

# BY GEORGE

154 Years

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Rhonda p. 3
- End of Summer Potluck p. 8
- Church of the Messiah p. 10
- June Family Picnic p.12
- Praying in Jesus' Name p.14

## God is Speaking!



God is speaking. Are you listening? In I Samuel 15:22a [NIV], the rhetorical question is asked: *“Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD?”*

Often, we are prone to making sacrifices in order to serve the Lord without first checking in to see what God is asking us to do. Obeying God's voice presupposes hearing God's voice. Can we indeed hear God's voice? The testimony of Scripture is a resounding “Yes!” God does speak and God enables us to hear. In fact, the whole existence of God's written Word, the texts of the Old and New Testaments, is the evidence that God first spoke to His people and then guided them to record and preserve accurately what He had revealed.

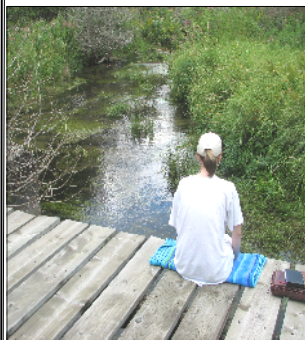
In the first chapter of Genesis, it is revealed that God spoke and each time He spoke whatever He spoke came into being or produced greater order. God's voice changes reality. In all of God's creation, human beings alone have been given the choice whether to respond to God's voice or not. But even that choice is only for a time however, as the Day will come when Jesus will return to judge and impose His will. The time of choice will be over. But in the present, God is looking for those who seek to hear His voice and who choose to obey. This brings God's order back into His disordered and fallen creation one person at a time and one choice at a time.

Let me give you an example from my own life.

In 2002, I responded to God's call and became the Rector of St. Stephen's Anglican

*(Continued on page 2)*

*“Speak,  
Lord,  
for your  
servant is  
Listening.”*





*(Continued from page 1)*

Church, Westmount, in Montreal. (How I heard God's call and how the search committee heard God confirming this is another exciting and challenging example of hearing and obeying the voice of God.)

As the people of St. George's well know, the first decade of the twenty-first century was marked by increasing conflict in the Anglican Church of Canada centered around exactly this issue of hearing what God is saying. This conflict was heightened greatly after General Synod 2004; I had been elected as a delegate from the Diocese of Montreal. One of the major tasks of the synod dealt with a several-part motion on same-sex relationships which set some parameters for the ongoing discussion. Unexpectedly and late in the synod, a motion to amend was allowed from the floor, even though this was really a new motion, and not an amendment. This "amendment" affirmed the sanctity of same-sex sexual unions. It passed!

For me (and many others who were both shocked by the seeming capriciousness of this turn of events, and deeply disturbed by this sudden leap into deception and disobedience), this marked the beginning of the end. After this, I knew it was only a matter of time before St. Stephen's would have to address the issue of staying within the existing structures or realigning with the developing alternatives. This intensified my own seeking to hear God's

voice regarding His will for me and for St. Stephen's, and His timing for any and all decisions.

By 2007, things were heating up in the Diocese of Montreal. At its fall synod, a motion was brought forward to ask the bishop to begin a process leading to the blessing of same-sex civil partnerships. After a painful debate, the motion passed. Then the chancellor insisted that the bishop declare his assent. The bishop, who seemed to be reluctant to say this aloud, quietly said that he did assent. My heart sank. All hope that godly restraint or even that reason and order would prevail was gone.

Now the question for me became: "How do I lead the flock of St. Stephen's through this conflict so that all who want to begin again can stay safely together?" For myself, I knew that God was calling me to become part of the Anglican Network. It was just a matter of God's timing. Looking back on this, I realize that I did not ask God specifically if I was the one to take the flock through this valley. At the time, it seemed obvious that it was my duty to do this and that it was the only alternative. To leave would be tantamount to abandoning the flock and the charge God had given me. Added to this was the unspoken fear of what others would think or say if they felt that I was abandoning the flock. And as I was in my late fifties, I was tempted to worry about financial and vocational security, especially about my pension and other

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Rhonda

Rhonda and I spent a lot of time around horses when we were growing up. Rhonda not only was an excellent rider, but she never faulted her horse if mistakes were made. “Let’s save time by telling me what I did right,” she joked to our coach on one occasion when she had a rare bad round at the Ottawa Exhibition.

The pony she was riding was one that she picked out of a farmer’s field and trained to be a champion. She was just a child when she got Sugarfoot and he was built like a stocky quarter horse, with a powerful neck and deep chest. He also had a mind all of his own. There were times we wondered how Rhonda survived his flamboyant bucking, or attempts to roll on her in the creek next to the stables.

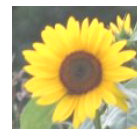
Rhonda not only survived, she thrived and was unbeatable in jumping competitions for many years. My sister was also quite fearless. She galloped at obstacles, the bigger the better, and threw her heart over every fence. Her pony trusted her and he would follow suit. She was often competing—and winning—against adults on horses, but she was undeterred by the age of her competition or the size of the obstacles. My sister possessed great courage all of her life but I saw it when she was just a slip of a girl on a pony.



Sugarfoot



My sister was also creative and sensitive. She was a dreamy child in grade school and she had a hard time adjusting to the regimen of going in and out of the school when a bell rang. One day she decided she had had enough. I think she was about five years old when she just decided to walk home instead of entering the school after recess. She told my Mom that the teacher told her to go home because school was over for the day. I think my mother would have fallen for that line if not for a tiny smudge of chocolate on Rhonda’s chin. “Rhonda, why is there chocolate on your chin?” my mother asked. When Rhonda told her that the



*(continued on page 4)*

*your servant is listening*



teacher had also instructed her to eat her chocolate bar and then go home, of course the jig was up and Rhonda was unceremoniously frog marched back to school.

The incident did not deter Rhonda from her dreaminess however. She pretended her bicycle was a horse and raced it everywhere. Since she could not ride her bicycle to school she rode an invisible horse and hitched him to the school doors. She believed God's name was Harold because she understood that the Our Father said "Harold be thy name", not "Hallowed be thy name." Rhonda and her childhood friend Paula also organized a neighbourhood talent show and Rhonda acted out several parts and directed everyone else in their roles.

It might be hard to imagine for those of you who knew Rhonda to be such a driven and highly organized woman, that she was such a dreamy girl as a child, but she really was. Perhaps this is why her eyes would fill up with tears when she saw Cinderella's castle in the distance when she and Ray David and Matthew visited Disneyland. I believe that underneath all of the many accomplishments and achievements in the adult world there remained a young girl who loved to dream.

My sister was a very determined individual and she was an extremely hard worker throughout her life. She attended Evangel College in Springfield, Missouri and earned both a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of science degree, graduating magna cum laude. When Rhonda worked at CHRO in Pembroke, she would memorize an entire newsprint and recite it on air because the station had not yet purchased a teleprompter. Rhonda was genuinely interested in people and their stories. It was this gift that made her such a superb journalist. She worked briefly in print prior to working in television and was the editor of The Norwich Gazette as her first starting job in journalism. While she was editor of the Gazette it won Ontario Newspaper Association Awards for content and design.

The hours were extremely long in that job, but Rhonda excelled. She did all of the photography, printed her own pictures and researched and wrote all of her own stories. I was fortunate enough to have her living with me during this time of my life and I cherish those memories. My sister was extremely beautiful as a young woman and had dark curly hair that tumbled to her shoulders. Rhonda loved to sunbathe in those days and I would often sit with her for as long as I could stand the heat. I loved to be with my sister and she was great company. She was smart and interesting and well read. She was also genuinely funny, and of course there is that most distinctive laugh. Did you know that the name Rhonda means

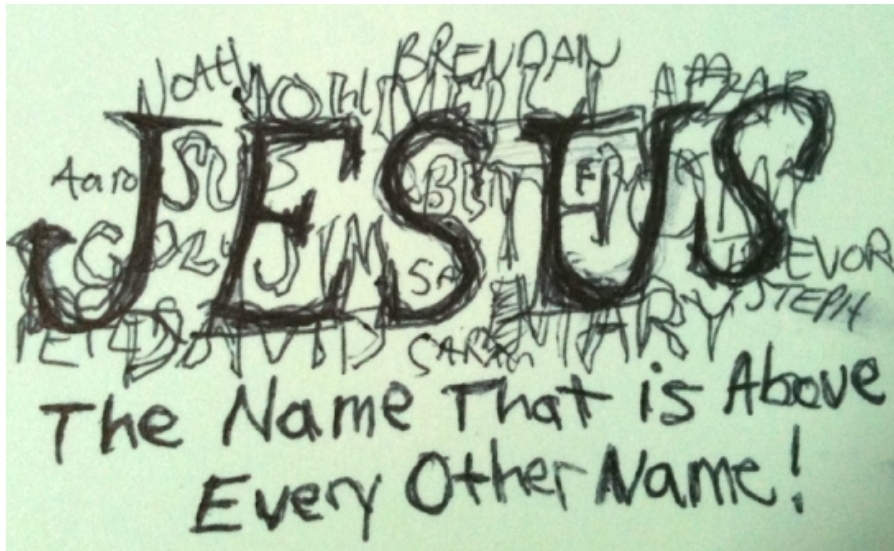
loud? My sister was not a loud person, but her laughter was both warm and comforting and well yes, it was loud. I will miss that sound for the rest of my days on Earth and I hope it is the first sound I hear when I awake in Heaven.



There never will be another person like my sister Rhonda. She was courageous and brilliant, sensitive and diligent. She was a blessing to my parents and a great sister and friend to both me and my brother. In everything that she did she threw her heart over the fence and galloped boldly and fearlessly to the end of the course. The loss of such a courageous and beautiful spirit has left those of us who loved Rhonda standing in a dark place and clutching our hearts in pain.

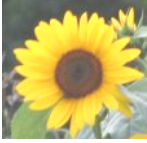
I believe it was J.R.R. Tolkien who wrote that “Faithless is he who departs when the path darkens.” Rhonda faced a dark path and walked it straight to the end. May we all walk the path with the same courage she demonstrated.

*Anne Elizabeth London-Weinstein*



*Prayer  
Vigil,  
Pentecost  
Weekend*

*your servant is listening*



(Continued from page 2)

benefits, and to allow this to influence my decision.

On Easter Sunday, 2008, and the following Sunday, I did a two part sermon on the Resurrection which included a teaching on both Sundays on the foreshadowing of Jesus' atoning death and resurrection from the book of Genesis. Abraham was asked by God to take his child Isaac and to offer him on Mount Moriah as a sacrifice to God. Isaac had been born miraculously to Abraham and Sarah; he was the one through whom God had promised to make of Abraham's descendants a great nation through which all nations would be blessed.

Why would God ask Abraham to kill the one who had been specifically promised and given to him by God and through whom this blessing would come? In the end, we see that God provided a ram, a substitute sacrifice for Isaac, foreshadowing Jesus, the Lamb of God, offered in our place on the cross; Isaac was given back his life foreshadowing the restoration of our lives through Jesus' death and resurrection. But first, Abraham had to trust God and truly prepare to offer up his son. I exhorted the people of St. Stephen's to follow Abraham's example.

In response to my own message, repeated twice, I felt compelled to offer my Isaac to the Lord, the ministry to which I knew that God had called me at St. Stephen's. In addition to the offering of this child, and believe me it felt like my child, I offered up everything surrounding this ministry, specifically my concerns and fears about the opinions and reactions of others, my financial and vocational security including my pension, the wellbeing of my family. Every conceivable issue was, one by one, offered to the Lord. I was not expecting such a quick and surprising answer.

The morning after the second sermon, I was awake at about five a.m.. I had been waking up early and having difficulty getting back to sleep. A short time earlier, I had read an article in *Anglicans for Renewal Canada* that reminded me that waking up in the night or early morning may mean God has something to say to you. This came back into my mind and I said, quoting Samuel, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Nothing. I thought that, instead of trying to get back to sleep, I should wait to see if the Lord had something to say. About five minutes passed, then ten, then fifteen. After what seemed like at least twenty minutes or more, something seemed to waft on the gentlest breezes into my mind. It was less than a whisper. It was the tiniest wisp that seemed to say ever so gently, "Step down."

I felt a slight lightness of heart as I pondered this thought. Could it be from God? A few minutes passed. Then, suddenly, I remembered a recent phone conversation with a

*Speak, Lord*

friend and prayer partner. While praying for me, he had received a picture of me standing in front of an opaque curtain which parted and revealed steps going down into a pool of water. All of a sudden, a light bulb went on in my mind. Steps going down! The whispered word: “Step down.” It all made sense. Then, a burst of joy in sensing the strange rightness of God’s will. I jumped out of bed.

Now downstairs and wrestling with this further, I remembered the wisdom of always seeking scriptural confirmation of impressions that are received. I said: “Lord, show me something from your Word that is a precedent for this.” Almost immediately, Moses came into my mind. I began to read and recall events from Moses’ life. He led the people faithfully for many years but he was not the one to lead them into the promised land. My heart was at peace that I had heard God’s still small voice.

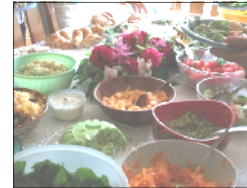
*“ . . . to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.”*

*[ I Samuel 15: 22b, NIV ]*

**Greg McVeigh**

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***Women’s Fellowship Luncheon***



***“God has a plan for your life. Ask Him what it is.”***



*your servant is listening*



## End of Summer Family Pot-luck and Bonfire

At the Lovelesses, 3319 Britannia Road, Burlington  
ton

Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup>  
3pm to 10pm

**3:00 onwards** outdoor games and socializing

**4:00** Family friendly scavenger hunt

**5:00** Potluck supper with corn roast

**6:30** Bonfire with smores

**7:00** Capture-the-flag for the youth and young at heart.

### **Please bring:**

- Lawn chairs
- A Potluck dish,
- Old shoes or boots

### **Suggested items to bring:**

- Bug spray,
- Flashlight,
- Camera

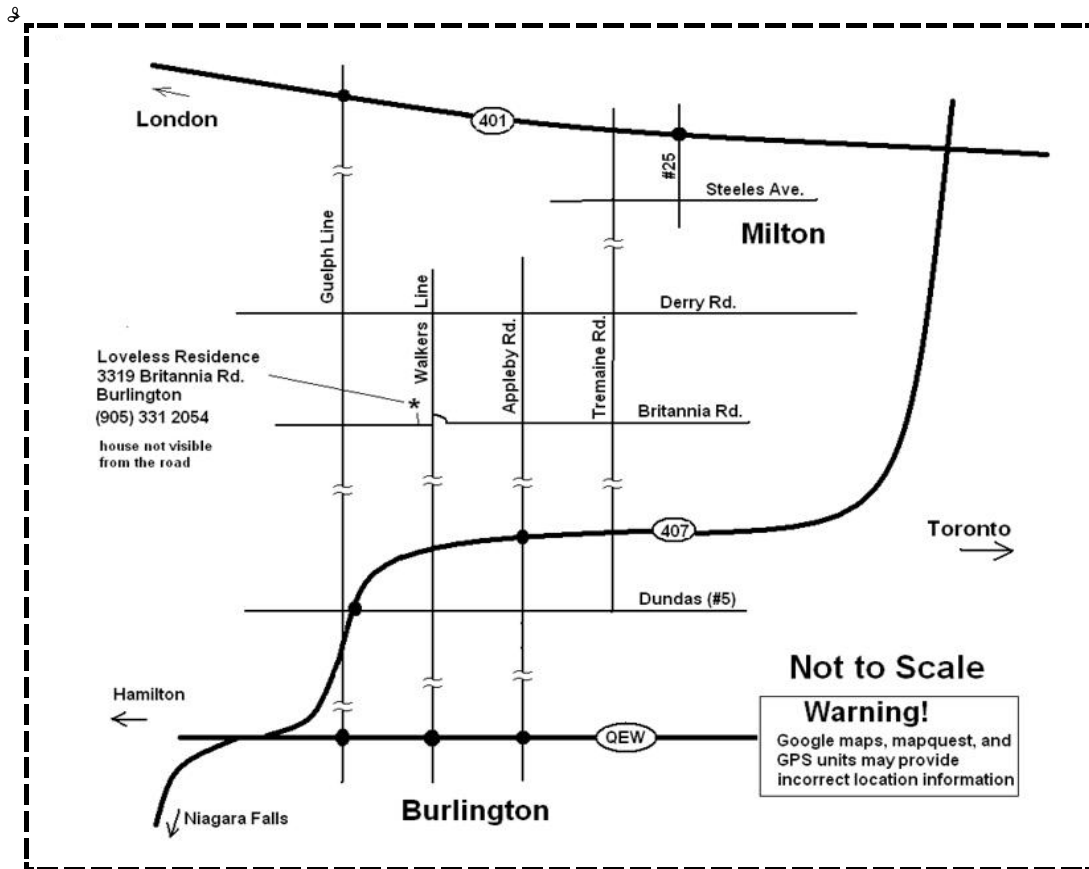


- Change of clothes for those who might play in the creek

**We will provide:**

- Corn, smores and drinks
- A sandbox and outdoor toys for the kids

**In case of rain we will move inside.**



*your servant is listening*

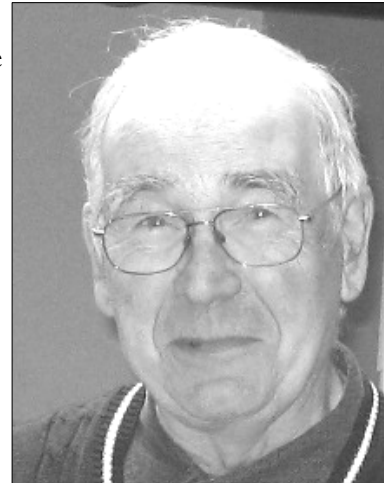


## ***Church of the Messiah News***

*His love has taken over our lives; God's faithful ways are eternal.*

*[Psalm 117:2, The Message]*

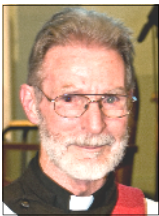
Summer is now upon us and while the sun is bright, our lives have been filled with sadness. As many of you know, we recently lost one of our members. Gary Smith was the much loved husband of Dottie, and also a much respected parishioner at Church of the Messiah. As we celebrated his life on Thursday, June 24, 2010, many people from the Delhi area saw what a wonderful witness he has been for the Father. We heard testimonies of his love for his family and friends, of how he and Dottie opened their home and their hearts to so many people; we heard of Gary's patience as he drove a young boy home in the middle of the night week after week; we heard of a home filled with the love of God which radiated out from there to all those around them. Gary will be missed, but the legacy that he has left will live on in the lives of his family and his friends.



On Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be at the Norwich Community Center in a joint ecumenical service to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Quaker settlers in Norwich Township. Our Sunday school continues to flourish and we continue to see evidence of God's hand upon these young lives. These kids are unchurched and yet they desire to be with us on Sunday morning; God is good! God has touched their lives and they have experienced the love that has taken over our lives. We continue to see transformation in each of them as many have grown softer. Two of the older children are also joining us for Bible study on Wednesday nights. Since we have been seeing the evidence of God at work in these children and their enthusiasm, we have decided to continue Sunday school throughout the summer.

*Speak, Lord*

Our Bible studies have also been growing; we now have two Bible studies, one study during the day in LaSalette and another in the evening at the Upper Deck in Norwich. Julie continues to remind us that we are all one body no matter where the Bible studies are held. What started as two small studies with an average of four members each has now grown into much more; one of our recent evening Bible studies at the Upper Deck had eleven people in attendance. Perhaps the most miraculous thing about this was two of them were kids from our Sunday school and three were unchurched people from the town. God is opening doors in Norwich and His Holy Word is drawing them in. We continue to see God challenging us. For many of us, we would have never anticipated leading Bible studies, but once again God calls us out of our comfort zone and challenges us to do more for the Kingdom. Thank you Lord!



The month of July will also test us as we continue to worship God without Peter. Peter is taking a much deserved holiday over the month of July. We thank God for St. George's, for being a life-line for us as we grow into a church community in Norwich. I would ask you to pray for us over the coming month as God continues to challenge us. Please pray for Dottie, not only as she grieves the loss of her beloved Gary, but also as she leads two of our July services. And pray for Peter during his vacation time; pray for a month of refreshing, and for continued strength for him. Peter has been such a wonderful addition to our family; he has spent many hours working for God's kingdom.

We also want to thank you for sharing your lives and your resources with us. Our prayers have been with you and especially with Ray David over the past weeks. We also look forward to spending time with Ray David and the other church plants in August. May God continue to bless the ministry of St. George's over the summer months.



**Sheilagh Roloson**

*your servant is listening*

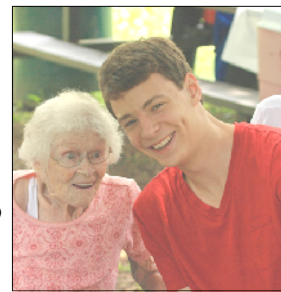
*Family Picnic, June 27*

*Morning Prayer in  
Lowville Park*



*followed by*

*food*



*fellowship*

*fun*



*Speak, Lord*

### *thanks*

Thank you all for the very generous donations to the Milton Salvation Army Food Bank.

We collected 10 milk crates full of food plus a generous cash donation from the Women's Conference Committee, to be used to buy any needed food over the next few weeks. This food will go a long way to helping the 55 families/individuals scheduled this week for food assistance.

Thanks to you, Tony, for help with collecting and delivering.

*Angela.*

### *Welcome*

Trish and Dan's son,  
Alexander Josiah Coverdale,  
born June 2, 2010,  
newest member of our  
congregation.



### *ministry of the hands*

One of the ladies in our congregation has kindly offered to crochet lap blankets for the folks that we visit in the facilities. To date, she must have done 8 or so. Her blend of colors is wonderful and the folks appreciate receiving them, especially if they have circulation issues. I always tell them they are done with love by a person from St. George's ANIC.

She has exhausted her supply of knitting worsted yarn but is still willing to keep doing the blankets. We are putting out a call for yarn that you have but are no longer using.

Just speak to me at Church or call me at 905-335-5399 if you have questions.

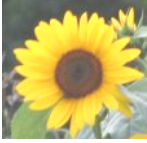
Blessings and thanks for any help you can give.

*Kathy Powell*

### *market day*

*Join us at the Milton Market,  
Saturday morning, September 4,  
as we distribute invitations to  
our evening services in Milton.*

*your servant is listening*



## Praying “In Jesus’ Name”

In ancient times a name was not just a label. The meaning of one’s name was considered to equate to one’s whole person as in 1Sam 25:25 where Nabal’s name summed him up as worthless and full of folly. Giving a name to anyone or anything was to describe, own, or control it.

In several places in the Psalms, the name and being of God are seen as equated or equivalent. See, for example, Psalms 18:49; 68:4; 74:18; 86:12; 92:1; as well as Isaiah 25:1; and Malachi 3:16, where the prophet stresses the essential oneness of God and His Name.

The name Jesus is the Greek form for the Hebrew Joshua which means “salvation of Yahweh.” As Yahweh’s Saviour his name succinctly describes his work and purpose as the angel says to Joseph in Mt 1:21. Thus, believing *in* Jesus’ Name, as in John 3:18, is the same as believing in Jesus himself. Prayer *in* his name would be prayer that comes from within his character, mind and purpose as it is embodied in the person praying. Our beliefs are expressed from within the compass of the life in Christ powered by the Holy Spirit.

This process of becoming *in* Christ is expressed in 1 John 4:16: “So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides *in* God, and God abides *in* him.” (Italics added). This love is also the medium in which the Trinity exists eternally. The Trinity is sometimes depicted as three interlocking bands without beginning or end arranged in a three-cornered figure that shows three distinct but identical entities, the Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. The person who first came up with this wonderful depiction must surely have been inspired by the Holy Spirit!

Before the Creation, the triune God was all that was. Then from within Himself, and out of nothing (but Love) God created the universe, including, eventually, us. God encompasses the universe and us, and is separate from it, His creation. God’s infinite love, therefore, encompasses us. We are, and continue to abide, in His love. Unless we sin. Imagine sin as an attempt to step outside His love.

His love for us sets boundaries for human behaviour. The boundaries are set for our sake, to show us the way to live the way He created us to live. The “first and great commandment,” and the “second like unto it” summarize the boundaries for living and loving *in* God – for abiding *in* Him.



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God freely and lovingly gave us free will. By using that freedom to choose to step outside God's boundaries to follow a way that is not His, we sin. We have gone outside the mystery of the Triune love, and are instead subject to His wrath. The mystery is that although we have crossed the boundary into sin, God's love is still with us and for us as He calls us back. John 3:16-18 tells us that the love that follows us is so great that God sent His Son, Jesus, to bear the wrath and to show us the way back into the Father's arms, where we may abide.

That abiding in God's love; that facing towards the Triune Being instead of looking back to the country of sin, is, I believe, what it means to be in Jesus' Name.

The Name is the Person.

Putting on the Person of Jesus is to be clothed in: (1) the Name of Jesus – Romans 13:14 – “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh . . .”, (2) His armour (Ephesians 6:11-18a), and (3) his love (Colossians 3:14-17).

With all this in place, we are *in* Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit. When this is our state of being; when that is our way of life; that is when we truly pray from within Jesus' Name, our prayers will be answered (John 14:13-14).

Thus, praying “in Jesus' Name” is not a phrase tacked on to the end of a prayer in the hope that, by doing this, the Father will be obliged to give us what we have asked for!

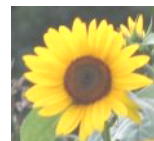
“In Jesus' Name” is life-style, the way of being that is lived inside boundaries set by God; a life that is lived in Jesus so that we are committed fully to Him in obedient love. We are one in Jesus and therefore we have a constant relationship, an eternal relationship, not only with Jesus, but also with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and with each other, our fellows in Christ. Being in that relationship means that the Father is constantly and lovingly listening for, and to, our prayers; the prayers that we voice from within Jesus' Name. And He answers them. We hear His answers because we are also related in the Holy Spirit.

To pray in Jesus' name means that we live our lives in the Christian Way, calling on (and worshipping) the Father and being led by the Holy Spirit.

What a joyous privilege to be elected for this life by our loving God!

Let us not neglect to share this Good News with others!

***Keith Stodart***



*your servant is listening*

**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  
Pastoral Assistant: Rev. Ken Bom-  
bay**

**Honorary Assistants:**

**Rev. Deacon Garth Hunt  
Rev. Greg McVeigh  
Rev. Peter Parent  
Rev. Keith Stodart**

**Worship/Media Pastor: Bryan Hunt  
Exec. Administrator: Gillian Fernie  
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 Sun-  
day school**

**6:30 p.m., evening service at Milton Bible  
Church, Main Street, Milton**

**church office: 1-905- 335 6222**

**email: office@stgchurch.ca**

**Web Site:**

**www. stgeorgeslowville.org**

**By George editors:**

**J. Masters, M. Masters**

## LOVE DIVINE

Love Divine, all loves  
excelling, joy of heaven, to  
earth come down, fix in us  
thy humble dwelling, all  
thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compas-  
sion, pure unbounded love  
thou art; visit us with thy  
salvation, enter every  
trembling heart.

Finish then thy new crea-  
tion, pure and spotless let us  
be; let us see thy great  
salvation, perfectly restored  
in thee; changed from glory  
into glory, till in heaven we  
take our place, till we cast  
our crowns before thee, lost  
in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley, 1747