

BY GEORGE

152Years

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

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**SHINE, JESUS,
SHINE!**



Looking to the day ahead



The history books are filled with the accounts of great battles and often of heroes who won the day. What is not as commonly recorded are the quiet private moments, usually in the night hours, sometimes the night before, when that would-be hero wrestles with prospect of an immanent showdown, the likely cost of such a fight and the uncertainty of the outcome.

It could be argued that it is there in private that the real battle is won. The choice to follow through and to risk all when you are alone, where there are no peers to impress, where bravado means nothing because it is just you and God- this is where the battle of the will is fought.

It was alone at night at a Family Camp in Southern California in the late 40's, under much pressure to question the validity, faithfulness or relevance of the Bible that Billy Graham, just before what turned out to be arguably the "real break-through Crusade" placed a Bible on a stump and told God- "I will always honour your Word". There alone with God, the basis of all that would follow in Graham's life and ministry was firmly established.

Though Jesus brought Peter, James and John along with him to pray, it was Jesus, very much alone who battled at Gethsemane the night before his Crucifixion. What a victory was won in that garden!

"32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples,

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"Sit here while I pray." **33**He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. **34**"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

35Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. **36**"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." (Mark 14:32-36)

I am writing this small piece early in the morning on the last day of 2007. I have been reflecting on the incredible year we have all experienced in 2007 and the many, many ways we have seen God's faithfulness. I have also been looking forward to the coming year and been mindful of the momentous nature of the things that are before us.

What is striking me is that the only sensible choice for the Christian, though it may be costly, is to say "yes" to God. "Lord, I choose you- which means- I choose your rule, your word, your way, your plans, your provision, your timing, your glory!!!"

Everything flows from that decision. But how exciting to have the opportunity to watch the Lord work even in us and through us!

Now let's see what he will do.

The apostle Paul put it this way:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:1,2)

and again,

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

By Charlie Masters

The Collect for Epiphany

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant, that we, who know thee now by faith, may be led onward through this earthly life, until we see the vision of thy heavenly glory; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen. [BCP]

Shine, Jesus, shine!

“Local Option is the Answer” True or False?

In the context of the current debate in the Anglican Church of Canada, "Local Option" has taken on a particular meaning. The meaning is that, in Dioceses that permit the blessing of same-sex unions, individual (i.e. local) congregations and clergy may decide for themselves whether or not to allow such blessings. This is sometimes taken to mean that: "Oh good, now we can stay in the Anglican Church of Canada and hold to our traditional beliefs and doctrines; after all, this is the way we have met such difficulties in the past." Is this, in fact, the way forward? Or is it not the way forward?

First, what is "Local?" Is "Local" always defined as being one's immediate congregation? May the Deanery, the Diocese, or the Anglican Church of Canada, become defined as the local body? Can any of these bodies decide that every member must adhere to a particular belief or doctrine in order to remain a part of the body? For that matter, can anyone other than the individual Christian decide what one must believe? If the answer is "Yes" in any of these last three questions, then the issue is one of doctrine.

Doctrine is the foundation of faith; it is what the whole body of Christian believers everywhere agrees upon. Doctrine can only be determined by referring to what the Word of God tells us. Church hierarchies can manipulate councils and synods to declare something sanctified that is contrary to God's Word revealed to us in Scripture (i.e., is sinful), but in doing so, they depart from true doctrine and true faith. There are penalties for such acts. These are laid out in Luke 17:1-3.

This brings us to "Option." Apparent options for Christians have abounded in recent years. Conservative Christians have said repeatedly that the issue of human sexuality is not solely what this conflict is about. We have come to this point because many other fundamentals of doctrine have become "options" for Biblically ignorant Anglicans. So we have people, including clergy, making statements such as: "Jesus isn't really an historical person." "You don't have to believe in the Virgin Birth, or Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, or ascension." "As long as you try hard, you'll get to heaven - if it really exists." Or worse, "There is no such thing as sin, and hell does not exist."

Thus, Anglicanism has become a kind of menu of options - whatever we are comfortable with is fine, just so long as we can all get along with each other. In other words, when the devil (who does really exist) repeats his age-old



"True or false"



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question "Did God really say that there are moral absolutes, that there are sins of omission and commission, that Jesus is the way and the truth and life for Christians, . . .?", then our answer has too often been: "I guess not, because such things impact my life-style, and that can't be good. After all, God wants me to be happy, doesn't He?"

"Nowhere in the Bible does God say that we can pick and choose what to believe; only that we must choose to be all for Him, or all for the world - there are no options in the Gospel of Christ. The Reformers who gave form to Anglican worship five hundred years ago knew this and died because they refused to see any of the Gospel as optional. Many people today throughout the world believe the same way. Too many of them die for this every day. There can be no compromise of foundational beliefs just so that we can live a comfortable life in a church system or structure that has become familiar to us.

I am forced, therefore, to the conclusion that the "Local Option" is neither an option nor something that we can decide locally. To say that it is the way forward is a false conclusion. Instead, I conclude that it is an accommodation as cynical and ineffectual in bringing peace as were Israel's agreement with the Gibeonites (Judges 9) and Chamberlain's "treaty" with Hitler before the Second World War.

I would add that in my view, "Local Option" is not something that conservatives have thought through as a way of moving forward, it is something that is "offered" to faithful Christians by the hierarchy of the ACC as a way of blinding them to the reality that the ACC has departed from Christianity, and as a way of keeping them quiet as it moves towards becoming a secular organization. To paraphrase Judges 17:6: "In these days there is no Christ King in the Dominion, and each church does as it pleases." We have had pushed upon us a system of beliefs and practices that is based upon what the world says, not upon what the Word of God says.

The remedy for this situation is for each of us to study the Bible and find out what God has said about Himself, about us, and about what it means to be Christian (James chapter 1).

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Study what Jesus says about Himself and His Father (John 6, 8, and 14). We will find that there are very difficult choices to be made in following Him (John 6, 15, Mark 9, 10, and 12, Luke 9). Study the Acts of the Apostles - we will find out whether Peter and Paul and the rest lived comfortably while preaching the Gospel (Acts 5, and 12-26, 2 Corinthians 6). Study the Epistles and we will find that everyone, no exceptions, is a sinner and bound for eternal torment if we do not accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord - especially Lord of our daily life (Ephesians 2, Romans 2 and 8). We will find that we are instructed to call our brothers and sisters to account if we see that they are departing from the doctrines set forth in Scripture; that if they do not repent, then we are to separate ourselves from them. Note that this applies to fellow Christians, not to non-Christians (1 Corinthians 5-7 and 2 Corinthians 6). We will find that our relationship to non-Christians is to be one of compassion, neighbourliness, and love expressed by sharing the Gospel with them (Matthew 28 and Mark 16). These things are not options; they are our way of life and also the greatest challenge to our comfort that we will encounter in this world (1 Corinthians 10 and Psalm 144).

There are, of course, many other passages, such as Nehemiah 1-9, that instruct us in these things. May we seek them out and live by them, to God's glory, not ours.

Keith Stodart.



Shine, Jesus, shine!

Overheard by the Font (& elsewhere)

from a friend at St. Matthew's House

Merry Christmas

Thank you so very much for all your generosity and support during this holiday season. My children are so grateful for all you have given them and done for us to make Christmas more special this year.

God bless.

Carole-Anne, Andrew, Ashley, and Adam

A Word of Heart-felt Thanks

I want thank Richard Myers for the many years of editing By George! Each issue is an important record of our life together. For me and Judy, the issue in honour of our 25th anniversary in the parish, How Beautiful are the Feet, will always be a treasure. Richard crafted it so lovingly and wonderfully.

The task of editor is a challenging position indeed. You have to deal with people like me. The balance between patience in the face of a very clear dead-line for the next issue and the need to cajole people like me to come up with something, Richard lived out every month amazingly. It must be a very helpless feeling. If nobody writes anything, there can be no newspaper and yet the editor ends up feeling as if it is his fault. Richard carried these burdens wonderfully, welcomed peoples' input and still found a way to keep the paper on target and not going beyond its focus. Richard, each month, I believe the Lord has been glorified and people have been informed and their lives enriched!

Well done, good and faithful servant! By George under your care has made a very important contribution to our life as a Parish family and I know you are helping your successors to carry on this tradition!

Charlie Masters

Shine, Jesus, shine!

Who's Who & What's on at St. Georges

Nursery

Care is available for babies and toddlers at the 10:30am service.

Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

Family Ministries

Sundays during the 10:30am service

Sunday School Programme for 3 years to Grade 5. Each of the three classes use Bible stories, craft and songs to learn about Christian Faith and grow in their love for Jesus

Ray David Glenn 905 336-3145

Youth Programme

Matt Baker 905 878-1363

Music Ministry

The Choir sings at the 10:30am service in the Sanctuary

Church office 905 878-1363

Prayer Chain

Confidential prayers daily. Please call with prayer requests for yourself or others.

Eileen Phillips 905 681-6850

Alpha

A series of talks on key issues relating to the Christian faith. Each evening includes a meal and group discussion. Offered in the fall at the church.

Donna Rigo 905 854-0197

Home Fellowship and Bible Study Groups

meet during the week at the church or in homes. Please call to find out about locations, times and study topics

Dave Shantz 905 854-1013

Greg Culver 905 854-1181

Adult Education (Potter's Wheel)

Events that provide teaching for adults on Christian subjects and issues. As announced.

Ron and Pam Bales 905 827-1097

Church Library

The library contains a wide range of books, videos, tapes and magazines with Christian themes, for both adults and children.

Gillian Fernie 905 319-2916

Sermon Tape/CD Ministry

Copies of Sunday sermons are available on audiocassette (\$2.00 and CD (\$2.50). Turn-around time from date of request is two weeks. Request forms are in the Narthex.

Betty Pristol 905 873-1918

St. George's Men's Group

Praise, prayer and study over coffee.

Held on the third Saturday of the month at the church.

Rick Carpenter 905 690-3086

Women's Ministries:

Annual Conference and Vespers Evenings. Events designed so that women can draw together spiritually, through fellowship, worship, teaching and sharing.

Karen Wilson 905-659-1775

Visitation Ministries:

Congregational Visiting. Those who wish to have a pastoral visit should call the church office.

Seniors' Pastoral Care and Institutional Visiting.

A ministry to St. George's seniors and their families. Also to Milton Hospital, and area seniors' residences.

Kathy Powell 905-335-5399

St. George's Knights

Sports group for those 14 years and older. Softball with the Milton Inter-Church Mixed Softball League in the summer.

Richard & Ruth Mills 905-878-3849

Baptism for Children and Adults

Preparation for Baptism includes a visit with the clergy. Held periodically. Rev. Charlie Masters 905-878-1363

Communion Preparation for Children

Classes for children and their parents are held on four consecutive Sundays after the 10:30am service, usually in Advent or Lent. Rev. Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

Marriage Seminar

Five sessions for those about to be married. Led by church members. Held annually.

Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

Parish Council advises the Rector and Wardens on all church matters. All are invited to attend the monthly Parish Council meetings. Please call the church office for more information.

Property and Maintenance Group

Responsible for the ongoing maintenance and care of the church buildings and parking area.

Brian Duke 905 689-3897

Cemetery Group

Responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery and the grounds.

Wayne Neeb 905 659-0402

2 Peter 1: 19 (NIV)

And we have the word
of the prophets made
more certain, and you
will do well to pay
attention to it, as to a
light shining in a
dark place until the
day dawns and the
morning star rises in
your hearts.



A New Song

What “new song” will you sing to the Lord in 2008? Do you make a plan as the year begins or do you just take things as they come? Maybe this is the year to volunteer somewhere, at Milton Birthright or somewhere. Maybe it’s the year to sponsor a child under World Vision. There are lots of needy ones out there, and lots of opportunities.

Maybe it’s the year to become an intercessor, to plough in boldly before the throne of grace, persistent and determined to hold the church militant up before the Lord. We need intercessors. There is a disturbing word in Revelation 12 that says that the devil has come down to the earth filled with fury because he knows that his time is short. The church is the target. If the devil is determined to destroy the work of Jesus, certainly to go after the church would be a key strategy. What then should be our counter strategy? If this is war, let’s get on with it. Let us pray for a deep hunger for God. Let us pray that in our day we won’t be the “most” whose “love grows cold because of the increase of wickedness,” but that we will be the ones that “stand firm to the end and are saved” (Matthew 24: 12, 13, NIV). Let’s call down God’s strength to stand wherever the church comes under attack. Let’s pray down on the church every grace that Jesus meant us to have, grace to be faithful, grace to live a life worthy of the Lord, grace to go forward inch by inch, taking hold of every promise of Scripture for the church by prayer. Let us pray that the church will become, as the bride of Christ, “a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” (Ephesians 5: 27, NIV). Now that’s a counter strategy!

Or maybe it is the year to “delight in the richest of fare” (Isaiah 55:2, NIV). This past year in our household we decided to read through the “One Year Bible”. Reading the One Year Bible you read through the whole Bible in a year. You can read any version that you like. It is an investment of fifteen minutes to half an hour a day. We found that it takes persistence and perseverance to make it happen. But that is true of anything valuable. Our record was not perfect. If we fell behind we just carried on with the appointed readings for the day.

It was the richest of fare! Not just meat and potatoes, cake, pie, and ice cream, but spinach, broccoli, lima beans, liver, grapefruit, pomegranates. It’s all there! The richest of fare! Maybe you would say, “I have to watch what I eat” or “I’m on a diet.” But we will do it again.

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We found that the Scriptures are a living word. We found that remarkably the Scripture readings very often applied directly to what we were experiencing at the time. Also we found that remarkably there was a connection among the passages on any given day, a connection that was there, not just because of the way that the editors divided up the readings, but because of God's authorship. We found that the Lord's ways are not our ways. We found that the Bible is a living word and a very contemporary word. We found that we should expect God to act in our day, to do mighty things even in our days. And we found that He does. As we finish the year, we find that the prophet's heart is the same Old Testament or New Testament, Joel, Amos, or John the beloved apostle; all are the same. All carry the burden of a broken world and a people under judgment; but they see in the distance the shining light of the hope of the Gospel. Jesus is coming back!

2008 is the year of our Lord. It is the year to sing a new song to the Lord!

Mary Ann Masters



festival choir warm-up, December 23



Shine, Jesus, shine!

It has been my experience that young people and young adults feel uncomfortable when they go in to a facility to visit the grandparent who has made a great impression on their life. Communication is not the way it used to be when Nanny was in her own home. Sometimes embarrassment develops at this stage.

How then can we make their visits more stress free and natural?

- 📖 Ask Nanny to pray for you and promise to pray for her.
- 📖 Ask about her testimony – even if you have heard it before and attend church with her once in a while.
- 📖 Call her so she can focus her prayers on the information you give her. Please remember to update her regularly or she will be discouraged.
- 📖 Take in a little treat that you can share together with a cup of tea or take in candies or cookies that she can share with the staff .
- 📖 Get her to reminisce about old times – you will learn a lot! You may be able to encourage her to go about writing down her life story and put it on the computer.
- 📖 Recall happy memories you two shared in the past
- 📖 Go through her old recipe book and compile a booklet of her favorite recipes to share with other family members as a Christmas gift.
- 📖 If you are away, send her a postcard.
- 📖 Come in to watch a show or movie you both liked.
- 📖 Take her for a walk around the building and end up at the cafeteria for a cup of tea or an ice cream cone.
- 📖 Meet some of her new friends.
- 📖 Help to decorate her room for special holidays.
- 📖 Bring in a family pet that she would like to see.

These are just a few helps. Maybe you can suggest more. I love to learn from your experience.

Blessings!

Kathy Powell

Kathy Powell

Isaiah 60: 1 – 3 (NIV)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Sunny days



Epiphany 2008



PRAYERFULLY SPEAKING



What If God Had Voicemail?

Garth V. Hunt

“Hello. You’ve reached the voicemail box of Rare-Lee Here, director of our company’s world-class Customer Service. I’m either on the phone or away from my desk and can’t take your call at the moment. However, your call is important to me. After the tone, please leave your name, phone number, and a brief message, and I’ll get back to you just as soon as I can. Thanks for calling, and have a nice day.”

As you may have already detected, one of my pet peeves about our contemporary high-tech society is “voicemail”. I call you and leave a message. You call back and, inevitably it seems, I’m on another call, so you leave me a message. I retrieve your message and try to call you back, and that great electronic game of “phone tag” is underway once again. I’ve been involved in such games where I have left up to seven different messages, frequently to no avail. I have come to seriously doubt the “I’m either on the phone or away from my desk” part and often find myself saying, under my breath of course, “No you’re not! Pick up the phone!!”

Many of us utilize Call Answer services or answering devices to screen our phone calls in order to avoid troublesome individuals or the intrusion of unwanted telemarketers at the supper hour. But, in recent days, as we’ve attempted to learn more about what it means to “pray without ceasing”, I’ve found myself wondering, “What if God were like that? What if God had voicemail that he used to screen our calls? What if I began to pray, and my area code and phone number popped up on his celestial “call display” and He thought, “Oh no, not Garth Hunt again!” What if we were then put on “hold” to test our patience while we listened to some everlasting loop of angelic harp music? All very nice, I suppose, but I really need to speak to God now!!

The concept of God having voicemail surely seems silly. However, my single thought for us to consider this month is the incredible accessibility of our loving Father. He is never too busy, too preoccupied or too tired to listen to us. He’s never away on business, on vacation or on sick leave. He’s never having a nap, out for dinner, or “gone fishin’.” He is always available to us, individually and corporately. How extraordinary! How far beyond anything we’ve ever experienced with anyone else! How blessed we are!!

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St. Paul, as he draws to conclusion his rapturous description of our inheritance in Christ and our life in the Spirit recorded in Romans 8, states: -

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, not any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8: 38-39

God loves us so much that He is not going to allow anything to cut us off from His amazing love or, indeed, from His presence. Nor does it matter where we are. We don't have to be inside a particular building, or facing a certain direction, or maintaining a specific prayer posture. There's no secret code or password. The glorious fact is that God has chosen to make Himself perpetually accessible to us.

But it was not always so. Prior to the Cross of Calvary, God's people had very limited access to His presence. Until the mighty veil, which separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple, was torn in half on the day of Jesus' death, no one but the High Priest could enter. But through the merits of His blood, we have the freedom of access to His presence that is wondrous to contemplate and experience. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way:

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, opened for us through the curtain, that is His body, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God, with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience.”

Hebrews 10: 19-22 NIV

St. Paul again, writing to the church in Ephesus, declares this remarkable truth:

“In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”

Ephesians 3: 12 NIV

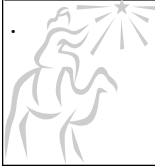
God's availability to us is something to be cherished and treasured, like the Pearl of Greatest Price, and never taken for granted. We can easily slip into a presumption that treats God as if He were there at our beck and call to simply do our bidding like some heavenly butler. As we enter a new year, let us, with fresh resolve, simplicity and humility, endeavour to take fuller advantage of this access that Jesus has purchased for us with His blood. Let's choose to spend much time, soaking in His loving presence and interceding on behalf of His Church – every day; numerous times a day. He will not get tired, and He has no voicemail! Amen



This article was originally written for the January 2008 Essentials 1ST Friday Call to Prayer.

Shine, Jesus, shine!

The Cantelons, reporting from Jerusalem



A Year in Hindsight

..We live in an exotic city, where there are exotic olive-skinned good-looking people; there's exotic food and exotic surroundings. It is also where salvation history in many ways began and where many believe it will finish, where Jesus was born, crucified, resurrected... And at present it's also a place where we love to work. We have a true sense of meaning in the part that we get to play.

Yet, it's still a place where one day can roll into the next, where diapers need to be changed, chest infections persist, there are hospital visits for little ones who knock their teeth in, pangs of homesickness that never completely subside... Sometimes I forget all the things I listed first. Sometimes it's just another day, another dollar.

But, it's that time of year. Christmas is in the not-too-distant future. If you're Erica (me), the Christmas tree goes up every year on Nov. 28th -- my favorite thing to do on my birthday. And this is the time of year to look over my shoulder... to look at the year that has passed. It's time to take a minute to sigh and to smile. Jess and I also do this every year on our anniversary... take an evening to think about our life together, get some perspective, be thankful.

Although it sometimes didn't feel like it, this year was one of action. This was the year that One Song (Shir1) went from vision to reality. Over the prior two years we had invested in the English-speaking young adult community; getting that aspect of the ministry focused and stable with the establishment of the deepend service and the weekly meetings. This year, in addition to the English congregation, we also began to take action in Hebrew-speaking ministry among Israelis.

In January, young adults and youth gathered from around the country in a night club in

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Shine, Jesus, shine!

Haifa called City Hall. I'm sure you remember my ecstatic excitement about the event the day after it took place. Our feet eventually came back to Earth and Jess immediately began to make preparations for the next Shir1 worship concert in April, which was held at the night club in Tel Aviv called The Barby. The third concert was intended for Jerusalem, but ended up in a town called Kfar Saba at another Barby (run by the same management as the Tel Aviv club). Our statement of purpose is: One God, One People, One Nation, *One Song*. We aim to unite, inspire, equip and disciple the emerging generation of believers to be effective ministers of the Gospel in Israeli culture. This was a successful year for our first season of involvement in indigenous ministry. Yet, we still consider Shir1 to be at a stage of infancy. Since this year of initiation started with such a bang, we are motivated to dig deep for the new projects and conference in the year ahead.

In our home church, the young adults community has become well established and homey. Each year seems to have a new flavor. And last year's crew turned out to be a wild bunch full of personality and potential. The community really takes care of each other as most are lone souls wandering far from home, and some are new citizens of Israel who don't have any family here. For our weekly meetings we had some great Bible teachers, a bunch of communion dinners and men and women's evenings of prayer. Jess also ran a weekly song-writers seminar once a week. There were some great guest teachers and some awesome songs produced. It was a highlight of each week for Jess too. He just had so much fun doing it.

A highlight for me from this group was Alisha and Rob's wedding in our yard. The young adults rallied around them and really were their family here. We danced into the night and our neighbors peered over their balconies and smiled.

In family life, we became a real family of four this year. Benj is no longer a baby but a real-life big boy terror. And adorable. Jonah got to work mastering the Hebrew language, learning "mini-ollies" on his skateboard and rode his first wave at the beach on a surfboard. Yoav (the dog) is the newest member of our family. Jess had to do a trip in the States for 3 weeks and my Grandma and aunties started to pray for help and security for me while he was away. That week an abandoned injured pup (with a nice deep

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woof) adopted us at the park. He was healthy and at home just in time for Jess' trip, and has been a perfect security system ever since. He's one of us now.

Jess turned 31 this year and said that he has officially hit his pre-midlife crisis. He forgot to notice when he turned 30, but this whole 31 thing is a bit much for him to handle. He now wakes up at 5:30am two mornings a week to practice skateboarding with his friend Adam (who is also in a pre-midlife crisis). When he saw himself skating on video he said "I look like a bear on a mini-board." This is true. We hope to enter these two in a skateboard competition next year. --The only trouble is that their age category includes the best pro's in the country.

I also took some steps in making a home here this year, carving out a little purpose for myself and trying to provide little helps to the world around me. Sweet Fatima (the little 8 year-old Arab orphan girl from Bethlehem with a skin disease similar to leprosy) became my very good friend. We spent time each week reading stories, playing soccer and just talking. Also, as my in-laws before me discovered, Israel is very much a gateway to Africa. Through a story I covered for CBN News on Sudanese refugees in Israel, I met two Sudanese families and have been helping the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) with their care. This has been an interesting experience all around as my first exposure to African culture. The families are Arabic-speaking Christians from a world very different than my own. Yet mutual motherhood seems to bridge the cultural gap, for the most part. Some of the refugees lit fires on their balconies for cooking when they first arrived. But there is hope. Now, we are exchanging recipes.

My favorite part of this year has been guiding at the Garden tomb. My job is to be half guide, half "preacha". I didn't know I had it in me, but I'm an inch away from jumping up and down and smacking my Bible. Each day I teach about the crucifixion and resurrection to about 200-250 people. Some are Christians and some are not. My most enjoyable moment was with three Muslim boys from East Jerusalem. Only one spoke English, and even though they came in looking for trouble, as 18 year-old boys do, I saw the light turn on in one boy when he realized who Jesus really was (is).... that he was not just a prophet. He shook his head and said "This is crazy."

I love meeting Christians from all over the world. I think my favorites are the Nigerians.

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These groups often greet me with cocked heads, raised eyebrows and the puckered lips of African attitude and skepticism. I am a woman after all. But we are always friends by the time we say goodbye. Once, a couple of cuties said "Tank you pasta," of course very tongue in cheek with twinkling eyes. I love it.

This was also the year that I began to write occasionally for The Jerusalem Post Christian Ed., and took a part-time position with CBN News. It was a love/hate relationship working on a deadline, but I have learned so much. I have been stretched beyond what I knew I was capable of, and I feel like a better me as a result. Of course, being stretched is always a little nicer in hindsight than it is in the moment. But all's well that ends well. I'm sure other memories will come to my mind after I send this, but I hope this gives you a window into our lives. And yes, the time of reflection makes me happy too.

Many of you have contributed to our ministry in so many ways. ...And so many who faithfully pray... We are always humbled and can't thank you enough for making us part of your lives.



The Christmas approaching will be our fourth in Jerusalem, only this year it won't be in Jerusalem. Our families have rallied around us to help us come to Canada this year. This is a new development and I still can't believe it. I'm going to kiss the ground and roll in the snow! (I'm singing here...) I'll be home for Christmas... And not only in my dreams!!!!

Love to you and bless you,

Hope to see you in the True North Strong and Free,

Erica and family



Shine, Jesus, shine!



O Ye Ice and Snow

O ye Frost and Cold, bless ye the Lord; praise him and magnify him forever. O ye Ice and Snow bless ye the Lord; praise him and magnify him forever. [Benedicite Omnia Opera (BCP)]



Shine, Jesus, shine!



Winter is a time of special need.

Thank you for your on going support.

Just a reminder: non-perishable suggested food items are

Peanut butter

Pasta

Macaroni/Kraft dinner

Canned fish and meats

Canned fruits/vegetables

Cereal

Similac and SMA baby foods

Soups (all kinds)

Tomato Sauce

Pork and Beans

Canned spaghetti

Powdered/canned milk

Baby food

Diapers (all sizes)

Plastic Grocery Bags are urgently needed!

<p>St. George's Anglican Church</p> <p>7051 Guelph Line R.R. #3 CAMPBELLVILLE Ontario L0P 1B0</p> <p>Phone: (905) 878-1363</p> <p>Fax: (905) 878-4633</p> <p>Email: stgeorgesanglicanchurch@bellnet.ca</p> <p>Web Sites: www.stgeorgeslowville.org www.stgchurch.com</p>	<p>Rector</p> <p>Curate</p> <p>Youth Minister</p> <p>Wardens for 2007</p> <p>Seniors' Pastoral Care</p> <p>Ministry Coordinator</p> <p>Church Secretary</p>	<p>Rev. Canon Charlie Masters</p> <p>Rev. Ray David Glenn</p> <p>Matt Baker</p> <p>Neil Dennison, Ron Bales,</p> <p>Gillian Fernie</p> <p>Kathy Powell</p> <p>Naomi Neeb</p> <p>Donna Rigo</p> <p>Rev. Charlie Masters 375 McNabb Crescent</p> <p><i>"I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord" Psalm 122:1</i></p>
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1 John 2: 8 (NIV)

The darkness is passing
and the true light is
already shining.

**Services are for the
whole family and every-
one is
welcome.**

Sunday Morning

8:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy Com-
munion

10:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy Com-
munion

10:30 am (Downstairs)
Family Service

Nursery and Sunday School

for children up to age 11 and Youth Pro-
gram for grade 7 to 12 during the 10:30
service

Sunday Evenings:

As announced – call the office for
information