ca

Key to the Kingdom Financial Report

Balance forward January 2006		(\$17,747.82)	
Production equipment purchases			(\$27,664.16)
Total deficit as of 31, December, 2005			(\$45,411.98)
2006			
Donations: received (individuals)	\$39,627.32		
non-received (congregations)	\$58,099.36		
Total Donations		\$97,726.68	
Balance before expenses		\$79,978.86	
Expenses for 2006:			
Advertising & office	\$3,681.80		
Postage	\$1,301.28		
Phone & services	\$2,476.31		
World Bible School	\$1,919.21		
Production	\$1,400.71		
Television time	\$66,000.30		
Total expense	\$76,779.61		
	Regular balance	\$3,199.25	
Additional equipment expense	\$803.39		
Equipment balance			(\$28,467.55)
Total deficit as of 31 December, 2006			(\$25,268.30)

The support of individuals and congregations during 2006 made it possible for us to produce *Key to the Kingdom* and end the year with a balance in the regular fund to begin 2007. However, the deficit from 2005 and the equipment purchases that were necessary to produce the program at Strathmore, leave us with an overall deficit of \$25,268.30. (A note of interest: To produce the programs in the studio in which the first Canadian production was done, the production cost alone would have been in excess of \$50,000.00 for the year.)

Join us in remembering the work of *Key to the Kingdom* in Canada on May 6, 2007, the first Sunday of May. Please remember this work in your prayers and, if possible, with a special collection to help with this outreach effort. With your help we hope to meet the expenses for 2007 and perhaps clear the deficit as well.

If you have any questions concerning the Key work, please contact us. May God bless your every effort in sharing the gospel in your community.
In Christ,
The Strathmore eldership

Titanic Disaster

Wayne Turner



What happens when you take a Canadian filmmaker, an Oscar award winning Hollywood director, and some ancient bone boxes? Since the film industry doesn't normally mix with serious archaeological research, you have to find a way to give it credibility. So to make the picture complete, you have to add in a real archaeologist (at least for quotes), a statistician to calculate odds, piles of reference material from other eminent researchers, some DNA testing, and dramatic camera shots. And, of course, you have the most incredible, earth-shaking theory. Announce your discovery to the world, show the documentary on international television, publish and distribute the book and create a website. Through this process, ignore the views of archaeologists, researchers, and scientists who state that your theories, process, research and conclusions are flawed. Do all this and you end up with Simcha Jacobivici and James Cameron, director of *Titanic*, and their "The Lost Tomb of Jesus." (Aired on Vision Canada and the U.S. Discovery channel in March).

Earlier this year, the filmmakers announced to the world that they had discovered the lost tomb of Jesus. Not the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, the "other" tomb of Jesus. They suggest that Christians have misunderstood the real story. According to them, after the body of Jesus was put into Joseph's tomb, the disciples came and reburied it in what they are calling "the family tomb of Jesus." It was from this second tomb that Jesus rose. Forty days later, when Jesus ascended, he left behind his physical body, which the disciples then returned to the tomb. There it remained until 1980 when the tomb was accidentally uncovered in a construction dig and examined by archaeologists.

The crypt is a typical family tomb, characteristic of a wealthier family of the first century. Off a central chamber inside the main entrance are six niches in which bodies were first sealed while they decomposed. Afterwards, the bones of the deceased were placed in a stone bone box (ossuary) on which the name of the person and/or decorations might be carved. In this particular tomb, of ten ossuaries found, six were labelled: Yeshua bar Yosef (Jesus son of Joseph), Maria (Mary), Matia (Matthew), Yose (nickname for Joseph), Mariamene e Mara (which the filmmakers claim to translate as Mariamene the master) and Yehuda bar Yeshua (Judah son of Jesus). The filmmakers conclude that Jesus son of Joseph was Jesus Christ and Mariamene was really Mary Magdalene (based on an obscure, late 2nd century reference to her

as Miriamne). They also claim that the DNA evidence of her ossuary and the Jesus ossuary (the only two tested) show that they were not maternally related and therefore must be husband and wife and Judah their son. To validate this conclusion, they cite a statistical study that concluded that in the most conservative of all possible scenarios, given the probability of finding all these Bible names in one tomb, the odds were better than 600 to 1 (i.e., that in 599 out of 600 cases, this must be the tomb of Jesus).

To support their claims, the filmmakers cite the work of L.Y. Rahmani and Amos Kloner who originally examined the ossuaries (and later published their findings) and Tal Llan who published *Lexicon of Jewish Names*. To shore up their theories, they rely on the work of James Tabor, chair of the department of religious studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, who published *The Jesus Dynasty* in 2006. (Tabor does not seem to believe in anything supernatural or miraculous, so Jesus is the son of an unknown father, possibly a Roman soldier named Pantera.)

From the film's webpage, visitors can download copies of the reports by Rahmani and Kloner. Both note that the name is poorly and indistinctly carved on the Jesus ossuary. This raises an important question. Many experts have questioned how a poor Galilean family could afford an expensive tomb in Jerusalem. Tabor explains that Jesus was the leader of a Messianic movement. It would only be natural for his followers to provide a nice tomb for his burial and later for his family. If this were true, why is the name on the Jesus ossuary poorly scrawled? Wouldn't the disciples have given this the same care and attention as the grave? One must also ask on what basis, other than their own personal biases did the

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filmmakers assume that of the four ossuaries identified by their names as being male, Mariamene was married to Jesus?

Several archaeologists and scientists, including some of those whose work is cited have publicly questioned the film. In an interview in the *Jerusalem Post*, Kloner said, "It's nonsense... Give me scientific evidence... This is manufactured." Similarly, Tal Llan, whose work was used in the film, is quoted in *Scientific American* as saying, "I think it's completely mishandled, I am angry." Many scientists and scholars declare that the film is based on unscholarly work that has not been presented and examined through legitimate scholarly means. Jodi Magness, professor of archaeology and Jewish history at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill stated, "They're presenting it... as though we have a discovery... and it's all legitimate and valid, which it's not." (We should note that, all faith questions aside, even publications like *Scientific American* are rejecting the film based on its poor scientific and academic methodology.)

Perhaps the best assessment came from William G. Dever. Widely considered the dean of biblical archaeology, he has been excavating sites in Israel for 50 years. In an interview published on the *Washington Post* website, he said, "I'm not a Christian. I'm not a believer. I don't have a dog in this fight... I just think it's a shame the way this story is being hyped and manipulated... I've known about these ossuaries for many years and so have other archaeologists, and none of us thought it was much of a story, because these are rather common Jewish names from that period. It's a publicity stunt, and it will make these guys very rich, and it will upset millions of people because they don't know enough to separate fact from fiction."

Dever states what should be our real concern. Christianity has always been under attack. There have always been those who try to misrepresent or undermine our faith. In Paul's time, some at Thessalonica were proclaiming that the resurrection had already taken place. By the very nature of our struggle with unbelief, we should expect such things. We can stand firm; our faith unshaken by these assaults.

However, for those who may not have found faith or whose faith is weak, highly-publicized conjectures—whether the false claims of this film or books like *The DaVinci Code*—raise doubts which they are unequipped to handle. Hearts that may have once been open to the gospel may be closed.

We need to be ready to respond and help them understand. We must be familiar with such claims and know how to answer them with fact—to show that faith is well informed and reasonable, that the Gospel account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is based on historically sound records that have withstood time and investigation (Luke 1:3-4). We cannot let ungrounded speculations make shipwreck of people's faith.

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His Voice (JOHN 10:1-30)

by Paul Birston

Your voice is uniquely yours. The sound of your voice is one way your family and friends know you. Many things make your voice what it is. Your body affects the sound of your voice by the size and shape of your mouth, throat, diaphragm, chest cavity and vocal chords and by your gender. You have your own patterns of speech, tone, speed, personal style, word choice and accent. Your voice sounds different depending on your mood and it can give away how you really feel, if you're sad or really happy. Though we sometimes meet people who "sound like" another we know, usually after listening to them for a while and hearing their word choices and their style of speaking, we realize that they too are unique.

Your family and friends can often recognize you over the phone or in a group just by hearing one or two words from you. They can tell it's you from dozens of other voices they know. They know you in part by your voice and also by your words which reveal your heart and your thoughts to them. When you are with a group, others can recognize you by your voice even when they can't see you.

The family and friends of Jesus recognized Him by His voice too just like you are recognized by your voice. Jesus travelled around with a group of

His friends and He too would recognize their unique voices. They were often in crowds among thousands of other voices but they could still recognize Jesus' voice because it was unique and stood out from the sea of others around Him. As well as the sound of His voice, Jesus' words were like no others they had ever heard. Jesus spoke familiar words in new ways, often radically strong and challenging ways. The strength of Jesus' words is still with you today through God's living word, the Bible.

Jesus tells His friends that it is really important for them to recognize His voice and listen for it. The destiny of their souls depends on it. Speaking in a "figure of speech" Jesus

compares His voice to the voice of a good shepherd whose sheep know His voice (John 10:3, 14, 16, 27). By your relationships with your friends you will know that this listening and knowing of voices is a two-way street, as Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd and I know My own, and My own know Me... My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (10:14, 27). Jesus wants you to be one of His friends (15:14) and one of His sheep.

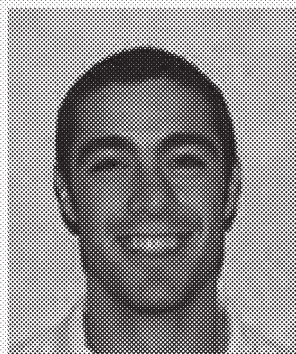
Sheep listen and follow. Having grown up working with cattle which we herded and prodded from behind or the side, and which all sounded fairly alike to me, I was amazed the first time I was near many sheep. The variety of their voices was fascinating and would help their shepherd recognize them individually. The fact that sheep follow their shepherd and distinguish between the shepherd's voice and others brings to life Jesus' words about His voice being the one we should hear, know and follow. In both the English version and the Greek emphatic forms, Jesus strongly

emphasizes that He lays down His life for His sheep (10:11-18). Jesus is worthy for you to follow because He cares so much about you that He lay down His life for you on the cross so that you can be forgiven, saved, protected, fed, brought into the presence of your Father in heaven and kept close to Him (John 10:11, 15, 17, 18; 14:23).

I hope you'll read through John 10 and notice what Jesus says about His voice. Notice too, what He says about competing voices. There are the voices of the "thief and robber" (10:1, 8, 10), the "voice of strangers" who want to lead the sheep astray (10:5), the voices of the "hired hand" and the "wolf" (10:12). The

Shaped by the Word

Excerpts from Greg's Fall 2006
GLBC Newsletter article:



Greg Whitfield: BTh (GLBC)
Cambridge Church planter

I've been shaped and transformed by the Word of God while at GLBC.

What I did in this school is what I will be doing in life!

Paul says to the Ephesians, "I pray that all of you reading this may have power in the Spirit so that Christ may dwell in your hearts to know God's love that surpasses knowledge so that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God".

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hired hand had no personal interest in the safety of the sheep, he was just in it for the money. The wolf was in it for his dinner. The hired hand listened to the voice of the wolf instead of the good shepherd.

Like today, there were many religious leaders in Jesus' day who did not want people to know His voice and follow Him. They felt threatened and jealous of Him. In Roman and Greek culture there was also much sexual immorality, substance abuse and pagan entertainment spectacles. Jesus shows us that Satan wants to lead away, kill and destroy God's sheep. That's us (10:10). It's a huge relief to know that Jesus is with His sheep, to keep us safe from thieves, robbers, the devil, false religious leaders and anyone who would want to destroy us and take away the extraordinary gift of life that Jesus wants us to have. Jesus shows that He will protect His sheep as they "hear My voice," "know Me," and "follow Me" (10:14, 27).

Later, Jesus tells His disciples that the way to hear Him and stay near Him, their shepherd, was by staying in His Word and doing it: "If you stay in Me, and My words stay in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you... If you keep my commandments, you will remain in My love" (15:7, 10). The root word for "obeying" God's commands in Hebrew and Greek is "hear." If you do a word search for "voice" in an online Bible you will see that God has always wanted us to hear and obey His voice.

Staying in the Father's and Jesus' words and love is the best place you can possibly be. But there are many voices calling for you today, so many loud voices in movies, music, magazines, ads and other media that want to take up all of your attention. These voices will likely get louder this century. Not that all of them are bad but can we tell the good voices from the "thief and robber," the "strangers," the "hired hand," the "wolf," and Satan who want to lead us astray, kill us spiritually and keep us from the extraordinary eternal life Jesus brings to us? Our challenge is to recognize and listen to Jesus' voice above all the competitors. His words are awesome.

His words are loaded with power. They are different and we can recognize them. Our question is not, "has God spoken to us," but, "are we listening to Him?" He's made us to know Him if we're willing.

In the end what really matters about us is not the sound of our voices but what's in our minds and hearts and the love we give to others. What matters is not that we have heard the physical sound of Jesus' voice, because we haven't, but that we hear and know His amazing words. We can read them, memorize them, take time for them, speak them, listen as our friends in Christ speak them to us, hear them in sermons and lessons and from our family. Work at listening to God's voice and being sensitive to Him. He knows you. He speaks to you. He loves you.

Recognizing Jesus' voice in the power of His words is possible because His words are like no other words or sounds. They reveal God's heart and thoughts to us. We can know His voice from among thousands of others by listening to His Word and letting it guide us in what we think and do. Today we have open and free access to Jesus' voice in His Word. Living with His words day by day gives us



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the power we need to hear Him, to know Him and to follow Him.

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THE PATH BEATEN HARD

Carolyn McMillan and Shelley Jacobs

Wilfred Orr

Carolyn McMillan

From time to time, an individual comes along who inspires others, not by being enigmatic and impressive, but simply by going about life in a humble, unassuming and selfless manner. One such individual is the late Wilfred Orr. You will not find numerous references to Wilfred Orr in early issues of the *Gospel Herald*, as with some of the other pioneer preachers of those early days, but he played a significant part in the establishment and strengthening of prairie Churches of Christ in the formative years of the 20s, 30s and 40s. In fact, his selfless service to the church and to individuals extended right into his retirement years.

Wilfred Orr was born in Great Harwood, Lancashire, England, in 1904 and came to Canada with his parents and siblings in 1906. They homesteaded near Oungre, Saskatchewan (about 100 km miles south of Regina.) When Wilfred was 12 years old, his family first came into contact with the Church of Christ. His

father happened to be working away from home for a few days, and H.A. Rogers was preaching a meeting in that place. Mr. Orr was impressed with what he heard and invited Rogers to preach at the schoolhouse near his home. In August 1917, Wilfred and his parents were baptized at that meeting. His wife, Pearl, reports that he made the Lord's work first in his life from that time forward.

H.A. Rogers was quite an inspiration to Wilfred. Rogers supported himself by operating a market garden and that was a pattern that Wilfred followed for most of his life. Wilfred's father was a joiner or cabinetmaker in England and taught Wilfred that trade. Rogers was a dramatic speaker and illustrated his lessons with large charts that he carried with him as he traveled about preaching. Rogers often took Wilfred with him when he held meetings in the area. He is likely the first model that Wilfred had of effective and powerful preaching.

When Wilfred was 17, he went

to Carman, Manitoba, to attend the Carman Bible School for a year. J.C. Bailey attended the same session. Both young men were among the top students. As well as intense Bible study, they learned up to nine memory verses per day. This training also included song leading, and Wilfred loved to sing.

From that time forward, he preached often. He especially made a point of going regularly to several small congregations after they had been established to encourage and strengthen the Christians there. It was not unusual for him to work full-time as a carpenter for six days in a week and preach at three different church services on Sunday. He prepared his sermons in the evenings after long days of physical work. He usually stopped at noon on Saturday in order to get his suit pressed and brushed, his shoes polished and his car tuned up for the long day on Sunday. Lillian Torkelson reported that her brother Elvin often went along with Wilfred on Sundays to drive while Wilfred did some last minute study or caught up on sleep.

Because the roads were mostly prairie trails in those days, rocks and potholes took a toll on the car tires. It was not unusual to have several flat tires on a Sunday. Those waiting for him to come would watch for the "cloud of dust"—this would be Wilfred hurrying to get there, sometimes late because of car trouble, but he always did his best to get there. As soon as that service finished, he would be off to the next one down the road. Certain times of the year, when roads were impassable, he traveled by horse and sleigh, skied or walked many miles on Sunday. Once when he happened to be working near Knoxville, Saskatchewan, he borrowed a horse and rode for 20 miles (one way) on a cold winter day to get to their church service by 11:00 a.m. Through all of



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the difficulties he encountered while traveling from one preaching service to another, those who knew him well reported that they never heard him utter words of frustration. He was a very patient man!

Wilfred was instrumental in establishing and teaching in the early summer and winter Bible Schools in Saskatchewan and, later, was very involved with Radville Christian College. His commitment to that ministry went beyond teaching to doing endless hours of carpentry work and even buying property to be used by the Bible schools.

Many stories could be told about his great generosity. One story that is often told is of a time when Wilfred gave J.C. Bailey half of the wages he earned working in a week. J.C. was preaching a gospel meeting, and it was necessary to cut the meeting short because of lack of funds. When Wilfred heard about this, he gave the money so the meeting could continue.

His daughter, Lois, reports that her father never considered his money or possessions his own. Wilfred and his wife, Pearl, were always generous with their time and their home in those early years, and this continued right up through their retirement years.

Undoubtedly, Wilfred Orr's most inspiring work was the one-on-one teaching he did as he traveled from place to place and stayed in the homes of many people. During the course of a gospel meeting, many preachers spent their off-hours studying in the house, but not Wilfred! He consistently joined in the farm work and discussed the Bible as he worked side by side with his hosts. His sister, Trudy Barnes, admitted that Wilfred was not a powerful orator, but that "his greatest work was to keep people Christians once they had begun the Christian life. He knew the importance of visiting them, working right along with the farmers when they were busy and encouraging them in every way

in their Christian life." Clifford Elford recalled a time when he was storm stayed at the home of Wilfred and his wife Pearl. Wilfred taught Clifford the Book of Romans during those days. Clifford said he was hungry for the word and that teaching always stayed with him. Clifford remembered that he and Wilfred would often pull out the New Testaments they carried in their pockets while they were working in the fields and discuss a certain point of Scripture. Clifford said that "you couldn't help but love him because he didn't impose it upon you or push it on you, but he was always, always teaching in his own quiet way."

One of the great benefits of studying history is to be able to learn things from the past to make a better present. Wilfred Orr was a man who was humbly committed to walk as Jesus walked in his life and relationships. That is the kind of life that can make a better present!

Regina, SK

Full-Time Evangelist Position

The **Lloydminster Church of Christ** is seeking a full-time evangelist to work with a diverse congregation of 40-50 people with many young children. Lloydminster is a growing community of approximately 24,000 people, located on the border between the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and approximately halfway between the cities of Saskatoon and Edmonton on the Yellowhead Highway.

The congregation is seeking an evangelist with experience in sharing God's word through preaching, teaching, home studies and visitation. Applicants should:

- Have some full-time experience as an evangelist.
- Have demonstrated abilities in working with young people.
- Be evangelistic and growth oriented.
- Have a deep love and respect for the Word and for fellowship.

The position is open July 1, 2007.

Please address your inquiries or send your resume to:

Mr. Lee Patmore, Chair, Selection Committee
Church of Christ, P.O. Box 88
Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, Canada T9V 0X9
Phone: (306) 825-2505 • Email: patmores@sasktel.net



by Walter R. Straker
750 Clark Blvd.

Bramalea, ON L6T 3Y2
Fax: 905 792-8623

E-mail: bramaleacofc@bellnet.ca

Reminder: To be published in the following month's Gospel Herald, each congregation's information should be sent to Walter Straker before the third last Tuesday of the month. Please clearly mark the email or the envelope: "NewsEast."

ONTARIO

Beamsville: Ray Miller was honoured with a surprise celebration on Friday, March 16, 2007, at West Olive Church of Christ, Peoria, Arizona, for his 50 years of preaching.

Bramalea: Carlos Campbell, Jr., was baptized into Christ on February 18, the day after his 13th birthday. Thomas and Rosena Morghan Acquaaah placed membership with the congregation on March 4. Originally from Accra, Ghana, Thomas recently received an

MBA from Williamstown University, Jersey City, NJ. Paul Neves spoke at the Harding Youth Lectureship on March 10.

Brantford, North Park: The brethren are collecting gifts for the children on the reservation where Brian and Bonnie Cox live and work.

Meaford: About 100 teens attended the February 16-18 Youth Rally.

Owen Sound: The congregation rejoiced that brother Tom Riley confessed wrongs and has returned to God and our church fellowship. Recently the church started a DVD church library and is currently using the "Searching for Truth" DVD in two Bible studies with those in the community. On February 18, CFOS 560 broadcast the congregation's morning worship over Grey/Bruce and surrounding areas. Lord willing, the congregation will be broadcasting three other services this year.

Thessalon: On the 2nd Sunday of March, 1907, the church met in the Algoma area for the first time. They met first in a private home, then at a rented building and, in 1922, a building was erected in North Livingstone and used until the congregation outgrew it. In 1978-79, the present building was built in Thessalon. In 2006-07, an extension was added and the building

is now wheelchair accessible. The congregation is planning a 100-year celebration of the church in the Thessalon area on May 19-20, 2007.

They would be very pleased to have everyone join them for the two-day event. A noon luncheon will be served both days.

Toronto (Scarborough): The school where the congregation is meeting suddenly closed its doors; so the brethren had to make contacts to find new accommodations. They found one but it will be far more costly, and not as conducive to worship, as what they are used to. They are still checking around.

Toronto (Strathmore Blvd): Plans continue to develop for Vision Canada 2007, to be hosted by Strathmore on the campus of Great Lakes Christian College, June 26-29. The theme for the seminar is "Obligated, Eager and Not Ashamed" based on Romans 1:14-17. Registrations are now being accepted for accommodations on the campus at Great Lakes. For information or to register, contact Max Craddock at Strathmore. (See the ad on the back cover for contact information.)

Waterloo: Ladies' class on March 6 studied "What about the widow indeed?" From March 26-30 the Great Lakes Bible College winter short course, entitled "The Church of Christ," was to be taught by Everett Ferguson, from Abilene, Texas. On March 27 Nancy Ferguson was guest speaker at the ladies' Bible study.

West Side (Windsor): The congregation held a Clothing Giveaway Work Session on March 7 to sort and organize the many items that had been donated and to wash toys and other items.

Ladies Day

Theme: **Be Strong! Have Courage!**

Theme Verse: Joshua 1:5-9

Date: Saturday, May 5th, 2007

Location: Sudbury, Church of Christ,
2664 Bancroft Drive, Sudbury, Ontario

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

All women ages 15 and up are welcome

There will be three different speakers
for three different age groups.

Speakers:

Melissa Stringer from Sudbury will be the speaker
for the young women.

Elaine Klym from Sudbury will be the speaker
for the middle agers.

Ina Smith from St. Catherines will be the speaker
for the wise and experienced women.

Contact Person: Melissa Stringer 705-521-1373
or email at: curtmelstringer@hotmail.com

Strawberry Point CHRISTIAN CAMP

Ice Lake, Ontario

Is currently accepting applications for a
Camp Cook/Kitchen Manager.

This is a 6 week position from June 26th - Aug 6th, 2007.
Will be responsible for preparing meals, organizing and overseeing the operation of the kitchen. Applicants must be organized, forward thinking, flexible, able to delegate, and have a strong work ethic.

Successful applicant must complete a
Certified Food Handler's Course.

Contact Verna Tallman at (705) 377-4555 or
sppccregistrar@hotmail.com

Application deadline: April 15th, 2007



by Marion Waugh
3427-82 Street
Edmonton, AB T6K 0G7
Phone: (306) 545-0550
E-mail: waughr1@shaw.ca

(BC news supplied by Barbara Lewis)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Abbotsford (Central Valley): The Weirs and Wedlers were rewarded with easier driving conditions when they made their winter trip to the northern Indian settlements of Fort Ware (Kwadacha) and Tsay Keh Dene, B.C., in mid-November loaded with gifts, donations and a week's food supplies for themselves. Among other highlights, a Friday evening prayer meeting that had been arranged in Ksay Keh was attended by 18 villagers. On Sunday morning, 15 came to the worship service Norm conducted in their log church building. In the afternoon, the visitors made the hour's drive on to Fort Ware in order to conduct an evening service there. Twenty-one came to the community health office for a Bible study, worship and prayer requests that continued for an hour and a half. Several lingered on to ask for specific personal prayers. The following morning, the clothes and gifts that had been brought were delivered to a Thrift Store, which has become very successful and useful to the village as a social gathering place. All proceeds go toward the construction of a community church building. On their final day, the four helped with preparations for a supper to promote a drug and alcohol awareness program. This event, along with a pancake breakfast, was sponsored by the school system.

Burnaby: One of our elders, Mike Nienhuis, and his wife, Barbara, are moving to San Diego, CA. as a result of a job promotion. News of the baptism of Maddison Noel has come from Australia, where her parents moved last summer.

City Church (Vancouver): Our congregation was busy in February seeking new avenues for advertising. The Chapman's developed a website for us, which may be viewed at: <http://www.citychurchofchrist.org/home.htm>. We also looked into phone book ads, ads with local newspapers and the "Vancouver Church Review". Each of the men received a copy of a manual to cultivate the spiritual aspects of our worship and help us grow in Christ which was written by Stephen Hasbrouck, Jr. In response to the controversy over the alleged tomb of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, he also wrote a six-page tract for use with Bible students (and anyone else) to defend the truth that Jesus never married, and that the general trend of recent discoveries has neither historical nor scriptural foundations. "Sometimes edification can come from the strangest sources. In some ways, February was quite difficult. Many of us continued to struggle with sickness, unresponsive non-Christians in Bible classes, world news that only spoke of violence and godlessness, and the usual strains and stresses of urban living. As I was reading Wassily Kandinsky's monograph Concerning the Spiritual in Art, I gained a whole new appreciation for what it is that we do.

Most of his art is abstract, and seems quite hard to decipher. Yet this artist wrote of how modern art was dying because most artists and intellectuals had abandoned God—Our God—and Kandinsky hoped to find a way to bring spiritual qualities back into a discipline that was permeated with immorality and godlessness... The world may continue to founder, but now and then someone comes along and celebrates God with bold, bright brushstrokes, content with the spiritual rather than the material..."

—Steve Hasbrouck, Jr.

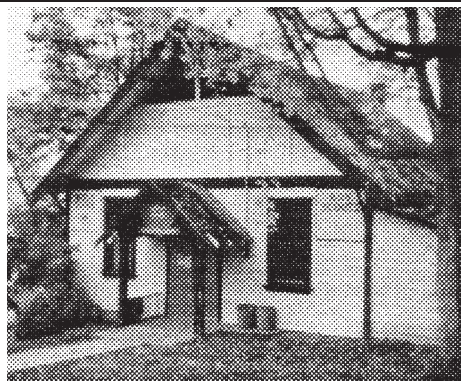
Delta: A Spring Campaign Team from Harding University arrived on March 10 to spend a week assisting the church here in various types of work. Fourteen students under the leadership of graduate student Mike Bauer, will be doing a number of kinds of service while here. These include: doing service work in downtown area and for Christians with needs, leading various groups in devotionals, worship services, teaching classes, traveling to various areas of Vancouver to pray, meeting with community groups, doing service work for a Christian school, and visiting universities to investigate their programs.

Nanaimo: After visiting with us several days and becoming acquainted through a number of special events, Derek King and his wife, Jennifer, have made the decision to come to work with us. Moving from Arkansas, they will arrive as soon as they are able to obtain immigration status and are expected about May 1. A native Californian, Derek's sermons on CD's have been available to members of the congregation since he was first contacted. They have worked in a number of different States.

WASHINGTON

Spokane Valley: This congregation is supporting an orphanage in Russia on a monthly basis. Each of the 32 children requires only \$10 per month from individual members to house, feed, school and clothe. The church also keeps a general fund on hand for emergencies. There are over 2,000,000 orphans in Russia, and the suggestion has been made that perhaps the congregation can support a second orphanage.

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50th Anniversary Celebration Salmon Arm Church of Christ in beautiful British Columbia.

July 13-15,
2007

Lessons by: Lynn Anderson
and Blair Roberts
History by: Sam Tumlinson

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(250) 832-3828
sacofc@jetstream.net
s_roberts@telus.net

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



Haiti: In September 2006, we went back to our mission in Haiti. It had been almost two years since our last visit. Our manager, Monique, needed encouragement. Unfortunately, we contacted a viral infection on the way and had to come back sooner than we had planned. However, the mission is doing very well. All is functioning, as it should, with the school at full capacity again. This year again we have 300 children at the campus school and 70 at each of our two satellite schools. Additional students keep coming throughout the year. For the first time, the government recognized our school, paying tuition fees for 27 of our students for having top marks. This is very helpful, as the cost of operating the mission is getting greater by the month. So far, we have been able to meet it, but we do need more commitments. "In 2004 we inherited a 14-year old orphan girl. Last year we inherited three more, two sisters and a half-sister. All four parents had died of AIDS, but the girls are clean of HIV. We built a little house for the three sisters, and they take care of themselves. They are 14, 8, and 6 years of age. This type of charity was not in our plans—it just happened. The Lord gave them to us, so we took them. We need donations for their basic needs such as clothing, shoes, etc. Etienne, Monique's husband, has been able to continue preaching and helping with the school. Their son, Ralph, is now taking religious courses at the university in Port au Prince, and plans to return to the mission to work when he is finished in two years.—Report from Raymond Fillion (Ed. Note: He adds that the school will never close as long as he is capable of overseeing it. Raymond is now 78 years old and beginning to have health problems. However he knows that God is in control of the future and has confidence that He will take care of it.)

Cambodia: Since their arrival, Earl & Judy Bridges have been busy studying the language and familiarizing themselves with the work here. They hope to assist

in church planting and maturing younger Christians. The Bridges spent ten years working in Thailand. After more than 20 years in the US, they made the decision to join the work here. Troy and Tabitha Snowbargar came at the end of March to assume the oversight of the Humanitarian work. They will be helping expand the Nutritional program, Irrigation projects, Gardening and other phases they became familiar with while serving with the Peace Corp in East Timor, Indonesia. Unable to spend the time needed to make these programs as effective as they could be, we sought assistance, and the Snowbargar's expertise and experience will allow us to do more and do it better. The Nutritional Program has continued to expand, and we are now feeding more than 1,000 children in 10 villages on the sites where the churches meet. With only \$3.40 per month, we are able to feed a child three nutritious meals a week. Contributions may be made on line by going to www.partnersinprogress.org. The Back to School program, which provides books and uniforms to make it possible for children to go to school, is a natural extension of the village Bible school program. Their Christian teachers are monitoring it to be sure they are in class and doing their homework. Our English Bible Study program continues to teach 50 students each day with individualized instructions. Billy and Jeanie Moore are

expected on April 15th to direct it for the next six months. We are looking for others to come to manage it so that the program does not have to be phased out at the end of this year." – Partial Report from William ("Bill") McDonough for Partners In Progress, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

India: A 10-year-old Indian girl now has a chance to live a normal life because of the efforts of Karen Clayton, missionary to India for the past 26+ years, to raise the \$20,000 needed for her to have a Bone Marrow Transplant. Rachel will be in isolation for the next several weeks, but is so happy to be alive. Rachel has three siblings, and one of her sisters was the perfect donor. The money had to be raised twice because the child had a bleeding problem that had to be solved before the BMT could take place when it was planned two years ago. All of the original money went for that and taking care of a place for her mother to live nearby while she was in the hospital being treated.

Siem Reap, Cambodia – March 13-20, 2007: Sixty-seven individuals from five Asian nations (Cambodia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, & Thailand), as well as missionaries from Canada & the US will gather for this combination street kids' outreach and international fellowship camp.

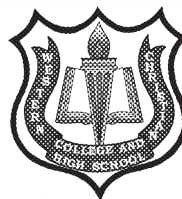
Japan, Sendai: *Asia Mission Forum, an annual event to encourage Asian missionaries, is being planned this year by the Sendai team in Bali, Indonesia, from August 4-8, 2007. Japan is too expensive. The theme is: "If My People, Who are Called by My Name..." - reflecting on the character of missionaries as the people of God in the Asian community.

***Prayer requests: LST readers and LST teachers; Sendai team members as they complete their five-year commitment and plan for the future of the Sendai congregation; Crimsen Ruhnke, who spoke to the ladies at the Ontario Good Friday "Training for Service."**

For further information or to receive reports, contact: Joel Osborne at joelosborne4@yahoo.com; Jon and Michiko Straker at jstrake@yahoo.com or their website <http://www.strakerhouse.com/missionreports>; Bramalea Church of Christ, 750 Clark Boulevard, Brampton ON L6T 3Y2, bramaleacofc@bellnet.ca;

Thank you for your faithful support of the Sendai work.

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Who is the Greatest Preacher?

Nathan Pickard

We have heard countless preachers preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and if we are honest with ourselves we could say that some preachers are able to effectively speak, while others put us to sleep. We know which speakers we like and which speakers we don't like. So for many, the greatest preacher is usually the one who is able to effectively communicate a message that is able to keep our attention and is able to say something that is related to the life we live.

I contend, though, that rating an individual as a successful preacher has missed the mark. It is not an individual who becomes the greatest preacher; rather it is the church that becomes the greatest preacher. And so, as P.T. Forsyth (a Scottish Theologian, 1848-1921) has said, "the first business of the individual preacher is to enable the church to preach." The job of preachers is not limited to an exegetical exercise of the text and explaining the meaning of it to the congregation or to speak on various subjects such as faith, baptism, Lord's Supper, grace, love, or any other subject. The job of the preacher includes the idea of empowering the church to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus was speaking to the crowds in Matthew 5 (which is commonly called the Beatitudes), he told them that they are the "light of the world." Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14, 16). Matthew 5 is not a description that we can choose to be or not be; it is what the church must become.

If Matthew 5 is taken seriously within the communal context of the church then the sole focus of the church will not be on "doing

church right," but rather will include discipling individuals to embody Christ so that we can become lights to the world. This, however, will require us to undergo some major transformations in our churches.

In our church, for example, as one enters the building we had hanging on the wall a "tract board" where one could pick up a pamphlet on any issue. These

Together the preacher and the church become the greatest preacher when they live out the gospel of Jesus Christ.

pamphlets were written in such a way to promote the right doctrine and the right teachings of scripture. Having the right doctrine and the right teachings of scripture is essential for the life of the church but to simply stop here is to forget a major portion of the Christian life. Having the right doctrine and the right teachings should lead us to live and to embody Christ.

Thus, alongside our tract boards there should be a cross with a saying written beside it, "Becoming a cross-shaped people." There should also be, located in plain view for everyone to see, various mission boards that remind us and to help us carry our crosses. We should have literature to help us embody Christ in a digitalized world, a commuting world, a fast-paced, high energy,

busy and hectic world. We don't need to be reminded about our doctrines that we believe; we need to be reminded to carry our crosses and to live a cross-shaped life for the sake of the world.

Who is the greatest preacher? Together, the preacher and the church become the greatest preacher when they live out the gospel of Jesus Christ. Lee Camp, professor of Bible at David Lipscomb University quotes Bill Tilbert, a minister of the gospel of Christ, in his book *Mere Discipleship*. The quote Camp cites sums up how the church becomes the greatest preacher:

"The history of the church through the ages has been the history of changes brought about in society through the church demonstrating and living an alternative life. We need to stop telling our nonbelieving neighbors how wrong their way of life is, and we need to start showing the power of the gospel in the way we live... Let me ask you: which has greater power? Ten thousand people who fill the streets in front of abortion clinics and shame those seeking abortions, or ten thousand people in California who take to the state capital a petition they have signed stating they will take any unwanted child of any age, any color, any physical condition so that they can love that child in the name of Jesus Christ."

Tilbert is helping his community of faith embody Christ, just as we need to help our faith communities embody

Christ. We don't need to tell people we are the true church or that we worship the "right" way, or that we have the "right" view of baptism; we need to live the life Christ is calling us to live and people will see that we are a true church who embodies Jesus Christ to the world.

Who is the greatest preacher? The church that embodies Jesus Christ!

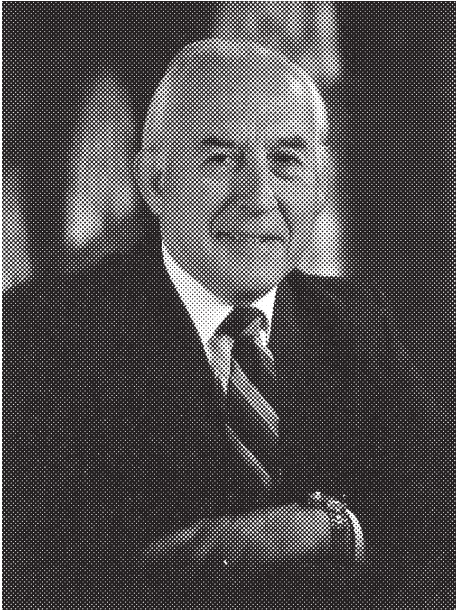
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Roy Merritt

60 Years of Preaching

This past fall marked Roy Merritt's 60th anniversary of preaching. He began in Rockwood, Texas in October, 1946. After graduating from Abilene Christian College in 1950 and Butler University in 1951, he returned to Canada (bringing along his Texas bride, Nelle). He was involved with the starting of congregations in Hamilton (Fennell Ave.), Ottawa and Thunder Bay. When Great Lakes Christian College began its Faculty of Bible and Missions in 1968, Roy served as the first Dean.

While at GLCC, he also preached for the St. Catharines and Beamsville

congregations. In 1981, he and Nelle went to India for three and a half years. Returning to Canada he preached in Ottawa for five years, then Kingston, Ont. for two. They moved to Winnipeg in 1990. (He also served as an elder for the Beamsville and Winnipeg congregations.) Roy served as co-editor of the Gospel Herald for 40 years. He turned 88 this past December. He and Nelle have been back in St. Catharines for several years where he is still teaching weekly Bible classes and preaching when needed.

A Coffin in Egypt... continued from page 3

maintain a separate identity. But while their life in Goshen was helping them remain separate, there was a danger that the purpose and goal might be lost. They needed to exist as a separate nation to fulfill their destiny, but just being a separate nation was not their destiny. They must also possess the land promised to their father Abraham and go on from that to the rest of the promise. A separate identity was needed to reach the goal, but a separate identity was not the goal.

To remind them that they are not to stay in Goshen forever, they had a prominent symbol, a coffin, the coffin of Joseph. "So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt" (50:26).

Unusual

A coffin is an unusual bit of furniture. Perhaps it was not as unusual then as now, but it is always unusual to keep a coffin around for a long time.

We need some unusual features in our life, or we will forget our goal and will drift into conformity with the surrounding society. As Peter tells us, "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evil doers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the

day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:11-12).

Later he says, "The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you..." (1 Peter 4:3-4)

Without some unusual features, we are unable to influence others. We must maintain some unusual features, but what kind of unusual features should we maintain?

Pointing backward

A coffin points backward. If we have a coffin around, it is because someone

You are invited
to a come and go tea
Honouring

Jim Ford's
90th Birthday

Sunday, April 22, 2007
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Meaford Church of Christ
113 Nelson St. W

(Best wishes only)

has lived a meaningful life. Joseph's life was a life worth remembering.

If we have unusual features in our life, they need to point to something. They should not just be ways of maintaining separateness, but ways of maintaining a meaningful separateness. A congregation's unusual features, a Christian's unusual features, a Christian family's unusual features ought to point to the gospel—the events of Bethlehem, Galilee, Jerusalem, Calvary.

Even moral separateness, in and of itself, is of little value if it is not linked to thankfulness for the grace of God. It becomes self-proclamation rather than a proclamation of Christ unless it is grounded in a memory of what Christ has done for us (1 Cor 6:19-20).

Forward looking

This coffin also points to a future event. If we do have a coffin around, it can only be because we are expecting a burial to take place at some point. This coffin in Egypt certainly points forward.

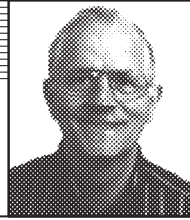
The unusual features of our lives need to point forward also. They must not just be ceremonies for maintaining our separateness, nor yet things that merely point back, but things that point to our goal (1 Cor 11:26; Heb 11:13-16).

If we would claim to be Christians, our lives must be different from the world around us. We must set ourselves apart in the ways God has commanded, and maintain that separateness.

Toledo, OH

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)
email:bookreviews@gospelherald.org



Where To Find It In The Bible, Nelson Publishing Company, \$24.99 (Cdn.)

This book of 592 pages will help the reader to locate specific Bible references for over 3,700 different subjects. It is a fully illustrated topical concordance to Biblical sources.

It gives a contemporary topical concordance but also includes a myriad of subjects, both traditional and offbeat.

This A-to-Z listing of topics puts key Scriptures at your fingertips without a lot of fancy theological language. It helps you locate specific Bible references to over 3,700 different subjects, circumstances and situations. It includes references to various popular translations.

This book will help readers to find relevant Bible passages quickly and easily. It will help the reader to see what the Bible says about contemporary topics and issues.

Seeking A Life That Counts, Finding True Happiness, A Study of Ecclesiastes, by G. Scott Gleaves, Gospel Advocate, Nashville, TN. Paper. 128 pages, \$11.50 (Cdn.)

The author confesses that he was not prepared to minister to people who faced some of the most difficult challenges in life. Although he was well educated (B.A. M.A. PhD) he felt overwhelmed by these challenges.

He was somewhat surprised when he found many of the answers he was seeking in a neglected Old Testament book, namely Ecclesiastes. Like many today, the author of Ecclesiastes felt that he was going nowhere in life. "Vanity of vanities. All is vanity" were his words. Another man, formerly a believer, had been drinking alcohol to excess. One day his life was changed as he started reading this Old Testament book.

Ecclesiastes presents "reflective wisdom" which causes the reader to carefully consider

the destiny toward which he is moving. What a difference such thought can make in our lives! The journey of faith can help us overcome the difficulties that surround our lives. We can begin to make sense out of life. A truly joyful life can be achieved by one who will follow the guidelines given in this Old Testament book. But it must be interpreted through the greater and fuller guidelines given in the New Testament.

Facing Your Giants by Max Lucado, 233 pages, \$ 21.50 (Cdn.) W Publishing Group.

Here is another excellent book from the hand of Max Lucado. However this review does not imply endorsement of all his beliefs and practices. This is also true regarding the various books from evangelical writers.

Like David facing Goliath we all must confront many giants in our lives. Although many years have passed since these things occurred there are multiplied lessons that apply to us today. Lucado uses many powerful Old Testament stories to illustrate our modern day experiences.

Like David and other Biblical characters, we must face many giants in our lives. This book will help us all in these daily conflicts. Also included is a Study Guide which will assist the reader in applying these great lessons.

Captured By Grace by David Jeremiah, Integrity Publishers, 216 pages, \$18.99 (Cdn)

This book contains much valuable material on the great subject of grace. However, most unfortunately, it ignores what the Word says about how we contact that grace.

For example we read things like this: "Grace is shocking - something like the heavenly converse of a traffic accident. When love is returned for evil, we can't help stopping to rubberneck. Grace is the delivery of a jewel that nobody ordered, a burst of light in a room where everyone forgot it was dark."

The author shows the power of God's grace in the conversion of someone like the Apostle Paul. He observes, "Our New Testament contains 155 references to grace; 130 of them comes from the pen of Paul. The word opens, closes and dominates every letter he wrote. It defines his teaching and his dearest hopes. Grace is the magnificent ideal by which he would measure his life and yours. The scourge of the martyrs has become the apostle of grace."

There are many powerful illustrations concerning the greatness and the wonder of grace. Victor Hugo's Les Miserables is one of these. We cannot save ourselves. We are totally dependent on God's amazing grace for our salvation.

On the negative side, while this book says many wonderful things about grace, it does not show how one comes in contact with that grace. For instance, while Paul's conversion is mentioned, there is no reference to what he was told to do to receive salvation (Acts 22:16). We must read any book with the Bible close by. Then we can check what it says with the Word of God.



You are invited to the:
Great Lakes Bible College
Graduation Ceremony
&
Promotional Dinner
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007
5:00 P.M.

Speaker:
Mr. Don Rose
Great Lakes Bible College President

Tickets - \$25/ea

Location - The Delta Kitchener
105 King Street East, Kitchener, Ont.

For more information or tickets contact:
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OBITUARIES

Brown, Luke

Luke Brown, age 70, passed away early a.m. on February 20, 2007. Luke leaves Norma, his wife, a son and daughter and four grandchildren, to mourn him and yet rejoice that he was in the Lord. After a memorial service Friday, February 23, Luke's body was taken to Jamaica for burial.

Walter Straker

Johnson, Merle Christopher

Merle Christopher Johnson, with several members of his family present, passed away on March 6, 2007, at the age of 85 years. Merle and his wife, Anne, celebrated their 60th anniversary in November 2006. In addition to Anne, his daughter, Madeline (David) and son Chris (Betty Jean), six grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and other

family members survive Merle. He was a dearly loved man who was known for his warmth and friendly smile. For 34 years, until his retirement in 1980, he worked for the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Merle served as an elder at the Windsor Park and Central congregations in Winnipeg for many years until he felt he was no longer able to keep up with the responsibilities and retired. He loved to lead singing and preach. As well, he did several weddings and was asked to conduct or assist at many funerals (He assisted me with over 30). He was always one of the first to greet visitors to worship. He loved any activity that allowed him to meet and be with people. People always felt his kindness and genuine interest in them. For several years, he and Anne hosted our City Centre Bible Study in their apartment. Their home was always a centre of church and family activity.

Merle and Anne were both in the hospital, just a few rooms apart, when

he passed away. Just before Anne was taken to another hospital for some tests, she was taken by his room. He looked at her and said, I love you. Take care of yourself. I'll see you later. He passed on before she came back.

Merle was a great influence and encouragement to everyone. His attitude was positive, his sincerity and faith genuine. The evening before he died, Merle said, "My faith is strong. I am not wavering." And shortly before his death, "I am ready." When he led singing, he especially enjoyed songs that spoke of hope and heaven.

About 250 family, church members, friends and neighbours came together for his memorial service. A number of his family and members of the congregation participated. We shared together the many moments we had enjoyed with him, the sometimes corny jokes and one-liners, the many acts of kindness and love. We all knew that our lives had been enriched by his presence.

Wayne Turner

Witnessing... continued from page 2

God" (Acts 1:3). Before he was taken up before their eyes he said to them, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

It was very important that the evidence of Christ's resurrection should be confirmed with more than adequate evidence. Paul summarizes some of the evidence which became so convincing to him, which was the foundation of his faith, should have been to the Corinthians and to the world as he preached the gospel: "For what I received I passed on to you

as of first importance: Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he rose again on the third day according to the scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born" (1 Cor.15:3-8).

This gospel message of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth was the heart of the message of the apostles and other disciples as they went courageously preaching Jesus as the risen Lord and Saviour. They did this in the face of threats, imprisonments and death. These same disciples who denied that they were followers of Jesus and did not want to be identified with him, now with all the evidence that he was really alive from the dead and with the power from the Holy Spirit, courageously and persistently preached Jesus as Lord and Saviour, raised from the dead and

ascended to the Father. The apostles were convinced and convicted. They became changed to men with the full message of the kingdom of God.

The importance of having personally witnessed Jesus' miracles, teaching, good works and his resurrection is evident when the disciples were selecting an apostle to take the place of Judas. The qualification set for the one to be chosen were: "It is therefore necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—beginning from the baptism of John, until the day that He was taken from us—one of these should become a witness with us of His resurrection" (Acts 1:21, 22).

We will take note, as we continue this study next month, of the centrality of the resurrection in the messages of the apostles as they went out to take the gospel message to Jews and Gentiles. This message had to be believed to establish the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God, and the legitimacy of the "kingdom at hand" he announced and the church he would build.

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Ontario Street
Church of Christ

St. Catharines

Education Ministry Workshop

THEME:

"How To Last In Ministry"

"Motivating Yourself For Ministry"

Date: Saturday, May 26, 2007

Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Place: Ontario Street Church of Christ
439 Ontario St. (Near Linwell Rd.)

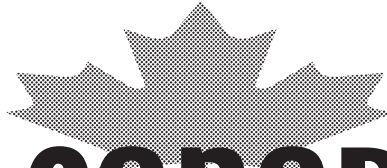
Lunch is provided

Presenter: Gregory Smith

Minister of the Walkerton Church of Christ

Please RSVP - by May 11, 2007

905-935-5981 or email: churchofchrist@bellnet.ca



VISION CANADA 2007

A Seminar on Church Growth in Canada through Evangelism

Theme:

Obligated, Eager and Not Ashamed

Romans 1:14 – 17

June 26 – 29, 2007

Keynote Addresses

June 26 – 7:30 PM

Obligated

Geoffrey H. Ellis
Waterloo, ON

June 27 – 7:30 PM

Eager

Tim Johnson
Edmonton, AB

June 28 – 7:30 PM

Not Ashamed

Michael Mazzalongo
Montreal, QC

Hosted by: Strathmore Blvd. Church of Christ, Toronto, ON

REGISTRATIONS
NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Seminar Location

**The campus of Great Lakes Christian College
Beamsville, ON**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

(Registrations requested by May 26, 2007)

Contact by mail: Strathmore Blvd. Church of Christ,
346 Strathmore Blvd., Toronto, ON M4C 1N3

By phone: 416-461-7406 • By e-mail: maxc@strathmorecofc.ca

Room and Meals on the Great Lakes Christian College campus:

Accommodations:

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Multiple occupants - \$25.00/room/day

Meals:

Breakfast - \$4.00
Lunch - \$7.50
Supper - \$9.50