

BY GEORGE



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

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We have the Holy Spirit



We don't need
a Cloud, we
have the Holy
Spirit

Numbers 9:15-23 explains how the Lord led the people of Israel in the wilderness. It seems so simple. The cloud moved on, they would move on. The cloud stayed put, the Israelites would remain where the cloud resided until finally it moved on.

"18 At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they remained in camp. 19 When the cloud remained over the tabernacle a long time, the Israelites obeyed the LORD's order and did not set out. 20 Sometimes the cloud was

over the tabernacle only a few days; at the LORD's command they would encamp, and then at his command they would set out. 21 Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening till morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they set out. Whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud lifted, they set out. 22 Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out."

As I say, it seems so simple; I think to myself, even I could figure that one out. Wouldn't it be great if following the Lord were that straight-forward?

The good news is, though we may not have a cloud hovering over our heads leading us, if we

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The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"

Whoever is thirsty, let him "Come!"





(Continued from page 1)

have put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, then he has poured his Holy Spirit into our hearts. And so we have the Lord, the Holy Spirit, personally leading us or at least trying to. If you notice in the passage quoted above, the Israelites had to obey. The leading only worked because they obeyed.

In the sermons on Ephesians we have been following in our sermon series, we found these words, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30) Interesting; it is clear the Holy Spirit will not force us to obey. He leads and he strengthens us to do his leading but if we choose to ignore him and disobey, he will be disappointed, saddened and be grieved but he will not make us do what we refuse to do.

What a gracious comforter and friend the Holy Spirit is. The Lord has not left us alone as orphans. He himself has come to us and abides in us. There is something alarming however about the thought that we could become hardened and unresponsive to his "nudgings" if we repeatedly ignore him. He is a person, not a force, and he can be grieved.

Another time Paul said: "Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

(1 Thessalonians 5: 19—22). Disobedience pours cold water on the fire of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

It would appear from 1 Thessalonians 5:20 that cynicism is the enemy of the Holy Spirit. If we would laugh at the quaint form of leading- a cloud in Numbers 9, then we are in danger of despising the "prophecies" the Holy Spirit would send our way.

When we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost, May 11th, we are by implication committing ourselves to allow him to lead us and we are promising to obey his leading no matter how demanding his directions may be because he promises to empower us to do his will. "11And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you." (Romans 8:11)

by Charlie Masters

Defend, O Lord, this thy
servant with thy heavenly
grace, that he may continue
thine forever; and daily in-
crease in thy Holy Spirit,
more and more, until he come
unto thy everlasting
kingdom. Amen [BCP]

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"

Invitation to come to Christ

a sermon preached by Charles Simeon



Charles Simeon was an Anglican divine who lived 1759—1836. When Charles Simeon entered King’s College, Cambridge, he discovered that attendance at Holy Communion was compulsory. His preparation for taking communion led to his conversion. From the time of his ordination, he encountered great hostility and persecution for the sake of the gospel. Appointed vicar of Holy Trinity, Cambridge in 1782, he ministered there until his death. Ed.

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’

Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.”

Revelation 22: 17[NIV]

RICH beyond expression are the blessings held forth to us in the Word of Life: and as free as light are the invitations given us to partake of them. Throughout the whole Scriptures, is every possible encouragement afforded to the sinners of mankind to repent of sin, and to “lay hold upon the hope that is set before them” in the Gospel. And here, in the close of the Inspired Volume, are invitations to us reiterated from every quarter, that we may be prevailed upon to accept mercy, ere the door of mercy be forever closed.

I. Let us consider,

The blessings to which we are invited—They are here designated by “the water of life.” The source from which this water flows, is no other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. In the very chapter before us, “the pure river of the water of life” is said to “proceed out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.” Jesus is “the fountain of living waters;” and whosoever comes to him, may drink and live forever. To the Samaritan woman he said, **“If thou knewest the gift of God and who it is that saith unto thee, Give me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”** [John 4: 10] On another occasion, he stood in the place of public concourse and cried, **“If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink: and out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”** [John 7: 37, 38]

Three blessings in particular I will specify, as granted by our Lord Jesus Christ to all who come to him; namely *pardon*, and *holiness*, and *glory*. The Lord Jesus will in the first place bestow the pardon of our sins. He is said by the prophet to be “the fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness:”

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Whoever is thirsty, let him come!



summer missionary

Leanne Metsa lives in Campbellville and has been involved with St. George's Youth for about four years. Leanne is an accomplished musician; she is working toward her RCM Grade 9 Voice this spring and has her RCM Grade 9 piano. She has been singing classically for about eight years. She teaches beginner piano and singing at Bel Canto School of Music in Campbellville. For the past year or so, God has really developed her voice in singing worship music. She has also been writing her own songs.

Leanne is graduating from high school this spring and has applied to study voice in the fall at Western University or at Laurier. This summer she has the opportunity of a missionary outreach in Africa. In the article below, Leanne tells us about her summer plans. Ed.



Burkina Faso

This summer, I will be embarking on a mission trip to Burkina Faso with S.I.M (Serving in Mission) from July 17th to August 21st. As one of the six young women on the Burkina Faso team, I am getting very excited for what God has in store for us. I have had Africa, and especially missions in Africa on my heart for the past year or two, and it is so wonderful finally to have the opportunity to go and serve where God has called me.

Burkina Faso is located in West Africa, landlocked and directly north of Ghana and the Ivory Coast. It is about a third of the size of Ontario, has a population of 14 million. It is one of the poorest countries in the world. This sub-Saharan country has three seasons: hot, hot and dry, and hot and wet. We will be in Burkina during its wet season which is not very long and is still very hot; it will be between 40°-50°C.

We will be staying in a small town about 30 minutes from the capital of Burkina, Ouagadougou. There is an S.I.M guesthouse that our group will be staying in which has access to phones, computers and internet. We will have to cook our own meals and barter for goods and food from the local market every day.

A lot of our days will be spent at a small Muslim village, Sakoula, about 25 minutes from the S.I.M guesthouse. We will be interacting with many of the children through games and VBS (Vacation Bible School). This village is very poor so most of the children cannot afford schooling. Some of the village women have a small berry selling business started to make money for these children. We will be helping them in developing this.

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"

The main religion in Burkina is Muslim (50%), then the various tribal and traditional (30%), Catholic (15%) and Protestant (5%). There is also a very strong animistic culture (belief that everything, nature etc... has a soul) among the people of Burkina. We are all very excited to share our faith about Jesus to these Muslims. Most of our ministry will be sharing the Gospel one on one and making relationships with the people of this village.

In Ouagadougou we will be involved in the International Church of Ouagadougou and their youth. There is a need for musical talents in this church, so I am very excited to offer my gifts in voice and piano to this church in their worship services.

Please pray for the preparation of our trip, that we would have the knowledge to bring all that is necessary and that God would prepare our hearts for this adventure He has put before us. Pray for protection spiritually, physically and emotionally while we are in Burkina and that we would be a blessing to the people in the places we will be serving. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us and bring Christ's salvation among the many that need Him.

Leanne Metsa



COFFEE HOUSE

at the church

June 6, 2008, 6:30 p.m.



Come out to support Leanne's missionary trip to Burkina Faso, West Africa. There will be a short concert given by Leanne, and a silent auction including delicious baked goods.



And let him who hears say, "Come!"

Calling All Parishioners.
It's finally here!

St. George's 101 Follow Up

Wednesday June 11th 2008
6:30 p.m.

Let's Pull It All Together!

Who are we?
What do we do?
What can you expect from St. George's?
What does it mean to belong?

Dinner and child care will be provided.

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

Scott Walker 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

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

By George

Jane and Mary Ann Masters

email: mmasters@bserv.com

John 15: 16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit— fruit that will last.

Whoever is thirsty, let him come!



Women's Conference

You are invited to our 7th annual Women's Conference

Theme: Missions at home and abroad

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

I Timothy 6: 18, 19 [NIV]

Where: Crieff Hills, Ontario

When: Friday to Sunday, May 23 – 25th

What to expect: Praise and worship, teaching, fellowship, spiritual growth, prayer, communion, great food, mission work, games, and laughter (especially at the Saturday night Hawaiian theme party).

The Committee: Anita Chambers, Debbie Brewer, Angela Hunt, Margaret Hunt, Ruth Forbes, Donna Rigo, Kelly Tinker, and Karen Wilson

Our Speakers:

Pamela Bales

Pam and her husband Ron returned to Ontario in 2004 after having lived in South America and Montreal for thirty five years. While living in Brazil, Pam was strongly influenced by several South American Missionary society

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The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”

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missionaries. When the Bales moved to Montreal in 1980, they became actively involved in both local and overseas missions. Pam was the Quebec representative for SAMS and served on the board of directors of Montreal Youth for Christ for fifteen years. Overseas, she has done short term missions of two to four weeks in Kenya, Brazil, and Peru.



Oryce Shantz



Oryce and David have been active in St. George's for ten years. They began attending in 1997 upon their return from four years in Hungary with Operation Mobilization. In 2003 Oryce graduated with a Master of Theological Studies and a Diploma in Spiritual Formation from Tyndale Seminary. David and Oryce live in the country north of Campbellville experiencing all the joys of retirement with time for family and friends, helping with horses and dogs on their daughter's farm, reading, studying, walking, volunteering in church and community.

More information can be obtained from any member of the committee.



Whoever is thirsty, let him come!

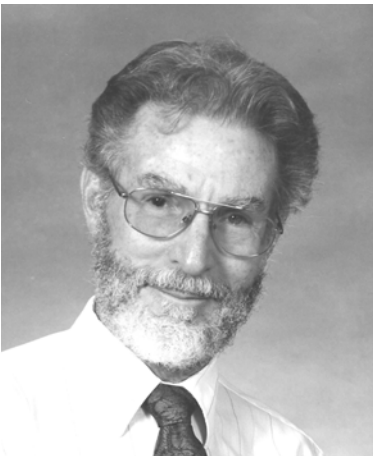


Ordination Announcement

Bishop Harvey has notified us and invited us to announce his plans to ordain three members of St. George's to the Diaconate on June 1st, 2008, right here in St. George's. Two hope, in time, to be ordained to the priesthood and one expects to remain permanently a Deacon. All three will have St. George's as their home church base under the supervision of the rector of St. George's but will have their primary responsibility in ministry outside the Parish.

All three have clear evidence of God's call on their lives towards ordination at this time. They are known to be living lives which are above reproach as is described in the Pastoral Epistles. They have been prepared for ministry and have been confirmed in their call by Bishop Harvey and we all know of the anointing of the Lord upon their lives.

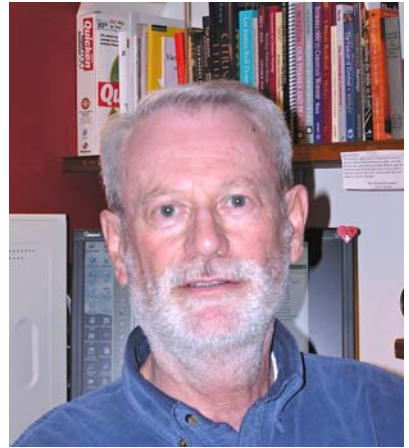
Finally, Bishop Harvey was eager to assure us that these ordinations are meant to enhance and develop the ministry of the laity and not to be seen to reduce it in our midst. We believe as we have been studying in Ephesians 4, these three men have been called to help equip the saints (the people, the laity) for the work of service.



Peter Parent will be ordained as a "transitional deacon" (heading toward the priesthood) with primary responsibility to serve in Allendale as Chaplain.

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"

Keith Stodart will be ordained as a transitional deacon with responsibility to be available to the Anglican Network in Canada for special projects.



Garth Hunt is to be ordained as a permanent or vocational deacon with primary responsibility to serve as the National Prayer Coordinator and as one who teaches and encourages prayer across the country.

Let us pray for these three and their families at this exciting time! The service is at St. Georges, June 1, at 6:30 p. m.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1: 8



Whoever is thirsty, let him come!



Compelled by Christ's Love

I wanted to get an early report to you about the ANiC conference this past weekend. It is not a report of content so much as feelings. You have already received a short synopsis of content from ANiC directly, and I highly recommend ordering the full DVD set (and nobody's paying me for this endorsement!).

As many of you know I have been involved in other conferences with the technical production aspects. This time was different. Both Karen and I awoke on Friday with the exact same thought. "There's nothing to look after, chase down, or organize. We can go and just participate." So we did! The first impression was that there were so many people. About 350 registered including 15 from St. Georges, and many more for special services. It is very heartening to meet others from all across Canada, North America and indeed, around the world. We are not "alone in the wilderness".

The first worship service set the tone for the whole conference. We were there not to wallow in our particular hardships, or rejoice in specific "victories", but to give praise and worship to The Lord. Archbishop Greg once again demonstrated that he "puts his pants on one leg at a time" just like us. There was no high and lofty dissertation about some obscure passage or problematic concept. Just straightforward fact and direction based on Galatians 1:1-6 and Acts 2:42. The best little tidbit I received from Archbishop Greg that summarized both the problem and solution was a farming directive from Australia. If a shepherd cares to provide for the flock and have them flourish, he doesn't build bigger fences to keep them in. He digs deeper wells for better water!

Other presentations made us very aware of what can be attained if we preach the Gospel faithfully. There was a special session on youth specifically. And to prove what can become of a youth presence, the service Friday evening had (I guess) about 100 young people participating. They wanted and chose to be there on a Friday night pre-empting all those "normal" youth activities like dates, work, and parties!

Saturday's sessions continued on evangelism today beginning with rich Bible study showing how the Gospel is 1) Christological, 2) Biblical 3) Theological 4) Cosmic (David Short couldn't find himself using "cosmical" for a couple of reasons) and 5) Personal. Most presentations were followed by a panel discussion and audience questions to make sure that we were engaged at a real world level.

The final commissioning service (I am told it was 2 hours, but certainly it didn't seem that long) was truly wonderful. No shortage of tears (even as I write this now) at several times. God is moving.

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"



Our delegation in Vancouver

One aspect that I would like to bring back to all of us is that of **sacrifice and support**. There are those among us that have sacrificed much indeed so that we as a congregation and as individuals can be at this place (both spiritual and physical) in this time, growing and worshipping in truth. At the final service, there was a time of prayer, thanks and support for Archbishop Greg, Bishops Don and Malcolm, and other leaders. We, locally, do give thanks and must continue to support Charlie& Judy, Ray David& Rhonda, Neil& Donna, Ron& Pam, Garth& Margaret, their entire families, and the staff and support here at St. George's. This is not optional! Karen and I thank all for your prayers surrounding this trip. We were blessed in so many ways. It is our desire that we convey the blessing of the conference to you. When the DVDs come out I will be setting up a time (or times) that we can gather together and watch parts or all. I suggest that Archbishop Greg's address could be come a sermon on a Sunday. More to follow!

Dave Wilson



Whoever is thirsty, let him come!



What Is Outreach?

A definition of "outreach": "The process of taking the Christian message to people who may not be Christians, through every means available to us"

Why is outreach important?

It is the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20a). Jesus tells us to "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Where are we to reach people for Christ?

Everywhere--from our neighborhoods to the farthest reaches of the earth!

Who are our Team?

Ray Smith is leading a team of parishioners that include in alphabetical order: **Pam Bales**, **Markus Bischoff**, **Gord Bonham**, **Anita Chambers**, **Marjorie Helder**, and **Andy Schitch**, to oversee this important ministry. We meet the last Sunday of the month right after the 10:30 service in the library. We are presently reviewing our support commitments and we have asked all of our mission partners to submit a revised request for support form for our review.

Our budget isn't huge so all the more reason to apply sound process and strong stewardship. It is our mission to ensure on your behalf that the money we do pay out goes to the glory of God and to the furtherance of His Gospel. We welcome your questions and suggestions; please feel free to speak to Ray Smith or any committee member.

In loving service,
Your Outreach and Mission Team

Look for a list of our mission partners coming soon.

From St. George's With Love. . .

I am delighted to tell you that **Jenny Stodart** has joined me from our church to minister to our dear friends at Milton Hospital through the Coffee and Caring program. Each week, about 12 dear ones come out to take part in the program. We thank God for Jenny who joins John Davies and me in ministry there. We also have a gentleman from Knox who accompanies us on the guitar.

The Allendale Coffee and Caring program continues to be very well received and very busy. Approximately 40 residents per week are portered to and from the groups in wheelchairs and walkers so there is a lot of physical work in doing that. God is so present through His Holy Spirit each week. The residents are as excited to be there as we are to see them. **Eileen Phillips, Rose Robertson** and I join with **Marlene Pearson, John Davies** and **Heather Caswell** to present programs there. **Jim Mighton** accompanies us on the piano and **Eric Walton** plays the guitar. **Edgar Stokes** comes weekly to help us porter.

These two ministry opportunities are so exciting. Residents are able to give us prayer requests and they have grown so much in their own prayer lives. Also, their concern for one another has grown.

I continue to be humbled by the dedication and creativity of our workers and thank God for each of them.

Blessings!

Kathy Powell

SCRIPTURE UNION

What is it? Bible study helps for all ages and stages, for individuals, families, or groups.

Display and free samples: in the narthex during the month of MAY.

Start something 'new/old' for the summer.

look forward to a Special Speaker in the fall : Robert Szo, President for Canada,
(Wycliffe grad)



Whoever is thirsty, let him come!



Friends of St. Matthew's House



WHAT IS IT?

Have you seen these items before? There are so many items it is hard to recognize an individual item.



These are the food items collected by the Sunday School children and their families for St Matthew's House. The photos are of the food loaded into the back seat and the passenger's seat of my car. There was also food in the trunk. The staff at St Matthew's House were astounded at the volume and are very grateful to everyone who contributed in such a generous way.

Thanks also to those who donate clothes, dishes, linens and other items during the year. Everything is used by the clients of St Matthew's House. You are providing for people who have very little. Thank you.

Thanks again to the children and their parents who donated so much food!

Betty Pristol

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"

the teachers, an enthusiastic group



*The Sunday school teachers of St. George's, left to right:
Jenifer Casarin, Brenda Strode, Kelly Tinker, Jill Hicks, Linda Calbery, Sarah
Strode, Angela Hunt*

sunny days



Whoever is thirsty, let him come!

Overheard by the Font (& elsewhere)

Bless the Lord!

Congratulations to parents David and Norma Noseworthy on the safe arrival of Baby Grace, a sister for Emily.



Welcome to Simeon Dredge, son of Matthew and Sarah, and grandson of Brenda Strode. Congratulations to all!



Thanks everyone!

Helen Cornell wishes to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, flowers, and for coming to her party. She thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many friends and is still reliving that special day in her memory. She was delighted to have Happy Birthday sung over the phone by the choir, and also that Charlie came to begin the party with prayer. Thank you so much and God's blessings to you all!

Class of 2008



Noah Hicks: Redeemer University



Nathan Hicks: UDHS



Leanne Metsa: UDHS



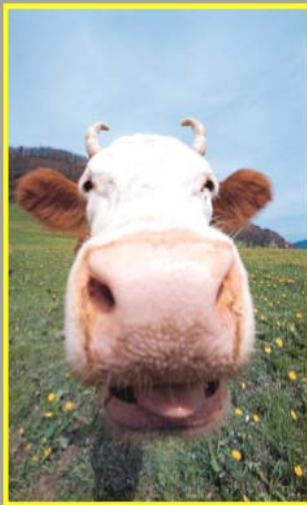
Matt Russell: U)DHS



Emma Sobrinho: U)DHS



Julie Wilson: Parkside H. S.



Miss Edna
the official cow of West Montrose
says
"Howdee St. George's Gang!!"

You are all invited
to Jerry and Nancy's for

A pot-luck get-together and sing-song BASH

STAND: at coordinates $43^{\circ}35.3'$ N. $80^{\circ}28.8'$ W
and at elevation 335 meters asl

WALK: along the banks of the legendary Grand River

SIT: on the soon-to-be-legendary Vicar's Limestone Bench

THRILL: to the tunes of your favorite songs

EAT: the delicacies of Canada's 4 major food groups

MINGLE: with all the other great guests

WONDER: if the NHL should make its playoffs *longer*

PLACE: 11 Stonefield Drive, West Montrose, NOB 2V0

DATE: Saturday, June 7, 2008

TIME: 5:00 pm

Miss Edna says: Please RSVP to Louise LePage at
lepage@mcmaster.ca or 905 681 6287
and say what you will bring (main dish/salad/dessert).



PRAYERFULLY SPEAKING



ALTOGETHER LOVELY

Has it ever occurred to you how odd it is that nowhere in the four gospel accounts is there a physical description of Jesus? Even in the epistles written by Peter, James and John who were eyewitnesses to the events of Jesus' adult life, there is no attempt to convey to their readers Jesus' appearance. If a child in your Sunday School class asked you, "What did Jesus look like?" what would you say? Was He tall? Short? Dark hair? Did He look as He is depicted in medieval art or stained-glass windows? Did He look at all like any of the actors who have portrayed Him in movies?

We've just recently come through a wonderful celebration of Holy Week and Easter, and, perhaps it is on Good Friday that, more than at any other time, we contemplate His appearance because of how He was so cruelly mistreated by the Romans. If you've seen Mel Gibson's *The Passion*, you'll understand what I mean. This year, on Good Friday evening, my wife and I watched the very moving account of the crucifixion in Franco Zeffereilli's classic mini-series, *Jesus of Nazareth*. The scene that always wrenches my heart and often brings me to tears occurs when Nicodemus approaches Calvary, unable to tear his eyes away from his dying Lord. As he watches in horror, he begins to quote from Isaiah 52 and 53, the description of the Suffering Servant:-

"See, my servant will act wisely;

he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

*Just as **there were many who were appalled at him—***

*his appearance was **so disfigured beyond that of any man***

*and **his form marred beyond human likeness**—*

[Isaiah 52: 13-14 NIV]

"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".[Isaiah 53: 2-5 NIV]

There are no doubt many good reasons why God chose not to have the New Testament writers include a description of Jesus' appearance in His humanity. Prophetically, Isaiah seems to suggest that there was nothing in His appearance that was striking or majestic, nothing to draw undue attention to Him. But the question I want to pose in our meditation this month is – How beautiful is your Jesus? Not the way you picture Him as a man from Galilee, but how do you see Him now, as you pray or worship? What does He look like with the eyes of your heart?

In the first chapter of the apostle John's Revelation, we are given a glimpse of what the heavenly Jesus might look like. John uses images like, "His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze, glowing in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of rushing waters... His face was like the sun, shining in all its brilliance". What is apparent here is that we have a majestic, magnificent Lord whose beauty and omnipotence virtually defy description. John grasps for comparisons that can do justice to the Divine Person that he sees.

Centuries of debate have gone into the interpretation of Solomon's Song of Songs, as to whether it depicts merely supreme human love

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"

between a man and woman, or indeed goes beyond that to give a prophetic image of the divine marriage of Jesus and His bride, the Church. It is not my desire to debate the issue further here; however, I do tend to support the latter view that sees more than just human relationships in this poetic masterpiece. Listen to the Beloved as she describes to her friends the beauty of her Lover:

10 My lover is radiant and ruddy,
outstanding among ten thousand.

11 His head is purest gold;
his hair is wavy and black as a raven.

12 His eyes are like doves by the water streams,
washed in milk, mounted like jewels.

14 His arms are rods of gold set with chrysolite.

His body is like polished ivory decorated with sapphires.

15 His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold.

His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars.

16 His mouth is sweetness itself;

he is altogether lovely.

[Song of Songs 5: 10-12, 14-16, NIV]

Another time, perhaps, we can pursue further the image of the Church as the Bride of Christ, passionately in love with her Bridegroom, King Jesus. It's more than a little difficult, especially for us men, to get our heads around being a part of the Bride. But, we cannot deny in these words of the Beloved that there is great delight in His beauty. He is, in her gazing eyes, **“altogether lovely”**.

One last scripture – the words of another passionate person, King David: -
“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek,
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days
of *my life*, **To gaze upon the beauty of the Lord**,
and to seek Him in His temple.” Psalm 27: 4 NIV

There is a beauty to our Lord that is seen only with the eyes of our heart. Sometimes it is referred to in scripture as “the beauty of holiness”. Some wor-

ship songwriters of our day have caught a glimpse of His radiant beauty and have put on our lips praise words such as these from the song *Beautiful One*, made familiar by Tim Hughes. Even if you don't know the song, let the words cause you to slow down long enough to gaze at His beauty.

Wonderful, so wonderful

Is your unfailing love

Your cross has spoken mercy over me

No eye has seen no ear has heard

No heart could fully know

How glorious, how beautiful you are.

Powerful so powerful

Your glory fills the skies

Your mighty works displayed for all to see.

The beauty of your majesty

Awakes my heart to see

How marvelous how wonderful you are.

You opened my eyes to your wonders anew

You captured my heart with this love

Because nothing on Earth is as beautiful as you

You opened my eyes to your wonders anew

You captured my heart with this love

Because nothing on Earth is as beautiful as you are.

Beautiful one, I love you

Beautiful one, I adore

Beautiful one, my soul must sing.

Beautiful one, I love you

Beautiful one, I adore

Beautiful one, my soul must sing.

Jeremy Camp

No matter how intense the battle or how urgent the need for prayer, may I encourage us all to take some time, before we begin to pray, to let the eyes of our heart gaze upon His beauty. May we discover for ourselves, and help open the eyes of others to discover, that our Jesus is indeed “altogether lovely”. Amen.

Garth Hunt

This article was originally written for the
April 2008 Network 1st Friday Call to Prayer



Whoever is thirsty, let him come!



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and all who come to wash in that fountain are cleansed from all their sins. In it even “sins of a crimson dye” are made “white as snow.” As it is said, “The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin.” [I John 1:7]

For the purpose of *holiness* also shall this gift be bestowed: For, by the prophet Ezekiel, he says, “**I will sprinkle clean water upon you and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you. And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and to keep my judgments to do them.**” [Ezek. 36: 25 – 27]

Eternal *glory* also will he confer upon them: for when they have “washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, he will lead them unto living fountains of waters,” [Revelation 7:14, 16] and will cause them to “drink of the rivers of pleasure which are at God’s right hand for evermore.” [Psalm 36:8, Psalm 16:11].

II. Let us turn our attention to the invitation itself. Here we cannot but notice the very peculiar *urgency* and *freeness* of it.

1. **The urgency**, to overcome reluctance—

The Spirit says, “Come.” The Holy Spirit of God has undertaken the office of revealing Christ to men, and of bringing sinners to Christ for the remission of their sins [John 16: 8, 14]. He descended visibly on the day of Pentecost for these ends; and by the ministry of the apostles, as also by his operation on the souls of men, wrought powerfully upon multitudes, whom he “made willing in the day of his power,” and effectually subdued to the obedience of faith. Thus at this time also is he carrying on the work that has been assigned to him in the economy of Redemption. In the written word, he speaks to us: by the ministry of his servants he pleads with us: by the convictions which he fastens on our mind and conscience, he strives with us individually; if by any means he may constrain us to accept the blessings offered to us in the Gospel. His voice to us every day and hour is, “Come,” come to Christ as the Saviour of your soul.

The Bride also says, “Come.” The Bride is the Church, the Lamb’s wife, who has experienced in her own person all the blessedness of that salvation which she is so desirous of imparting to all around her. She then unites with the Spirit of God in saying to all around her, “Come:” see in me what he both can and will do for you also; however far off you

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”

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may now be, you may draw nigh to him with a full assurance of acceptance with him.

“Let him that heareth, say, ‘Come.’” Those to whom the foregoing invitations are announced, should unite their efforts to make them known, and to induce every creature under heaven to accept them. Think not, Brethren, that you have performed your duty when you have heard these invitations from the lips of your minister; no, nor when you have yourselves complied with his advice. You are all to be Preachers in your own circles; all to repeat to your friends and relatives, your families and dependents, the glad tidings which you hear of a free and full salvation; and with one heart and one voice, should join in saying to all around you, “Come, come, come.”

2. The freeness—

We are all invited to “take of the water of life freely.” If we are athirst, we are the very persons whose names, if I may so speak, are especially written on the cards of invitation. It may be, however, that some may say, “I am not sufficiently athirst to be able to appropriate to myself this character. I should be glad to obtain the mercy of the Lord; but I do not pant after it “as the hart after the water-brooks”, and therefore I have not in myself the qualification that is here required. To counteract such desponding fears, the Saviour says, “Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.” If you have not all the thirst that you can wish, have you the inclination? have you the desire? Then you are the person invited: and you must not dream of staying till you can bring certain qualifications along with you, but come and take these blessings “freely”, “without money and without price.”

Take then this passage; and rely upon it; and plead it with him; and expect the accomplishment of it to your own soul. You shall find that the Saviour is not “a fountain sealed,” but “a fountain opened;” and “out of that well of salvation you shall drink water with joy” for evermore.

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’

Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.”

Revelation 22: 17[NIV]




Whoever is thirsty, let him come!

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	<p align="center">Services are for the whole family and everyone is welcome.</p> <p align="center">Sunday Morning 8:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion 10:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion 10:30 am (Downstairs) Family Service</p> <p align="center">Nursery and Sunday School for children up to age 11 and Youth Program for grade 7 to 12 during the 10:30 service</p>

John 7: 37-39

Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.



Some upcoming dates	
May 23-25th	Women's Conference see page 8
June 1	Ordinations See page 10
June 6	Coffee House See page 5
June 7	Pot Luck at the Salloums'
June 11	St. George's 101 See page 6
<p>By George Email: mmasters@bserv.com</p>	