

**St. George's Anglican Church  
LOWVILLE Ontario Canada**

# BY GEORGE

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**150 Years**

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

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## Faith. Impossible to please God without it.



I have been thinking, over the past year, about what it means to be a Christian person. What does it mean when a person says that they are

Christian? What are the defining characteristics of a Christian person? What defines a Christian person, setting them apart from a person who professes not to be Christian.

In our preaching through the Gospel of Mark this winter, we noticed that the disciples differentiated themselves from the crowds by taking their questions to Jesus. They were marked as unique by virtue of their deep-seated belief that the answer to all of their questions was found in Jesus. Certainly this is a posture of a Christian person. Christians are people who believe that the answers to life's deepest questions, the solutions to life's most perplexing problems lie

not in worldly wisdom. Instead, they are found by spending time with Jesus. A disciple, and indeed a Christian person is one who takes their questions and struggles to Jesus.

We saw this Christian posture re-enforced in our spring-time journey together through the letter to the Colossians. Here, the writer delineates and differentiates light over darkness, truth over deception, and Christ over worldly wisdom. He tells us that in Jesus, the fullness of God was revealed (Col.1:19, 2:9). He warns Christian people against re-orienting themselves toward seductive but empty worldly wisdom and the philosophies men (Col 2:8). And, once again we see that a Christian is a person committed to the centrality, the totality and the sufficiency of Jesus.

Another unique label attached to the Christian person is seen frequently in the New Testament. St. Paul refers to himself regularly as a *doulos christoi*. This Greek phrase is

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translated many different ways by the various English versions of the Bible. Some say 'bond-servant' of Christ while others merely settle for the watered-down 'servant'. The word is clear. It simply means 'slave' of Christ. The Christian person is one who not only recognizes the great worth of Christ, but one who realizes that such great worth demands a necessary response. A Christian person is one who has bound their future, their reputation, their family, their career, their life and even their death to Christ. A Christian person is one who has made Christ their Lord, their Master. Here we begin to see that the posture of a Christian person is also that of surrender; specifically, giving Jesus the right to tell us what to do.

Thank you for letting me share some of these thoughts with you. I hope that some of you have been encouraged or challenged. I'm sure that some of you are shocked to find out that I think!

So, where is this all leading? Why an article describing traits of a Christian person? We are embarking on another sermon series. This time, we are going to look at Hebrews 11. Every Sunday from now until Advent, we will do a character study on each of the faithful people mentioned in this chapter. We will look at Abel and Enoch, Noah and Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua and Rahab. We will examine the Old Testament accounts of their lives, looking specifically at their choices for obedience and faithfulness. We will allow their stories to speak to each of us, challenging us to greater faith, trust and obedience in our walk with God.

Faithfulness. The writer to the Hebrews tells us that faith is an important thing in the Christian life. So important is it, that without it God cannot be pleased (Heb 1:6). The Christian life is, then, a life of faith. It is a life wherein we place all of our marbles in the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen (Heb 1:1). A Christian person is one who believes that the most real things in life are the things that cannot necessarily be apprehended by the five senses. The most important things are invisible or patently unprovable. And yet, these are the very things that are certain.

Faith, without which it is impossible to please God, then must be THE defining trait of the Christian person. Faith in the God who ultimately and fully reveals Himself in the person of Jesus. The same Jesus to whom we turn for answers and help. The same Jesus who is our starting point, our finish line and everything in between. The same Jesus to whom we give the right to tell us what to do.

As we walk together through the lives of these faithful people captured in the Old Testament and summarized in Hebrews 11, I pray that we would allow God to challenge us in our faith. To move us to a greater trust, greater certainty, greater clarity and obedience. Amen.

**Ray David**

by George

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## Erica & Jess Cantelon in Israel—Newsletter (August)

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Hi everyone,

We miss you. We love you. Thanks for praying for us.

So, they once were lost, but now are found. --My wedding rings. That's been the drama at our house this week. I was in the "depths of despair" for a few days. I realized how many keepsakes I lost during the move here from Canada, and how special these pieces of metal and rock (which used to belong to Grammy Cantelon) really are to me. Every morning this week Jess would roll over and mumble 'morning sweetie' to which I would groggily respond, 'they're lost, they're lost, they're lost!' I spent the week with my hand in the toilets, garbage, the bottom of the toy box... But hooray, they are found! A very anti-climactic conclusion to the story too. ...Under my makeup case where I'd looked 10 times already.. I think. Jonah thought I was off my rocker when I was weeping and thanking Jesus so loudly. Oh, thank you Jesus!

On with the news.

Much is happening. Some of you know about the recent obstacles we've had with the Shir1 Hebrew worship gathering in Jerusalem. We were supposed to hold the event on Aug. 25th at a night club here in Jerusalem, but the owner of the bar backed out when he became nervous about being associated with Jewish believers. This did knock the wind out of us for a while, as we had to cancel the concert. We should have foreseen that Jerusalem is a different kettle of fish. However, we do still hope to worship together as the budding generation of believers in Jerusalem, someday. For now, we are pleased to have rented a nice club in a suburb of Tel Aviv, K'far Saba, for Sept. 8th. We are racing to get all of the necessary promotion and preparation done in time, but meeting before the 6 weeks of high holy days that begin in mid-Sept. is worth the rush. This is actually the fun part. We're looking forward to a Holy Ghost celebration. ;) Jess is in the process of compiling Hebrew worship songs from young artists around the country, and he's also started laying down some rough soundtracks with musicians in the King of Kings recording studio. We hope to distribute a CD cheaply to encourage the folks here.

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We're also thankful for a good visa appointment with the Ministry of Interior. All four of us were stamped on the student visa for another year with no hassles. The woman processing our papers (who has a reputation for being tough) took Benj onto her lap, squeezed him tightly into her big Israeli bosom, and closed her eyes to breathe in his sweet-smelling hair. We've taken note for our next appointment.... nice smelling shampoo. (If you're curious about the visa troubles here, some people from our church are being deported after living here for over 20 years. Here's the story:  
<http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/214837.aspx>

I have continued to write for CBN News and the Christian edition of the Jerusalem Post. Today I spent the day with the CBN Jerusalem Bureau Chief filming an interview with some Sudanese refugees. A few weeks ago I covered the introductory article (you can see it at: <http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/206607.aspx> ) And today's interview has left me undone. Very recently 57 Sudanese refugees were sent by bus back to Egypt where they will most likely be executed. My friend Aida, her husband and two adorable kids are terrified of being sent back to Sudan or Egypt. I could write pages about them, but I'll stop here. --Just a repeat of my plea in the article, that if any of you or your churches are interested in helping the Christian Embassy Jerusalem assist refugees in relocating to Canada or the US, please email me and we can take the steps together.

I like to keep these letters short because I know everyone is so busy. But I will leave you on a happier note by attaching the article from the JPost Ch. magazine, as it's not available on the web. (I love little old men).

Many, many hugs to you all. We can't thank you enough for all your faithful prayer.

Much love,

Erica (and Jess and kiddlets)

P.S.

Some of you may be getting strange squiggles, symbols or question marks scattered throughout our emails. --Not sure what to do about that as it appears normal when I send it to Jess' gmail account. Hope you can read it.

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## One Final Word as Vicar - To the Congregation of St. George's

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Nancy and I were overwhelmed by your expressions of affection and appreciation at our recent retirement celebration on July 15. For anything to be a true celebration, there must be ample opportunities for laughter and large injections of silliness and humour. All this, of course, must be mixed in with generous amounts of food and singing, and garnished with liberal portions of nonsense. Our celebration had it all. And why shouldn't it? As Christians, the present can be filled with rejoicing because joy and laughter and LIFE are the central ingredients in our eternal home.

Thank you to those wonderful people who took leadership in all the festivities and gave of their time and energy and imaginative flare. Thank you to all who came to share the occasion and for your most generous gifts. Thanks to the children for their gifts of the marshmallow igloo, the Canadian flags and the colorful Hawaiian lei. Thank you to the School with the Vicar students for that beautiful Canada goose. Thank you to all St. Georges' congregation for the magnificent stone bench and plaque. Without doubt, we are now the proud owners of the heaviest, most attractive and most unique bench in West Montrose!

My 12 years in positions of responsibility in our parish, first as Assistant at Church at the Centre, then as Priest-in-Charge at St. John's, later as Priest Associate, then finally as Vicar (??) at St. Georges', were a delight. I am grateful to all the congregation members who, over the years, permitted me to minister and who taught me at least as much as I taught you. Special thanks to St. Georges' staff members whose sensible approach to tasks minimized tension and friction, who were always ready to play, and who, on countless occasions, covered for a Vicar who frequently had trouble knowing what to do next.

Amongst the staff, play and laughter were always integral parts of the job. I am most grateful for the opportunity and the privilege to have worked alongside and to sample the unique touch of God on each of the lives of my colleagues: Naomi, Donna, Kathy, Chris, Bill Phipps, Bill Foley, Peter Parent, Dan, Debbie and Ray David, and to have been associated with so many able and committed war-

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dens. What a privilege to have worked alongside so many leaders who had assumed key roles in that vital area of nurture ministry. What a privilege to have been closely associated with Charlie who taught me so much about Christian ministry.

The act of moving on carries with it mixed emotions because times of change are associated with times of uncertainty and adjustment. But circumstances were never meant to be unchanging. Nor were they ever meant to be the basis for our security. One good thing about moving forward to new seasons and adventures in one's life is that nothing in front of us is ever entered alone and nothing behind us that is good is ever lost. Goodness DOES endure forever and only God is unchanging.

Many precious moments will always remain in my memory: those moments with the children; those moments with the grieving and the dying; those moments with those who had discovered the Pearl of Great Price, who were made suddenly aware of the greatest surprise in the Cosmos: that it is by grace that we are saved, and for the reason that we might possess LIFE as God meant it way back in the Garden.

My memories as Vicar include those rich times when I, with you, pondered the invisible God, struggled with things too lofty to be understood, dabbled in mystery and dared to ask the difficult questions and parade our doubts before our Sovereign God. How wonderful to be on hand when someone's crying was turned into laughter. How wonderful to experience moments when thin shafts of light penetrated human darkness. How wonderful to think that experiences such as these are merely minute samplings of what is yet to be!

With much love, affection and appreciation,

Jerry and Nancy.

See Page 12 for Pictures

## 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 One Way Youth**

**Ministries** Activities throughout the week aimed at building relationships with the Lord and bringing these relationships to others around.

**Sunday.** During the 10:30am service, for grades 6 – 8. A teaching time in the youth office..

**Thursday.** 7pm – 9:30pm for grades 9 and up. Worship and discussion at the church.

### **Friday C.S.I.** (Connect Social Interaction)

7pm to 10pm. A fun night for grades 6 – 8. Games, movies singing etc.

**Saturday** 7pm – 10pm. A fun night for grades 9 and up. Games, movies, singing etc.

**Sunday** Unite 7pm to 10pm

Dan Bonham 905-407-4090

### **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

### **BY GEORGE**

Monthly church newsletter containing news and views about what is happening at St. George's and about our missionaries.

Richard Myers 905 332-9492  
email: newtonmyers@cogeco.ca

### **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

### **The day-to-day operation of the Church**

This is the responsibility of the Wardens and the Rector.

### **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**

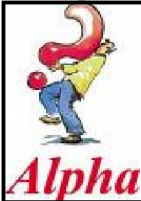
Responsible for the ongoing maintenance and care of the church buildings and parking area.  
Brian Duke 905 689-3897

### **Cemetery Group**

Responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery and the grounds.  
Wayne Neeb 905 659-0402



## Overheard by the Font (& elsewhere)



ALPHA program starting Tuesday, Sept. 25th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

This is a 10 week course on the basics of Christianity so invite you friends and neighbours. Pick up a flyer in the Narthex or Alpha Family Room or see Donna Rigo for more information.



Wanted - Any issues of Ideals  
Magazines to be used in Senior's  
Ministry.  
Please contact Kathy Powell or  
leave them in the office for her.



### Many Thanks!

We were over  
whelmed by  
the many cards  
and good  
wishes we re-  
ceived as we  
celebrated our

50<sup>TH</sup> wedding anniversary this summer.

Thank you so much for sharing this milestone in our marriage with us. We appreciate every one and feel loved and blessed by our St. George's family.

Thank you so much! *Dave & Oryce*

### Wanted!

4-6 Inductive Bible Study Members

What: 1 Corinthians

Where: 2034 Kilbride St.

(5 min from the church)

**When:** *Weekly 7:30-9:30pm*

*(Weekday TBD)*

*Contact Kelvin or Shelley Loveless*

*(905) 331-2054*

So then, men ought to regard us  
as servants of Christ and as  
those entrusted with the secret  
things of God

*Paul - 1 Cor. 4:1*



Way to go team! Thanks for an exceptional season. St. George's Knights made it to the Championship Finals. Knox won out and were undefeated all season.

If you have taken any pictures throughout the season, please forward to us and we can put them on a CD.

See you, have a great off season.

Blessings

R & R



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## **The Cat Sat On The Mat (or the doctrine of feline sedentation)**

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During the General Synod debate on The Mystery of Salvation, my mind wandered. I wondered how the Church of England would deal with 'the cat sat on the mat' if it appeared in the Bible?

First, our liberal theologians would point out that such a passage did not of course mean that a cat literally sat on a mat. Also, 'cat' and 'mat' had different meanings in those days from today, and anyway the text should be interpreted according to the customs and practices of the period.

This would lead to an immediate backlash from the Evangelicals. They would make it an essential condition of faith "that a real physical living cat, being a domestic pet of the *Felix Domesticus* species and having a whiskered head, furry body, four legs and a tail, did physically place its whole body on a floor covering, designed for that purpose, and which is on the floor but not of the floor." The expression "on the floor but not of the floor" would be explained in a leaflet.

Meanwhile the Catholics would have developed the Festival of the Sedentation of the Blessed Cat. This would teach that the cat was white, and magestically reclined on a mat of gold thread before its assumption to the great Cat Basket of Heaven. This is commemorated by singing the Magnificat, lighting three candles, and ringing a bell five times.

This would cause a schism with the Orthodox Church which believes tradition requires Holy Cats Day (as it is colloquially known) to be marked by lighting six candles and ringing the bell four times. This would be partly resolved by the Cuckoo Land Declaration recognizing the traditional validity of each.

Eventually the House of Bishops would issue a statement on the Doctrine of Feline Sedentation. It would explain, "traditionally, the text describes a domestic feline quadruped sedentarily superjacent to an unattached covering on a fundamental surface. For determining its salvific and eschatological significations, we follow the heruistic analytical principals adopted in dealing with the Canine Fenes-tration Question ('How much is that doggie in the window?') and the Affirmative Musaceous Paradox ('Yes we have no bananas'). And so on for another 210 pages.

General Synod would then commend this report as helpful resource material for clergy to explain to the man in the pew the difficult doctrine of the cat sat on the mat.

(From the Church of England newspaper on July 26, 1996) Submitted by the Reverend Bill Campbell

## Kathy

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## Taken at the Flood

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What a difference a week makes! Only a few days ago, as August was sleepily winding its way down, the University of Victoria seemed oddly dormant. To be sure, not all was quiet—the banging and bumping of new buildings being erected filled the air, yet other than a few keen graduate students scurrying between labs and libraries, the campus was bereft of bicycles and backpacks and back-to-school din. But now...

A wonderfully invigorating newness and wide-eyed spirit of exploration descends on university campuses as September opens. The specter of midterms and research papers isn't yet looming on the horizon, so an infectious camaraderie prevails in the lineups at campus bookstores and lecture halls and (yes) pubs. And in just a few short days at UVic's 'Clubs Days,' students will sign up for all sorts of extracurricular activities (including learning about Jesus with us), many of them blissfully unaware of just how grueling their academic load will be as term-end approaches.

What does this have to do with us McDougalls and Christian ministry on campus? I am reminded of a pithy line from Shakespeare: "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." (Julius Caesar, V/III). This month we are experiencing yet another 'tidal flood' of international students who have found their way to UVic from distant shores and it is our privilege to befriend them, to come alongside them with various sorts of care and to introduce them to the God who loves them. And they will discover his love through exploring scripture, through engaging with others in their academic fields who claim to know him, and over lots of cups of tea and plates of food!

We hope you'll stand alongside us as we serve as your strategic point people on campus and that you'll be encouraged that your support in all sorts of ways is being flexed in real time among real lives—men and women who desperately need to feel our Father's healing touch, know his supportive care and answer his worthy challenge. Who knows what 'fortune' he has planned for them and their home contexts when they return after their studies in Victoria?

Thanks so much for holding us in your prayers and hearts during this especially busy season. You bless us more than you can know. For your prayers, this week we have 'Clubs Days' (Sept 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>), our first 'Bible Exploration' time in our home (13<sup>th</sup>) and our Welcome Luncheon for about 300 students (15<sup>th</sup>).

And thanks too for remembering our daughter Connally as she begins her studies at UVic this fall and as Morrigan embarks on her high school years: a quantum shift for our family! Does this mean we're getting older?

From our home to yours, blessings!

Daniel & Sandi McDougall

## Jerry & Nancy's Farewell Party Pics.





## **shelfLIFE** notes from the library



**"Welcome back to the library" Come and see  
our latest additions for fall.**

**We look forward to being of service to you.**

**Gillian Fernie  
Librarian**

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### **HELP WANTED NURSERY CAREGIVERS**

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Excellent childcare has always been an important part of our growing church. Parents are naturally concerned for their children and want them capably cared for while the adults participate in Sunday morning worship.

There is an urgent need for NURSERY CAREGIVERS in our nursery in order to continue to provide a safe, consistent and pleasant environment for children from birth to three years of age.

The volunteer would be expected to assist by welcoming and caring for the children attending the nursery at St. George's. We know the parents would expect our church to practice the same patience, love and understanding for their children that they do.

If this ministry is one you could donate your time to on a scheduled cycle of Sundays, or for additional information concerning the responsibilities, please contact Ray David Glenn or Naomi Neeb at the church office.

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## Do I Have A Place?

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Last month my wife, Jenny, and I went to see a play called “Helen’s Necklace.” A Canadian play, it is about a woman who had attended a conference in an unnamed, war-ravaged city in an unnamed Middle Eastern country. Helen had lost her necklace. The play was about her search for it through the streets of this unnamed city, and the encounters she has with people who have also lost something – an object, a relative lost in war, their home, their job, even their identity. Helen eventually realises that the object of her search, her loss, is rather less significant than the losses of the people she meets.

One of her encounters moved me deeply. Helen meets a man who was born in that country but in a camp for displaced persons. He reacts desperately to her quest for her bauble of a necklace, crying out bitterly that he has nothing; he has no home; he has no *place*. He yells at her to go back to Canada, to her town, to her home, to her *place*. He can only dream that his children will one day have such a *place* to be, to live.

I wonder about my *place*. While I live, I occupy a four-dimensional space-time location. This location changes with every passing instant of time, with every movement of every quantum particle in my body, with every thought of my mind. These locations are not my *place*, any more than Abraham’s campsites were his place on his journey with God. The Israelites led by Moses were instructed on how to build a mobile Tabernacle where God would meet Moses. Solomon and Herod built the Temples with their Holy of Holies where God would meet with the High Priest. People came to these locations to encounter God in worship and sacrifice. But these were not *places*. As events proved, the Tabernacle and the Temples were impermanent; but, while they lasted, they did serve as locations where God met with His people.

Through our faith in Jesus, God the Father sends us the Holy Spirit to establish Himself in each of us. We carry around within us the meeting ground for our encounters with the Living God. God has made a *place for Himself* within us. But what about *my place*— where is that? We speak of churches

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as places of worship? Is this my place? Is the fabric of St. George's my place? No, I can and must worship the Triune God wherever I am. Can the goodly company of my fellow Christians and worshippers at St. George's be my place, regardless of where we are located at any time? The company of such as you, though a delight for me, is not my *place*

Peter, in his first epistle, chapter 2:11, reveals that we are aliens and strangers in this world. In 1 Peter 1:4 he tells us of our imperishable inheritance *kept for us in heaven*. Jesus told the disciples, and us, that He was going (and now has gone) to prepare a *place* for us in heaven. From this, I conclude that neither I, nor the Body of Christ as a whole, has any *place* here on this Earth. Our place is in Heaven with God.

This has a profound impact on the way in which I must think about things and locations here on Earth. Like each of us, I have been given stewardship over talents, skills, resources, and material things. Part of my walk with God is to be a good steward of these things. Together, we have similar duties of stewardship over the things, the resources, and the location, that we call "St. George's." We have stewardship, not ownership, of it all. It is not my *place*, it is not our *place*. It is, like the Temples, impermanent.

I have to come to the troublesome conclusion that, as we seek to be obedient to God, faithful to His Word, and to be His people looking forward to our permanent, eternal *place*, we may be called upon to be like Moses and the Israelites, to have an even less permanent "place of worship" than the present building we think of as "our church" or "our St. George's." Like the man who cried out to Helen, we have no *place* here on Earth, we have only well-appointed displaced persons camps, and we should hold them very lightly in our thinking.

**Keith Stodart**



## Sunday School News

### Memory Verses for September

**Sept. 9—John 3:16**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only son so that whoever believes in Him would not perish.

**Sept. 16—Luke 2:40**

And the child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.

**Sept. 23—Mark 1:4**

So John appeared in the desert, baptizing and preaching "Turn away from your sins and be baptized" he told the people, "and God will forgive your sins."

**Sept. 30—Mark 16:16**

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved



Our Sunday School children enjoyed a wonderful day of games, lunch and a visit to Springridge Farm in June. Special thanks to Jenifer for arranging the games, Donna and Doreen for serving the lunch, John and Laura for spoiling us at Springridge Farm, Alan for the photos and to all the helping hands that made this a



The children's spring and summer mission was collecting school supplies to donate to St. Matthews House ready for September. With your help and the children's offerings, we collected an overflowing table. 15 children from St. Matthews will now also start school with a school bag filled with crayons and paper and new lunch boxes. Thank you for your generous support, especially the extra gifts from the Bushey family.

Children - our next mission starts in September.....I wonder what it will be?

**Effective immediately, please respect that we are a peanut free church. This means no peanut butter sandwiches, cookies, squares or children's crafts. A sign is posted in the kitchen and on the main notice board as a reminder. We ask when planning a special event or pot-luck meal that a reminder is added to your poster or notice. Thank you for your co-operation.**



## PRAYERFULLY SPEAKING



### Praying for a “salty” Church—Garth V. Hunt

As we continue to consider the implications of the decisions made at General Synod in June, it is always appropriate to lay the Anglican Church of Canada (or any church) up against the plumb line or benchmark of the Word of God.

One of the most powerful portions in all scripture is what is commonly known as “the sermon on the mount” from Matthew 5. This passage begins with “the Beatitudes” and then our Lord begins an exhortation on what His disciples can expect and what they are to be like as they seek to follow Him. Read reflectively the following verses: -

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled by men.*

Matthew 5: 10-13 NIV

Before we examine Jesus’ words concerning salt, it might be helpful to consider salt from an ancient Middle East paradigm rather than a contemporary North American one. For us, we think of salt as cheap, plentiful and routinely available. Most of us put it on our fries, try not to use too much lest it harden our arteries, but apply it liberally to all sorts of foods to enhance the taste. In other words, we take it for granted. Few of us have ever lived where it was either scarce or costly.

But to people of Biblical times, salt was a much more valuable commodity. We are familiar with the saying that someone is “worth his salt”. For centuries, part of a man’s wages was his salt ration without which he could die. The modern word “salary” comes from the same root.

Salt also promoted healing when mixed with water. If you’ve ever swum in salt water with an open cut, you’ll understand the meaning of “rubbing salt in his wounds”. Salty water is an effective, if painful, cleanser. Salt also was used as a preservative because of its ability to retard rot and decay, helping to maintain the original

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quality of meat and fish.

In ancient covenant-making between tribal kings, the sharing of a meal and the passing of the salt was a vital ritualistic component to establishing trust and loyalty. Apparently, this esoteric fact was not lost on the artist, Leonardo da Vinci. In his famous painting of “The Last Supper” where he depicts the Master and the Twelve immediately after Jesus has stated that one of them was a betrayer, da Vinci captures Judas Iscariot, grasping the moneybag and carelessly knocking over the salt container. He mishandles precious salt, and in the act of betrayal, has lost his own “saltiness”. Remorse and suicide soon overtake him.

So, all very interesting, but what does this have to do with the Church’s current state and how does it impact our prayers?

The Lord Jesus calls us to be “the salt of the earth”. I don’t for a minute believe that Jesus has in mind the modern concept of a “salt-of-the-earth” type person who is bucolic, kind and typically minds his or her own business. I think He was calling us to the very characteristics of salt that we have described above. The Church should “preserve” righteousness and biblical truth in the midst of a morally bankrupt society. The Church should bring “healing”, even if it stings a little, to those who are broken and ravaged by their own sin and the sin of others. The Church should demonstrate a commitment and trust in her Sovereign Lord that runs deeply to her very corporate soul, withstanding all the various seductions and influences of a godless society. The Church should be changing the world, not the world changing the Church.

Jesus stated that salt can lose its saltiness and, when that happens, it is useless, no longer good for anything except to be thrown away or trampled under foot, and that it cannot be made salty again. A sobering word, for sure. Is it possible that we’ve replaced “saltiness” with “being relevant”, substituted calling a nation to repentance with being almost indistinguishable from the very society we are called to warn?

I am praying with all my heart that God will restore saltiness to Anglicanism in North America, whatever that looks like. He will not ultimately allow His Church – His Bride – to be trampled under the feet of those who despise her and reject her Master’s beneficent offer of Grace. Let’s be praying this month for personal “saltiness”, asking Him for more leaders who are “salty”, and a Church that is not afraid of the persecution that is inevitable when we allow Him to make us “the salt of the earth”. Amen.

*This article was originally written for the August 2007 Essentials 1<sup>ST</sup> Friday Call to Prayer*

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## Scott Lewis says “Jum Reap Soer”

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Hello all, warm greetings from Cambodia. “Jum Reap Soer” is a formal Cambodian greeting that involves placing your hands together and raising them to close to your head. I have been in Cambodia for about 7 months now, and I am getting a good feel for local customs. My Khmer, the local language spoken by almost all Cambodians, is improving steadily and I feel like I am still learning a lot. After switching teachers, my hearing and comprehension of Khmer has grown considerably.

A little background, I am working with the Mennonite Central Committee in Cambodia, working as an advisor to Cambodian non government organizations working on community development projects. My life in Cambodia seems quite idyllic in many ways. I live in a town of about 50,000 people, called Prey Veng, and though it is only 60km as the crow flies from the capital, Phnom Penh, Prey Veng really feels like a small town with a slow pace of life and friendly atmosphere that I am quite enjoying. A smaller town helps with meeting Cambodians, seeing the same faces, getting lots of smiles and strange looks at the ‘barang’ - which in Khmer literally means French, but has come to be a label for all white foreigners. Usually, the small children know how to say at least two things in English “Hello” and “What is your name?”, and even if you respond, they often keep asking. J Sometimes this is really cute and other times slightly annoying. But most of the time, Prey Veng is feeling very much like home, or at least home for the next few years.

Now, why am I here? Good question. I am in Cambodia to work with non government organizations that are working to alleviate poverty, promote peace making and build stronger communities. Because of my rural location, most of this work is aimed at surrounding districts and villages. (The province I live in, also called Prey Veng, is among the poorest in Cambodia.) The main work I am doing right now is with an organization called ODOV (Organization to Develop Our Villages). ODOV was an MCC administered project until 2004, when it localized to become a Cambodian run organization. I am currently helping in the areas of organizational development, researching funding opportunities for future projects and acting as a sounding board to the director of the organization. I very much enjoy this work, which also gives me the opportunity to get out of my town and travel to a village of maybe 500 people which is surrounded by rice fields.

The ride to the village where ODOV’s office is located is incredibly beautiful, especially this time of year, when rains have started to come and have brought a mixture of water and greenness to the Cambodian countryside. And yet amidst that beauty is a face of poverty I have never really encountered before. It is not of people in slums, or crumbling buildings,

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but of dirt roads, poor infrastructure and obvious signs of malnourishment – especially in children. Even my house that I rent in Prey Veng seems so luxurious compared to what I see in the surrounding villages. I read recently that 37% of Cambodian children under 5 are so malnourished that it has stunted their growth. I find this really humbling and when I really stop to think about that, it makes me think of my own lifestyle, and what I deem as necessary. Please please note this is just my personal reflection, and not meant to be too heavy. Poverty is everywhere, even in Canada, but what I have seen in Cambodia is different than any experience I have had.

Now, one of the ways ODOV is seeking to address some of these issues is by addressing food security needs in Mesang, the district of Prey Veng that it works in. Food security looks at issue of food availability, variety, and ability to cope with change (like a family illness). I recently attended a four day workshop that examined the underlying issues related to food security in Mesang. The most pressing need identified was that of a gap of several months between harvests, where food was in very short supply. ODOV seeks to address some of these food shortages through a series of measures, like providing community trainings on planting vegetable gardens, fish raising and teaching techniques to increase rice yields. This will be a three year project, and I am excited to watch the project develop as continue to work as an advisor here in Cambodia.

Well, I think that's all for now from me. Please pray for MCC's work in Cambodia and Prey Veng. There are many good things happening in Cambodia, please say a special prayer for Cambodians who stand up for justice and the spreading of God's word.

Blessings

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by George

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# September 2007

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 <b>TRINITY 15</b> 08:30 HC 10:30 Sanc. MP 10:30 Famy HC	10 7:00 pm Parish Council	11 09:30-11:00 Staff Meeting 6:30—7:30 Prayer time	12	13	14	15 07:30—10:00 Men's Meeting
16 <b>TRINITY 16</b> 08:30 MP 10:30 Sanc. HC 10:30 Famy MP	17	18 09:30-11:00 Staff Meeting 6:30—7:30 Prayer time	19	20	21	22 10:00 ~2:00pm Free Fall Fun Fiesta
23 <b>TRINITY 17</b> 08:30 HC 10:30 Sanc. MP+Baptism 10:30 Famy HC	24 7:30 pm PC	25 09:30-11:00 Staff Meeting 6:30—7:30 Prayer time 6:30 pm Alpha	26 1:30-3:00pm Book Group	27	28	29 3:00 pm Wedding
30 <b>Harvest Sunday</b> 08:30 MP 10:30 Sanc. HC 10:30 Famy MP						

by George

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**Youth Ministry Dan Bonham**  
**Wardens for 2006 Neil Dennison, Ron Bales, Gillian Fernie**  
**Seniors' Pastoral Care Kathy Powell**  
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*"I was glad when they said unto me,  
"Let us go into the house of the Lord" Psalm 122:1*



**Services are for the  
whole family and  
everyone is  
welcome.**

**Sunday Morning**  
8:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion

10:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion

10:30 am (Downstairs)  
Family Service

**Nursery and Sunday School**  
for children up to age 11 and  
Youth Program for grade 7 to  
12 during the 10:30 service

**Sunday Evenings:**  
As announced – call the office  
for information

## Some Upcoming Dates



**Contact Church  
Office for further  
details**

<b>Saturday September 15th 07:30—10:00</b>	<b>Men's Prayer Meeting</b>
<b>Saturday September 22nd 10:00—2:00</b>	<b>Free Fall Fun Fiesta</b>
<b>Tuesday September 25th 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Alpha begins. (through December 4th)</b>

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