Volume 25 Issue 2 **LENT 2009**

Years

BY GEORGE

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

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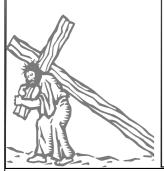
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"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"



the heart of a child

my son off s i m p l e pleasures in my life. In

Junior and Senior Kindergarten I always walked him to the door and saw him safely inbuilding before side the climbing in my car and continuing on my day. Grade 1 has brought big changes.

Matty is a big boy now. In fact he takes great pride in explaining to me that, "we're dudes", manly men, men of the highest caliber. I love seeing our little dude grow into a man, day by day. He is kind and compassionate, gentle and empathetic. At the same time, he is brave and strong, courageous and determined. If you don't believe me, just flash a hockey puck in front of his

Dropping eyes. Six is the best age. Matty is old enough to play hockey and at school is get a good wrestling match going, one of the but still young enough to sleep with stuffies.

> Dropping the Matt-dude off at school I make a conscious effort not to embarrass him in front of his friends. I usually just pull up to the schoolvard, pray with him and let him out the car door. But one day I decided to park and watch him play before the morning bell. He was running around with his friends, pushing and shoving, and they were sliding on their bums down the snow bank - while I watched from a distance.

> The time came for me to go, so I walked closer to him and just waved quietly, trying to respect his dudeness. He looked over at me, ran toward me with his arms

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open wide and said in a big loud voice, "Daddy, what about my hug and a kiss?!"

He didn't care who was watching, or what they might think. Moved by great love for his daddy, Matty's emotions burst out from him in word and action – all directed toward the father he loves.

I am in tears writing this.

A massive public display of affection recklessly lavished on his father, without any regard for dignity or the thoughts of others; Matty taught me something.

Over the past month we have opened God's word together, looking specifically at God as our Father. Garth preached from Galatians 4, God's divine, sovereign adoption of His children. I spoke about trusting the goodness of our heavenly Father. And, once again my heavenly Father taught me a lesson through my earthly son.

When was the last time that you were so captured by your heavenly Father's love for you, and your love for Him that you lavished reckless love on Him. The primary act of reciprocated love for our heavenly Father is repentance. When we are so deeply gripped by His love for us, in Jesus, that we turn our lives around and throw

ourselves on Him we are beginning this lifelong expression of love for our heavenly Father. Would we risk the embarrassment? What would our schoolyard friends think? Would it lessen our dudeness to profess publicly our love for God and to live our lives marked by true repentance; having turned our backs on our old ego-centricity and arrogance, responding to God's grace by giving him nothing less than our very lives?

Sound too juvenile? Sound unsophisticated? Learn a lesson from Matty and from Jesus.

"And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven"." Matthew 18:2-4

Our heavenly Father's extravagant love for us demands nothing less than complete, unwavering, unashamed, love and devotion to Him – no matter who is watching.

Please continue to pray for your neighbours and friends. Invite them to church. Don't be too embarrassed.

Ray David

BRENDA

A beautiful light has gone out in this world. As I, along with Brenda's son Matt and daughter Sarah, sat at Brenda's bedside, she took her last breath. There was gospel music playing and I could almost hear the joyous shout in Heaven "Brenda is home."

Brenda was the first in our family to discover that there was more to our walk with the Lord than going to church every Sunday. She discovered that we needed a Saviour and that we had in one in our Lord Jesus Christ. She taught us all, including our mother Pearl Cook who went to be with the Lord in 2004.

We are all feeling a huge void in the loss of Brenda because she was



Brenda Strode

such a vital and active person. Her kids relied on her on a daily basis for her advice and her time. She was just getting into the afternoon ladies' group and she loved it. She told me "You have to retire and do this too." She had just finished the caring course with Kathy Powell and was helping at Allendale. She was driving cancer patients for their treatments and she was valuable to them because she was one of the brave ones that was willing to drive to Toronto. She retired from Ford 2 years ago and was becoming a full time servant for the Lord.

She was baptized, married, and buried at St. Georges Lowville and it was very difficult the day we decided to leave that beloved building, but she loved her Lord more. She would be thrilled to have seen the number of gifts to the building fund in her memory. Our whole family has been very blessed by the love of our parish family and if you from time to time call me Brenda I would consider it a compliment.



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Healing Services



The Rev. Keith Stodart

It seems that an unusually large number of people in St. George's have been sick with physical ailments recently. Now, we are told in Scripture, in James 5:13-16, to pray for those in our fellowship that are sick. This is a firm commandment; not "you might want to pray for that sick person," but: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him . . ." The word "let" in this context is an imperative, an order. Healing is also one of the gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:28 – so God has provided the means by which that commandment may be carried out by the priesthood of all believers. He has also provided

for us the liturgies in the Book of Common Prayer, liturgies laid out for prayer for the sick, for the laying on of hands, and for the anointing of the sick. Accordingly, Ray David and the ministry team have agreed that services will be offered specifically for healing.

The first in the series will be at Crossroads on February 15th at 7 pm. Subsequent services will be held on the third Sunday of each month from February to June 2009. These services are primarily for those of all ages who wish to receive laying on of hands and/or anointing for healing. Others are more than welcome to come and offer prayer support and encouragement. The services will include Holy Communion. The format will be said (i.e. without music), and will incorporate the appropriate rites from the Book of Common Prayer

Prayer for healing is important because it acknowledges both our need for healing, and it acknowledges that God is the One from whom the healing comes. Such prayer is an act of faith that deepens our relationship with the Father, affords opportunities for Him to show us His mercy and grace, and enlarges our understanding of His ongoing involvement in our lives and in the lives of those for whom we pray. This kind of prayer is a conversation with the Father, asking Him to intervene in physical and/or spiritual situations. He is our Creator, the One who loves us, and the One who has commanded us to bring every burden to Him in Jesus' Name – as in Matthew 11:28. In doing so we trust our Father with His response to our prayers; we know He hears us, and we trust Him to answer according to the richness of His mercy and grace towards us.

To Him be the glory forever and forever!

Keith Stodart

By George Page 5

LETTERS TO AN EARLY CONGREGATION

The Bible study that meets at the Loveless home in Kilbride has just completed a study of first and second Corinthians. The letters to the Corinthians were written to believers, but to believers under siege of the evil one. These attacks came in many forms: many sources of division, blatant sins, and willing acceptance of false apostles and their false teaching. These are a few of the themes that we discovered in these two letters.

I. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

The word of the cross is the gospel; the power of the gospel is the power of God. Without the message of the cross, there is no gospel. Without the power of God there is no life.

According to his first letter, when Paul came to Corinth he made no effort to appear eloquent. He came only with the message of the cross preached in weakness even. This was his mandate from the Lord "lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power." The message that Jesus died for our sins is foolishness to those who are perishing in unbelief, but to those who are being saved, it comes with the power of God to save.

[I Corinthians 1: 17,18; ch 2: 2 -5; ch15: 3, 4. II Corinthians 3: 6 – 8; ch 4: 4 - 7; ch12: 9,10]

II. TEMPLES OF THE LIVING GOD

God lives in us through his Holy Spirit. The temple of God is holy. Because Christ lives in us, we are called to a life of holiness: both purity of life and faithfulness to our calling. The Christian is called to a holy separation to God; this is the mark of his ownership. We are not our own; we are bought with a price.

[I Corinthians 3: 16; ch. 6: 19, 20, ch. 12: 27. II Corinthians 6: 16-7:1, ch. 13:5]

III. MARKS OF A TRUE SERVANT

Even in the church there will be false apostles. In contrast to the false apostle who comes with the lofty wisdom of this age, proud, boastful and manipulative, the true servant of the

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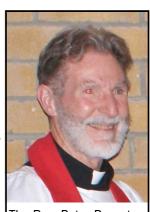


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A Church plant of ANiC.

A group of about 20 Anglicans from the parishes of Delhi and Otterville and others, in the Diocese of Huron, requested membership in ANiC in the fall of 2008, and were granted status as a congregation under the name of the Church of the Messiah by Bishop Donald Harvey, "effective January 1, 2009", under the immediate supervision of the Reverend Ray David Glenn. I had the wonderful privilege, as a newly ordained priest, of being able to celebrate Holy Communion on Christmas Eve with them, AND of reading the letter announcing this to the congregation. What a joyful celebration of thanksgiving we had as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour and the birth of a 'new' member in the body of Christ! Thank you Lord!



The Rev. Peter Parent

That celebration on Christmas Eve was in a private home, as all their meeting had been, rotating from house to house among the members. However, by mid-January, the opportunity came to rent space on Sunday mornings from The Deck in the town of Norwich. On Sunday, February 1st we held our first Service in our 'new' sanctuary.

Last Sunday, February the 8th, we had a church sign in the window, and seven children came to Sunday school. Through all this we have a sense that God may be calling us to be involved with the teens of the town.

Street front of the Deck, Norwich

We will be having a Service Ash Wednesday to kick off Lent and will be studying the GAFCON series, *The Way of the Cross*.

We thank God for his faithfulness. We thank St. George's and Ray David for encouragement and support, and we solicit your prayers as we grow in the Lord Jesus our Messiah.

the Rev. Peter Parent

FRESH TRUTH FROM THE PAST

[Bishop John Charles Ryle was a great preacher of the gospel in the nineteenth century. He served for thirty nine years in country parishes before becoming the first Bishop of Liverpool in 1880. He has left us many treasures from his writing and preaching. Eds.]

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23: 39 - 43 [NIV]



There are few passages in the New Testament which are more familiar to men's ears than the verses above. They contain the well-known story of the 'penitent thief.' I wish to say something about these verses. I will try to unfold the leading lessons which they are meant to teach. I can see truths in this passages which no man can ever know too well.

I. Christ's power and willingness to save sinners

Here is the greatest trophy which Christ ever won.

This is the main doctrine to be gathered from the history of the penitent thief. It teaches us that Jesus Christ is 'mighty to save'.

I ask anyone to say whether a case could look more hopeless and desperate than that of this penitent thief once did. He was a wicked man, a malefactor, a thief, if not a murderer. We know this for only such were crucified. He was suffering a just punishment for breaking the laws. And as he had lived wicked, so he seemed determined to die wicked, for at first, when he was crucified, he railed on our Lord.

And he was a dying man. He hung there, nailed to a cross, from which he was never to come down alive. He had no longer power to stir hand or foot. His hours were

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NATHAN



Nathan Betts, Lay Evangelist

Dear St.George's,
My name is Nathan
Betts and I am the lay
evangelist here at
St.George's. My primary role is to formulate a Christianity 101
course for the church.

There are many questions bombarding the Church today, whether it be from the atheist or from within the

Church. So what are the answers? Does our faith really stretch our lives?

We believe Christianity has something meaningful to say to these questions. Furthermore, our faith is not simply abstract truths that are left for the academics to deal with. Our faith in Christ has bearing on how we live on a day-to-day basis. I am currently working with Ray David to generate a course which will be fresh and reaffirming of our beliefs. Please do keep this project in prayer as we are anticipating great things.

Delighted to be a part of this,

Nathan

Please complete the following survey and put it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Christianity 101 Survey

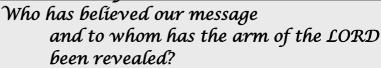
1. What do you expect to learn or gain from this course?

2. What topics would you find most helpful to be explained throughout the course?

3. Would you attend Christianity 101? (Why or why not?) Would you bring your friends?

4. How many evenings would you be willing to invest in this course? (i.e.: 5, 8 or 10)

a man of sorrows



He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Isaíah 53: 1-7

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Lord comes in human weakness but in the power of Christ. The true servant is willing to be regarded as a fool for the sake of Christ. He is content to be a spectacle to the world as the last of all. He accepts persecution, deprivation, and suffering. He brings the gospel free of charge. His message, though rejected by the unspiritual, is received by those who are spiritual. His only boldness comes from the light of the gospel, the glory of Christ. As Paul puts it several times: "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."

II Corinthians 2: 6 – 8; ch 4: 9 – 13. II Corinthians 1: 12; ch. 3: 1 – 6; ch 4: 1 – 6; ch11: 12 -30; ch 12: 9,10]

IV. THE RESURRECTION

The message of the resurrection is central to the word of the cross. It is the victory over sin and death. As such, this glorious hope comes under attack. In both his letters Paul declares the certainty of Christ's resurrection and of ours too. These letters contain a rich affirmation of our hope.

[I Corinthians, chapter 15. 2 Corinthians 4:7 – 5:10]

Jane and Mary Ann Masters

Women of St. George's

Please mark your calendars for two events in May:

Saturday May 2: Women's Luncheon at the Crossroads Centre, with Michelle Walker as speaker



Michelle



Weekend May 29- 31: Women's Conference at Crieff Hills Desiree Stedman, regional Archdeacon, as speaker More details of both events to follow.

By George Page 11

WISDOM PEOPLE

I have heard elderly people referred to as "Wisdom People". While working in the facilities I have found that to be so true. For many, their years of living have allowed them to develop a good, common sense approach to many issues in life that those of younger years could certainly benefit from.

"Healthy Wisdom People"

- a.. They have dealt with a lot of change in their lives and are able to continue to do so and still keep smiling.
 - b.. They are open to others who have different opinions or behaviors.
 - c.. They can assess what they can and cannot do.
 - d.. They don't live in fear of what is to come.
 - e.. They are optimistic.
 - f.. They are not afraid to tell others who they are or what they believe in.
 - g.. They are giving and forgiving.
 - h.. They have an ability to cheer others up by example.
 - i.. They are an inspiration to others through hard times.
 - j.. They do as much as is physically possible for themselves.
 - k.. They appreciate each new day.
 - 1.. They find humor in life.

Can you add more to this list? I would love to hear your ideas on this.

Blessings!

Kathy Powell

KEEPING A HOLY LENT

Harry Langston is the resource person for the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. They have a booklet called "Keeping a Holy Lent" for a cost of 50 cents. If you would like a copy, speak to Harry. There is also a calendar called "A Suggestion for a Lenten Observance".

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numbered; the grave was ready for him. There was but a step between him and death. If ever there was a soul hovering on the brink of hell, it was the soul of this thief. If ever there was a case that seemed lost, gone and past recovery, it was his. If ever there was a child of Adam whom the devil made sure of as his own, it was this man.

But see now what happened. He ceased to rail and blaspheme, as he had done at first; he began to speak in another manner altogether. He turned to our blessed Lord in prayer. He prayed Jesus to 'remember him when he came into his kingdom'. He asked that his soul might be cared for, his sins pardoned and himself thought of in another world. Truly this was a wonderful change.

And then mark what kind of answer he received. Some would have said he was too wicked a man to be saved; but it was not so. Some would have fancied it was too late, the door was shut, and there was no room for mercy; but it proved not too late at all. The Lord Jesus returned him an immediate answer, spoke kindly to him, assured him he should be with Him that day in paradise, pardoned him completely, cleansed him thoroughly from his sins, received him graciously, justified him freely, raised him from the gates of hell, gave him a title to glory. Of all the multitude of saved souls, none ever received so glorious an assurance of his own salvation as did this penitent thief.

I believe the Lord Jesus never gave so complete a proof of his power and will to save as He did upon this occasion. In the day when He seemed most weak, He showed He was a strong deliverer. In the hour when his body was racked with pain, He showed that He could feel tenderly for others. At the time when He himself was dying, He conferred on a sinner eternal life.

Now have I not the right to say, 'Christ is able to save to the uttermost them that come unto God by Him'? Behold the proof of it. Have I not the right to say, 'Christ will rescue any poor sinner who comes to Him with the prayer of faith, and cast out none'? Have I not a right to say, 'By grace ye may be saved through faith, not be works; fear not, only believe'? Behold the proof of it. Why then should any man or woman despair with such a passage as this in the Bible? Never should any man or woman despair. Jesus is still the same now as He was then. The keys of death and hell are in His hand.

II. If some are saved in the hour of death, others are not.

This is the second lesson we are meant to learn from this passage. It is a truth that stands out plainly in the sad end of the other malefactor. Why did he not turn from his sin, and call upon the Lord? Why did he remain hardened and impenitent? Why was he

not saved? It is useless to try to answer such questions.

We have no right to say that this thief was a worse man than the other; there is nothing to prove it. Both plainly were wicked men. Both hung by the side of our Lord Jesus, both heard Him pray for his murderers, both saw Him suffer patiently. But while one repented, the other remained hardened; while one began to pray, the other went on railing; while one was converted in his last hours, the other died a bad man, as he had lived; while one was taken to paradise, the other went to his own place—the place of the devil and his angels.

These things are written for our warning. They tell me that two men may have the same opportunities of getting good for their souls, may be placed in the same position, see the same things and hear the same things, yet only one of the two shall take advantage of them, repent, believe, and be saved. They tell me, above all, that repentance and faith are the gifts of God and are not in a man's own power; and that if anyone flatters himself that he can repent at his own time, choose his own season, seek the Lord when he pleases and, like the penitent thief, be saved at the very last, he may find at length he is greatly de-

III. Believers in Christ when they die are with the Lord.

ceived. It is good and profitable to bear this in mind.

Believers in Christ when they die are with the Lord. This you may gather from our Lord's words to the penitent thief: "This day shalt thou



Bishop John Ryle

be with me in paradise." To my mind this is very full of comfort and peace. Believers after death are 'with Christ.' That answers many a difficult question which otherwise might puzzle man's busy restless mind. The abode of dead saints, their joys, their feelings, their happiness, all seem met by this simple expression—they are 'with Christ'.

IV. The eternal portion of every man's soul is close to him.

'Today,' says our Lord to the penitent thief, 'today shalt thou be with me in paradise'. He names no distant period; he does not talk of his entering into a state of happiness as a thing far away. He speaks of today—'this very day in which you are hanging on a cross.'

How near that seems! How awfully near that word brings our everlasting dwelling place! Happiness or misery, sorrow or joy, the presence of Christ or the company of devils—all are close to us. 'There is but a step,' says David, 'between me and death.' There is but a step, we may say, between us and either paradise or hell.

We none of us realize this as we ought to do. We are apt to talk and think, even

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about believers, as if death was a long journey, as if dying saints had embarked on a long voyage. It is wrong, very wrong! Their harbour and their home is close by, and they have entered it. The very moment that believers die they are in paradise. Their battle is fought; their strife is o'er.

We are warring still, but they are at peace. We are labouring, but they are at rest. We are watching, but they are sleeping. We are wearing our spiritual armour, but they have forever put it off. We are still at sea, but they are safe in harbour. We have tears, but they have joy. Surely better are the dead in Christ than the living! Surely, the very hour the poor saint dies, he is at once higher and happier than the highest upon the earth. If you are a true Christian, you are far nearer heaven than you think.

FROM THE HARRIS FAMILY

We wish to thank our Church family for all their prayers, cards and words of comfort for the passing of Chris' mother, Mary Marshall. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Gordon and Chris Harris.

FROM THE HICKS FAMILY

During a week in March, David, Nathan, and Eli Hicks will be doing some building in New Orleans in connection with the Mennonite Central Committee. This is part of the ongoing reconstruction after Hurricane Katrina.



It's a wedding!

Children of the Sunday school re-enacted the story of "Jesus changing water into wine". They made wedding garments and used Koolaid for wine. The teachers were Kelly and Donna who created a wonderful memorable lesson.

"Jesus , priceless treasure"

By George

YOUTH MINISTRY

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

It has been my pleasure to serve as Youth Pastor at St George's in 2008. I believe our youth group has experienced tremendous growth both individually and corporately as the body of Christ. I am looking forward to 2009.

What will our youth group schedule look like in 2009?

Ancient Worship: The 2nd Sunday of every month we will have youth led Compline at the Crossroads Centre from 7-8:30pm. Although this is youth led, everyone is invited to Compline. It is a great way to introduce people from any background and of any age into a meditative and mystical encounter with Christ through ancient liturgy.

Future Worship: The last Sunday of the month from 7:30-9pm we have a YOUTH ONLY service. NO parents please! However, parents are invited to participate through prayer and by inviting other youth to attend. Typically this service is a wee bit loud. It is often led by teens and the preaching is geared to youth. Someone recently asked me, "Are youth from a non-church background welcome?" I cannot stress enough that this service is for ALL youth.

Other Sundays: We meet for Bible Study from 7-8:30pm.

Thursdays: Once a month we will continue to have a youth event such as rock climbing, paintball, movie night, etc. The rest of the month our Thursdays are a low-key fun night.

Summer Mission Trip (in August?) Stay tuned.

It is an honour to serve among you and I remain Yours in Christ,

Scott Walker



St. George's Anglican Church,
Lowville,
member congregation of the
Anglican Network in Canada
and part of
the Anglican Church in North America
Rector: Rev. Ray David Glenn

Curate/Youth Pastor:

Rev. Deacon Scott Walker

Honourary Assistants:

Rev. Peter Parent

Rev. Keith Stodart

Rev. Deacon Garth Hunt

Seniors' Pastoral Resource:

Kathy Powell

Music Ministries: Bryan Hunt Lay Evangelist: Nathan Betts

Ministry Coordinator: Naomi Neeb Church Secretary: Donna Rigo

Crossroads Centre Chapel, 1295 North Service Road, Burlington 9:00 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion, and Sunday school 10: 45 family service, nursery and Sunday school

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By George editors: J. Masters, M. Masters

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Man of Sorrows! What a name for the Son of God who came Ruíned sínners to reclaím! Hallelujah, what a Savíor!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude, In my place condemned He stood, Sealed my pardon with His blood; Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Guilty, vile and helpless we, Spotless Lamb of God was He; Full atonement! Can it be? Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die, "It is finished," was His cry; Now in heaven exalted high, Hallelujah, what a Savior!

When he comes, our gloriousKing All His ransomed home to bring, Then anew this song we'll sing, Hallelujah, what a Savior! Philip Bliss