

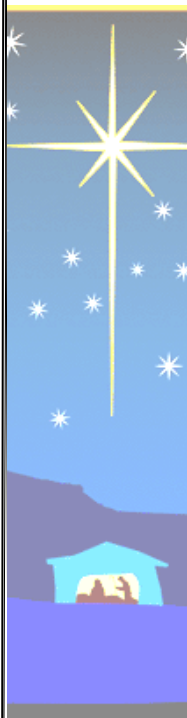
BY GEORGE

155 Years

A MEMBER CONGREGATION OF THE ANGLICAN NETWORK IN CANADA (ANIC)

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In Him was life, and the Life was the light of men.

ADVENT—THE LORD REIGNS



Among the themes of Advent is the great longing of the church for the future reign of Christ. It is a subject found in most of the prayers and scripture lessons in the B. C. P. for the beginning of the Christian year. The following prayer from the ember days of the season illustrates this.

“Almighty Lord and everlasting Father, who would have the kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of thy Son Jesus Christ: Bestow thy blessing, we beseech thee, upon all who labour for peace and righteousness among the nations, that the day will be hastened when war shall be no more, and thou shalt take the nations for thine inheritance; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” [p.100,101]

But an encouraging theme of Scripture is that God reigns now! A few verses from the Psalms come to mind. “The

Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty.” [Psalm 93:1] Majesty is what we feel when we view the towering Rockies. Majesty sweeps over our consciousness when we witness the fire of an autumn sunset or a sunrise on a spring morning. Majesty stirs within us when we are in the presence of great and highly respected people, especially those in authority. Majesty is the stuff of awesome history - making and shaking events.

God is a majestic ruler. His throne is everlasting, His decrees are trustworthy and His power is limitless. His might eclipses the pealing thunder and the mounting swells of the storm-tossed sea. “The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice.” [Psalm 97:1] We tend at times to conclude that evil reigns. The tumult and turbulence of a planet careening towards global annihilation seems to shout that God has abdicated His throne. Not so! He still defines the bounds of rebellion against heaven. The final outcome will be His complete rout

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

of sin. Then swords will be recycled into pruning hooks. The nations of the world will pour their riches into the reign of peace rather than the ruin of war.

“The Lord reigns, let the peoples tremble.” [Psalm 99:1] In marked juxtaposition to the previous verse is the aspect of the global King. Rather than being the Good Buddy of truckers, the man upstairs of popular song, or the guy-in-the-sky of secular culture, He is so much more. He is to be feared by those who flout His holy laws. He is to be revered, respected, admired, obeyed and acclaimed by those who call Him Lord.

At Advent we anticipate the future millennial reign of Christ over the world. We celebrate the ultimate triumph of the Prince of Peace.

“Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.”

But just as surely, the kingdom is also NOW. John the Baptist declared on Jordan’s banks that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. It may have looked as if he got it all wrong. When the King walked our planet, His only throne was a cross; His only crown composed of thorn branches. But that crucifixion won for us, along with a thief crucified at His side, a place in God’s kingdom. In the power that His kingdom holds, he conquered death, rose from the tomb and ascended to the Father’s side. Upon Him has been conferred a NAME above every other name. He reigns, child of God! He reigns, church!

St Paul tells us of the kingdom benefits of kingdom citizenship now. The kingdom of God is “righteousness, peace and joy in the

Holy Spirit” [Romans 14:7]. The kingdom now as Jesus portrayed it is about:--

sowing great seed, gospel seed, about
buying a field because of its treasure
growing a great tree from a small mustard seed, and selling all for a priceless pearl
experiencing mysterious power like yeast in a batch of dough.

Kingdom-now is about letting the peace of God rule in our hearts. Kingdom-now is about doing greater works because our King reigns. Kingdom-now is the precious provision that sin shall not have dominion over us. Kingdom-now is that He who controls the universe, deigns to call us sons and daughters.

Yes, dear St. George’s, Advent is preparation to re-visit Bethlehem. Yes, Advent sets our gaze toward the future, in anticipation of the joy, power, purity, and peace to come. But, Advent is now, today. The law of the Spirit of life has already taken effect to set us free from the law of sin and death.

Thanks, a thousand thanks be to God!
Have an uplifting Advent!

Pastor Ken

Christmas services

Dec. 18 Lessons and carols 10:15

Dec. 24 Family Service of Holy Communion 4 pm

Dec. 24 Service of Holy Communion 9 pm

Dec. 25 Service of Holy Communion 9 am

“Surely I am coming soon.”

CELEBRATING THIS ADVENT SEASON

Beginning to read a novel in the middle of the story could confuse the story. The introduction of characters would find you bewildered and perplexed. The meaning of important details would be lost. In fact, the entire conclusion of the book would be thin, if not anti-climactic and hollow. This would be the case if you only read the resolution in the closing half of a story.



Such is the case for so many people who drop themselves into the Christmas account. Why is Herod so scared? Why the singing angels, the wise men with their gifts and why the shepherds?

The Christmas account of the birth of Jesus is profound because it is the beginning of the resolution of thousands of years of promise and conflict. The baby in the manger in Bethlehem is none other than the incarnated Son of God. He is the one promised in Genesis 3 who will crush the serpent's head. He is the perfect Noah, saving all of his family from the coming wrath and judgment of God. He is the great fulfillment of the covenant God made with Abram in Genesis 12, by whom all nations of the earth shall be blessed. He is the one prefigured in Isaac, who willingly offered his life as a sacrifice. Even Jacob pointed ahead to the baby born on that first Christmas. We could go on, but you see my point.

Christmas does not begin in the manger in Bethlehem. It is the fulfillment of everything God had ever promised. Everything from the creation of the cosmos and that which the prophets, like Isaiah, longingly wrote reaches crescendo on Christmas morning. More precisely, the fulfillment is not to be found in an 'it' but a 'he' – a person; God in human flesh.

So we at St. George's observe Advent. In advent we look at the ways Jesus' coming (i.e., *adventus* in Latin) connects the strands of the scriptures. We will spend the next four Sundays looking at the ways that the coming of the Son of God on Christmas fulfilled God's promises. In other words, we are going to open the book at the beginning rather than the middle.

On the evening of December 9th we will meet to consider the history, theology and music of Handel's *Messiah*. We have group seating for the performance of the *Messiah* at Roy Thompson Hall on December 16th. The scriptures chosen for the libretto of the *Messiah* all show how God was working out His perfect plan; a plan that began before the foundations of the earth, continuing with a trajectory that leads through Christmas, Easter, Ascension and the Resurrection of the dead on the last day.

I pray that this Advent season will deepen your understanding of the coming Christmas season. I pray that when Christmas day comes you will look upon Jesus, through the eyes of faith, and see in Him all of the promises of God (2 Corinthians 1:20). I pray that your heart will warm as your mind begins to connect the dots of the story of God's redeeming grace. I pray that you will see Jesus as the treasure of measureless worth, and like the man in the parable, joyfully sell everything you have in order to gain him (Matthew 13:44). **RD**



"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"



God With Us

A few years ago, I was struck by the wonder and magic of the incarnation. I've always loved the Christmas story, but the wonder of God being encapsulated into a tiny body of a helpless babe and becoming one of us captured me in a new way. In the last month or so, I've been contemplating the presence of God and there was a moment when the light came on after years of it flickering on and off. "God is here!". I was excited about this new discovery. Of course, I had always been told that God is with us but I don't think it had ever really sunk in. He's not up there somewhere, He's right here. Then taking it one step further, I was struck with the thought that He is here *with me*. I don't think we stop to think about how important those words "with me" really are. There are so many references in the Bible to God wanting to be with His people and then in John's gospel, Him wanting us to be with Him, so much so that He is making elaborate preparations for our arrival.

Just consider what the words, "with me" really mean for us in our day and age. It's not just a physical presence but can denote a soul to soul connection. When someone is with us and we are with them, it's often just not a physical thing, or at least, if it is, we are not truly satisfied. We would prefer that someone would be with us in more than just physical presence. As a teacher, I've noticed how busy parents can be and I would venture to say that many children yearn for their parents not just to be with them physically, which in itself, can be a challenge these days, but really *with them*. It carries a sense of someone who really gets you or at least takes the time to try to get you and who is committed to being there for you no matter what, someone you can rely on. It means that they really like you and like being with you. They're on your side, so to speak. I think that is something really important to kids and I see it gaining more importance as they move into the teen years. Just watch them with their friends and you will see this.

So, how does this relate to the Advent season we are just about to enter? The gospel of Matthew answers this question. This is when the angel of the Lord, after visiting Mary with the news that she would conceive and bear a child, conceived of the Holy Spirit and that his name would be Jesus and He would be great and called the Son of the Most High, he went to visit Joseph and said these remarkable words, "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means **God with us.**" (Matthew 1:23, NLT). This Advent season, take the time to delight in the wondrous fact that God IS with us. Take apart that little phrase and just take time to dwell on each

"Surely I am coming soon."

word prayerfully, letting the true impact of it wash over you. GOD....the Creator of the universe, who holds it in such a fine balance, where one slight change could make life as we know it on earth impossible, who, at a single stroke, could bring everything to an end, who holds all the waters in the palm of His hand, as the prophet Isaiah says.....WITH.....not somewhere else, He's here in person and in spirit; "If God be for us who can be against us." More so, He's in us in the person of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.....US... we belong to Him and if we don't, like the Shepherd looking for the 1 sheep out of the 99 that's lost, He seeks us out to bring us into His fold, under His watchful care. "Us" is just us, poor, needy, sinful and wandering us and He wants to be with us. Put those two little words together, "with us" and contemplate that. He's not only here but He's here *with us!* What an awesome thought that is! Imagine Queen Elizabeth just calling us up one day and saying that she is coming over for tea and just wants to spend time with us. Sounds ludicrous? Well, that's what God is saying to us this Christmas. If we can only shut out the distracting noise of Christmas celebration to hear His invitation. "Look! I stand at the door and knock. **If** you hear my voice and open the door, **I will** come in, and we will share a meal together as friends." (Rev.3:20 NLT), this said in true Middle Eastern hospitality (bold print mine). This verse is often used for evangelistic purposes and that's fine, but it was written to those of us who are Christians already.

Jesus IS God with us. He IS Immanuel. Such a little phrase, with enormous meaning and impact. Celebrate that this Christmas!

Heather Campbell

Heather writes



I was born to missionary parents in Belize, Central America and spent the first 8 years of my life there and in Kingston, Jamaica. I asked Jesus into my heart at the age of 8 and have witnessed His transforming work, love, provision and guidance in my life ever since. I spent 11 years as a professional flutist as the Principal flutist of an orchestra in northern B.C., also doing solo and small ensemble work as well as private flute teaching. Since moving to Ontario eleven years ago, I have had the joy of taking up the new career of a classroom music teacher, which includes teaching instrumental as well as choral groups. I still perform occasionally but play mainly in the church setting as part of worship. I came to St. George's almost a year ago and am happy to make my home among its parishioners. I love the outdoors, reading, drawing portraits, watching good movies and writing.

"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"



Women's Day Away

Another Women's Day Away has come and gone. I can remember going to the very first weekend and loving it so much that years later, if I had not yet heard of the planned date, I would ask, to make sure to get the weekend off at work. I planned to attend - purposefully. One weekend I wanted to help clean up or make cookies and was told that if I wasn't on the committee I was not allowed. So, I joined the committee cautiously, careful not to be too involved.

Well, I am involved and love it! Planning, praying, pampering, playing. Planning and praying for speakers and themes, purposefully choosing topics that are relevant to our ladies. Playing a get-to-know-you game and discovering new friendships that are brought back to Sunday morning. Pampering comes from having someone else make lunch, to having tea and drinking it while it is still hot.

This year Donna-Lee Sisson taught "Caring, Bearing, Sharing--Becoming the woman that God can use". I learned that Caring is intentional, pro-active service of being aware of people's lives. Bearing is my reaction to people's burdens or crises, being spontaneous. She also brought up the fact that I need to share my burdens and be humble enough to accept offers of help. Sharing can be giving generously or being transparent in my personality, so people can relate to me and me to them.

Looking at Scripture brought great discussion and personal insight. It reminded me to be in the Word, and listen to God's whispers of obedience.

If you haven't attended a women's day away or a weekend away, I suggest you take the advice that was given to me when I said that life was busy and I just couldn't see it happening....I was told "Don't consider it impossible". I had really thought that it was impossible, but took a chance, registered, and hoped that life didn't fall apart while I was away. It didn't.

If you have attended before, see you again next year!

Anita Chambers

WOMEN'S POTLUCK CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Monday, December 19, 12:30 pm

At the home of Margaret Harris

4448 Lakeshore Rd., Burlington

"Surely I am coming soon."

The Sunday School reports

St George's Sunday School is in full swing once again. We would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement. Especially we would like to thank the faithful teachers and helpers that come out every Sunday to teach all of our precious children. Here are some of the exciting changes that have happened this year:

1) We have split into 2 classes. Our younger class is from age 3 to grade 1 and the older class is from grade 2-6.

2) We are testing a new curriculum. We would like to encourage parents to check out our new "kids Zone" section on the St. George's web site. Here you will find your Monthly Bible verse, fun games and even the topics that we are covering in case you miss a week.

3) We would like to ask all parents to take a moment to register their children for Sunday school. If you have not done so already, please see Lesley Harris or Shelley Loveless for the appropriate form.



A lot is happening in the Sunday School as Christmas approaches. We are rehearsing for both the Lessons and Carols service on December 18th and the Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 4pm. I am sure that you will be delighted to see and hear your little ones on stage during these performances. We are rehearsing weekly so you won't want to miss a week.

Finally we would like to thank you for supporting the shoe box program. We are sending out 35 boxes from St. George's to children around the world. They will have something special to open for Christmas thanks to your generosity. We are also donating our share to the St. Matthew's House Adopt-a-Family Program. The children hope to sponsor one child that would otherwise not be sponsored. Betty Pristol and Margaret Hunt will be shopping for us to provide a child or teen with something warm and wonderful.

Shelley Loveless



"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"



THE NEW JERUSALEM

A little while ago, I wrote about the new bodies that we would inherit when we moved on from our mortal state. My thoughts of late have tended to move on from there.



When Jesus left us two millennia ago, He told us that in His Father's house were many dwelling places, and that He was going there to prepare a place for us. He also told us that He would return to gather us up to be with Him [John14:2-3]. In Revelation we are introduced to the New Jerusalem, a city that has no equal: A place of Symmetry, Beauty, Glory, Magnificence, Radiance and Peace, all contained in a structure of strength and security; a place where God is enthroned and Jesus is sitting at His right hand; a place of absolute purity wherein all who enter will have been purified by the Blood of the Lamb and adopted as one of God's own. This is what Jesus has prepared for us.

The size of the New Jerusalem will be awe inspiring. With its length breadth and height of fifteen hundred miles each, there will certainly be no problem in accommodating all of God's chosen. The only sustenance needed will be provided by the river of the water of life and a tree on each side that yields twelve crops of fruit, one for each month of the year. Scripture tells us that only those who have put on the garment of incorruption and immortality, whose names are inscribed in the Lamb's roll of the living will be allowed to enter. All others will be excluded. A new city inhabited by new people with new bodies, adorned with new raiment and washed in the Blood of the Lamb [Revelation21:11-23 & 22:1-5].

Peter tells us that the heavens and the earth will be consumed by fire [2 Peter3:12-13], and the Father also lets us know that He is going to make all things new [Revelation21:5]. This speaks to us of changes of such magnitude and scope that will take us away from all our present uncertainty and into a new eternally secure future.

When the Father created the flood, an Ark was provided for Noah and his family so that life would survive when the waters receded. True to His nature, God will provide another Ark for His own when the time comes for this heaven and earth to be destroyed by fire [Revelation 21:1].

John describes the New Jerusalem descending from the new heaven [Revelation 21:1-2]. No water is to be found on the new earth for the Father Himself will supply the gift of the water-springs of life to all. It will be the centre of the Father's creation

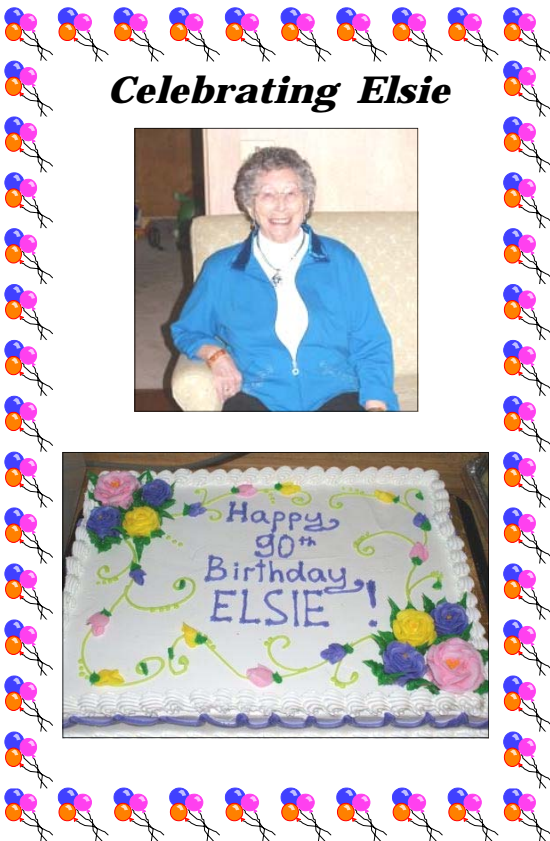
"Surely I am coming soon."

and He will dwell among His people for eternity in a new order that He has put in place, for the old order will have passed away [Revelation 21:4]. We are able to look forward to an eternal future free from suffering and pain, and be able to embrace one of peace and love. That is the hope that has been set before us.

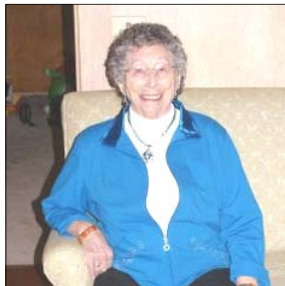
“Blessed are those who wash their robes so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and that they may enter the city by the gates.” [Revelation 22: 14 ESV].

“And the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come’. And let the one who hears say, ‘Come’. And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.” [Revelation 22:17 ESV].

Roger Harris



Celebrating Elsie



TWO OPPORTUNITIES

December 9, 7:30 pm at Crossroads
Handel's Messiah: the history, theology and music. The Rev'd R.D. Glenn and the Rev'd Garth Hunt will walk the group through the historical context, the theological implications and the musical highlights of this well-loved piece.

December 16, 8:00 pm, Handel's Messiah, Roy Thompson Hall. We are arranging group seating with reduced pricing (\$ 50- \$60per person). Contact the church office as soon as possible.



“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”



The Church Awakening

[A book review of *“The Church Awakening – an urgent call for renewal”* by Charles R. Swindoll, *Faith Words*, Hachette Book Group, Inc., 2010.]

In his nearly 50 years of ministry and writing and more than 25 years radio teaching in “Insight for Living,” Chuck Swindoll “has never been more passionate or hopeful for the Church Awakening—that is, for the church to wake up, see how far it has drifted, to begin walking with God, and to engage in the culture of Jesus Christ.” He hopes “that God will use this new volume in a powerful way to contribute to the master plan Jesus is building. He is the one who promised: ‘I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.’” This book is for “serious-thinking church goers who know there is a better way and for pastors who will buck the tide and put the word of God back in its central place in the church’s worship.”

Swindoll speaks of the erosion occurring in the church drift; erosion is always slow, always silent, and always subtle. He uses the word “milestones”; every church needs them to have some idea what it has achieved or how far it has drifted, constantly looking to where the Scriptures say the church should be going. He cites Acts 2:42 “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles teaching (the Bible), to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

An entire chapter is devoted to “distinctives of a contagious church”. Of marketing he maintains, “We market the church at our peril if we are blind to the critical difference between the Truth and a truth you can sell. In a marketing culture the Truth becomes a product.” Swindoll writes that the Bible is our “G.P.S., God’s Positioning System” and he urges us to become better students of our Bible.

He writes about the “Tyranny of the Urgent” by Charles E. Hummel and how we get caught up in the urgent, ignoring sometimes what is important. He discusses worship and in his words “worship is as much what you bring to the service as what you do there.” Music is a vital part of worship, there is no law as to the type of music. He then defines three things that are central in our worship; there must be unity in the essentials, the foundation of our worship. In non-essentials, things not in conflict with the basics of our faith, there should be liberty. In all things, charity, no division over types or styles of music, or church décor, pews or chairs. Otherwise, as he says, we are viewed by outsiders as no different than themselves. He concludes that worship must be part of our daily walk with God.

Chuck Swindoll is well qualified to write on this subject. He has expressed his con-

“Surely I am coming soon.”

cerns and has presented not only concerns but also solutions. He is transparent about his spiritual journey and the impact on his life that various mentors have had. He uses many references not just from the Bible but from some of the great writers, theologians and preachers past and present: for example C. S. Lewis, A. W. Tozer, John Stott, John Piper, E. M. Bounds, and Eugene Peterson.

I have certainly benefited from reading and writing about this book, and have been convicted by some of my own thoughts and feelings about worship in the church. This is a book we should all read and digest. I found many parts that I needed to re-read due to the impact made on me. I also found it helpful to keep my Bible near as I read this most worthwhile book. I have tried to capture the essence of the writer's message; however there is much detail that I have had to omit.

In conclusion, I quote from his final paragraph: "There is no Rip Van Winkle to awaken. **We** are to awaken! May we become people of discernment in a culture of apathy. We must have the courage to acknowledge the erosion that is occurring in our churches. We must define our lives based on what the church ought to do. As we experience the church awakening to its high and holy purpose, I am convinced God will 'restore the years the locusts have eaten'"

Michael Bladon

Dear People of St. George's,

We moved to a new home recently. We were, and are, overwhelmed and humbled by the wonderful outpouring of love from you, our church family. We thank you for all your offers of help in packing up our home of the last 29 years, and for the blessings of cards, flowers, and food that we received from you. You made what was, and is, a very difficult time for us much easier, and we rejoice in you, the Lord's provision for us at this time. Thank you St. George's, and may the Lord bless you even more than you have blessed us!

Yours in Christ,

Keith and Jenny Stodart



"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

GOD'S CHOICE



“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.” [1 Corinthians 12:4-6 NLT]

Hello, Saint George's, I would like to share a little bit of how God has been using me since my ordination this past June. I thought it was my choice to wear my clerical collar regularly, but I have come to learn that it was God's choice.

I have been volunteering in the prison system since 1995 but until I showed up in my collar, no one has ever asked to confess to me. I have done one-to-ones over the years but they were nothing compared to the confessions I received at Maplehurst. In these past 6 months, I have received five confessions. Each confession was unique but they all shared the same feeling of shame and guilt that could only be resolved at the cross. How gracious is our Lord to show up in power in a locked concrete room. “Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. [Hebrews 13:3 NLT]”

The cleaning lady at MacDonald's came to me saying that she had lost her cross and asked if I could replace it for her. I just happened to have been given a dozen crosses from a friend returning from Jerusalem. I drove home and returned to her with a cross; words cannot describe the joy I saw on her face when I put the cross in her hand.

I have been bringing an Anglican service into Martindale Gardens Retirement Home; after communion, one of the residents asked to have a pastoral visit. Nothing could have prepared me for the confession which was shared with me. I was brought just about to tears by the burden this person had been carrying since age 13. We were able to find God's grace in the pain, and we ultimately prayed a prayer of thanksgiving. God had turned evil on its head and blessed this person in a way only God could.

My father has sadly devolved into the oblivion of Alzheimer's. My visits to the home have become an opportunity to bring the church to the ward. Most of the patients there are in a similar situation. However, many of them can still identify with the collar and reach out to me for prayer and anointing. I always leave the nursing home feeling better than when I walked in. “Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord [James 5:14-15 NLT]”.

Visiting the Nursing and Retirement Homes has opened doors in ways I could never have imagined. I received a call from an employee of the nursing home asking me if I could help her son. I told her I would, but he would have to call me and make the arrangements directly. She gave me

“Surely I am coming soon.”

his name and I began to pray for him. He did contact me directly and I am now meeting with her son on a weekly basis.

On another occasion, my card found its way, to a woman who told me that she had never known a “Ray” but in the weeks prior to getting my card she was bombarded with “Rays”. She started seeing signs with “Ray” in the name, and then she began meeting people named Ray. When she received my card, she told me she just about fell off her chair. She knew immediately that God had sent me to her. I agreed to help.

After taking communion to a recovering parishioner I found myself craving an “Ice Coffee” from Tim Horton’s, (I am most obedient to my stomach). I ordered my coffee and lunch and sat down to eat when a man came to me and said, “Priest, will you please speak to my wife? She feels like she is being attacked by evil and she cannot get control of herself”. I of course agreed. He sent his wife to me; in tears she told me that she feels evil is all around her and she doesn’t know what to do. I sat her down, took her hand, and prayed that God would bind whatever evil spirits were hounding her, and cast them as far as east is from west. I then anointed her with Holy Oil (I carry it in a vial on my key chain), in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I then felt God telling me to give her 2 Timothy chapter 2; specifically I think He was giving her verses 15 and 16. “Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth. Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior.”

I think God is telling me, “be available and obedient and I will use you”. The small things have been equally edifying: from the daily acknowledgments of smiles and nods in response to the collar, which is in fact gratitude for representing the church to the community, to responding to a request for a lost cross from a MacDonald’s employee, to these most incredible encounters. God is faithfully nudging me along the path that He has chosen for me; it seems as long as I am available, He will use me. As we approach Advent, I pray that each of us sense God’s Holy presence and that we respond to His call into our lives as we humbly await the coming of our Lord and Saviour in power.



“So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders.” Acts 20:28 NLT

The Rev’d Deacon Ray Smith



“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”



About Christ the King

“Go to the great city...and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

Jonah 3:2 NIV

So reads one of the two banners at the front of the library of Blythwood Baptist Church, where the people of Christ the King gather each Sunday evening at 6:30 for praise, prayer, and preaching of the word of God. And to the great city they have gone, for they meet every week in the heart of downtown Toronto.

Christ the King is a church plant of St. George's, and began as a dream of Claus and Heather Lenk. The first step was the Lenks attending St. George's while we and they prayed for God's leading. A few people began to gather in the Lenks' home for mid-week Bible study, moving to Claus' office as the numbers grew. Then, in October 2010 they began holding services in Blythwood Baptist Church library.

At their first anniversary service this fall, Bishop Charlie inducted the Rev'd Jonathan Wong as their pastor and the Rev'd. Robin Guinness as associate pastor. The Rev'd Ray David Glenn will continue to be their rector until they attain full church status. Daniel Marker, a Wycliffe student, has joined them as student assistant.

The preaching is shared among the clergy and lay leaders. During the fall season there was a series of four sermons on the book of Jonah, and this is being followed by messages from Paul's letter to the Ephesians. These may be found on their website at www.christthekingtoronto.ca

Meanwhile they continue to grow, with between twenty and forty in attendance each Sunday. A service of Evening Prayer alternates with Holy Communion for the adults, while the children have their program separately. When Evening Prayer is celebrated, someone from the congregation gives a testimony. Following the service, all gather together for fellowship over light refreshments, a happy time that can linger past an hour.

The other banner at the front of the 'church' features a young plant cracking and breaking through concrete, which illustrates beautifully what Christ the King is all about. The people of Christ the King are a caring, welcoming, Christ-centred, Bible-based fellowship in the Evangelical Anglican tradition. Their passion - and joy - is introducing their neighbours in the urban Toronto community to the redemptive and transforming power of Jesus Christ through friendship, acts of service, and the faithful teaching of the word of God. Please pray that the Lord will continue to bring neighbours to them.

Pam Bales

“Surely I am coming soon.”

News From Our Mission Partners

Norm and Audrey Henderson

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Angola,

The Hendersons have moved from their shared house in the compound to a rented apartment in downtown Lubango, in Southern Angola, Africa, just twelve kilometres from the hospital where they work. They have successfully evicted most of the former tenants, (mosquitoes, cockroaches and mice), and are happy to be settling in with their own belongings from the container from Canada, which, thankfully, recently cleared customs.

Patients come several hundred kilometres to the hospital for treatment. Lately people from the Makubal tribe, a semi-nomadic people who herd cattle in the arid south west corner of Angola, arrived for help. They were excited to experience “warm” water from a tap. Audrey taught an eighteen year old girl how to write her name and a few numbers, (she had not had the opportunity to go to school), which produced a lot of happy giggling. Although there are gaps in the training of some hospital personnel, the equipment doesn’t always work and the medicines aren’t always available, the staff listen, care, and show God’s love.

Audrey has been working with the nurses who care for women who have had surgery for fistulas, a complication from difficult births that causes incontinence. Many of her patients are paralyzed or have had amputations as a result of motor bike accidents. Motor cycles provide the basic form of taxi service, and often the drivers are reckless, not wearing helmets or providing them for their passengers. (What can you carry on a motor bike? A family of four, or a BBQ tank, or a car windshield or a frame for a double bed.) Audrey is able to share with her patients that Jesus understands their suffering, that they are not alone, and sometimes she can read Scripture to them.

Norm is involved in technology and administration, at home, at the hospital and for other mission partners. IT, satellite communications and Voice-over IP phone issues constitute his main role, but re-wiring homes and clinics and being the local expert on the hospital’s digital X-ray system and the new blood chemistry analyzers helps keep him out of mischief. He also assists many visitors, mostly medical students, with their visa processes and travel questions. Setting up new washers and dryers was a joy as the hospital staff has been doing the laundry by hand, drying it on the ground, held down by stones so the wind won’t blow it away.

The Hendersons give thanks for their good health, their work visas and our regular support. They ask that we pray for visas for fellow missionaries, nurses to be open to learning the best practices and for the Mukubal people to understand the gift of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”



Ramon and Thamara Herrera

Operation Mobilization, Italy

Ramon and Thamara are working among evangelical churches and organizations in Northern Italy, and with OM's retreat centre. The whole family has worked long and hard at learning Italian and adjusting to the new culture, new town, and a new network of people.

Ramon writes about Enduring, Becoming, and Remaining

"After almost nine months here in Italy, I want to say, 'Thank you' to God because He helped us to endure. When people heard about us coming to Italy as missionaries, most of them said, 'Wow, Italy!' I have to agree that Italy is a great country, filled with wonderful, friendly people. However, following a call to a place, as we did first when we were in Canada, is a very different story. The amount of warfare we've experienced indicates the spiritual situation of this place.

As a family we have been challenged to endure in love and patience and to claim the gifts of the Spirit. It is part of our daily routine. We have also been challenged by all sorts of stomach problems and asthma. Thanksgiving, praise and prayer is the door that leads to triumph. Praise be given to the Holy Spirit who makes us more than conquerors!"

"Endure thou therefore hardship as a good soldier of Jesus." [2 Timothy 2:3]

Thamara writes about the family...

School hours are longer here, from 8:00 to 4:30, and the teaching system is different, with more subjects and work. Please pray for the children to adjust and to make good friends.

Maria, 14, attends second year high school which specializes in math, science and arts. She must speak and write a level of Italian which she hasn't yet reached in order to do projects and tests. Jose, 13, is doing better with Italian. However children are taught at an early age to draw, and the teachers expectations are high which has been a challenge for him. Ezekiel, 7, surprised his teachers by passing the grade 2 level in speaking and reading Italian as he only started in March. He has struggled with asthma since shortly after they arrived in Italy.

For herself she finds that the more she prays and worships in her heart, the better her days go. This sounds easy, but she gets busy with the children and work and forgets that she can do all things through Christ who gives her strength.

Thamara is teaching English part time as funding for the Herreras has reached only 31% of their support goal with OM Italy. The Herreras are grateful for the prayer and financial support of the people at St. George's. Please pray for them.

Pam Bales

"Surely I am coming soon."

Synod, 2011

As your lay delegates, we would like to thank you for your support and prayers as we represented you at the 2011 ANIC synod. The following is a summary of the highlights of synod. A more detailed report will be available at a later date.

The theme of this year's synod was "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" from Hebrews 13:8 and there was a definite sense of the presence of the Lord and unity in spirit.

Key note speakers for Synod were The Rev'd Canon Phil Ashey, Chief Operating and Development Officer, American Anglican Council, who shared about "How to Grow a Church" and The Right Rev'd John Guernsey, Bishop of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic, ACNA who focused on Biblical stewardship.

The Wednesday before synod was a separate day for clergy and lay delegates.

Three workshops were available for lay delegates:

1. Parables in the Pub, led by Elaine and Michael Pountney
2. Bible in a Day, led by Sean Love
3. Apologetics, led by Paul Chamberlain

The workshop for clergy was led by Rev. Dr. Dawn McDonald, from the Zaccheus Movement.

Both days of synod began with time of silent prayer at 6:30 a.m. followed by 7:00a.m. Morning Prayer. The services were held at Church of our Lord, a Reformed Episcopal Church and a member of ACNA. The majority of both lay and clergy delegates attended these early morning services.

Synod opened with a service of Holy Communion, including the Bishop's Charge given by Bishop Don Harvey. Highlights of the charge are as follows:

- "It is imperative that a spirit of prayer, praise, thanksgiving and fellowship permeate all that we say and think and do".
- We have made a public witness for the Gospel and we now need to focus on sharing HIM with a skeptical culture.
- Plan for Bishop Don's retirement in 2014, including the election of a co-adjutor bishop in 2012.
- We need to establish a ministry for people seeking healing for sexual brokenness.

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"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"



(Continued from page 17)

- To put into practice and/or continue the Biblical principle of tithing at all levels.
- Retirements of Claus Lenk, as treasurer and Archdeacon Desiree Steadman.
- Exciting challenge of Anglican 1000 continues to be our primary focus

Anglican 1000- presentation by Canon David Roseberry, Bishop Julian Dobbs and our own Ray David.

Celebration Dinner (Thurs. evening) – the speaker was Canon David Short
Multicultural and Asian Ministry- presentation by Bishop Stephen Leung

ARDFC (Anglican Relief and Development Fund)-presentation by Claus Lenk

Sojourner Fellowship- presentation by Claus Lenk

Business Items

- updates to canons
- presentation of financial statements
- Presentation of budget, which includes eliminating current deficit; note that all Bishops and ANIC staff have taken salary cuts.

Election of lay reps to ANIC council, including Ed Lewis.

There was emphasis during the synod on the importance of Biblical stewardship. Many parishioners and parishes are faithful in tithing but many are not. Because of this the ANiC budget is in deficit position. We were encouraged to take Biblical stewardship seriously and move incrementally towards tithing and even beyond the tithe as part of our spiritual growth.

Many observed that there was a great sense of unity during the synod. It was refreshing to see everyone focused on one thing, rather, one person: Jesus Christ! Many people remarked that this synod was a joyous occasion; there were no hidden agendas or deceptive tactics employed. It was particularly exciting to see representatives from the new parishes that have either joined ANiC recently or were recently planted.

Yours in Christ, Joe Biggar, Gillian Fernie, Louise LePage

“Surely I am coming soon.”

St Andrew the Apostle

In the tradition of Anglicanism, we celebrate the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle on November 30. The collect for that day says that Andrew readily obeyed the calling of Jesus Christ and followed Him without delay. We know from John, chapter 1, that Andrew was one of the first two disciples to follow Jesus because of the witness of John the Baptist. Andrew immediately found his own brother, Simon Peter, and brought him to Jesus, convinced that He was the Messiah. In Matthew, chapter 4, we learn that Andrew and Peter abandoned their fishing nets to follow Jesus. Andrew evidently became a good fisher of men, bringing people to Jesus, because it is recorded in John 12 that Andrew and Philip went to Jesus on behalf of certain Gentiles who wanted to see Jesus. He gives us a very important example; we cannot neglect bringing our loved ones to Jesus.

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without someone speaking? . . . So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” [Romans 10:14, 17] [Eds.]

Bible Sunday, the Second Sunday in Advent

“Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.” Amen

[Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent, BCP]

For us English-speaking people, the Scriptures in our own tongue has been called our “most priceless heritage.” This treasure was provided to us at the cost of the blood of the saints of the past. William Tyndale (1494 – 1536) seemed in some ways very ordinary, but nonetheless was a giant, a gifted linguist, and above all courageous and faithful to the Lord. The conviction came to him that people needed to be able to read the Scriptures in their own language, and he set about with determination to translate the Scriptures into English. Knowing that it would certainly cost him his life, working first in England, and then in hiding on the continent, he translated the New Testament into English, also the Pentateuch and other portions of the Old Testament. He had the Scriptures printed and transported to England. For this “crime” he was hunted down by vicious enemies of the Gospel and executed in 1536. His was the translation that became known as the “Coverdale Bible” and also the “Matthew’s Bible” circulating in Britain in the year of his death. There was such a hunger for God’s word that the people gathered around the chained Bibles in the churches and read loudly, so loudly even during the celebration of the mass, that the king had to forbid reading the Bible during divine service. It seems tragic that so shortly after Tyndale’s death, the Scriptures were circulating legally and freely in Britain. Not so! God graciously and speedily vindicated Tyndale’s persevering work and his prayer. [see the biography of William Tyndale, “God’s Outlaw” by Brian H. Edwards, Welwyn Biography, Evangelical Press]

[Eds.]

“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

<p>St. George's Anglican Church, Lowville, member congregation of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Anglican Church in North America</p> <p>Rector: the Rev'd. Ray David Glenn</p> <p>Pastoral Assistant: the Rev'd. Ken Bombay</p> <p>Honorary Assistants: the Rev'd. Deacon Garth Hunt the Rev'd. Deacon Ray Smith the Rev'd. Peter Parent the Rev'd. Keith Stodart</p> <p>Worship/Media Pastor: Bryan Hunt Exec. Administrator: Gillian Fernie Ministry Coordinator: Naomi Neeb Church Secretary: Donna Rigo</p> <p>Crossroads Centre Chapel, 1295 North Service Road, Burlington</p> <p>8:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy Com- munion 10:15 family service, nursery, and Sunday school</p> <p>Phone: 1-905- 335 6222 email: office@stgeorgesonline.com</p> <p>Web Site: www.stgeorgesonline.com</p> <p>By George editors: J. Masters, M. Masters email: mmasters@bserv.com</p>	<p>Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for favoured sinners slain; Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia! Christ appears on earth again.</p> <p>Yea, amen, let all adore thee, High on thine eternal throne; Saviour, take the power and glory, Claim the kingdom for thine own: Alleluia! Thou shalt reign and thou alone.</p> <p><i>The Rev'd John Cennick and the Rev'd Charles Wesley 1760</i></p>
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